

# THE CORNERSTONE

## Community Covenant Church

NOVEMBER 2011

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>

Our *October Congregational Meeting* will be held on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> in the gym following morning worship. At this important meeting, our membership votes for the 2012 annual budget and elects new leaders for 2012. We hope you can stay for this important time of evaluation and planning. The agenda and proposed budget are available in the Narthex.



## From the Pastor's Desk:

*“Act justly and love mercy and walk humbly with your God” - Micah 6:8b*

Three months ago I was reading Scot McKnight's book ONE.LIFE. The subtitle is Jesus Calls, We Follow. By the way, I recommend it highly. It is very thought provoking and challenging. But what I want to share with you today is a question that he asks and it has truly haunted me. Not haunted in the creepy, negative, Halloween sense, but haunted meaning that the question keeps popping up in my head over and over. The



question is, **“Why do you think so many travel miles and miles and spend lots of dollars to help with justice but ignore the local need for justice?”** Another way that he asked it is, **“Why do young suburbanites, say in Chicago, want to go to Kentucky or Tennessee to help people, but not want to spend that same time to go to the inner city in their own area to help with justice issues?”**

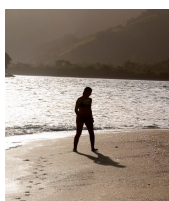
Most today agree that Jesus was very concerned about issues of justice. Justice is part of the Gospel and I would even contend that if justice is absent, the Gospel is absent. If you are wondering where I get this, read Jesus' words in Luke 4:16-21 (Jesus' first public sermon); Luke 6:20-26 (Jesus' very famous sermon – don't leave out vs. 24-26); Luke 7:20-23 (Jesus' response to John the Baptist); and Mark 10:35-45 (Jesus' explanation of His goal in life – see verse 45b).

Please understand, we *should* be involved in justice issues globally. We need to give to *Covenant World Relief*. It is good to go on mission trips and support mission projects/ministries in other countries. It is godly to pray for the persecuted church in countries where Christianity is forced to go “underground” because it is unlawful. God wants our hearts to break for those who are sold into slavery or the sex-trade industry throughout the world. God calls us to be a voice of justice through letter writing to our Congressional leaders as they determine how much of the federal budget will be spent on HIV/AIDS relief in Africa.

So, the question that haunts me is not our involvement in global justice issues. It is the latter part of the question, **“but ignore the local need for justice?”** McKnight asked this question of a mature college student that he teaches and the student gave this answer: “Because my generation is searching for experiences, and the more exotic and extreme the better. Going down the street to help at a food shelter is good and it is just and some of us are doing that, but it's not an experience. We want experiences.” Maybe that is part of the answer: we want some kind of a “me” experience that gives a transforming high. But I would like to add my ideas. Please understand, they are just my thoughts and questions. Please ponder them with me:



- ♦ local justice issues seem more complicated – the issues of injustice in other countries are very clear versus our sense that we live in a very “just” country and so if there is poverty or injustice here, it is because people are “lazy” or “irresponsible” (we just might have to change our opinions about “here”);
- ♦ local justice issues will take a deeper commitment of my time – it is easier to send money or take two weeks out of a year and then return to “normal” versus serving every week at a food pantry or homeless shelter (I just might have to rearrange my time priorities); and
- ♦ local justice issues will take a deeper commitment of my emotions – living with the issue of injustice in my own backyard means that I must live with it every day (this is hard).



I know that this is not an easy question. That is why it haunts me personally as well as for the church. Sometimes young people perceive the church and following Jesus as boring. Maybe it is because we have not been involved in God's Kingdom work of justice at home. This is something to think about and pray about. What do you think? What does Jesus think?

*Pastor Don Olson*

# NOVEMBER EVENTS

## CALLING ALL COVENANT KIDS

IN GRADES 1 – 6

Friday evenings, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

Covenant Kids Club is a fun program for kids in grades 1 through 6. The club meets the first and third Friday night of each month, from October through March. It's a great opportunity to learn more about God and hang out with your friends! The next meeting is November 4<sup>th</sup>. Why not come try it out and see if you like it?

Parents can drop off Covenant KIDS CLUB members at 7:00 pm and pick them up (promptly) at 8:30 pm. Children are supervised by responsible adults at all times! This is a great chance for church parents to get a little "kid-free" time!

Please e-mail Jolie LaValle (joliemorin@yahoo.com) to sign up your child for Covenant KIDS CLUB and/or if you can help out.

## MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 am

All men are invited to the Men's Breakfast at 7:00 am on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Please notify Tom Chiocca by Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> if you are planning to come (508-824-5717). Hope to see you there.



**DON'T FORGET:  
TURN CLOCKS *BACK*  
ONE HOUR**

Eastern Standard time begins at  
2:00 am on Sunday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>

## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

On the first Sunday of each month, we celebrate the birthdays that fall that month with a birthday cake to share. If you are celebrating your BIRTHDAY in November, no matter your age, please join your church family around the BIRTHDAY CAKE TABLE so we can CELEBRATE YOU!

**WHEN** - Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE** - in the multipurpose room around the BIRTHDAY CAKE TABLE!

**WHY** - Because cake is sweet and so are YOU!



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Priscilla Borden	2
Adam Gillis	2
Erika LaFlamme	5
Kenley Djousse	7
Angela MacDonald	7
Karin O'Connor	7
Richard Rubin	7
Robert MacNevin III	12
Jana Ballard	14
Denese Chiocca	15
Lauren Martin	15
Leslie Baker	16
Kathy Clements	17
Emily Miltner	18
Lucille Moreau	18
Janet Cheney	21
Gail Doherty	22
Jacqui Skinner	22
Stephen Strangis	25
Kevin Martin	26
Sarah Stewart	27
Ainsley Djousse	29
Pastor Don Olson	29
Eleanor Nutter	30

## JR./SR. HI-LEAGUE

"1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY" AT THE OLSON'S

Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and on the first Sunday of every month

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Where: Gabrielle and Pastor Olson's home, 3 Ray Way, East Bridgewater

Who: All youth in grades 7 through 12 (and bring a friend)

What to Bring: Yourself, a game to play and a snack to share



## COVENANT HIGH IN CHRIST (CHIC) HOLIDAY WREATHS

Order on Nov. 6, 13 or 20



We hope you will consider supporting the teens of Community Covenant Church by purchasing a beautiful holiday wreath. Each double-faced evergreen wreath features pinecones, ornamental berries, and a hand-made bow in red, cranberry or white for a price of only \$12 each. We'll be taking orders on the first three Sundays of November, and wreaths will be available for pick-up after church on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

All proceeds from the wreath sale will support our teens heading to CHIC (Covenant High in Christ) at the University of Tennessee in July, 2012. The purpose of CHIC is to be a catalyst that inspires Christ-like change; to challenge students to see themselves as part of something bigger; and to inspire students on the journey of following Christ.

Thank you for supporting this life-changing opportunity for our young people! Please see Joann Cousin, Ruth Carrigan, or any of our high school students to place your order.

## ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT CHIC

Help support the teens who will attend CHIC by purchasing a 2012 calendar. Each month is decorated with a beautiful picture and inspirational message. Calendars are being sold for \$10 and make excellent gifts for family, friends, neighbors and coworkers. There will be a table in the multi-purpose room after worship on Sundays. See any of the CHIC campers to make your purchase. Thanks for your support!

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

All those interested are welcome to come to the library following worship on the third Sunday of each month for a blood pressure check. This service is provided to help us care for our health.



## FELLOWSHIP TIME HELPERS NEEDED THIS FALL

Brian McCarthy is looking for helpers for Fellowship Time this fall. Tasks include making coffee; setting up tea, cold drinks, etc.; and cleaning up.

Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you do sign up for a particular date, please check-in with Brian when you arrive on that Sunday, so he will know you are here and ready to go!

## COME TO THE SOUPFEST NOVEMBER 20<sup>th</sup> AFTER WORSHIP



All are invited to our annual Soupfest. Why do we do a soupfest? It is all about Covenant World Relief, CWR for short.

CWR is the humanitarian aid ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church bringing disaster relief and long term transformational community development among the most vulnerable. Lives are saved, lives are transformed. Projects include food security, access to clean water and sanitation, women's empowerment, medical care and micro finance. CWR works with the poor, the powerless and the marginalized around the world and in this country.

Community Covenant Church has a long history of generosity to CWR. The Soupfest is just one part of that generosity. Suggested donation for the Soupfest is \$5 per person with a maximum of \$15 per family. All are welcome, no one will be turned away.

It takes a community to put together a Soupfest. Please see the sign up board in narthex to volunteer to make a soup, pie or bread, or to work in the kitchen. Many thanks for your continued support.

Soup cans will also be collected on November 20<sup>th</sup>. *Global Missions*

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the November 2011 issue of the CORNERSTONE is November 21<sup>st</sup>. Please drop off items to the church office, or e-mail them to: [office@communitycovenant.com](mailto:office@communitycovenant.com)

## OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

## MISSIONS



### WELCOME BABY UPDATE

On Monday, October 3, Esther Garland and I delivered gift bags to eleven East Bridgewater families with new babies. We enjoyed conversations with mothers, grandmothers and friends at eight of the homes. We were blessed with meeting several of the infants, who are always so cute! I continue to be amazed at how welcoming and appreciative we find people. Even when barking dogs announcing our presence woke up twins, their caregiver was appreciative of our intentions.

We have delivered most of our carriage robes and still have hats and booties for our next delivery. After that, I may be asking once again for handmade donations. Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry and its outreach to our local community through donations and prayer.

*In Service to Him, Nancy Ohlen, Welcome Baby Project*

### NEWS FROM SWEDEN

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

I have the following things to thank God for:

1. The weekend with the Salvation Army youth in Umeå went well -- some of the youth really seemed to benefit from the teaching on evangelism and discipleship, and the experience was very good for me. (It was my first time doing this kind of teaching in Swedish.) Coming back, I feel more confident about speaking to Swedish youth in their mother tongue in the future. I also feel inspired to continue to learn more about Swedish youth, as there is still so much about them that I do not understand.
2. In my absence, the meal with the international students at the church here in Gothenburg went well. There were not as many students as the University expected -- only about sixty. But the group that was there had a great time, and I heard from my volunteer team that they had great interaction with people from the University, and many people asked questions about the church.
3. The young adult Bible study also went well in my absence. Multiple people in the group have now shown themselves comfortable and able to lead the study.
4. My friend Pu from Thailand shared her testimony of God's healing with the youth group last week; a huge step for her, as her English level is not very high, but she did it, and I am very proud of her.



I have the following prayer requests:

1. For new strength and inspiration.
2. That God would heal an American woman who is in the hospital here. (She has a chronic ailment that modern medicine still does not understand, which is often painful, debilitating, and can be life-threatening.) Also, that He would help her family, and especially her 18-year-old son, with whom I have contact. The family are not believers, but are perhaps open.
3. For the youth group at the international church.

*Thank you for all your prayers and support. Your brother in Christ, -- Joe*

### THANKS! *From Donna Halleran*



From the pasta lunch, coffee and honey products sale, we raised over \$900 for Science with a Mission! And, thanks to all those who helped make the fundraiser so successful!

### FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Praise to the Lord for a good fall season so far. Our church plant is going well as we use the Alpha course and many unchurched people are coming. Please pray for Fred's sister, Barbara, who had a serious head-on auto accident on Oct. 5. She has multiple fractures in her legs, but the upper body is not so serious.

*Thank you, the Prudeks*



## SAVING LIVES; TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

**C**ovenant World Relief is the humanitarian aid ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church. We participate in God's transforming mission in the world in two primary ways—disaster relief and long-term transformational community development among the most vulnerable. Disaster relief *saves lives*; whereas community development *transforms communities*.

We believe that both parts of our ministry are important, but most of our time and money are spent on transforming lives through community development. It is said that for every dollar spent on disaster risk reduction between five and ten dollars are saved in disaster response costs. While our main focus is to see lives changed forever, we recognize the importance of working to reduce the risk of disasters as well as seeking to save lives when disasters do strike.

Community development projects focus on a variety of areas, including food security, access to clean water and sanitation, women's empowerment, medical care, and micro-finance. The goal of community development is to empower local people to forever transform their own lives and also have an impact on their whole community.



**COVENANT WORLD RELIEF**  
*Loving, Serving, and Working Together.*

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

**Through September 30, 2011**, the latest figures available as I write this, our financial picture is as follows:

### INCOME

Budgeted amount (Jan. – Sept.)	\$198,119.34
Actual Amount	<u>\$181,734.90</u>
Difference (shortfall)	\$ 16,384.44

### EXPENSES

Budgeted Amount (Jan. – Sept.)	\$199,419.76
Actual Amount	<u>\$190,467.77</u>
Difference	\$ 8,951.99

Questions regarding any church financial issues may be directed to David Sawyer, Financial Officer.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Our Stephen Ministry continues to be a vital part of our church community. We currently have four trained Stephen Ministers. We are planning to begin a new class in late winter. If you are interested in learning more, please speak to Karl Smith or Donna Halleran.

## NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY P.I.E. GRANT FUND ESTABLISHED

At the December 2010 Leadership Team Meeting, a new Fund at the church was created, the North Park P.I.E. Fund. This is a scholarship program that is available at North Park University to students from Evangelical Covenant churches. Here is the policy that has been established and how the fund will work:

Community Covenant Church will establish a “North Park P.I.E. Fund.” The purpose of the Fund will be to promote attendance at the Covenant’s University by providing monies to full-time North Park College University students, in order that the same may be matched by the University. Recipients must be members or active in the Church, as determined and approved by the Leadership Team.

Any person wishing to apply for a grant shall submit a written request to the Leadership Team advising that he or she has been accepted as a full-time student. Fund monies will be divided equally between all approved applicants at the start of each semester, up to a maximum of \$250. per semester, per person. This grant fund does not include “summer” semester, and no grants shall be awarded for a semester after said semester has begun. All checks from the fund will be made payable to North Park University

Donations are pooled for all applicants. No donation to the fund shall be accepted from a relative (whether by blood or marriage) of an applicant. The Fund shall be overseen by the Financial Officer.



# PRAYER CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1 Karen Alper Lealie Baker Bob Borden Dave Buzzee  AL-Anon Meeting	2 Choir Charlie Dillingham Susan Reilly	3 Roy Gray Ashley Mahan Emily Mahan Donald Sargens	4 Marilyn Anderson Bernice Bond  COVENANT KIDS CLUB	5 Women to Women Men's Ministry Breakfast	
6 Pastor Don Olson Pastor Ken Armentrout Sunday School & Staff Hi-League "1" Sunday"	7 People who are: • Homeless • Unemployed • In Need AA Meeting	8 Missions and Outreach • EB Food Pantries • N.E. Seafarers Missions AL-Anon Meeting	9 Our US Military: James Adams Matthew Caspero Seth Gillis James Giguac	10 Science with a Mission: Alyssa MacLean Pilgrims Pines	11 Administrative Assistant: Donna Costa Prayer Chain Leader: Candi Keith	12 Small Group Ministry Task Force Pat Gillis Marion Schill	
13 Pastor Don Olson Pastor Ken Armentrout Sunday School & Staff Child Care Coordinator Courtney Goodwin	14 Committees: Nominating Committee Ministry Support Team AA Meeting	15 Leadership Team  AL-Anon Meeting	16 Ministry Teams: Global Missions Local Missions Faith Community	17 Stephen Ministry Leaders & Stephen Ministers	18 Ministry Teams: Sunday School Youth Ministries Facilities Worship & Music COVENANT KIDS CLUB	19 World Peace World Leaders Health Advocate: Marie Syverson	
20 Pastor Don Olson Pastor Ken Armentrout Sunday School & Staff Nursery/Toddler Care	21 Barbara Swanson, Missionary to Belgium & The Mosaic Project AA Meeting	22 Joe Davis, Sweden Cathy Campobello, Columbia AL-Anon Meeting	23 Kelly & Fred Prudek, Czech Republic  Ellen & Jay Haworth, Japan	24 Covenant World Relief in Japan, Libya, and Somalia	25 Pastor Wras & Jean Monte, Koyuk, AK Byron Brudner, Alaska	26 Dr. Jen Hall, Ivory Coast Andres & Daniel Kaiser, Uganda	
27 Pastor Don Olson Pastor Ken Armentrout Sunday School & Staff Children's Church	28 Crownell Children's Home Welcome Baby Project AA Meeting	29 Priscilla Borden: Abuse Victims Advocate (East Coast Conf.) AL-Anon Meeting	30 Yvonne De Vaughan: Abuse Victims Advocate National Director	<p><b>PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME EACH DAY TO PRAY FOR THESE PEOPLE, MINISTRIES, AND NEEDS</b></p>			

**THE CORNERSTONE**

is a publication of

**Community Covenant Church**

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Church Office Hours:

Monday—Friday

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Church Staff:

Rev. Donald C. Olson, Pastor

Charles Dillingham, Minister of Music

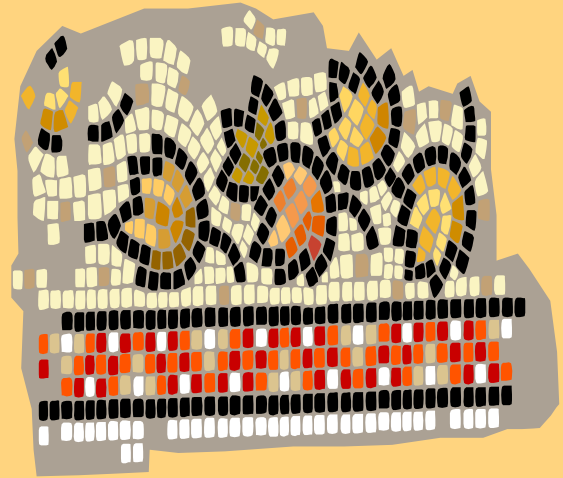
Rev. Ken Armentrout, Minister of Small Groups

Susan Reilley, Accompanist

Courtney Goodwin, Childcare Coordinator

Donna Costa, Administrative Assistant

**NOVEMBER 2011**



**COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH**

**400 PLEASANT STREET**

**EAST BRIDGEWATER, MA 02333**