

From the Pastor's Desk...



by Pastor
Quentin Wallace

JESUS CAME TO RECONCILE...

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. (Philippians 3:13)

One of my favorite Christmas carols is "Hark the Herald Angel's Sing," and my favorite verse is, "God and sinners reconciled." It is absolutely awesome to think that through Christ we are reconciled or back on good terms with God our creator.

People have always wanted it their way instead of God's way, and this individualistic attitude of "I want it my way" is not new. It is noted in Genesis, Chapter 3, in the story of Adam and Eve's banishment from the Garden of Eden by God due to sinful disobedience.

Fortunately, God had a plan to reconcile the broken relationship between God and His creation before it occurred. God created a sacrificial system to absolve sin and then allowed Jesus to become the perfect sacrifice by dying on the cross to save humanity from those sins. Now we are saved by faith through grace and are reconciled to God through the righteousness of Christ, not our own. As a rec-

onciled people to God are we compelled in turn to be willing to reconcile relationships with others?



Of course, this may be difficult to do in our consumer driven society where we have become accustomed to "having it our way" like in the Burger King commercials, or like the Sears and Roebuck motto, "The Customer is always right." Sadly these concepts have invaded not only the secular society but the church or body of Christ as well.

Because Christ calls us to follow him in every way, perhaps we should find a way to reconcile with those whom we have broken relationships, especially in the household of faith. Holidays tend to dredge up both great

joys and hurts of the past, and while I dare not minimize anyone's pain, we must be reminded that no one faced any greater suffering, betrayal, or pain than our Savior who was ridiculed and crucified by the very people he came to save.

One strategy to move beyond past hurt is to discontinue revisiting those painful times so often. The longer we linger on the old troubled thoughts of the past, the stronger they become in our present and rob our lives of joy.

Jesus came that we may have life and live it more abundantly. When God forgave our sin, they were moved as far as the east is from the west. He forgot about them. Maybe we can't forget the past hurts, but through Christ perhaps we may reframe them to see how God blessed us to overcome and eventually discover what we may have learned from that difficult or hurtful situation and how to grow from it or turn it into a testimony of triumph.

Therefore let us embrace the words of Paul the Apostle who has been beaten, lied on, and left for dead more than once. Instead of holding on to anger or regret he wrote to the church in Philippi and encouraged them to not look back to past concerns but instead to face the future God has for us with great hope.

Short & Sweet

MEMORIALS GIVEN

- In memory of **Harry J. Irvin**, a gift to the Discretionary Fund from the Barry Hemperly Family.
- In honor of **Dick and Georganna Galen**, a gift to the Children's Ministry Fund from Stephen and Lori Fuchs.
- In memory of **Robert Beck, Sr.**, a gift to the Children's Ministry Fund from Joan Miller.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SUNDAY

It's that time! Time to start thinking about and baking Christmas cookies! It has been a custom at Covenant for our wonderful bakers to share their cookies on Christmas Cookie Sunday. This special time of holiday hospitality will be held this year on Sunday morning, December 23. Please bring your cookie donations to the Gathering Area kitchen early on December 23, or during the week before. If you bring them in early during the week, please be sure to mark them for this special occasion.

CALLING ALL BAKERS

MOOS will be holding its annual bake sale on Thursday, December 13th, following Fulton Elementary School's winter concert at 6:30 pm. We are in need of individually packaged baked goods to be dropped off at the church office by 3pm on the day of the concert. Thanks for your baked good donations!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Christmas poinsettias will be available for purchase beginning Sunday, November 25. The plants will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 23rd, through Christmas Eve, December 24th. There are a limited number of plants, so place your order early. The cost is \$6.00 per plant. You may call the church office at 717-393-1561 or place your order with the volunteer secretary on Sunday morning. Thank you in advance for helping to beautify the Sanctuary at this joyous time of year.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Covenant is excited to offer a robust Christian education program for all ages. Please bring your children, grandchildren, and neighbors to participate in the various groups.

CLASS	LEVEL	TIME	LOCATION
Sunday School	K-5	9	Upper Level
Nursery	Infant-Pre/Sch	10:20	Upper Level
Connect!**	K-5	10:20	Bethany Hall
Youth **	6-12	10:20	Lower Level

** Not held on first Sunday of the month

HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will close at 12 noon on December 24 and remain closed December 25 and 26. Regular office hours are in effect Thursday and Friday, December 27 & 28. The office will also close on December 31 at 2 p.m. and remain closed on January 1, 2019. Normal office hours resume Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Leadership Log

When the leadership team was first formed, we kept the congregation updated by giving brief messages during the worship service. Over the years we have been remiss in communicating with the congregation regarding our latest work. Hopefully periodic items like this in the News To Go and Echoes will open up those lines of communication again.

First and foremost, all meetings of Covenant are open to all members of Covenant. The only exception is the SPRC meetings because they deal with protected human resource issues. Please feel free to watch the

church calendar and come to any meetings that are of interest to you.

At the beginning of the year, the leadership team was asked to approve the church budget. After our review we found 3 ways to increase income or decrease spending.

- 1) We gave direction to the Nurture Team and VBS to see where they could cut costs on the one week of VBS. The team did a wonderful job saving us about \$3,000. Great job team!

We Worship Together



December 2, 2018— 1st Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

One Combined Service at 10:20

We worship together on the first Sunday of the month. Pastor Quentin will bring the message at 10:20 a.m. and Holy Communion will be observed. We will light the first candle in the Advent Wreath. Both the Praise Band and the Chancel Choir will provide the music for worship.

December 9, 2018— 2nd Sunday of Advent

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20): Pastor Wallace will deliver the message at both worship services. Both the Chancel Choir and the Bell Choir will participate in the 10:20 a.m. service.

December 16, 2018— 3rd Sunday of Advent

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20): Pastor Wallace will preach at both worship services. The Chancel Choir will provide music in the 10:20 a.m. service.

At 2:00 p.m. you are invited to the Blue Christmas service in the Sanctuary. (See article below.)

December 23, 2018—4th Sunday of Advent

***Note Change to Service Times**

Contemporary Worship (8:50) and Traditional Worship (10:30): As we anticipate the birth of the Savior, we gather for worship. This Sunday the Contemporary worship service will begin at 8:50 a.m. and the traditional worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. **Please note this is a change to the worship times for this Sunday only.** The Chancel Choir and the bell choir will provide a musical setting for the traditional worship service.

December 24, 2018—Christmas Eve



Christmas Candlelight services will be held at 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Pastor Wallace will deliver the Christmas message at both of the services. The Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir and the Praise Band will provide beautiful music.

December 30, 2018— 1st Sunday after Christmas

Contemporary Worship (9:00) and Traditional Worship (10:20): Pastor Sally W. Ott will preach the message at both the 9:00 a.m. & 10:20 a.m. services. The Chancel Choir will sing at 10:20.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

The holiday season is hard for some of us, but we as a Church Community want to remind you that you are not alone. God sent Jesus to us as an infant, whose birth we celebrate, to bring Hope and Comfort. Pastor Sally is planning a special service for Sunday, December 16, at 2:00 p.m. "Blue Christmas" is a Service of Remembrance and Hope, for those who are mourning or struggling during this season. The service will include Scripture, Prayer, Candlelight, Quiet Meditation, and the Sacrament of Communion.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from this kind of Christmas experience, AND/OR if you want to be present to support those who are struggling, letting them know that they are not alone in their grief, you are invited to come.

Volunteers for December

December 2

Anchorite: 10:20 - Glenn Miller
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Bob Lehn
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Ruth Neuman & Brenda Roth; 10:00 - Lori Brown & Tina Butler

December 9

Anchorite: 10:20 - Minister Brenda
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Ruth Barr
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Cindy & Bob Hean; 10:00 - Youth

December 16

Anchorite: 10:20 - Carol Brower
Hallway Greeters: 10:20 - Bob & Cindy Hean
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Mary Lou Hill; 10:00 - Rev. Guy & Sandy Carrigan

December 23

Anchorite: 10:20 - Lois Neidermyer
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Vickie Leman
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Mee Kyung Schuler; 10:00 - Janice & Harold Ulmer

December 24

7:00: Mee Schuler
10:00: Jeanne Schall

December 30

Anchorite: 10:20 - Denise Troop
Hallway Greeter: 10:20 - Mee Schuler
Lobby Greeters: 8:40 - Cathy Boyd & Bobbie Schwan; 10:00 - TBD

DECEMBER USHERS

Don Dale, Head Usher
Dave Beznoska; Bill Grau, Jr.;
Ron Kimmich, Donald Herr

COVENANT NURTURES OUR COMMUNITY

The Nurture Team has been busy reaching out to our neighbors this year. Our mission is for the people in this community to SEE us and to WANT to come to visit us. In the past few months we have engaged the community in some meaningful ways.

Over the summer we partnered with the Outreach Team and planned a very successful Back To School Event where Fulton, Reynolds, and McCaskey families joined us for food, fellowship, fun and of course, school supplies. Additionally, we asked Fulton students to vote for their favorite teacher. Ms. Wennerholt, a kindergarten teacher, was the winner.

In November, several members of the nurture team went over to Fulton and hosted a pizza party, gave each child a gift bag, and gave the teacher a wealth of school supplies. In late October we participated in the Parish Resource Center's trunk or treat and greeted over 400 members of the Lancaster Community with candy and information about Covenant. Our theme was Noah's Ark, and Minister Santa covered her entire car to represent an ark.

Currently we are partnering with the United Methodist Women for our Christmas Family Night on Dec 2. We will welcome over 100 parents and children from Fulton School to fellowship with us. There will be food, caroling and gifts for the children. We are very excited to host this culminating event for the year.

We are already moving into the new year. In 2019 we will be hosting Family First Friday events in February, March, and April. These will include fun events for children and their parents involving crafts, games, movies and the like. As we shine our light into the community we want people in our neighborhood to see Covenant Church as THEIR community church. Praise be to God!

Covenant Members in Business



Conestoga Innovations Promotional Products (for all your advertising needs)
Wanda Snyder, 1.800.759.8885 or
sales@conestoga-innovations.com

CTC Lollipop Company
414 N. Pine Street, 717.509.5916
Tues.-Fri. 11am-7pm; Sat. 9am-2pm

Dale Building Designs
Donald A. Dale, 872.4263
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc., 17603
www.DonDaleDesigns.com

Groffs Family Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc.
Thomas S. Buter, 394.5300
528 W. Orange St.

Interiors by Kristen
Kristen Stemmer, 875.4014
2086 New Danville Pike, Lanc. 17603

JM Services
Jeff and Brad McGary
Interior & Light Exterior Painting,
Handyman, and Junk Removal
717.330.9616 or jcmcgary@comcast.net

Kresge Computer Consultation
Roger Kresge, 299.4613 or
rkresge123@comcast.net

Miller Optical
Glenn & Maryanne Miller, 393.2020
Glasses, Contacts, and Exams
Lancaster & Willow Street

Richard B. MacDonald
Attorney at Law
312 W. Orange St., Lancaster
717.394.1508

Steve's Automotive Technology
Steve Sultan
PA Safety and Emission Inspections
1027 Dillersville Rd #16
666.3646

Willard Hypnosis Center
Roger J. Willard
3304 Main Street, Conestoga PA 17516
717.872.7561 or willardhypnosis.com

Here's to Good Health



Things to Remember in December

Can you believe that 2018 is almost over? Where did the time go?

The next few weeks will be busy ones for all of us, and time will just fly by.

I have a few things for you to think about for the month of December.

1. Remember the reason for the season. Bethlehem was a busy place that night Baby Jesus was born. The birthplace of Jesus was a quiet place away from all the hustle and bustle. Find time each day to get away to a quiet place

where you can remember what that first Christmas came to mean.

2. Think about what is really important. Make a list of what you need to get done. Put that list in order of priorities. If it all doesn't get done today, tomorrow is a new day.
3. Don't forget to exercise. Take a walk, even some chair exercises help relieve stress.
4. Eat healthy meals and snacks. If you know you will be eating at

that holiday drop-in, think about what you are eating throughout the day.

5. Get a good nights' sleep. It is okay to take a power nap to get you back on your feet to keep going.

Enjoy this blessed joyous season as we once again celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Merry Christmas!

Cindy Smith
Wellness Coach

Leadership Log ...continued from Page 2

- 2) We asked the finance committee if we could discontinue the mailing of church envelopes and go back to getting our envelopes for the year in one box. Starting in January 2019 we will pick up our box of pledge envelopes in church, and members of Covenant will deliver to those who are unable to pick up their box. Savings about \$1200.
- 3) We asked for and received more money from the Covenant Child Care now that they are showing a profit. Increase of \$4,000. Total contribution in 2018 was \$10,000.

The leadership team interviewed members of Covenant, co-workers, and members of our community (yes, we knocked on a few doors) to learn more about what gives people a sense of belonging and hope; what gives them a sense of joy and peace; and where do they turn in time of trouble; closing with how can the church be of help to you.

One meeting was spent in assisting our Lay Leader, Cindy Smith, in completing the Annual Church Report to be sent to the District and Bishop. Great conversation followed about what we do at Covenant and in what areas we see opportunity for growth. Additionally, we had some brain-

storming and visioning sessions which led to our new Vision Statement:

We will bring Christ's Light to the community and beyond. In addition to this Vision, we are adding **WE INVITE** to our bulletins and monthly Echoes.

For 2019 we are planning on having the entire congregation study the same book during Lent. Sunday School classes, Small Groups and the message from the pulpit (maybe some new small groups will form) will have us all in unity thinking about the same topic, "How to Share Jesus without Freaking Out." Stay tuned for more information from Pastors Wallace and Carrigan.

We are excited to welcome Lois Neidermyer and Jenny Engle to the leadership team in January and look forward to doing more to bring Christ's Light to the community and beyond.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support.

The team: Darwin Tyson, Patrick Snyder, Jeannine Spece, Cheryl Lichty, Stephanie Schall, Cindy Dale, Tom Buter, John Seyfert, and Chris Kimmich. With Pastor Quentin and Lay Leader Cindy Smith.

Financial Report

The Finance Team has recently determined a need to keep the Covenant Family up to date on the state of our church finances. Please review the information carefully and use it as you prayerfully consider your stewardship—your time, talents, and resources—in support of Covenant Church. If you have questions regarding the report, please feel free to contact any member of the Finance Team.

Below are Income and Expenses for October				
which represents 83% of the year				
		Budget	October YTD Actuals	Percentage of Budget
INCOME				
	Envelope Offering	\$300,000.00	\$242,060.35	81%
	Plate Offering	\$3,300.00	\$2,416.82	73%
	Special Offerings	\$8,500.00	\$415.25	2%
	Trusts	\$22,800.00	\$17,028.86	75%
	Parking Lot	\$22,000.00	\$24,432.50	111%
	Use of Bldg	\$1,500.00	\$1,165.00	78%
	Day Care	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	80%
	Miscellaneous	\$6,450.00	\$4,631.35	72%
	BB&T	\$109,621.28	\$80,000.00	73%
		\$484,171.28	\$380,150.13	79%
EXPENSES				
	Missions & Benevolence	\$52,152.00	\$42,659.40	82%
	Evangelism	\$310.00	\$240.00	77%
	Christian Education	\$5,900.00	\$3,883.57	66%
	Worship	\$2,265.00	\$2,557.52	113%
	Program Administration	\$26,000.00	\$22,299.65	86%
	Personnel	\$280,299.28	\$228,444.11	82%
	Property	\$117,245.00	\$92,898.86	79%
		\$484,171.28	\$392,983.11	81%

Sadly....

No More Combined Worship Services

By Pastor Wallace

I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf. (1 Corinthians 10:15-17)

This past August we began a combined worship service comprised of both contemporary and traditional worship components. This began a few weeks after the spring revival where Pastor Louis Butcher (retired pastor of Brightside Baptist Church) preached about unity in the church and how there is room for both traditional and contemporary components such as the organ and the drums, clapping, and silent reflection. With a feeling of enthusiasm and spiritual motivation, I informed the Leadership Team (LT) that we needed a combined service on the first Sunday instead of the fifth Sunday of each month with Holy Communion so that we could worship as one family and for several other reasons:

- Unified worship allowed each group to experience both types of music
- We could acknowledge and celebrate birthdays as a family
- At least one Sunday a month all could attend Sunday school together
- Communion stewards would only have to prepare for one service instead of two
- New member intakes and baptisms could occur during these combined services so the entire church family could participate and celebrate.
- When we need to have church meetings, they could be conducted on these Sundays, so no one needed to remain through both services.

Unfortunately, while I felt the first two combined services had gone well, some of the members of the LT informed me they were receiving numerous complaints (I don't know how many) about the music, so much so that the LT feared people would leave the church if I did not discontinue the combined service immediately. This was in October, so I asked the team to wait until after December with the hope that together we could find a way to tweak the service to make it palatable to both groups.

However, the discussions on this matter continued, and ultimately the group felt the only option was to discontinue the first Sunday combined service with Holy Communion, and they voted to do so. While I am very disappointed over the team's decision and the discomfort of some members over the music, I realize that God has a greater plan for this church and God's plan will come to pass.

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Minister Santa Jenkins, Youth Director

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