

Service for the Public Worship of God

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 20, 2009
Eleven O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson
Choir Director/Organist: Beverly Antis
Liturgist: Mark Hitchcock

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN

*** PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE DURING WORSHIP ***

THE PRELUDE This Sacred Hour Gilbert M. Martin

THE CHORAL INTROIT Surely the Lord is in This Place Robert Lau

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 291 O God of Earth and Altar LLANGLOFFAN

*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF PUBLIC CONFESSION

Lord, when we first placed ourselves into Your loving care, we knew Your Spirit's power to remake us and claim us for Your own. We promised then to love and follow You, but we have found the way hard.

Despite our best intentions, we find ourselves sliding back and losing ground. We neglect the good and fall easily into temptation. We have been slow to take our stand for You, and slow to accept Your help.

Forgive us, Lord, and remake our hearts by Your overwhelming love. In Christ we pray.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: ... Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*THE GLORIA PATRI 579 GLORIA PATRI

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH PC (USA) Study Catechism, Questions 4-7

Leader: [Question 4.] How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?

People: By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church, along with all others who confess him by faith. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God constantly in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.

Leader: [Question 5.] What does a Christian believe?

People: All that is promised in the gospel. A summary is found in the Apostles' Creed, which affirms the main content of the Christian faith.

Leader: [Question 6.] What is the first article of the Apostles' Creed?

People: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."

Leader: [Question 7.] What do you believe when you confess your faith in "God the Father Almighty"?

People: That God is a God of love, and that God's love is powerful beyond measure.

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Abide, O Dear Redeemer

Melchoir Vulpius

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 31: 10-20, 31-32

(Pew Bible. p. 585)

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

THE EPISTLE READING

James 3: 13 - 4: 3

(Pew Bible p. 214)

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

All: Praise be to you, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL READING

Mark 9: 30-37

(Pew Bible p. 43)

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE

(Hymn Tune # 310, ST. AGNES)

Lord, let Thy Word illumine us, with truth and love divine,
And make us faithful to the Christ, 'til we are wholly Thine. Amen.

THE SERMON " REDEFINING AMBITION " Dr. Swanson

THE PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts and debtors)

THE TWO-FOLD AMEN Dresden

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing Gordon Young

*THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Use us, O God of miracles, and the offerings we have brought, to bring life and health and hope to your world. Make us generous and faithful stewards of your mysteries, as we share the bounty which you have granted unto us; through Christ we pray. Amen.

*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 316 Breathe on Me, Breath of God TRENTHAM

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE A Clare Benediction John Rutter

*THE TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go out into the world in peace; have courage;
hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

*THE POSTLUDE The Whole Armor of God Todd Kendall

* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Connie Brown.



THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
are placed this morning by Betty Anderson
In Loving Memory of My Parents,
Neil and Dina Vanderzell's Fall Birthdays

FELLOWSHIP HOUR immediately follows this worship service downstairs in the Assembly Room. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Hosting today's Fellowship Hour is Connie Brown.

Welcome! Grace and Peace to All!

We are delighted to have you with us if you are visiting today! Please indicate your attendance by signing one of the cards in the pew rack, and kindly place it in the offering plate when passed.

Then following worship, linger a bit longer and join us for Fellowship Time in the Assembly Room downstairs.

Exit at the rear of the Sanctuary to take the stairways or at the front to take the elevator to the lower level.



The Rev. Michael Winship,
Guest Preacher
Next Sunday, September 27th
11 a.m. Worship Service

Reverend Winship will be filling the pulpit next Sunday while Pastor Jim recuperates from his surgery and hospitalization. Rev. Winship served as the minister of the former Calvary Evangelical Presbyterian Church (now known as Grace @ Calvary Lutheran Church) on the diamond. An Honorably Retired member of Beaver-Butler Presbytery, Reverend Winship has preached at more than a dozen area churches. Mike is a regular volunteer at Covenant Cupboard; he and his wife Shirley live in Butler and now call The Hill Presbyterian Church their home congregation.

The Congregation is invited to the Installation of
Rev. Elizabeth Wallace
at Knox Presbyterian Church
449 Nicholson Ave., Ellwood City PA 16117
on Sunday, September 27, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.
~ Reception to follow ~

Elizabeth was previously installed as a "Designated Pastor" and will now be a regularly installed pastor at Knox Presbyterian Church.

WE WELCOME A NEW FRIEND...

Elinor Castle, member of the board of directors of the Koinonia Community of Americus, Georgia, and personal friend of Betty Anderson, was the special guest speaker for Seekers Class this morning at 9:30 am. She spoke about the ten years she lived in the Koinonia Community and showed a video about its founder. Your brothers and sisters in Christ welcome you to our family of faith, Ellie!

Note: Elinor has very recently moved north from Georgia and now resides in the Cranberry area.

THE TOTAL PICTURE

Our church history would not be complete without including all the men and women, past and present, who have carried on the tradition and legacy of First Presbyterian, Covenant United Presbyterian and currently Covenant Presbyterian Church.



Our name has undergone a few changes, but the quality of the people who have been called to lead and guide us has remained constant. We are indeed fortunate and with a sense of pride and gratitude, we direct you to take a look at the newest arrivals to our pictorial history on the south side of the Assembly Room.

Thanks to Jane Hall for updating the history wall by bringing it "into the twenty-first century."



Mark your calendar now...
Meet Cobbie Palm and Joel Tendero,
Int'l Peacemakers from the Philippines

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 ~ 11 am

Our presbytery will be hosting two men from the Philippines who are part of a pilot program that pairs an International Peacemaker with a PC(USA) mission co-worker. Cobbie Palm (mission co-worker) and Joel Tendero (UCCP pastor) will be here in Butler on Tuesday, October 6th.

Covenant Church will host a gathering of local Presbyterians for Lunch and an Informational Program beginning at 11:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Harvest Home Dinner & And Marketplace

Plains Presbyterian Church
326 Plains Church Road, Cranberry Twp.

Saturday, October 10 4 pm—8 pm

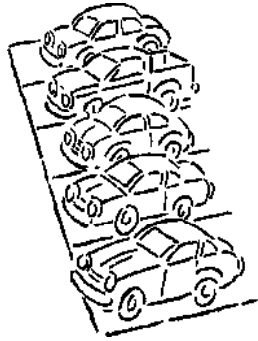
Roast Beef, Red Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, Dessert & Beverage
\$7.00 Adults ~ Kids under 10 eat free

THE COVENANT CHURCH PARKING LOT:

Our parking lot (south of Jefferson St.) will be "under re-construction" this Fri., Sept. 25th.

Session has approved a bid from the Joseph Wiest Asphalt Paving Co. to clean debris, fill in craters and smooth the pavement at the entrance and exits to the lot.

The repairs are a temporary fix. A more extensive resurfacing project will be needed next year when funds become available. The Session is also planning, through a program offered by Allegheny Power Co., to improve the lighting in the lot by replacing the current antiquated fixtures and electrical system.



In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

Pastor Jim Scheduled for 7:30 am surgery tomorrow at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio

Art Forbes Health concerns, though still "at work" regularly; no definitive diagnosis following recent tests

Joys:

Ellie Walchesky Released from Concordia, now at home & doing wonderfully well

For Continued Prayer:

Minnie Anderson; Julie & Bud Bruno; Marion Campbell; Marian Curran; Eleanor Ritts; Gladys Strobel; John Towns; Bill and MaryLou Wilson

Birthdays this Week:

Peter Schlicht - September 20

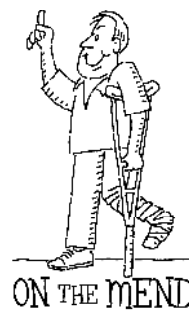
Christopher Foringer - September 21

Amanda Gilliland - September 21

Vanessa Helen Drohan - September 23 (Happy 6th Birthday!)

THE CARPET

A small section of the carpet in the Assembly Room was becoming "a fall risk" along the middle seam line. The carpet was originally installed in December 2004 as a generous gift to the church from the Moore family. Rick Dixon's Carpet Sales and Installation was contracted to re-stretch the carpet—removing the hazard, improving the look and preventing further carpet damage. The safety of our members and friends is a major concern.





**Special Events
Coming
in October**

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 4

11 a.m. Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. William A. Jamieson
Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Peacemaking Offering

2:00 p.m. "Blessing of the Pets" Service & Snack-Lunch
Service led by Nancy Jo Moorhead

(The wider Butler Community is invited for this event)

MISSION PROGRAM & LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 6

11 a.m. Missionary Guests: Cobbie Palm and Joel Tendero,
International Peacemakers from the Philippines

Biographies of the two speakers are available
on the table in the Narthex

MOVIE NIGHT AT COVENANT

Friday, October 16

6:30 p.m Feature Film: Faith Like Potatoes

Frank Rautenbach stars as Angus Buchan, a Zambian farmer of Scottish heritage who leaves his farm in the midst of political unrest and travels with his family to South Africa. Based on the inspiring true story of Angus Buchan's autobiographical book, Faith Like Potatoes was adapted for the big screen by actor and director, Regardt van der Bergh, and weaves together the moving journey of a man who, like his potatoes, grows his faith – unseen until the harvest. An inspiring film!

FALL BIBLE STUDY SERIES BEGINS

Wednesday, October 21 at 1:00 p.m.

(Every other Wednesday, same time, here at Covenant)

Pastor Merry Meloy will join with Pastor Jim to explore an excellent Bible Study written by John J. Pilch:

Introducing the Cultural Context of the Old Testament

(Continues on November 4, November 18, and December 2)



September 20, 2009

"Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good."

~Mohandas Gandhi

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."

~Desmond Tutu

No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do.

~Dorothy Day, The Catholic Worker

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor

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