



The Ark of The Covenant

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2010

Spring & Summer Adult Ed Programs

We have had a great three months. Lola Blackwell taught a six-week class in "God Views." Our five-week Lenten series provided us fellowship during a soup supper and lessons on "Practicing Our Faith," taught by Laura Fitch. Helen Bennett held conversations on the "Psalm of the Day" from the Lectionary. Seth Fitch is teaching "Alpha and Omega," an ongoing Bible study starting with Genesis.

Our future plans include Helen Bennett's class on the Psalms through April. She will begin a new class in September so watch for announcements. Seth Fitch will continue with the Bible study through May 9th. Back by popular demand is the "Faith and Film" study. Our films will be shown on Thursday nights at 5:30 PM starting May 13-June 3 and discussions will be on Sundays with John Sitler, May 16-June 6. We will serve popcorn and drinks for the films. Bring your brown bag supper and join us. Deacons are arranging rides for anyone needing them on Thursday nights. If you can provide a ride for someone, please contact your Deacon

Beginning in mid-May, John Sitler of The Menaul School, will offer a month long series on "**Faith in Films, Part II.**" Christian and ethical themes contained in these films will be explored and discussed. This class is the second part of the series offered last summer. Films will be shown at Covenant @ 5:30 pm on Thursdays preceding the Sunday school class in which the film will be discussed. The present schedule, subject to change, is as follows:

- Sunday, May 16th - Woody Allen's **Crimes and Misdemeanors** (shown Thursday night, May 13th).
- Sunday, May 23rd - Belgian film, **The Son** (shown Thursday night, May 20th).
- Sunday, May 30th - Robert Duvall's **The Apostle** (shown Thursday night, May 27th).
- Sunday, June 6th - the Canadian film, **The Black Robe** (shown Thursday night, June 3rd).

July and August we hope you will join us on Sunday mornings for Coffee and Conversation.

By Jane Plunkett

Ark of the Covenant

Covenant Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Catherine Robinson, Pastor

The Rev. Seth Finch, Assoc. Pastor

Correspondents this issue:

Tanya Blankinship, Cam Eanes, Cyndy Eizner, Michelle & Natalie Emmons, Chuck Evans, Seth Finch, Lindsey Gilbert, Dennes Goswick, Doris Hopping, Shuristeen Joubert, Dick Loyd, Bob Mennonna, Alli Moore, Eric Nyase, Sam Phillips, Catherine Robinson, Carol Stocks

Deadline for next issue: July 23, 2010

Contributions

Office – 299-3621

Flower Ministry – The Flower Chart sign-up is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Sign up to purchase flowers for the Communion Table. Cost is \$20.00.

Rio Grande Food Bank – The first Sunday of every month is *Food Bank Sunday*. Put donations in the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall.

Transportation – If you can occasionally provide a ride for other members of our congregation living in or near your neighborhood, please notify the office.

Things To Ponder

The best way to get even is to forget.

Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.

God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.

Some folks wear their halos much too tight.

Unless you can create the WHOLE universe in 6 days, then perhaps giving "advice" to God, isn't such a good idea!

Standing in the middle of the road is dangerous. You will get knocked down by the traffic from both directions.

Words are windows to the heart.

Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, and faith looks up.

It isn't difficult to make a mountain out of a molehill - just add a little dirt.

A successful marriage isn't finding the right person – it's being the right person.

The mighty oak tree was once a little nut that held its ground.

To forgive is to set the prisoner free, and then discover the prisoner was you.

You have to wonder about humans, they think God is dead and Elvis is alive!

You'll notice that a turtle only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.

If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet the water bill is higher.

Keep smiling!

And... if you see someone's missing one.... give them one of yours!

Contributed by Doris Hopping

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

Contributed by Carol Stocks

“As the Spirit Moves Me”

Dear Covenant Kin,

I cannot begin any communication to you these days without first giving **high thanks to God for your continued love and support to me and my family during these days of family medical leave**. I write these words from a doctor's office, as we continue to do more detective work on Bill's condition. We are grateful to be able to do so.

During these last few weeks (which I have called “Phase 2” of my leave), I have found some simple ways to engage in ministry for brief periods of time. I want to tell you about one of those experiences. You may want to find some way to get involved in this project, which is so important and exciting!

On Tuesday morning, April 13, Wilma Gantz, Sharon Copeland, Bob Mennonna and I met at **Sombra del Monte Elementary School**, where we were each escorted into a 1st grade room to **hear students read**. I think it was, for all of us, a glorious experience.

In the classrooms, we were presented with flowers and **wonderful homemade thank you cards**. You can see the thank-you cards when you're around the fellowship hall and the Fireside Room at the church. They are quite delightful to behold!

It's important for you to know, however, that we didn't receive the flowers and cards simply because we were there to hear the children read. We received such lovely expressions of thanks because **Covenant has funded the reading program (called “Reading from A to Z”) that we were there to see demonstrated**.

I was assigned to a group of five children. We spent some time introducing ourselves. The children were wide-eyed as I talked about where I went to first grade, and what my teacher's name was. (I think they were surprised that first grade had been invented back then!) Then, we broke out the book, which was all about a little girl going fishing with her grandfather.

As soon as we looked at the title, one of the children raised his hand and said, “Oh, oh I have an association!” (I was impressed!... an *association!*) His association had to do with his grandfather. We talked about grandparents for a while. That was fun.

Then, we read the book. Everyone, including me, got to read a page. The children read quite well. We had a lovely discussion, with more “associations.” That discussion could have probably gone on all morning!

There were worksheets to be done, however, and that was the most interesting part to me. There was a question about how the little girl in the book felt about her grandfather. Well, I knew the answer to that! She felt happy because she got to spend time with her grandfather! To a child, however, the answers were different from my answer. The children thought that little girl felt sad because even though she caught a fish, her grandfather didn't. She felt sorry for her grandfather. Wow! I would have never thought of that!

The last thing that the children got to do was to color the books, which they did with great enthusiasm.

It was a fun hour. In the Reformed Presbyterian tradition, we have a long history of supporting public education. We believe that “the life of the mind is service to God,” to quote theologian John Leith. I felt very grateful that, as Covenant Presbyterian Church, we are able to support these children as they joyfully go about the important task of learning to read.

Next fall, we hope to get more members of Covenant over to Sombra to experience what we experienced. Certainly we want to continue to support “Reading from A to Z.” From what I saw, it's a great program!

See you in church....sooner rather than later, I hope!

Peace,
Catherine

Membership Memos

The Membership Committee has continued to welcome visitors to Covenant so far this year by greeting them, giving them a "visitor bag", and following up with a letter or phone call. We also welcomed the following confirmands as they joined the church on Easter Sunday: Shuristeen Joubert, Cameron Eanes, Alli Moore, Eric Nyase, Sam Phillips, Michelle Emmons, and Natalie Emmons. Included are their Statements of Faith as they were written.

We hope to host a new member/inquiry class in late summer or early fall. We are always looking for folks who would like to join us in welcoming visitors to Covenant. If you would like to be a part of the Membership Committee, please call Tanya Blankinship at 797-4432.

By Tanya Blankinship

Statements of Faith

By: Shuristeen

My Statement of Faith

I believe that God loves me; that the trinity loves me. The Father Almighty, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is with me and will forgive me when I sin. They are light at the end of the tunnel. They will help me get through all the tough times; like when I left Alaska and left all my friends behind.

I believe that sin, evil, and grace is in all of us. No matter what we say or what we do sin is always going to be in our lives. Even though some people think that getting baptized means you will never sin again, and evil will

never be there well its not true. Getting baptized means a visible sign of an invisible grace.

I think the story of Jesus coming down to earth as Lord's teacher is very important. This is important to me because we learned that he is fully God and fully human. But someone might ask how can someone be fully human and God well he is God's son but born by Mary.

I would like to learn the word of God. So I can teach people who don't understand the word of the Lord. I would like to help the congregation donate money, and help the kids when they are confused.

I love the Lord; and believe that he loves me. Amen!

Statement of Faith

By: Eric

I believe in the one true God, God of our Ancestors, and Creator of the world. He who is always there for me, no matter what. Perfect Being, True Lord, His unconditional love will always be with us. Whose Son came to Earth and went through all human temptations and challenges. Taught with authority about what it truly meant to believe in God. Has done miracles to bring people closer to God and Him. Fully Human, Fully God, he graciously died on the cross, as said in the Holy Scripture, and saved us from all condemnation that we were born with. I remember this when I take communion. But on that enlightening Sunday, He rose from the dead, as said by the prophets so many years before. Grace has been applied and eternal life given through Him. The Holy Spirit completes the three in one Trio by calling us to do what is right, bringing people's hearts to the church, and giving

us hope when times are tough. The Holy Spirit has many symbols, including a flame, a butterfly, and of course, the dove. From the beginning of time, to the very last day, these three have always been there with me, even when I don't know it.

In life, we don't always live to our full extent in godly living. We sin in the world that we made evil, but with God's grace and through Baptism, he will forgive every single sin we commit. We try to do good, like help others who don't have much, who are lonely, need reassurance, or just need help. The Church is made for everyone in liturgy. Even though the church's many quarrels have brought us far apart, we still remain one church with Jesus at the center of it. Even at the most horrific moment of your life, God is always there! Amen!

Alli's Statement of Faith

1+1+1=1. The Trinity is very important to the church. The Trinity includes God the father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. God is with everyone everywhere you go. If you believe in Jesus then you are faithful to him. Word=Jesus. word=scripture. You can only be baptized once, not twice. If you do good deeds then you are responding to Gods grace. God will forgive you no madder what you do. God loves everyone.

Statement of Faith

By: Cameron

If you ask a hundred people who God is, you're likely to get a hundred different answers. There are a lot of people who think differently about God. Here's what I believe:

Before I start, I want to give you an easy math problem, what is 1+1+1? If you said three, you're wrong! The answer is 1, come on! Anyone who reads their bible should know that 1+1+1=1! Still confused? It'll make sense now. God is part of a group called the trinity. The trinity is a group made up of God, the Father, Jesus, the Son, and The Holy Spirit. Every single person in the trinity are all God. So, does my easy math problem make

sense now? If it doesn't you should read the bible.

To me, God is the Creator, The Almighty Ruler. He created the heavens and the earth. He is the giver of life. God will forgive you no matter what you do. So if you sinned very badly and you think that God will not forgive you for what you did, you're wrong. God will forgive you. God will love you if you believe in Him, if you don't, or anything in between. God will always love you no matter what. If you are stressed out about something, talk to God. You can talk to God by praying or reading the bible. God is wonderful.

Jesus is the Son of God; fully human, and fully divine. Jesus came to the earth to break the power of sin and evil and to spread the word. The word is the bible. If you say that you are perfect, you're lying and if you lie that makes you imperfect. Jesus was perfect, he never sinned in his entire short life. After that, he died on the cross for us; and to think, Jesus never sinned, so why did he deserve such a horrible fate? He went through that to free us from our sins. He was buried and he descended into hell. But three days later, he rose from the dead, breaking the power of sin and evil, using Grace. Praise God! We're free!

The Holy Spirit is God, inside of us. If you are in trouble, The Holy Spirit will help you. Before Jesus was crucified, he told all of his disciples that after his resurrection he would send The Holy Sprit to earth to watch after us until he comes again. I believe that The Holy Spirit is working for God, right this very moment. These are who make up the trinity; God is the Creator, Jesus is His Son, and The Holy Spirit is the living God.

To close off this I will say quick prayer: God, I know that I have sinned. Please forgive me and everyone else on this planet. Thank you for sending Jesus, The Messiah, to our world to save us from our sin and evil. Thank you for dying on the cross for us. And thank you for having Your Son send us The Holy Spirit to watch over us and to protect us until you come again. Praise God! We're forgiven! AMEN

Sam Statement of Faith

I believe in a God who helps us every day-helping us to do the right thing.

I believe that Jesus' disciples are like the Greek gods and goddesses because they all had different jobs. I also believe that God shared his power with the disciples, like the power to know about God and help other people understand him. For example, I think that Judas is like Hades, not because he is evil but because he betrayed Jesus.

I believe that God is perfect, but God sometimes does imperfect things to help us. God created a good world, but made us in a way that we make mistakes.

The Holy Spirit works with us like with the disciples at Pentecost when they were all acting drunk and talking in different languages. I kinda see the Holy Spirit as the one who sends angels to people who are losing faith, and they show up and then they think that there is someone like God.

I believe that Jesus came in a time that there were thousands of people losing faith, then God sent Jesus down when there was lots of bad things happening to help fix things and help people believe. Jesus helped lots of people. He also died for us on the cross to save all of us from evil. Different people believe different things about Jesus. I think that Jesus and the Holy Spirit and God are merged together to help people better.

Sin is kinda like mistakes and we make a lot of them like stealing, hurting people, and opening a huge franchise that takes out lots of local businesses. Grace is when you help people like volunteer at a food bank or an animal shelter. God focuses on people doing good and helps us with Grace.

I don't believe in the way that a lot of other people talk about Hell, instead I believe in a kind of under world that isn't so horrible but that it has two parts. The first part is-if you didn't do anything bad like murder anybody or commit suicide, you can live a new life in Christ. The second part is if you did something bad like murdered anybody or committed suicide you can live in a world like ours until you are ready to help people and to help your relatives make good choices.

I think that the Bible is a great book that tells us what God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit did for us before that helps us get to where we are today. If Jesus hadn't come the world would be a worse place because nobody would volunteer and everybody would be stealing and doing bad things. Scripture teaches us about all this.

I think that Sunday morning we are sending a whole bunch of prayers up to God. When you get baptized you get closer to God because now you are part of God's people who really believe in God, and you are brought into a more peaceful environment than outside of church and you are sending a lot more prayers every week. Communion in my opinion is like a triple prayer because we are worshipping God, taking a little bit of Jesus so that we will be better people and do better things.

I believe in helping other people who are hurt, physically and mentally with all my power. When I saw a woman having a seizure at the beginning of this year, I got this feeling that I should have done something. But, I was glad to see that someone was there to help.

I believe in angels. One time I saw an angel when I was seven years old. She looked like a 2D lighted-up Christmas angel with a trumpet. Most kids when they're little they think yeah, yeah there is somebody up there, but once they have a little more influence they believe more strongly in God. That was what it was like for me to see that angel, it helped me believe.

I believe that God searches for the lost (not like a lost IPOD, Lego dude or stuffed animal), but the lost soul. God works with people who don't see the good in life and helps them see the light.

Statement of Faith

By Michelle

Dear God,

I believe you are my messiah: my chosen one. I believe in the Trinity which means $1+1+1=1$. Why do I believe in these things? Well, I believe Jesus is the Messiah because he was chosen to look after me at birth. I believe in the Trinity because Trinity means together. God, I believe in many other things as well. An example is when they start some of the statements of faith using the phrase, "I believe in the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth" which is exactly what God is. God made the Heavens and the Earth. He created life and death. God, I also believe that the Bible is nothing without the Holy

Spirit living within it. The Holy Spirit makes life flow into the Bible through both Testaments of the Bible.

I believe in the Chalcedonian Definition which means that you are fully human and fully divine. I also believe in sin, evil, and grace. I know that sin, evil, and grace are part of a cycle. Sin means evil and evil means sin. Grace is the savior of sin.

The song *Amazing Grace* is about saving souls and I enjoy singing it. This song is important because it is about how God helps people find the way. I definitely agree that singing once is praying twice.

Since I have taken Confirmation classes, I believe in the flags that are in the sanctuary. I will now tell you about my favorite flag. My favorite flag is the Westminster Confession and the Shorter Catechism. I really like the look of it and it involves many things I believe in. The eye is God watching over me. The triangle is the Trinity. The crown is proof that God rules over us. The Alpha and Omega are the beginning and end of the Greek alphabet, they represent Christ's life.

God, it is now time to close my Statement of Faith by saying: Dear God, Thank you that you love us and that you are accepting us into the Presbyterian Church.

Amen.



Statement of Faith

By: Natalie

$1+1+1=1$. This is the first lesson I learned in Confirmation. At first I thought, "What is Seth talking about?" I mean, seriously. $1+1+1=3$. Ask any math teacher. Then it all started to make sense. God is part of a group called the Trinity. This group includes the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three of them are unique.

Absolute Being, All Knowing, All Powerful, Allah, Almighty, Creator, Divine Being, Father, God, Holy Spirit, Infinite Spirit, Jehovah, King of Kings, Lord, Maker, Yahweh;

these are few of the many names for our king. He created the Earth on all things on it. He calls on people to do things for the good of the Earth and the people. He listens to our prayers. He is always there yet you cannot see him. God is simultaneously perfect and imperfect. He has done bad things before, wiping out the Earth with a flood. But, he also forgives us and stoops down to our level so we don't have to rise to his. I believe in God.

Jesus is a symbol of salvation. He lived on Earth and suffered all the things that humans do. He was brought to Earth as God's teacher. When he was born, he was born the Messiah. Everyone who believes in Jesus has eternal life. He is fully human and fully divine. He was a long awaited savior. When you believe in Jesus you take on a huge responsibility because you might receive a challenge that will affect you and everyone who knows you. I am ready for this challenge, I believe in Jesus.

The Holy Spirit is the wind. It is always present and pushing us in the right direction. It is the energy in us. It is God's helper. It is the giver of life. I believe in the Holy Spirit.

There are many ways to see God. One of them is through scripture; the Bible shows us how to teach others God's word. A second way is through prayer; God is always listening to what everyone is saying, so even though he hears me, he doesn't answer right away. A third way to see God is through psalms and hymns; there is a saying that states, "Singing once is praying twice." I believe that God is always listening to me, no matter how I talk to him.

I like going to church and learning in youth group. I like helping people. I want to follow God. I am ready to become a helper. I believe in the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible. Amen.

Mission Works

Blood Drive...

Covenant's second blood drive, held in April, generated 20 units of blood. This ties our all-

time record! Thanks to all who donated. The remaining blood drive dates for 2010 are June 13th, August 8th, October 3rd, and December 5th.

Dismas House News...

The annual Jazz Brunch at Scalo Northern Italian Grill will take place on Saturday, May 8th, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales goes to support the Dismas House program. Tickets are priced at \$40. They can be purchased at the event.

Furniture is still needed at the St. Dismas Thrift & Treasure store. Call Tony Acuna for pick up. 804-2561.

We can still use volunteers to serve meals for the women's house on the first Tuesday of each month. See Vanna Ortiz or Dale MacLennan if you are interested.

Sombra del Monte...

Catherine Robinson, Sharon Copeland, Wilma Gantz, and Bob Mennonna took part in 1st grade reading instruction on April 13th. The reading lessons for that day centered on the on-line site license for the program, Reading from A to Z which Covenant purchased last year for the school.

Shelby Copeland and Bob Mennonna served as judges at the 5th grade science fair at Sombra del Monte on April 14th.

Intergenerational Mission Trip

This year Covenant is going to New Orleans June 7-11 to assist with the rebuilding of homes that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Woody Owens is organizing the trip. To date, there are 8 members planning to go. Round trip on Southwest Airlines will cost \$288. The PDA charges \$20 per day per person for meals (breakfast and dinner) and accommodations.

Thank You...

A special thank you goes out to Sharon Copeland for the beautiful quilt she made to support Habitat for Humanity. Thanks to Vanna Ortiz for organizing and running a successful quilt raffle.

By Bob Mennonna

Stewardship

The main focus of the Stewardship committee is developing strategies to insure sufficient resources for the Covenant Presbyterian Church's ministry.

Our committee's focus most recently is in two areas:

First, we are developing a new theme for the church's stewardship campaign. Last year, ***Undiscovered Abundance*** served as a marvelous touch point for giving and ending up describing well our experience last year as God through His people provided an abundance of financial resources which exceeded our expected revenue. We have begun the brainstorm process to come up with a unique and inspiring concept that will fit our church.

Second, we have completed an informal survey of folks at the church and determined that 70-80% of the church membership are interested in the *option* of paying their tithes and gifts to the church through credit cards and/or automatic bank drafts. This has yet to be discussed by the session and it should be a lively discussion as we look at the practical challenges as well as biblical principles together with church history as we explore using opportunities which technology has made possible.

By Lindsey Gilbert

Personnel

The Personnel Committee arranged the terms of pastor Catherine Robinson's family medical leave, beginning in mid-February. Catherine has since published two letters to the congregation explaining her status. We continue to meet with Dr. Robinson to monitor her situation and to think about how and when she may be able to resume working. We recommended Rev. Laura Finch to the Session for a six-week contract to assist with pastoral duties, followed by a contract with Rev. Dr. Ken Cuthbertson for another seven weeks. We have also worked on the personnel implications of extended hours for the preschool.

In the next few months, we will complete a comparative salary survey of area preschools to assist us in recommending a revised salary for our director to match her increased responsibilities. We will support Catherine with whatever developments are ahead. We also hope to spend more time in support of associate pastor Seth Finch in his ministry. Personnel will also be considering how Health Care Reform legislation may impact our staff benefits. In keeping with the year of Sabbath, we will not conduct a structured review for the pastors this year, but you may leave any comments in my box.

By Dick Loyd

Properties Plans

Since the beginning of 2010, the Properties Committee has replaced the blinds in the classrooms, repaired the ceiling in the south entrance, done drain repairs, and installed a new door in the Pastor's office. A clean up day (inside and out) was held on March 22 and the roses were pruned. Future projects include cleaning up the tool room, installing

an alarm system in the sanctuary, painting the south side of the building, and upgrading the kitchen. Repairs are planned for the ceiling in the choir room, the kitchen, drinking fountains, and yard.

Committee members: Bob Beal, Ed Cole, George Leshner, Woody Owens, Don Pinkerton, John Plunkett, Wayne Rancher, and Dennes Goswick (chair).

By Dennes Goswick

Finance

Covenant's Future Foundation

How do I make a bequest to Covenant? When you review your estate plan, you can choose a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to bequeath to the church. Example: "I bequeath to Covenant Presbyterian Church the amount of \$_____". Or, "I bequeath ___% of all remaining assets of my estate to Covenant Presbyterian Church."

By Chuck Evans

Opportunities

Martineztown

The Martineztown House of Neighborly Service Auxiliary will meet at Gloria Mirabal's home on May 13th. This will be the last meeting until September 9, 2010.

The September 9th meeting will be at 2nd Presbyterian Church. The program will be *Exercise Your Heart* presented by Heart of New Mexico. Coffee will be hosted by St. Andrews Presbyterian at 9:30 AM and the business meeting will start at 10:00 .

Have a great summer everyone!!!

By Doris Hopping



Covenant Corner Preschool is very excited about our new fall hours. Our program will be from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM with both before and aftercare hours available. Parents have the

opportunity to enroll their children at 7:45 AM and can also enroll for aftercare from 3:00-5:15 PM.

Due to the economic climate, we have found that our family community at the preschool has been changing. Now, more than ever, there are higher demands on parents to provide for their children. We surveyed our parents and found that many were interested in taking advantage of our expanded hours.

“Miss Cyndy” and your Preschool Staff

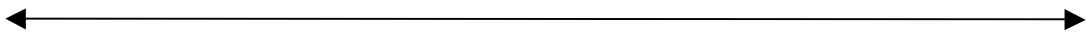
Covenant Presbyterian Church Children's Sunday School

Our **Sunday School curriculum** consists of reading from the children's bible stories from the Sparks Bibles. We have been focusing on a different story every six weeks and we include art, cooking, games, science, and media based on the stories.

The stories that we focused on in the last few months are Mary and Martha and the Last Supper.

For the next six weeks we will learn about the story of Lydia.

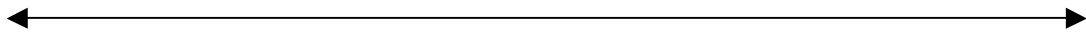
We will continue to use the Sparks Bible and curriculum throughout the summer.



The children were involved in a **mission project** of sending hygiene kits to Haiti.

The kits included soap, shampoo, bandaids, etc. These items were to help the victims of the earthquake. They also participated in various activities with Holy Week Happening that involved games, cooking, art, and the Easter egg hunt.

Both activities were successful and the children had a blast.

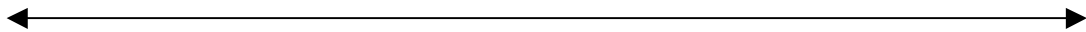


The Children's Christian Education Committee has been hard at work getting ready for **Vacation Bible School**. **A reminder that VBS will be July 26 – 30.**

The themes we will be discussing in VBS are: How God loves Us; We love God; God loves Family; God loves Community; and God loves our Enemies. The committee is writing the curriculum this year and will include music written by Jeff Jolly.

We have sent out a survey to VBS parents that ask if they are interested in having the program in the morning or the evening. We have gotten a few responses but we need more before we decide what time our program will be.

Any parents who would like to take the survey for VBS please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J8C3YW3>.



If you have any questions or would like to volunteer as a Sunday School Teacher, please call the church office and ask for Seth for more information.

By Sarah Braaten

Youth News

Youth Schedule

May 2nd--YOUTH GROUP 12:15-3pm
May 8th--Concert set up/prepare Youth Sunday
6pm-9pm
May 9th--Youth Sunday 8am-12pm
May 9th--NO YOUTH GROUP
May 16th--YOUTH GROUP 12:15-3pm
May 23rd--YOUTH GROUP 12:15-3pm
May 30th--YOUTH GROUP Summer Party!

June--Youth Outing, sometime June 15th-18th

June 24th--VBS Skit Rehearsal 1 6pm

July 13th--VBS Leader Training 6pm

July 15th--VBS Skit Rehearsal 2 6pm

July 19th--Triennium Retreat 2

July 20th-24th--Presbyterian Youth Triennium

July 26th-30th--Vacation Bible School

August--Youth Outing, sometime Aug. 10-20

August 22nd--Presbytery Back To School Party (@Menaul School?)

August 29th--Welcome Home Sunday

Upcoming Events:

Celtic Concert

On May 8th the Youth will help set up and sell concessions for a Celtic group that will be performing at Covenant. Come enjoy some good music and yummy treats. If members of the Congregation would like to support the youth and the musicians by making baked goods (cookies, brownies, etc.), please let Seth know ASAP.

Youth Sunday

The youth will be leading worship on May 9th, sharing their own faith beliefs through scripture, prayer, music, and sermons. The graduation seniors, Stephanie Marks, Andrew Windsor, and Katie Ogawa will be presented with Albums and gifts from the Youth Group to celebrate their accomplishments, as well as what they have meant to our church as a whole.



By Scott Rancher

