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# THE INSPIRER

Volume 10, Issue 3

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2007

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## GOD'S CALL TO US

What does a new pastor (an intentional interim) say to a congregation he has hardly met? Especially with people preparing for Advent and the expectancy of Christmas around the corner, our thoughts are turning toward family, good food and happy times, not to some new person entering our lives. And I too find myself in the same place as you, wondering why God has called me to Covenant Presbyterian Church at this time in our histories.

It is obvious to me that our God has a wonderful sense of humor! Certainly just a few months ago, Covenant Presbyterian Church was not on my 'radar' and I doubt if I was on the mind of your Transition Committee. Nevertheless, here we are together, something new for both of us.

But maybe God has a plan for all of us that we haven't yet understood. This season we remember a small child that came into the world unexpectedly; a child that was a surprise to his mother and father, and to their families. Yet something important was happening that no one could anticipate. God was at work shaping and planning for humanity's future.

Maybe, just maybe, God is at work in your lives and mine, bringing us together at a particular time in history. Maybe God has a plan for Covenant Presbyterian Church that none of us can see at this time. Maybe God has brought us together on our journeys of faith knowing that we can help one another grow—grow in the faith, grow in our understanding of how to be the church that follows the teachings of Jesus, grow in our understanding and trust of one another.

Maybe. . . .

I look forward to 'walking the walk' with you, to exploring where God is leading, and becoming family together. May this Advent and Christmas season be a special time in all our lives.

*Pastor John*

**Dear Pastor John,**

**We would like to extend a very warm and sincere welcome to you!! We look forward to working with you and making Covenant Presbyterian Church a "beacon of light" to our family, friends, acquaintances and to the entire Covenant community.**

**God bless you and may we make outstanding achievements to the Glory of God during your time with us. We are very excited and very grateful to have you with us!!**

***"You have many workmen: stonecutters, masons and carpenters, as well as men skilled in every kind of work in gold and silver, bronze and iron - craftsmen beyond number. Now begin the work, and the Lord be with you."*** 1 Chronicles 22:15-16 (NIV)

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
to all. May you find  
PEACE and JOY in  
this WONDERFUL  
SEASON of LOVE.**

# THE SEASON OF ADVENT



Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming, or birth, of the Lord, Jesus Christ. During this time, Christians observe a season of prayer, fasting and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope and joy.

Many Christians celebrate advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of time.

## Advent Calendar 2007

- **December 2**

*First Sunday of Advent*

- **December 9**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

- **December 16**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

- **December 23**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

## **Advent Season**

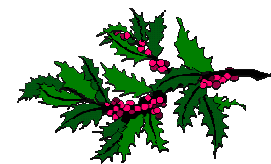
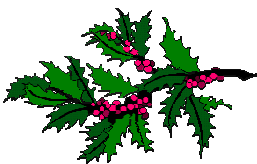
*(Dec 2 - Dec 24, 2007)*

## **Christmas**

*(Dec 25, 2007 - Jan 5, 2008)*

## **The 12 Days of Christmas**

*(Dec 25, 2007 - Jan 5, 2008)*



# OFFICER CLASSES

## ELDERS

2008

*Melinda Harris*  
*Margie Haynes*  
*LeAnne Kerry*  
(Term ends 1/2008)

2009

*Shelia Adams*  
*Elizabeth Miller*  
*Marty Miller*  
(Term ends 1/2009)

2010

*Marjorie Johnson*  
*Genoa McPhatter*  
*Vivian Moore*  
(Term ends 1/2010)

## DEACONS

2008

*Jeanette Moses*  
*Eva Rice*  
*Orlander Whitaker*  
(Term ends 1/2008)

2009

*Francine Dozier*  
*SherNita McFarlin*  
*Elnora Ruffin*  
(Term ends 1/2009)

2010

*Helen Lewis*  
*William Shepperson*  
*Robert Thompson*  
(Term ends 1/2010)

NOTE: The above appears in  
THE INSPIRER for  
informational purposes.

# SESSION MEETING

A Called Session meeting has been scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Church Library.

The purpose of the meeting is to review and finalize the 2008 budget and to act on pressing items from Committees.

If you have a concern, please e-mail it to all Session members prior to the meeting so we may act on it in a timely manner.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Information on any issue not received by Session members for review (prior to the meeting) will not be heard.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1<sup>st</sup> December, Barbara Gay  
16<sup>th</sup> December, Margie Haynes  
18<sup>th</sup> December, Vivian Moore

**Happy Birthday!!**

# SEEK AND FIND THE REAL **CHRISTMAS**



The Bible promises that those who seek will find. And if you're seeking Jesus, what you find will change not only your life, but your eternity as well. So in the next few weeks, use your head AND your heart as you look for the real meaning of Christmas. When you devote yourself to a righteous and devout life, you can't miss Him.

Sometime between now and Christmas, make a point of reading all of the biblical Christmas stories. Here are some of the basics:

- *Mary gets the news*  
(Luke 1:26-38)
- *Mary & Elizabeth compare pregnancies*  
(Luke 1:39-56)
- *Jesus is born in Bethlehem*  
(Luke 2:1-7)
- *The angels visit the shepherds*  
(Luke 2:8-20)
- *The Magi visit the child*  
(Matthew 2:1-12)
- *Anna & Simeon get a glimpse of the child* (Luke 2:21-40)



*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

-- Jesus Christ

# CHRISTMAS

## **T**his is a day of giving.

Christians around the world pause today to celebrate the birth of Christ, and the spirit of giving which is so gracefully embodied in that first Christmas almost 2,000 years ago.

Jesus said that it is more blessed to give than to receive. It is a simple truth, even self-evident, yet magnificently profound and powerful. For life consists of giving. We are, each of us, unique, with our own contributions to make. At the same time, we are part of a greater whole. Giving is what keeps us connected. The more we give of ourselves, the more we strengthen our own unique aliveness. The gifts we give become part of the world around us, where they grow in value with each life they touch.

*Anything that we truly and sincerely give, we will never lose.*

True giving means giving of one's self. The physical object, if there is one, is merely a token. The essence of the gift is in the giving, in the expression of sincere love and caring. When you give a part of yourself, it is not gone, it is bigger and better than ever.

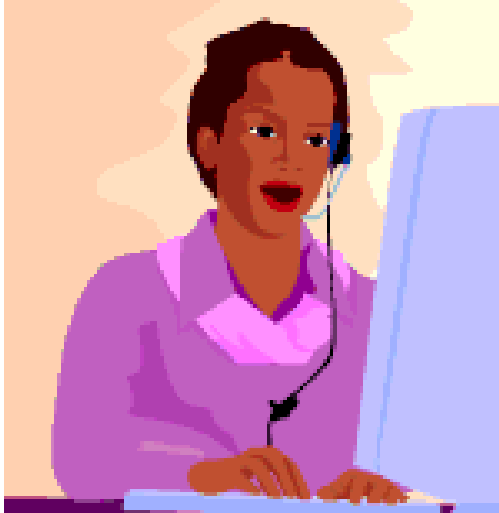
Giving is the most self-serving thing you can do. And therein lies the beauty of life.

-- Ralph Marston

# Acquire New Skills

## Join Covenant's

# COMPUTER TRAINING CLASSES



6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

TUESDAYS &

THURSDAYS

LEARN \* WORD \* EXCEL

POWERPOINT \* PUBLISHER

EMAIL \* INTERNET

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

913 Covenant Street  
Norfolk, Virginia 23504  
Call: 757-623-1875

# Advent

(A Poem based on Rev. 22:20)

I am. I was. I will be.  
I am not coming soon I am here.

I was born on a cold night in a cold place  
Unnoticed, unheralded by cold people  
Who turned my mother away.  
On that night were you listening?  
On that night the "least of your brothers" was me.  
Now do you see, do you hear and do you care?  
I am not coming soon I am here.

In your life do you see me  
In the ragged men and women  
Who search the cold street  
Looking for my reflection in your heart?  
Do you hear my voice in  
Their muttered plea or in their tear?  
I am not coming soon I am here.

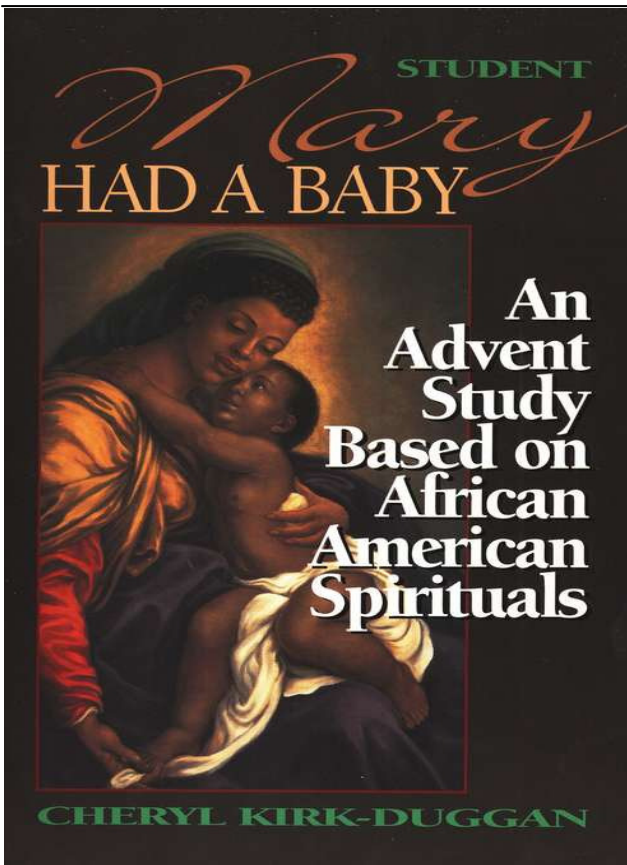
Do you hear me when your friend turns to you  
To ask forgiveness and trust?  
Do I not forgive you always?  
Do I not give you a merciful ear?  
I am not coming soon I am here.

In this season I was born unto you  
Fulfilling the promise of God's care.  
Look for me, listen to me...  
I am not coming soon I am here.

*by W. H. Smaw*

**BELIEVE IN YOURSELF  
AND ALL THAT YOU ARE.  
KNOW THAT THERE IS  
SOMETHING INSIDE YOU  
THAT IS GREATER  
THAN ANY OBSTACLE.**

[CHRISTIAN D. LARSON]



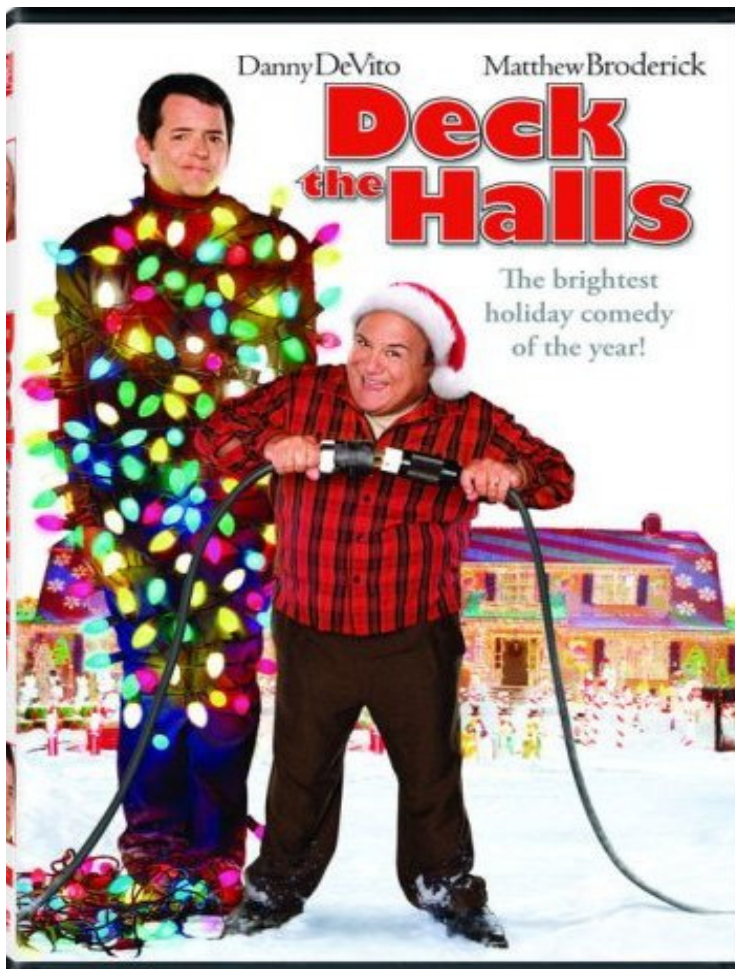
# Advent Dinner Bible Study

*Cost of workbook \$6.50*

You are invited to join us each Wednesday evening for dinner and Bible Study starting **Wednesday, December 5, 2007**, 5:00 P.M. until 6:30 P.M.

The cost of dinner is \$5.00 or bring your own. The Beverage will be provided.

We hope to see you there. Merry Christmas!!!



A slapstick holiday heart-warmer. When Buddy (Danny DeVito) takes it upon himself to create an extravagant Christmas spectacle so that his house can be seen from space, the rivalry between Steve (Mathew Broderick) and Buddy reaches drastic heights of ridiculousness, until both men learn a little something about the true meaning of Christmas.

See this hilarious movie and have great fun at:

## MOVIE NIGHT

**COVENANT'S FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2007**

**6:00 P.M.**

**GOOD FOOD**

**GREAT FELLOWSHIP**

**LOTS OF FUN!!**

# HOW MUCH BELONGS TO GOD?

The house or apartment that you live in is God's house or apartment. He owns it. The car you drive is God's car. The clothes you wear are God's clothes. The books on your shelves are God's books. The computer in your home is God's computer. Your furniture in your home belongs to God. The "trophy" home you occupy belongs to God. Your business or job that you have belongs to God. Even the very air that you breathe. . is God's air. You know what else? Your children and your spouse belong to God. Your relatives and your friends belong to God. The driver who cuts you off in traffic belongs to God! Are you being God's good steward in your relationships?

When we get to heaven, God will say to some of His children, "...Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matt. 25:21) What "few" things is He talking about? He is talking about your house, your car, your job, your clothes, your money, and your relationships.

Giving your finances to the Lord's work is more than simply a duty or obligation; it is an **act of worship**. And, Jesus says that we are to worship God with our whole being! He said it this way: Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all

thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Will God say to you: "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with the few things that I gave to you. Come and share your master's happiness!"?

With so much given to us, comes so much responsibility. Are you a good or bad steward of God's things? You must understand this major point – **Stewardship is Forever.**

*By Andy Neckar  
On-line Resources*

## WORDS OF WISDOM

**If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough.**

*Oprah Winfrey*



## PW Crochet Workshop

**Saturday, December 8, 2007, 9:00 A.M.**

Join us as we start our new hands on Prayer Shawls mission project.

**If you are interested in learning how to crochet please come.**

**Bring a bag lunch/beverage provided.**

Cost of Workshop is \$5.00

Please R.S.V.P by December 5, 2007 to [Covenant@Covenant913.net](mailto:Covenant@Covenant913.net)

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

913 Covenant Street - Norfolk, VA 23504  
Voice: (757) 623-1875 - Fax (757) 623-1838  
Website: [www.covenant913.net](http://www.covenant913.net) -  
Email [covenant@covenant913.net](mailto:covenant@covenant913.net)

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



“The SESSION didn’t approve your idea of purchasing you a cell phone, but compromises were made.”

