

Continued Announcements...

CELEBRATION! We joyfully received 71 new members into our fellowship this past Sunday. Many of these new members are excellent disciples and involved in community missionary efforts. We rejoice for the desire of these precious brothers and sisters to study doctrine, polity, history, and practical teachings of Covenant Family.

Approximately 15 more persons are desiring membership. Others are requesting to be baptized in water. We praise the Lord for the great and blessed harvest!

Calling All Ladies! Did you know that studies reveal that women who make and maintain friendships with other women age more successfully and with less physical ailments? Stress is one of the leading contributors to these ailments, and friendship is touted by a recent UCLA study as a leading stress-reducer! The 40 ladies at last Sunday's SNL will share with you that it's a wonderful place to make and maintain friendships, plus a place to worship, learn, and pray in a laughter-filled setting. Make plans NOW to join us on Sunday Sep. 19 for SNL!

Make A Difference, Mentor A Child: Do you want to make a difference in a child's life? Do you want to have fun doing it? It's nothing like being in the presence of a child. Join a team that is filled with fun, love, and fulfillment. Contact Pastor Angela Raker for more information on Children's Ministry.

Talent Search: We are looking for those who want to use their talents for the Lord, especially in the area of special singing. Please contact Pastor Tim Sersen if you would like to either sing a solo or be a part of a special singing group (i.e. Southern Gospel) that could possibly sing on a regular basis.

Sunday Prayer: Have you a heart for prayer? Begin your Sunday morning worship in the prayer room during the times of 7:45 - 8:25 a.m. as we pray together for our pastor and church.

And remember! Your prayer room is open during the church's regularly staffed office hours Monday-Friday for individual prayer as well. You built it - now come and be blessed!

Daily Bread Devotionals: The current edition of Our Daily Bread is now available on the prayer table in the entry hallway of the New Testament building.

NEW Church Prayer Line: We now have a designated Prayer Line for you to call 24 hours a day. That number is 434-953-9066. When you call you will hear an encouraging word from Pastor Bare and you will have the opportunity to leave your prayer request shared daily with staff.

Contact Information

Pastor Harold Bare— Senior Pastor— pastor@covenantchurch.net
 Tim Sersen— Fine Arts Ministry —t.sersen@covenantchurch.net
 Bettie Christian— Prayer + CARE Ministries—b.christian@covenantchurch.net
 Angela Raker— Children's Ministry—a.raker@covenantchurch.net
 Martin Li— International Ministries—m.li@covenantchurch.net
 Zenas Choi— Youth Ministry—z.choi@covenantchurch.net
 Jessica Dizon— Executive Assistant/Bookkeeper—j.dizon@covenantchurch.net
 Patty Perkins— Business Administrator—p.perkins@covenantchurch.net
 Michael Kneller— Facilities Manager—m.kneller@covenantchurch.net
 Abigail Wells— Administrative Assistant—a.wells@covenantchurch.net

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Charlottesville, VA
 Permit No. 330

Return Service Requested



1025 RIO ROAD EAST
 CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901-1805

WWW.COVENANTCHURCH.NET

TEL: (434) 973-5536

From the Pastor's Heart

VOL. 30 ISSUE. 34

AUGUST 30, 2010

THE BARE FACTS...

TITHING: Tithing is honorable.

MISSIONHEART: Supporting missionaries is a privilege.

CHURCH: Sound doctrine is essential to good health of a congregation.

PRAYER: Lord, teach us that your Church is holy and that we must live holy.

WHO WE ARE...

CORE VALUES: We are a Covenant community, bonded together by the Holy Spirit, united in Christ to serve His Church and each other, and to preach, teach, and make disciples.

MISSION: To glorify God through worship and lifestyle, to lead the unsaved to Christ, to share His love with our community and the world, and to strengthen the body of believers through discipleship.

VISION: To create a spiritual culture of growth by reaching the lost, adding to our congregation, maturing believers, strengthening outreach and missions, developing leaders, expanding trans-culturism, and promoting volunteer based ministry.

MOTTO: "Many Nations, One Faith; Serving God."

WE ARE PRAYING FOR...

Our Missionaries	Monetta Helton	Jeri Scott
Our Troops	Joyce Hurt	Susan Elaine Hall Singh
Terry Fitz	Anna Lobianco	Tammy Southall
Kathy Goebel	Charles Martin	Kathy Steele
Courtney Holmes	Terry Maupin	Terry Wilthew
Louise Heislup		

Condolences To: Angela Raker-Death of grandmother, Marie Tynes Martin
 Margaret Kirby- Loss of husband Herman
 James Southall- Loss of step father, Herman Kirby
 Lillian Schomp-Death of her son, Richard Schomp

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS...

Intercessory Prayer...

Sunday Mornings 7:45 –8:15AM in the Prayer Room.

Sunday Services: 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM

Bible Study Classes:9:45 AM

Wednesday Night Adult Service, Youth Ministry and Kids Club:

6:30 PM-7:45P.M

Alternate Choir Practice:

6:45- 7:45

If you know of somebody who would like to receive the weekly Pastor's Heart by postal mail or email, please send his/her name, complete mailing address and/or email to Covenant Church, 1025 Rio Road East, Charlottesville VA 22901.

Assessment and Projection

Two leadership sessions this past Saturday were held with men. We looked into the character and structure of Covenant Church. Who are we? What is our character? What is the model for leadership structure?

We recognize that Covenant Church is one of the 100 largest Church of God congregations in the United States. If we were to count extension churches we would easily be in the top 25 largest churches of our denomination in the United States. We recognize that Covenant Church is in the top 5% of the largest congregations in the United States. About 75% of churches in the United States have less than 75 persons, with a mean average of about 50 among this grouping.

We recognize that unknown thousands of small group fellowships exist across America. These smaller groups of people meet in offices, schools, rented buildings, homes, etc., often without a name or any advertising for visitors. We recognize that about 9% of American "Christians" are now doing what is called "non-church." Others refer to these home gatherings that reject traditional church and authority structure as "pajama gatherings."

History validates that efforts to collect persons together for fellowship and worship have little promise of longevity unless there is missionary zeal. Countless congregations were formed between 1880-1925. Only those congregations that emphasized missional outreach survived. Unless the story of Jesus is shared with others it becomes a narcissistic and existential journey of feel good and "God wants me to be blessed and happy."

In looking at ourselves as a congregation we struggle with issues not common to many larger congregations.

1. We are integrated.
2. We have blended marriages and homes.
3. We have persons of different cultures.
4. We have persons who are from different countries.
5. We have persons who speak different languages/dialects.
5. We are in a university city that has a very liberal social context (not in Bible Belt).
6. We are in a culture dominated by intellectualism.
7. We are in a community with lots of very rich and lots of very poor.
8. We are located on a main thoroughfare (30,000+ vehicles per day).
9. Size and complexity of ministry challenge us with high use of buildings/grounds and contextually providing opportunities for fellowship and discipleship for all ages and groupings.

We recognize that most of our parishioners have come from congregations of probably less than 100 persons. The model of what a church and pastor ought to be is judged by the history we have lived.

In smaller churches the pyramid structure is often very strong. In a congregation like Covenant we are challenged to lateralize leadership. Training and empowering leaders is a necessary constant. See Jesus devoting his ministry primarily to 12 men.

One brother observed: "In the church of my childhood the pastor was the

dominant authority figure. Everyone waited for the pastor to indicate what needed to be done. No two events happened at once. Those who did not have much to do tended to nit-pick (complain)." The Book of James has lots of advice for nit-pickers.

In such a culture growth is not only inhibited, but denied. Decline and death of a congregation is the fate of thousands of churches in America every year. Size of congregation can grow only with dynamic change in administrative structure.

Our only hope to be relevant and evangelical in our time is to lateralize leadership. I am delighted to share that we have an excellent model for developing and empowering leaders. We have apt trainers. We have committed leaders [Read the Exodus 18 Jethro Principle].

Ultimate success will depend upon each parishioner committing to accept responsibility for a shared task (Ephesians 4:12). Assuming a place of ministry as a "burden" will be too heavy. Better it is to feel "calling"---God's calling. See a place of ministry that is powerful and effective. Become involved in ministry that makes the BODY of Christ symbiotic---everyone working together in unity for common good and common goal. Each of us in our place and being passionate about what we do.

Allow me to encourage you. When the Holy Spirit calls you to Christ and you accept, you are as saved as anyone. When the Holy Spirit baptizes you, you have the same Spirit as any and all others baptized. When the Holy Spirit calls you to be an usher, greeter, worker with children and youth, choir member, janitor, secretary, bookkeeper, et al, you are as important to God and the Church as any other person.

This is why Jesus said it was necessary for him to go away. He was one person/God. By his death, resurrection, and ascension He made possible millions of people all over the world simultaneously sharing the gospel and carrying out mighty works for God.

Hear your calling. Accept it! Step into the future God has for you!

Much love
Pastor Bare
Acts 2 (Power for Task)



Dr. Harold Bare is a former social worker/counselor and college lecturer. While serving Covenant Church since 1981, he has authored numerous articles and several books, including: They Call Me Pentecostal, Hell is War, and A Month of Sundays.

He is married to Laila Bare, Ed.D. (VT). They have three children, Danny, Dana, and Joshua, and 7 grandchildren.

Phone-a-thon: About 10 years ago I hit a rough patch in my life. I was really down in the dumps and I truly felt like no one cared. One day I received a phone call from a Christian acquaintance; he encouraged me and prayed for me on the phone. It was such a blessing to hear them pray for my needs and hurts and I knew that God was reaching out saying, "I love you". At Covenant Church we are called to reach out to our community and so we are going to make phone calls and pray for people and reach them for Jesus. Please plan on attending on Wed. September 8th @6pm our first annual Phone-a-thon event. We will also plan on having the event on Sat. Sept. 11 @2pm for those who can't make Wed night. See you there.

Sundays at 9:45 AM - THE Place to Be: Sunday Bible Study: You may join a class at any time. Smiling faces and new friendships await you as we study God's word together.

First Friday Prayer: Please mark your calendars for First Friday prayer September 3rd from 7 to 8:15 p.m., and come together for a time of corporate praise and intercessory prayer in our prayer room. *We rejoice that 18 persons attended the prayer retreat this past weekend.

Wednesdays 6:30-7:45 PM: Special activities and Bible study for everyone. Why not make time in the middle of your week to come to the house of the Lord!

Listen to Pastor's Messages Online: Each Monday morning we update our church website with Pastor Bare's message from the 8:30 AM service. This is a great resource and evangelism tool. Let your friends, family and co-workers know that they can hear a great message every week simply by going to www.covenantchurch.net and click on audio messages.

Join the Choir: Practices are Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. If you cannot make Thursday evenings, we have an **Alternate Choir Practice** night on Wednesdays from 6:45-7:45 PM in the OT Café. Either way, please contact Pastor Tim Sersen for more information.

Connection Points Ministry Luncheon: There will be a luncheon for Greeters, Ushers and Hospitality volunteers on Sunday, Sept. 12th following the 10:45 AM service. Families are welcome. We also welcome those who would like to join any of these ministries. Please RSVP to the church office 973-5536 with the number of people coming.

It's Time to Celebrate...: God has blessed Covenant Church to be in dynamic ministry for 58 years this September, with our Pastor and his faithful companion at the helm for the last 29 of those years. During both services on the 2nd Sunday, Sept. 12th, we will praise the LORD in celebration for all He has accomplished through our church and our first family. Don't miss your opportunity to join in and make this a momentous occasion. Bring a card to express your appreciation for our Pastor and his family.

Preschool Kids Clubs Wednesday Nights: FUN, ADORABLE and LASTING. You can be part of a FUN area, with ADORABLE preschooler's, and leave a LASTING impression with our little ones on Wednesday nights. If you would like to be a part of this fruitful ministry, contact Pastor Angela Raker in the church office.

Paintball! Youth are invited to play Paintball with Pastor Z on Saturday, September 18th. This event is by reservation only. Please email Pastor Zenas or call the church for more info.