

# THE TIDINGS

Covenant Congregational Church  
*Celebrating over 125 years of ministry*

November 2011

## Transitions

- by Pastor Johnny

Once again, we as a church find ourselves in the midst of transition. This is nothing new. Over the 128-year history of our church there have been multitudes of transitions that we have journeyed through. Transitions as pastors arrive and as pastors depart. Transitions as new families join us and as longtime families move away. Transitions from old beloved buildings into new buildings built with vision. Transitions as longtime ministries come to a conclusion and new ministries find their genesis. The ebb and flow of the journey of this church is one filled with transition.

Even though transition is a constant in our life together that doesn't mean that most of us like it!

I've been reflecting on the role of faithful stewardship during these times of transition in my own devotional and prayer times. I believe strongly that **faithfulness** (*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength"* - Deuteronomy 6:5) is at the very core of what, and ultimately who, we are called by God to be. And though most often our tendency during times of transition is to "turtle-up", or as someone said to me recently, "sit back and wait for things to sort themselves out", I believe God's call to us during times of transition is, in fact, exactly opposite. It is during the transition times that God expects and requires our utmost faithfulness. Why? Because it is during transition that God is most at work shaping and preparing our future, our next season of ministry as His church. It is during the transition that we are called to rally our many and varied resources and dedicate them faithfully to the work and ministry of His church. If we pull back, if we slow down, then our actions (or inactions in this case) become stumbling blocks to God's plans coming to fruition for us. It is imperative therefore that the stewardship of our time, of our talents and of our treasure be as faithful as it can be.

How will you be faithful during this season of transition here at CCC? How will your faithfulness be lived out as God begins to lead us into this new season of ministry? How will you faithfully let God use your time, talents and treasures to bring about His will for us as a congregation.

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength!**

# Youth & Children's Ministry News!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Opening exercises for kids in grades pre k-7 is in room 5 at 9:15 am  
Sunday School is dismissed at 10:15, please be sure to pick up your  
children in grades pre k-2 from the downstairs classroom area.  
Don't forget to join us for breakfast in the gym beginning at 8:30!

## Confirmation

We meet in room 4 at 9:15am on  
Sunday morning. Remember if you  
miss a week—just do the next  
chapter in your book!

**The Confirmation Retreat** is  
November 4-6 at Pilgrim Pines.  
There will be no Confirmation  
Class on November 6th.

## jr. high

Jr. High youth group is for students  
in grades 6-8. We meet on  
Thursday evenings from 7-8:30pm.  
We play games, learn about the  
Bible, and do lots of other fun stuff!

Trailblazers (grades 3-5):

3rd and 17th of November.

Trailblazers generally meets the  
1st and 3rd Thursday of the  
month from 6-7pm.

**Join us for games, crafts,  
stories & more!**

**Friends are welcome!**

## SENIOR HIGH

**DON'T FORGET TO JOIN WALTER EACH  
SUNDAY MORNING FOLLOWING BREAKFAST  
AT 9:15AM FOR OUR NEW SR. HI. SUNDAY  
SCHOOL CLASS!**

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP MEETS EVERY  
SUNDAY EVENING AT 6:00PM-7:30PM FOR  
HIGH ENERGY FUN AND GAMES, LOTS OF  
LAUGHTER, AND A CHANCE TO SUPPORT  
EACH OTHER IN PRAYER AS WE GROW IN  
OUR FAITH. BE THERE!**

## Friendship Club

Please join us Tuesday, November 15th at Noon for the Friendship Club meeting and lunch in the Fireside Room.

Al Souza will be speaking on  
"Managing Growing Old."



There will be a *second* collection taken for Christmas gifts for children at the Cromwell Children's Home.

Bring a dish or dessert to be shared.

## Knitting & Crafts

Join us *every* Monday,  
at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

If you knit, crochet,  
needlepoint, stamp, etc. bring your craft  
and join us for fellowship.

For more information call  
Connie Dumoulin  
(508-238-3175).



## Sanctuary Keeper Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Sanctuary Keepers on Sunday, Nov. 13 immediately following the worship service in the library.

Anyone interested in learning what we do or becoming part of our group dedicated to preparing our sanctuary for worship is welcome.

If you are unable to attend  
but are interested in serving,  
please contact Bev Carlson or Judy Buck.

## Fellowship Hour Schedule:

NOVEMBER

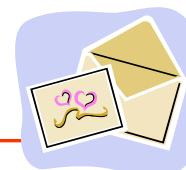
Stewardship

DECEMBER

Properties

JANUARY

Fellowship & Care Ministries



## SouperFest 2011



The days are getting cool, and it's  
once again time to enjoy some hot,  
Super Soup and delightful desserts.

Please join the  
Missions and Service Ministry for  
SouperFest on Sunday, November 13th  
immediately after the morning worship service.

Sharing in this delightful event will be a  
celebration of Pastor Whitney's ministry.

Proceeds from donations will help:  
*Covenant World Relief* and *Stop Hunger Now*.

If you have a favorite *soup* or  
a favorite *dessert* you would like to contribute  
to SouperFest, please sign up on the board in  
the Narthex.

*Thank you for your support!*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You are cordially invited to celebrate the past three years of Pastor Whitney Hall's ministry to and with us at Covenant Congregational Church. A time of prayer and celebration will be held in conjunction with Missions Ministry SouperFest following worship on Sunday, November 13th.

If you wish to contribute to a monetary parting gift, please give cash donations to Council Chair Peter Fredericksen or Pastoral Relations Committee Chair Ruth Porter, or donate by check (made out to *Covenant Congregational Church* with a note in the memo section stating *Gift for Pastor Whitney*).

Join us as we pray God's blessings, peace, guidance and protection go with Pastor Whitney as she continues to keep herself open to the leading of the Holy Spirit as a minister of Jesus Christ.

With gratitude,  
Your Council and PRC

## WEEKLY REHEARSALS

**ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE AVAILABLE**

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**MUSIC MAKERS REHEARSE WEDNESDAYS 3:45—4:30 PM @ THE CHURCH**

**JOYFUL NOISE REHEARSES SUNDAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH IN THE CHAPEL**



### QUESTIONS???

Please contact:  
Kirstie Wheeler  
Director of Music Ministries

Phone: 508-238-6423  
E-mail:  
kirstiewheeler@verizon.net

# Worship & Music

*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Romans 12:1)*

## Advent

We encourage all to enjoy the music during this Advent season! Please check below for opportunities to be involved.

Adult Choir: We will prepare a cantata and would love to have you join us! The cantata will be done during the worship service on December 11th. Please consider joining us for the season!

Joyful Noise & Music Makers: Each children's choir will sing during December individually & together. Please check side bar for rehearsal information.

Instrumentalists: We want you! Do you play an instrument? Each year we are blessed to have a service with several instrumentalists. The instruments will accompany the carol sing on December 24th. Please contact Kirstie Wheeler if you are interested.

Children's Christmas Service: On December 18th, the Sunday School children will lead our worship service. Please make every effort to attend. Information will be passed out for children & parents during the Sunday School hour in November.



## Save this Date!

Family Spaghetti Supper &  
Advent Wreath making  
Sunday, November 27 @ 4 pm  
in the church gym.  
*Watch for details!*



## CCC Book Club

CCC Book Club will be on  
Thursday, November 17th  
at 7:30 p.m.

Book to be discussed:  
*Cleopatra: A Life*  
by Stacy Schiff

All are welcome.

Further information call:  
Judy Tyler at 508-238-6827  
*CCC book club will not meet in December.*

## OpenSpace meetings

OpenSpace meetings are held every Sunday morning, 9:15am to 10:00am in the Library. Information can be found on LinkedIn at the group called "OpenSpace Group".

The format is one that requires nothing more than your presence. Having extensive background in this "process", it is clear that the importance of feeding social needs along with those of the mind, body, and soul is even more crucial during the search process. The goal of this group is to provide the space and opportunity to do just that.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you should have any questions, and DO forward this along to ANYONE who you feel could benefit.

Brian Edlund

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/bedlund>



## Adult Spiritual Formation

Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 for our adult education series. Feel free to grab a coffee downstairs and sip and learn with us in the chapel. We love to see you, even if only for one or two of our mornings.

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Often the above words are more easily said than done. The church is a place where we can learn and practice being in community. Steve Norman in his article in *The Covenant Companion* (September, 2011) talks about churches being "no-drop" communities. In his conclusion he defines same as "the commitment to start together, journey together, and finish together means no one gets left behind."

We are planning to study together with Bill Hybills' *COMMUNITY (Building Relationships within God's Family)*. The study leads discussions on learning "how you can forge strong, meaningful ties with others and with God." The study is a useful vehicle for talking about building community, and being part of a community. Our plan is to begin the six week study in November, take a break from it after two sessions during Advent, and finish it up in January. We look forward to seeing each of you on Sunday mornings as we talk about community and what it means to each of us in terms of our walk with him.

Also in the works is a study on Advent entitled *Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World?* By Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder.

Sometime this winter we will tackle a topic led discussion of *The Shack*. The topics will be: The Mystery of Human Suffering, The Power of Forgiveness, The Effects of The Fall, The mystery of God's Grace, and The Mystery of God's Love. Get a copy during the holidays and keep the above topics in mind as you read it.

Linda Cohen, Dom DiBattista, Karen McSherry



## OPEN POSITION FOR CHILDCARE WORKER SUNDAY MORNINGS



For more details call:  
church office 508-238-6423  
or Ruth Porter 508-580-6858

Adults 18 years or older with proven positive work experience with infants and preschool aged children in supervised play setting.  
Flexibility and willingness to alternate between age groups of children is needed.  
CORI check to be completed. Two references are needed.

Please forward a resume to:  
holaruthporter@verizon.net

Pay scale is competitive and consistent with childcare experience.  
Must be able to participate in floor play with preschoolers, and maintain infant hygiene.  
Positive attitude and calming manner are required.  
Hours 10 am-12 noon

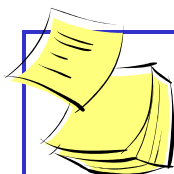
### Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Over the last few years, a number of families within our congregation have asked us to consider moving our Thanksgiving Eve Service to earlier in the day so that families with children could attend together.

This year we're going to give it a try!  
Join us for a time of giving thanks to God for all his goodness to us, as we gather for our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at **4:00PM on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**.  
The Worship & Music Ministry and the Pastors



### Council Highlights



The Council held regular and special meetings throughout the summer months and into the early Fall. Highlights of those meetings include:

- \* Discussion and consideration of moving our financial accounting and annual reorganization of ministries from a calendar year to a fiscal year. No action to be taken at this time.
- \* Launching of and completion of the successful Strong Foundation Campaign thereby paying down the principal balance of our mortgage and lowering operating costs. Lower monthly payments begin in November.
- \* Continued in its role of monitoring church finances and periodically reporting to our congregation.
- \* Working with the Properties Ministry in making a portion of our facilities available for a joint venture with the Easton Lions Club to generate funds to off set some of our facilities expenses.
- \* Working with Pastor Whitney and our Pastoral Relations Committee in planning for Pastor Whitney's departure and the issues of transition.



# November Birthdays



Gregory McIlhatten	1-Nov	Darin Goodwin	7-Nov	Chester Krupkowski	16-Nov
Carl Shelley	1-Nov	Judith Tyler	7-Nov	Nancy Cudmore	17-Nov
Robert Bean	2-Nov	Betsy Koepfel	8-Nov	Alynn MacLean	18-Nov
Odera Chibueze	2-Nov	Mike Bassett	9-Nov	Michela Benvie	20-Nov
Adam Buckley	4-Nov	Lyn Carroll	11-Nov	Paul Conforti	20-Nov
Lisa Byrnes	4-Nov	Matthew Carroll	11-Nov	James Harmon	20-Nov
Noah Ryan	4-Nov	Michael McHugh	11-Nov	Tanner Agurkis	21-Nov
Edith Winship	4-Nov	David Plante	13-Nov	Magdalene Chibueze	21-Nov
Stephanie Cudmore	6-Nov	Megan Raduazzo	13-Nov	Robert Hall	21-Nov
Karen McSherry	6-Nov	Elizabeth Meyer	14-Nov	Matt Horris	21-Nov
Kayleigh Sulham	6-Nov	Sarah Stevens	14-Nov	Brent Clary	22-Nov
Connor Buckley	7-Nov	Margaret Horne	16-Nov	Raymond Wallace	27-Nov



## Holiday Preview

Saturday, December 24th—Christmas Eve  
 4 p.m. Family Service  
 11 p.m. Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25th— 10:30 a.m. Christmas worship  
 Sunday, January 1st—10:30 a.m. Worship  
*(no Sunday School on 12/25 or 1/1)*

## CCC- A Caring Community!

We here at CCC think taking care of our each other, especially in the midst of crisis, is one of the most important things we do.

Toward that end we want you to know the resources that are available to all who attend our church. These are ways we can serve you and ways you can be involved in serving others.



- ♥ Church benevolence fund – used for financial crises such as unexpected deaths or unemployment. (White offering envelopes are available in the pews each week for any donation to our *Benevolent Fund*.)
- ♥ Meals for you and your family. If there is ever a time where it would be helpful for you to receive meals from the church family to ease your burden we are here to help. Often families take advantage of this during times of childbirth, extreme stress, times of illness, recovery from surgery or a hospital stay or the passing of a loved one.
- ♥ We have a ministry of prayer shawls and squares. These are shawls or squares that have been prayed over and can bring comfort in a variety of situations.
- ♥ We have a church prayer chain (via email) that allows us to send out information and prayer requests in a timely manner. Simply send an email to [webmaster@ecovchurch.org](mailto:webmaster@ecovchurch.org) to get signed up.

Please do not hesitate to contact the church chair, Pastor Whitney or Pastor Johnny if you are in a time of crisis or stress, we are here to serve you.



## Prayers

- *Family and friends of Paul Roman.* Paul, who died on 10/17 in Georgia, was a former member and friend of this church.
- *The family of Judy Luke,* Melinda Ryan's mom, who passed away on October 16th.
- *Todd Cudmore* as he awaits back surgery in early November.
- *Marilyn Walpole,* at the death of her mother after a long struggle with Alzheimer's.
- *Judy Buck's* mother who is now receiving hospice care.
- *Brian Edlund's brother Chuck,* who is undergoing treatment for a tumor in his eye.
- *Andi McIlhatten* as she recovers from surgery.
- *Dave Cudmore* as he recovers from surgery.
- For *Pastor Whitney and our congregation* as we navigate the transitions of these coming weeks.
- *Jerry Marsan* as he recovers from hip surgery.
- *Geraldine Wallace* recovering from knee surgery.
- The many communities in Vermont so deeply impacted by Hurricane Irene.
- *The Edlund's 14-year old nephew, William,* who has been diagnosed with Stage I osteosarcoma and is receiving chemotherapy treatments.
- *Ernie and Pearl Robertson* for ongoing health challenges.
- *Matt Tooker, cousin of Lyn Carroll,* who was killed in a motorcycle accident after returning from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.
- *Linda Wainwright* as she struggles with severe and chronic back pain.
- *Carole DesLauriers,* Ed Willis' mother, for continued healing and peace.
- *Donna Little,* friend of Lyn Carroll, who has been diagnosed with lymphoma and her husband who has Alzheimer's.
- *Cindy Doherty,* former member who now lives on Cape Cod, who was diagnosed with throat cancer.
- *The people of Japan and our Covenant missionaries.*
- *Murray Johns,* brother of Heather Willis, continuing to receive treatment for his liver disease.
- *Angela Whitley* as she undergoes tests and treatments.
- *Don MacLeod Jr.* is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- *Rob Driscoll* continues to receive treatment for kidney problems.
- *Joe Davis* and his ministry in Sweden.
- *Gail Hubbard,* friend of Lynda Valenzuela, receiving treatment for a brain tumor.

## Prayers of Celebration

- For the birth of *Christopher Chase Joseph* to Steven and Kelly Joseph.
- For the wonderful *Father-Daughter Dance* on Friday, October 21st and the many in our community who encountered our church for the first time through it.
- For the *baptism of Ella Kate Casali.* Ella is the child of Mark and Jill (Bommhardt) Casali.
- The men and women of our Armed Forces serving around the world & for their families back here at home

Dear friends,

I want to thank you all, from the bottom of my heart, for the many cards and prayers I have received during my treatment and recovery from throat cancer. All of the love and support has helped me through many difficult days. May God Bless each and everyone of you.  
Cindy Doherty



Dear Church Family,  
Tack sa Mycket (Thank You very Much) for all the cards and well wishes and prayers during my recuperation from Knee Surgery. I am doing well and will be back to worship with you all soon.

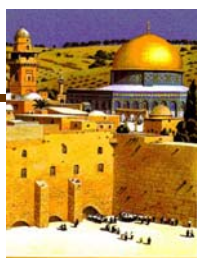
Love, Geraldine

# Whitney's Whispers

Dear Friends,

I remember on the day of my installation here at CCC I was supposed to make a set of brief remarks at the end of the service. But I was so overwhelmed that basically all I could think to say was thank you. And that's how I feel now as well. I just want to say thank you. Thank you for welcoming me so graciously to your congregation. Thank you for your love and concern for me over the last 3 and ½ years. Thank you for showing me new things. Thank you for your laughter and for sharing your tears. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of celebrating new life with you and granting me the honor of mourning the loss of loved ones alongside you. Thank you for welcoming me into your homes and sharing a cup of tea. Thank you for giving me the privilege of standing before you and teaching and preaching. Thank you for listening and sharing and learning together. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your hugs every Sunday after church. It has been a gift to serve as your pastor and I want you to know that I am praying for you, trusting that God who has worked in this place for 128 years will continue until the work is done.

With love,  
Pastor Whitney



## Holy Land Pilgrimage 2012

*Have you ever wondered what it would be like to see and feel and experience the land of the Bible?*

Pastor Johnny will be hosting a **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** for Pilgrim Pines in March of 2012! More information is available on the Welcome Table in the narthex for those interested in this life-changing opportunity of walking in the very footsteps of Jesus!

*Spaces are filling up fast!  
Don't miss out on this amazing journey of a lifetime!*

## Mother Daughter Weekend



Mother Daughter weekend at Pilgrim Pines on November 18-20; the speaker is Judy Peterson.

Moms and daughters will enjoy a weekend of laughter, special activities & great Bible teaching, all in a gorgeous setting surrounded by God's beautiful creation. Best of all, the memories made during this very special retreat will last forever!



Thank you all for the prayers, calls, cards and meals that you have so lovingly provided for my recovery and to support my family.

In God's Hands,  
Andi, Bob, and Greg McIlhatten



### THANK YOU

Thank you all for the prayers, encouragement and cards I received following my recent hip surgery. I feel great and truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Jerry Marsan

Thank you for all of the cards, words of encouragement and prayers on behalf of my family and me following the loss of my father. We are so blessed to have such a caring Church Family.

Blessings in Him,  
LaDora Rose

# November 2011



204 Center Street  
North Easton, MA 02356

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 4:00 Cub Scouts (gym) 6:30 Soccer (Gym) 7:30 Ministry Meetings	2 3:45 Music Makers 5:00 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Small Group Bible Study	3 6:00 Trailblazers 7:00 Jr. High Youth 7:30 Choir	4 10:30 Ladies Bible Study (FS) 12:45 Birthday Buddies 4:00 Girl Scouts #80542 (Jr) 4:00 Daisy Troop (gym)	5
6 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship Joyful Noise 6:00 Sr Youth Group	7 4:00 Jr. Troop (FS) 7:00 Knitting (Youth) 7:00 Boy Scouts Court of Honor (sanc)	8 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 6:30 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Council 8:00 Boy Scouts (gym)	9 3:45 Music Makers 6:00 Cub Scouts (Jr. Church, Gym) 7:00 Small Group Bible Study	10 6:00 Garden Club (gym) 7:00 Jr. High Youth	11 10:30 Ladies Bible Study (FS)	12
13 <b>SOUPER FEST</b> 8:15 Choir 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship Joyful Noise Sanctuary Keepers 6:00 Sr Youth Group	14 4:30 Brownie Trip (Jr) 4:30 Brownie Trip (FS) 4:30 Girl Scouts (gym) 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Knitting (FS) 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) Noon Friendship Club 4:00 Cub Scouts (gym) 6:30 Soccer (Gym)	16 4:00 Bear Scouts (Jr. Church, Gym) 5:00 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Small Group Bible Study	17 6:00 Trailblazers 7:00 Jr. High Youth 7:30 CCC Book Club 7:30 Choir	18 10:30 Ladies Bible Study (FS) 4:00 Daisy Troop (gym) 6:00 Cub Scout Pack 193 (gym)	19
20 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship Joyful Noise 6:00 Sr Youth Group	21 4:00 Jr. Troop (FS) 7:00 Knitting (FS) 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 6:30 Soccer (Gym)	23 4:00 Thanksgiving Worship 7:00 Small Group Bible Study	24 <b>THANKSGIVING</b>	25 10:30 Ladies Bible Study (FS)	26
27 <b>ADVENT WREATHS</b> 8:15 Choir 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship Joyful Noise 4:00 Spaghetti supper, Advent Wreath making 6:00 Sr Youth Group	28 4:30 Brownie Trip (Jr) 4:30 Brownie Trip (FS) 4:30 Girl Scouts (gym) 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Knitting (FS) 7:00 Boy Scouts	29 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 6:30 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 School on Wheels (FS)	30 4:00 Bear Scouts (Jr. Church, Gym) 3:45 Music Makers 5:00 Soccer (Gym) 7:00 Small Group Bible Study			



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**NOVEMBER  
TIDINGS!**

## CCC AT A GLANCE

### Sunday Morning

8:30 –9:15

Breakfast

9:15– 10:15

Opening Celebration &  
Sunday School

10:30

Worship Service

### Pastors:

Rev. Whitney Hall

Rev. Johnny Agurkis

### Staff:

Nancy Hall

*Office Manager*

Kirstie Wheeler

*Director of Music Ministries*

David Cudmore

*Church Custodian*

**[www.ecovchurch.org](http://www.ecovchurch.org)**

**508.238.6423**

## Special Dates in November

November 13th— SouperFest 2011 &  
Celebration of Pastor Whitney's ministry with us

November 23rd— 4 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 27th— 1st Sunday of Advent  
4 p.m. Spaghetti Supper & Advent Wreath Making

## Holiday Preview

Saturday, December 24th—Christmas Eve

4 p.m. Family Service

11 p.m. Candlelight Service

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