



THE TIDINGS

Covenant Congregational Church

Celebrating over 125 years of ministry

September 2011

“Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord. Great is Thy faithfulness.”

Those wonderful words from the great hymn of our heritage became the theme and backbone of our 125th anniversary celebration back in 2008. As we gathered together to rejoice and give thanks for those 125 years of ministry that God had granted to us, no other words than these seemed to perfectly sum up what we felt at that moment. God’s faithfulness to this congregation over the years has indeed been great. And as we rejoiced in His faithfulness in the past, we recognized that these words were a rallying cry for us as we moved forward in ministry. As He has been faithful to us, He will continue to be faithful to us.

Here we are, now in our 128th year of ministry, and I am overwhelmed by how God has revealed his faithfulness to us as we begin the next chapter of our ministry as a church. During the most difficult economic time our country has seen since the Great Depression, with many families in our congregation facing long-term unemployment or significant financial changes to their household income, and with some families moving out of state for new jobs, God’s faithfulness provided the financial resources for us to not only weather the storm, but to continue forward in new areas of ministry and outreach.

Even just this past summer, I’m amazed at the depths of God’s faithfulness to us. In just the past 3 months, we’ve seen:

- * A gift of over \$15,000 given to the Memorial Fund in the memory of our dear sister Shirley Carlson, designated to be used for the purpose of putting air conditioning into our sanctuary, a wish that had been Shirley’s for many years as she struggled with breathing issues that made it difficult for her to attend worship during the hot and humid summer months. That these funds were enough to cover the cost of this new system, and that it was able to be installed during a one-week period at the beginning of August is a remarkable blessing.
- * Wonderful attendance at our Worship in The Garden series at the Queset Garden behind the Ames Free Library. These worship/outreach services have been widely publicized in town and were even written about in an article by the Easton Journal. We are grateful for these opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people of our community who might not otherwise enter through the doors of our church.
- * A generous response to our A Strong Foundation campaign to lower our monthly costs associated with our mortgage. According to figures from the bank, this campaign in the first year will result in a lowering of our monthly mortgage payments (beginning in September) of close to \$1700 each month. These are funds that can now be used to financially support ministries within the church!
- * Many of our children and teenagers attending Camp Squanto, some of whom made first time commitments to Christ! For some of these students, they are only able to attend due to financial scholarships made available through our Benevolence Fund.
- * Great levels of involvement by many volunteers, and loads of children signed up to attend our week of Vacation Bible School.

We head into the Fall season filled with joy and thanksgiving! For God’s great faithfulness is as evident and as strong as it has ever been. Thanks be to God!

Youth & Children's Ministry News!

Sunday School for all ages begins on September 11.

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

Confirmation is for students
entering grades 7 and 8.

We will begin year 1—on the 11th.

Be ready to dive into the
Old Testament together!

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!
Our first jr. high youth group of the
fall will be on Thursday,
September 15th.

Trailblazers (grades 3-5) will meet
beginning on the 6th of October.
Trailblazers generally meets the
1st and 3rd Thursday of the
month from 6-7pm.

Pathfinders (grades k-2) meets
occasionally following our church
services. Our first gathering this year
will be on October 9th.

Join us for games, crafts,
stories & more!
Friends are welcome!

SENIOR HIGH KICK-OFF

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, AT
4:30PM AS WE HEAD OFF INTO THE UN-
KNOWN FOR A FUN FILLED LATE AFTERNOON
AS WE BEGIN OUR EXCITING YEAR TO-
GETHER, AND GEAR UP FOR CHIC 2012!
WHAT WILL IT BE? A SCAVENGER HUNT? LA-
SER TAG? SOMETHING NEW AND DIFFERENT?
COME AND CHECK IT OUT! WE'LL RETURN TO
CHURCH BY 7:30PM. COST IS \$20**

The 10th Anniversary of 9/11

The Easton Clergy Association invites you to attend an interfaith Memorial Service on Sunday, September 11th at 2:00PM at the Oliver Ames High School auditorium, as we remember and reflect on the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

Pastor Whitney, Pastor Johnny, and members of the clergy from the many Houses of Worship in Easton will lead and participate.



CCC Book Club

CCC Book Club will be on Thursday, August 18th at 7:30 p.m.

Choose a book that you have read. Come to the meeting to share your review of the book.

Thursday, September 15th at 7:30 p.m.

Watch for book title in the Sunday announcements!

All are welcome.

Further information call: Judy Tyler at 508-238-6827

Worship in The Garden



a series of Sunday evening worship services throughout the summer in the beautiful Queset Garden located behind the Ames Free Library on Main Street

6:00pm

August 28th,

September 25th –

join us for a party after the worship on 9/25

Friendship Club

Please join us Tuesday, September 20th at Noon for Friendship Club.

The program will be *Show and Tell* of a favorite picture. Please bring a picture with a story or one you just like and can talk about.

Bring a dish or dessert to be shared and your own place setting.

All are welcome.



Fall Retreats

ECC Women Ministries Fall Retreat at Pilgrim Pines will be held September 23-25. The speaker is Barbara Ettinger speaking on "*The Beauty Magnet: God's Pull on Our Hearts.*" Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex. Visit Women Ministries of the East Coast Conference website for more information: www.eccwomen.org.



The Covenant Men's Fall Retreat at Pilgrim Pines will be held October 7-9. The speaker is Ron Handley speaking on "*Success—In God's Eyes.*" Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex. Visit the Pilgrim Pines website and click on retreats for more information: www.pilgrimpines.org.

Knitting & Crafts

Join us on Monday, September 19th 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).



3rd Annual Father/Daughter Dance Friday, October 21, 2011

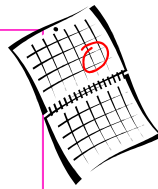
Covenant Congregational Church
3rd Annual Father/Daughter Dance
Friday, October 21st from 6:30—9:30 p.m.
\$5.00 per person

Featuring **Spin Projections DJ**
door prizes, refreshments and lots of
dancing and fun for everyone.



This will be a wonderful opportunity
for both dads (and grandpas) and
girls to invite friends and neighbors
to share a great evening at our
church in our Recreation room!

For more information see Women's Ministries
at www.ecovchurch.org
or phone the church office at 508-238-6423.

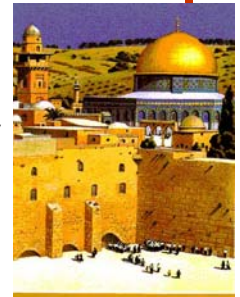


Holy Land Pilgrimage 2012

*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 avail-
able 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!*



Annual Covenant Congregational Church Clue Social

**Saturday, October 1st
4:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**



4:30-6:00 p.m. We will start with a potluck dinner, so please bring and share your favorite dish.
Shortly after dinner, instructions will be given for the "CLUE HUNT"

6:00-8:30 p.m. Off you'll go over the rivers and through the woods of Easton and surrounding towns
looking for clues.

8:30-10:00 p.m. The evening will end with dessert at the church where you can share your stories
and laughs of the evening.

Prizes will be awarded for various categories.

SIGN UPS ARE A MUST! Watch for sign up sheets in the narthex

Everyone is welcome at this fellowship opportunity, so please invite your family and friends!

We hope to see you there!

Tidings “recipes from my church family”

I am looking for your favorite recipe.
 This Tidings recipe idea was presented to me during the summer and I thought that it would be a fun addition to each Tidings.

Starting in the October Tidings there will be a new section each month with a recipe from one of you.

It can be appetizer, snack, main dish, dessert, etc.

Please drop-off or e-mail your recipe to me

(Nancy) at secretary@ecovchurch.org

and I (along with the church staff) will pick one to use for the Tidings.

Please include your name, recipe, ingredients, and (optionally) a few words about your recipe.



**Fall Worship resumes on
 Sunday, September 11th
 at 10:30 am.
 Breakfast at 8:30!**



**Office Hours Starting
 Tuesday, September 6th
 are back to
 Monday–Friday 9–2**



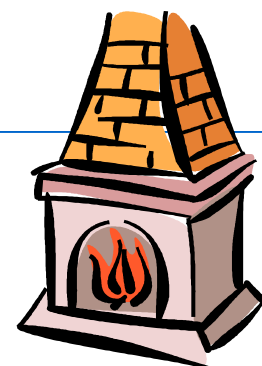
Fellowship Hour Schedule:

<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	Children & Youth Spiritual Formation
<u>OCTOBER</u>	Council
<u>NOVEMBER</u>	Stewardship

Fireside Gallery

We are looking for artists of all types to display in our Fireside Gallery (in the Fireside room just off the Narthex). If you or someone you know would like to be showcased in the gallery please contact Pastor Whitney or Pastor Johnny.

We have many talented individuals in the congregation in a variety of art mediums (painting, photography, quilting, to name a few) and it is our hope to showcase that talent. In addition it gives all of us a chance to note some expressions of worship and talent that we don't often get to highlight in a church service setting.



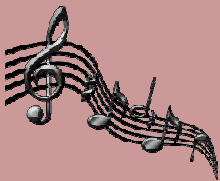
Weekly rehearsals

Adult choir
Rehearsal
schedule
available

Rehearsals start
9/8/10

Music Makers
rehearse
Wednesdays
3:45-4:30 PM @
the church
Starting 9/21/11

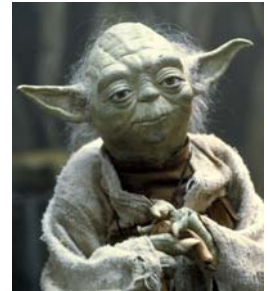
Joyful noise
rehearses Sundays
immediately
following church
in the chapel
starting 9/18/10



Worship & Music

Approaching, Rally Sunday is.

“Much to learn, you still have.” (Yoda to Dooku) Each year as fall and the beginning of a new school year approach, I find myself excited about the new learning I will do! It may be that after my own years in school I became a teacher and the beginning of the school year always hold great anticipation of new relationships, new learning and new experiences. It is with the same excitement and anticipation that I look forward to Rally Sunday and the new beginning here at church. I pray that each of us opens our heart to new relationships and helps us to care for the relationships we currently share. My prayers continue that we will be open to accept God’s teachings and extend our arms open with grace to each one who enters our doors.



Opportunities to serve:

- Visual Arts
- Choir (Adults & Children)
- Communion Server
- Lay reader
- Sanctuary Keeper
- Usher
- Worship Leader
- Worship & Music Ministry



Questions???

Please contact:
Kirstie Wheeler
Director of Music Ministries

Phone:508-238-6423

E-mail:
kirstiewheeler@verizon.net

Whitney's Whispers

While I'm not sure how I feel about autumn arriving so suddenly—it does put me in the mood to think of books. Of course as a pastor there's one book that I really love—the Bible. I have somewhere between 10 and 15 Bibles (not including electronic copies) and I use them all! But I want to especially recommend to you the New Living Translation Bible. It's a translation that is easily readable and understandable. I use it for all of my retreat and camp speaking, we use it in confirmation and we often read our Sunday Morning Scripture from the NLT translation—it's a just a great way to read the Bible and perhaps hear it in a new way.

In addition several professors from the North Park University and Theological Seminary were a part of the translation teams for this version of the Bible—so you might recognize some names in the introduction. If you've been thinking about getting a new Bible for yourself or for a gift, I highly recommend it. And one final tip: Border's is going out of business right now, so it's a great time to pop over there and pick up a Bible and any other books you've been meaning to get.



September Birthdays



Elsie Agurkis	1-Sep	Alexis Merrill	9-Jan	Claudia Cox	23-Sep
Eric Berardi	1-Sep	Carolyn O'Brien	9-Sep	Mildred Marshall	23-Sep
Sophia Cox	1-Sep	Sally Poirier	10-Sep	Connie Thompson	24-Sep
Abigail Papetti	2-Sep	Amelia Loughlin	12-Sep	Carly Van Zandt	25-Sep
Dianne Sproul	2-Sep	Elizabeth Starr	12-Sep	Emma Williams	25-Sep
Zachary Ortega	4-Sep	Karlene Smith	13-Sep	Brendan Jones	26-Sep
Joanne Peters	4-Sep	Todd Stevens	15-Sep	Robert Tyler	26-Sep
Tyler Gagnon	5-Sep	Jeffrey Burton	17-Sep	Mildred Carlson	27-Sep
John Giberti	5-Sep	Beth Johnstone	17-Sep	David Cummings	27-Sep
Allison Long	6-Sep	Morgan Vasiliou	18-Sep	Kathy Van Zandt	27-Sep
Patricia Jennings	7-Sep	Whitney Hall	21-Sep	Joseph Sinkiewicz	28-Sep
Lindsay Bailey	8-Sep	Samantha Merola	21-Sep	Erin Gomes	29-Sep
Janet Miller	8-Sep	Kathy DiBattista	22-Sep	Judith Leonard	29-Sep



Prayers

- *The Edlund's 14-year old nephew, William*, who has been diagnosed with Stage I osteosarcoma and is receiving chemotherapy treatments.
- *Andi McIlhatten* as she undergoes tests.
- *Judy Sabin* as she undergoes tests after surgery.
- *Ernie and Pearl Robertson* for ongoing health challenges.
- *Ken, Sue and Karen Brooks* as they begin a new, exciting chapter of their lives in Illinois.
- *Family and friends of Frances Reid*, Connie Thompson's sister. Frances died July 19.
- *Family and friends of Dr. Stanley Mazurkie* who passed away on Monday, July 18.
- *Haleigh Knowlton* as she returns home from Costa Rica and Nicaragua with World Challenge.
- *Lisa Byrnes* at the sudden death of George Anooshian.
- *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.*
- *The people of Libya and Syria* during this time of warfare.
- *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.
- *Joe Davis* and his ministry in Sweden.
- *Betty Lawson*, Cathy Zelinski's aunt, is doing well after experiencing severe effects from a stroke.
- *Rob Driscoll* continues to receive treatment for kidney problems.
- *Gail Hubbard*, friend of Lynda Valenzuela, receiving treatment for a brain tumor.

Prayers of Celebration

- *Jr. Highers and volunteers* who participated in an overnight service project.
- *Heather Willis' mother and father* both are feeling better.
- *Sandie Corradina*, who is recovering and feeling better.
- The men and women of our Armed Forces serving around the world, & for their families back here at home.
- For the *Worship in The Garden* summer series, and the opportunities it has created for outreach and ministry.
- For the wonderful ministry of Camp Squanto and Mayflower as they reach the halfway point of the summer.
- For the many faithful pledges received to date for the "A Strong Foundation" capital campaign.
- The final plans and preparations for Vacation Bible School!



To our dear church family,
 Words cannot express how much we appreciate all you have done for us during Dad's illness and passing away. Your many cards, telephone calls, visits, prayers, and meals were so appreciated.

Also, to those who took part in the funeral service and to the many helping hands who prepared for the collation, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

What a joy to have so many friends that care so much!
 We love you all – God bless each one of you.

In Christ's Love,
 The family of Len Anderson



Dear members of the Covenant Congregational Church:

On behalf of Junior Girl Scout Troop 65049 and Brownie Girl Scout Troop 80888, we would like to offer our utmost appreciation for allowing us to host our scout meetings at your church. Thanks to you and the use of your facility, we were able to host a successful "I Love America" community rally and singalong; wrap gifts for "My Brother's Keeper" to assist needy families; host troop potluck dinners celebrating "family" and "personal accomplishments"; collect food for the Easton Food Pantry; practice songs and prepare gifts for local nursing home residents; participate in a nature scavenger hunt on church grounds while learning about the importance of being good environmental stewards; and so much more. We also thank you for your support of the Linen Drive for "My Brothers Keeper" held at the church. This successful event resulted in a full truckload of linens for needy families across the state.

Again, we appreciate your hospitality, and for serving as our partner in making the world (and the town of Easton) a better place through Girl Scouting.

In gratitude,

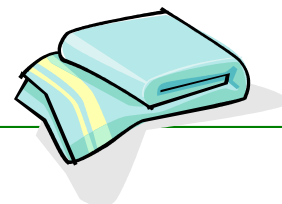
Elizabeth Morecock & Lori Prew, Co-leaders, Junior Troop 65049
 Nikole Bulger & Lori Prew, Co-leaders, Brownie Troop 80888

Thank you for all of your efforts to work with Junior Troop 65049 to make the "My Brother's Keeper Linen Drive" at Covenant Congregational Church on May 28 a tremendous success! Thanks to you, linens will be provided with new beds to countless needy families across the state.

A special thanks to Covenant Congregational Church for hosting the event, Beth and Matt of MBK who collected the linens from the Girls Scouts, and to Kathy Jones who coordinates the Linen Ministry at MBK. Thanks also to girls from area troops who turned out to support Junior Troop 65049. Our troop is forever grateful!

Thanks so much again!

In scouting,
 Elizabeth Morecock and Lori Prew
 Co-leaders, Junior Troop 65049



Pastor's Book Club

by Pastor Johnny

Church History in Plain Language, 3rd Edition

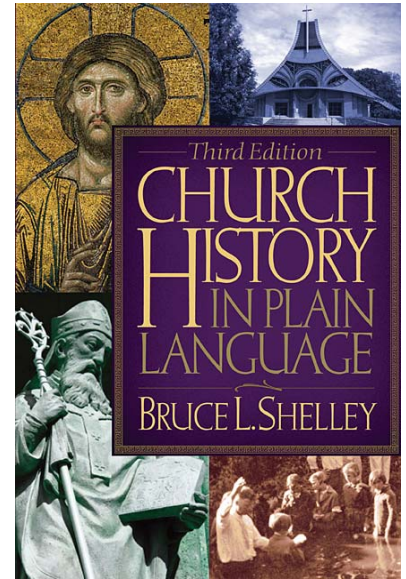
Bruce L. Shelley
Thomas Nelson Publishers
2008

Many Christians today suffer from historical amnesia. The time between the apostles and their own day is one giant blank. That is hardly what God had in mind.
-author Bruce Shelley, from his Prologue

This fall, I will be teaching an adult spiritual formation class on Sunday mornings that I've entitled "Church History 101 – from Jerusalem to Jenny Lind Lane". For 8 weeks or so, we'll try to overview how a rag tag band of Christ's disciples during those confusing days following His death and resurrection, became the worldwide religion that led a group of Swedish immigrants here in Easton to form their own church in His name almost 2000 years later. A church that is today, our home.

History, and especially Church history, if we are honest, can be confusing and boring. In our class, I'll try to make sure that it's neither. And for those of you that would like to pursue this subject on a deeper level, there's no better single volume history to start with than Bruce Shelley's Church History in Plain Language. Written specifically for lay people, and with an emphasis on themes and narratives over strictly names, dates and places, Shelley's seminal book takes the reader on a journey through the ages that have defined and refined the Church into what it is today. Not all of what we read is pretty, and Shelley doesn't try to sugar coat any of the historical Church's faults. And yet he is just as quick to reveal how the Church, and more specifically the faithful followers within it, have been agents for great change in society. All of it written in a straightforward and understandable way that truly makes the complex a bit simpler, without completely watering it down.

As we begin this class together, this will be a fine resource for further discovery. I highly recommend it as this month's Pastor's Book Club selection.

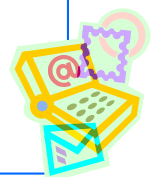


Join our eprayers and enotice email lists



Please use eprayers for prayer requests and enotice for any announcement of activities or meetings

To join send an email to Nancy in the church office,
secretary@ecovchurch.org, requesting to be added to these lists.





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 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.

ecovchurch on iTunes?

Did you know that you can subscribe to our weekly Sunday morning sermons as a podcast on iTunes?

Simply do a search on iTunes for “ecovchurch” and it will take you to the link to subscribe. New sermons will be automatically downloaded to your iPod/iPhone every time you sync!



The Tidings, Weekly Bulletin & Announcements and Sermons are online at www.ecovchurch.org

We have also added some new features to the website - New and improved Events Calendar, Facebook and Podcasts!



Non Profit

U.S. Postage Paid

N. Easton, MA 02356

Permit No. 20

**SEPTEMBER
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

508.238.6423

Rally Sunday, September 11, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

9:15 a.m.

Opening Celebration & Sunday School

10:30 a.m.

Worship in the sanctuary

Following worship join us in the Narthex and
Fireside Room for coffee and
refreshments and our annual Ministry Fair.

2:00 p.m.

Interfaith memorial service remembering the
10th anniversary of 9/11—Oliver Ames High
School Auditorium.

Sunday, August 28 & September 25 at 6:00 p.m.
Worship in the Garden—at Queset Garden
(behind Ames Free Library)

September 2011



204 Center Street
North Easton, MA 02356

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30 Worship	5 7:00 Knitting (FS)	6 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 7:30 Ministry Meetings	7 7:00 Small Group Bible Study	8 6:00 Garden Club (FS) 7:30 Choir	9	10
11 RALLY DAY 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship 2:00 Community 9/11 Memorial Service 4:30 Sr Youth Group	12 4:30 Brownie Trip (FS) 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts	13 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 4:00 Cub Scouts (gym) 7:00 Council	14 7:00 Small Group Bible Study	15 7:00 Jr. High Youth 7:30 CCC Book Club	16 4:00 Daisy Troop (gym) 5 Sanctuary reserved wedding rehearsal	17 4 Sanctuary reserved for wedding
18 8:15 Choir 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship 6:00 Sr Youth Group	19 4:00 Jr. Troop (FS) 7:00 Knitting (FS) 7:00 Boy Scouts	20 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) Noon Friendship Club 4:00 Cub Scouts (gym)	21 7:00 Small Group Bible Study	22 7:00 Jr. High Youth 7:30 Choir	23 6 Sanctuary reserved wedding rehearsal	24
25 8:30 Breakfast 9:15 Ch. Ed. 10:30 Worship 2 Sanctuary reserved for wedding 6:00 Worship at Queset Garden	26 4:30 Brownie Trip (FS) 7:00 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts	27 2:30-7:15 Kirstie (Chapel) 4:00 Cub Scouts (gym)	28 7:00 Small Group Bible Study	29 7:00 Jr. High Youth	30 4:00 Daisy Troop (gym)	