

COVENANT CHRONICLE

A NEWSLETTER FOR COVENANT CHURCH PCA OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

Pastor's Note

Dr. Paul Sagan

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

(Mat 28:18-20 ESV)

Praise the Lord for a wonderful Missions conference in February. We had great messages from Stephen Atkinson and an average attendance of over 80 people at each of the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday School Sessions. We heard reports from missionaries David Culmer of MTW, Sophia, Bulgaria, and Pete Mitchell, MTW, Marseilles, France. In addition we heard appeals for support from PCA ministers, Martin Hawley of Reformation Hope for Haiti; Tom Mirabella, MTW Japan; and Trey Bundrick, RUF University of Arkansas. Also we heard from our own member Lee Mekkes on ministry to Chinese International students. The following week we had a great message from Mike Moore of Christian Witness to Israel at the installation service of Stephen Atkinson.

We just concluded a wonderful year of missions giving at Covenant Church, Fayetteville. Treasurer Doug Nystrom reports that missions giving for March 2012 to March 1, 2013 to be nearly \$70,000.00. Praise God for His abundant provision for the cause of Christ around the world.

For 2013-14 the Session set a Faith Promise goal of \$65,000.00 for the cause of world missions. Our missions budget based on Faith Promise commitments will be set this month so get your cards in as soon as possible. The Missions Committee will be meeting soon to determine the 2013-14. So far, Faith Promise cards totaling \$52,240.00 have been received.

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*Our purpose is to glorify God by
loving Him and loving people.*

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The missions budget based on Faith Promise will be determined a week from Sunday evening, March 10, before being approved by the Session. Designated Faith Promise giving to Session approved missions is always welcomed through the church. Also, you can make a Faith Promise at any time during the year. Contact Ruling Elder Ken Hargis if you have further questions. As we pray and ask God how much he will do through us through for missions a quote from Christian financial advisor Randy Alcorn is most instructive:

“The opportunities for using our financial resources to spread the gospel and strengthen the church all over the world are greater than they've ever been. As God raised up Esther for just such a time as hers, I'm convinced he's raised us up, with all our wealth, to help fulfill the Great Commission. The question is, what are we doing with that money? Our job is to make sure it gets to his intended recipients.”

□ [Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions and Eternity*](#)

WIC Announcements

Ornithology Hike for Covenant Women & Girls Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks

Saturday, March 30, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Lunch will be at the Firehouse Subs (1364 E. Augustine, Ste. 2, Fayetteville, off Joyce Boulevard) at 11:15 a.m. Women who do not want to bird watch can meet us there for lunch.

Covenant Women's Retreat

Friday –Saturday, May 3 & 4 at Lake Fort Smith State Park. The retreat will start at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and go on for as long as each person can stay on Saturday. The theme is “Encourage One Another.” There will be Bible study, singing, skits, panel discussion, small groups, and more! The retreat will cost \$35 per person. Please let Susan Chewning know if you can attend on or before April 19.

Committee Profile

The purpose of the communications committee is to facilitate communications among the members of Covenant Church, and between our church and the rest of the community. Our first project will be to survey the congregation to assess the interests, gifts, and talents of the various members so that we may more faithfully fulfill our purpose, "to glorify God by loving Him and loving people." Communications will involve many members and staff of

the church including those responsible for the *Covenant Chronicle*, the technology committee, the elders, and other volunteers. The committee welcomes suggestions from the congregation on how it may be of service to both those who are members as well as to those individuals seeking a church home. Dr. John Redwine is the committee chairman and point of contact.

Bethlehem Update

(March 3)

Dear Friends and Family,

Our Friday night Bible study has grown to about 30 people and we are praying about how to split. We hope to have a local family host a Bible study as we split this group. Please pray for this. We would like to see a local group form so that the study can continue through the summer while we are in the States. This week this Bible study group went to help a Christian organization week by cleaning the facility.

Miss Martha's group from Georgia was an encouragement to our students and teachers this week. They spent 3 days working with the school. We look forward to visiting with a group from Fellowship Bible Church this coming week.

I (Melissa) was able to share the story of Jarius' daughter and the woman who was sick for 12 years, with a group of widows. It was wonderful. I had a friend from here translate and together we shared about Jesus' power and the importance of faith. It was amazing to see the ladies get excited about the old story and see how encouraged they were to talk about Jesus. How wonderful it is to know our Savior cares, heals, has power, and honors our faith in Him!

Our days and nights are full. Pray for us as we are feeling tired. Between work, prayer meetings, Bible study and school; we are tired. Our house is constantly full, for example Thursday night over 12 people showed up to visit randomly and in shifts. Terry has been discipling a couple of

young men, David and Omar. Terry and I have been doing pre-marriage counseling with a young couple and I have been tutoring and discipling a young woman. We were able to meet with Omar's family last week. He is a Muslim who said that Jesus gave him peace in his chest. He is growing in his faith in Jesus. Omar's parents were hospitable to our family and gave Omar permission to continue to visit our house. Thank you for your prayers and please continue to pray for Omar.

A couple of our female teachers are sick, please pray for them to be able to rest and get better. I have visited the doctor with these women 6 times this week! I think they have been diagnosed and are getting better, but they need rest. Thank you for your prayers and support!

May God bless you,

Terry, Melissa, Zachary and Jeremiah

If you feel led to support Terry and Melissa's ministry please send your donations to:

New Heights (Global Outfitters)
P.O. Box 8926
Fayetteville, AR 72703

Make checks payable to Global Outfitters with Rhodes # 10003 in the memo. All donations will be tax deductible and receipted

Financial Summary

General Fund	FEB '13
Non Designated Giving	\$ 21,503
Designated Giving	\$ 610
Total Giving	\$ 22,113
Total Expenditures	\$ 21,881
Balance	\$ 232

Missions Fund	MAR '12 - FEB '13
Giving	\$ 66,294
Expenses	\$ 61,494
Balance	\$ 4,800

Ft. Smith Church Plant	JAN '13
Giving	\$ 14,220
Expenses	\$ 16,390
Balance	-\$ 2,170

Athletic Facilities Project

John Nystrom is working to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. To that end, he is leading a project at Covenant Church to create a soccer field on the east side of the church building and a half-court basketball court in the church parking lot. The elders and the deacons have agreed to the proposal and hope to make the two sports facilities available to the community in an effort to serve and evangelize the community. The soccer field

is currently planned to be one long field that can also be divided into two smaller, horizontal fields. The basketball court will be located in the back of the parking lot. To accomplish this project John is asking for donations of time, supplies, and money. He also welcomes any suggestions on how to enhance the proposal. You may contact John directly at (479) 616-6516.

Session Report

Significant actions of the Session from its February 12, 2013 meeting follow:

The Session approved CWI International General Secretary Mike Moore as speaker for Stephen Atkinson's installation as Assistant Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church.

The Session approved a faith promise goal

of \$65,000.00 for missions for March 1, 2013 to February 28, 2014.

The Session discussed current status of licensure/ordination preparations for RE Ken Hargis. TE Sagan will draft a call for RE Hargis that will allow his examination in the April/May 2013 time frame.

MoArk Youth Retreat

Pete Golden

Pastors Kevin Hale and Reed Dunn (PCA Pastors in Conway and Joplin) have organized a youth retreat weekend April 5 – 7 at Castle Bluff, Arkansas. The idea is to have something for local churches to do together that is much closer than the Presbytery Youth Conference that is 6+ hours away.

I have told them that we will participate (at least this first time), so I will be going. Parents are encouraged to also attend, and other siblings can also be accommodated. If you want to go, please let me know how many as soon as you can. Covenant will be charged \$60 for each person who attends. If you are willing and able to defray that cost, just designate your gift as "Youth Group." Currently, there is no hard deadline to sign up. We anticipate that approximately 20 from Covenant will attend.

Kevin Hale will be the featured speaker. The theme for the weekend is "Simple Faith Matters." In our tradition, we rightly talk a lot about faith alone; others talk about having a simple faith. At this retreat, we will spend time talking and thinking about how a simple faith affects more than the destination of your soul. Heath Warbritton of Covenant will be providing music.

Program: Something very special is being planned for this. You won't want to miss it.

Schedule:

Friday

7:00 p.m. – Arrival

8:00 p.m. – Large Group

10:00 p.m. – Small Groups

11:00 p.m. – Lights Out

Saturday

8:00 a.m. – Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – Large Group

11:00 a.m. – Small Group

12:00 p.m. – Lunch

1:00 p.m. – Rappelling, Zip Line, Field Games

5:00 p.m. – Dinner

6:00 p.m. – Large Group

8:00 p.m. – Small Groups

9:00 p.m. – Campfire

11:00 p.m. – Lights Out

Sunday

8:00 a.m. – Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:30 a.m. – Small Groups

12:00 p.m. – Lunch

1:00 p.m. – Departure

Camera Club

Lee Mekkes

The Camera Club has selected "THIS IS MY FATHER' WORLD" as the theme for their exhibit to be set up at their next meeting on Saturday, March 16 at 10 a.m. If you look at the lyrics of that familiar hymn, you will see the many photo possibilities suggested by this theme.

The photo theme for photographs to bring to this meeting for peer review is "WHAT IS IT?" This was extremely popular with the congregation when it was previously presented. People had an opportunity to guess the subject of the photographs. These photographs will be exhibited in April--the "April Fools Day" activity of the Camera Club.

The Camera Club is open for new members to join at any time. Join now and you will not

need to endure the hardship of not knowing what the Mystery Photos are. Regularly scheduled meetings are held on the third Saturday morning of each month, except for some exceptions during the summer. The schedule is posted on the church bulletin board, and regular advance announcements are published in the weekly church bulletin.



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