

THE IGNITER



New Beginnings!

James Hubbard

Dates to Know:

- **Christmas Break:**
December 24th—January 2nd
- **Early Dismissal:** January 16th
- **End of Third Marking Period:**
January 23rd

Philippians 3:13-14

No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.

Happy New Year!!

I hope and pray that your Christmas was the best ever. As we move forward with the new year I am encouraged by the fact that God is in control and that we can put the past behind us and move forward to what lies ahead. We are given new opportunity to make a difference, to impact those around us, and to have a fresh start to a new year.

This January brings new beginnings in the lives of Mrs. Swisher and Mrs. Kramer, both of whom are due to begin the new year as brand new mothers. Please pray for them as they begin this wonderful chapter in their lives. While they are away enjoying their babies, we are blessed to

welcome to New Covenant two new temporary staff members to fill in. Please take the time to welcome Miss Longenecker to Pre-K and Miss Billingham to Kindergarten. They will be with us until Mrs. Swisher and Mrs. Kramer return.

Another new beginning is the creation of a new health and fitness center in the building. This center will help to accommodate health and fitness needs of our student athletes, and staff and faculty. Although the room is small, it will have four treadmills, two cross training machines, and a number of free weights and benches. We are hoping this will help the athletes stay in shape during the off season.

So.....onward and forward into the new year we go, with God at the fore, while we follow and trust with expectancy for all the new beginnings we will have in 2012.

Have a wonderful and blessed 2012!!!

Sincerely,

James

Christmas Shoppe

Stephanie Snyder

A Christmas buzz resonated throughout the elementary and middle school classrooms on Thursday, December 8th, as many of the students finished or put a huge dent in their Christmas shopping. Once again, New Covenant's Parent-Teacher Fellowship provided an assortment of gift items suitable for all ages with prices ranging from \$1 to \$8. The new Fitness Center downstairs was transformed into a wrapping center and New Song Community Church donated use of their downstairs office space to serve as the Christmas Shoppe. Crystal Oyerly, PTF President, coordinated a large team of volunteers to assist students as they made

gift selections, rang up the purchases, wrapped the presents of students who selected that free option, and both set-up and tore-down the Shoppe.

Thank you to Crystal Oyerly and her team of volunteers who made this annual event a huge success! And if you are wondering how they can provide the fantastic gift selection at such low prices - preparation begins now for the following year as Crystal and other PTF

members scout out sales and purchase discounted items throughout the year to add to next year's selection.



Inside this issue:

Happy Birthday, Jesus	2
A+ Rewards	2
Door Decorating	3
Basketball	3
Set Before Him	4

Remember When ...

Who is this former Kindergarten student at New Covenant in 1991-1992 that later returned as a faculty member?

Answer on page 3



Christmas Concerts 2011

Dennis Mellott

Fulfilling four months of preparation, elementary, middle and high school students presented Christmas concerts on December 15 and 16 under the direction of Mr. Adrian Haines and Mr. Dennis Mellott. All aspects of the instrumental and vocal music programs were highlighted along with several student soloists. Kindergar-

ten through 5th grade students were featured in a musical entitled *The Great Christmas Giveaway* with 5th grade students leading in dramatic roles. With the gym filled to capacity, students shared the true meaning of Christmas and received a tremendous ovation for their efforts.





Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration

Hannah Kramer

Pre-K and Kindergarten held their 3rd annual "Happy Birthday Jesus" party on Thursday, December 22nd. This fun family event brings the early childhood classes together for a meaningful purpose. With holiday advertisements, presents, and busy activities, it is easy to be distracted from the true meaning of Christmas. This party teaches children the importance of celebrating Christ's birth and giving to others, just as Christ gave to us. The event commenced with children bringing baby gifts to Jesus' party, just



as they would bring gifts to celebrate any birthday. These gifts are donated to the Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy Center in Lebanon. Then the children enjoyed singing, eating, and decorating graham cracker houses with their parents. Children left the party with goody bags and excitement for the birth of our savior, Christ the Lord!



New Covenant Christian School held a contest for students to submit Giant Bonus Cards at the beginning of the school year so we could increase our earnings from Giant's A+ School Rewards Program. Last year we registered 53 Bonus Cards and earned \$490.46 over the six months the Giant's Rewards program ran. This year—with your help—we registered 367 Bonus Cards, and after just two months we have raised \$1,472.03.

This is over triple what we earned last year, and we still have four months to go!

This will allow us to purchase much needed tools for Jerry Bauman, our Facilities Manager, and will allow us to meet other needs as well. Thank you for your support, and remember to use your Giant Bonus Card every time you shop at Giant. If you know others who have a Bonus Card, it's not too late to get them registered. Just e-mail their Bonus Card number to Chris Thorpe at crmothorpe4@gmail.com





Eighth Grade Door



Twelfth Grade Door



Door Decorating Stephanie Snyder

Creativity abounded as students in grades 4 through 12 spent the first period on Monday, December 12th, decorating the door of their homeroom. With planning and preparation done over the previous week, students arrived that morning armed with supplies and abundant enthusiasm. A team of judges selected a winner and honorable mention in two grade categories: 4th through 8th and 9th through 12th.

And the winners are ... Grade 8 and Grade 12! Honorable mention goes to Grades 7 and 10. Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to all the teachers and students who made this competition so memorable!

Flames Basketball Justyn Shepler

Basketball season has begun and our teams are very excited to be back on the court this season.

The Varsity Boys' Basketball Team is coached again this year by Troy Williams. Despite the loss of the Seibert brothers and Tim Blouch to graduation, the team is excited to compete. This is a young team with several freshmen and new faces, but with the leadership of junior Nathaniel 'NOON' Dawson and senior Jacob Embich, the team is set to grow together and be competitive. Despite the 0-2 start to the season, the boys are confident and ready to make their mark in PIAA this season.

The Varsity Girls' Basketball Team is led by first-year coach Chris Light. The girls' team also lost a few senior leaders from last season, but like the boys' team, they are looking to the leadership of returning players like sophomore Erin Haggard and junior Shaya Martin, along with newcomer junior Marcia Copenhaver, to help the young team compete. The girls are off to a 1-0 start!

The Middle School Boys' Basketball Team is coached by Bill Parks. Their season kicked off with a win and a game well-played by all players. Gordon Parks and Nate Martin lead the team in points after one game.

Come out and cheer on our teams! Let's show PIAA what Flames fans are all about!!!!

GO FLAMES !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





Set Before Him

Dave Scheirer

“Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Author of Hebrews (Chapter 12:1-3)

While reading this passage this time, these three words caught my mind. They seem to indicate that Jesus knew joy was coming. It seems to imply that even in Jesus’ own life on earth, He did not always experience joy; but He knew it was indeed *coming*. In fact, it was ‘set’ according to the author of Hebrews. I cannot imagine how separated from joy Jesus must have felt when He was being mocked, persecuted, falsely accused, tortured and executed. He seems to have been able to endure because of a truth and knowledge of a joy to come, one that was “set before Him”.

On a much smaller scale, most, if not all, of the students and teachers anticipated that the Christmas break would be filled with much joy, that it would be a break from the hard work of school and a shift in focus to other things for a while. Now we are entering into a new calendar year, filled with resolutions and hopes of recommitment and fresh starts, yet we are still not quite half way through the school year. January 3rd, it’s back to school with all the hard work, necessary endurance, relational dynamics, sacrifice of time, and use of energy that entails. For many, that seems to pop the big balloon of joy!

It is hard, quite often, to maintain that joyous feeling.

As we enter in to the new year, that season of “out with the old and in with the new”, may we keep looking forward to the joy of the Lord which is promised. May we find it in the midst of our drudgery and challenges. I have the blessing of seeing many examples of people here at New Covenant Christian School keeping the joy alive.

Last month, I saw two wonderful examples of students making sure that the joy is contagious, both times involved lockers. There was a student away for a week who returned to find her locker covered with notes: letters of encouragement, welcoming back, and statements about what she means to her friends. It left me experiencing joy, and those notes weren’t even addressed to me! A similar thing happened on another student’s birthday, when she found her locker covered with love: lots of colorful notes and pictures to bring joy to her special day. Such acts also brighten the spirits of others who see them.

As God’s people we have the capacity to be joy bringers. The second half of the school year will get tough at times. It will be hard work. Bad things and bad feelings will occur. People will become challenged, disappointed, and discouraged. But...we can be those who bring the light of joy into someone’s life even through the little things we say and do. May we, as God’s people, help set the joy before each other, especially in the toughest times. May we encourage and strengthen each other with God’s love and may each of our lives be a reminder to others that, ultimately, there is a great eternity of joy ahead for God’s people. We might as well practice sharing it now!

May your New Year be a blessing to all!

In His joy,
Dave Scheirer, Student Pastor



Merry Christmas!

Answer:

Yes, it is Mr. Brandon Peach! He graduated from Penn State University in 2008 and taught MS/HS English at New Covenant from 2008-2010.

