

THE IGNITER



Dates to know:

- Spring Concert and Recital – May 5, 1PM & 6:40 PM
- Serv-A-Thon
 - Elementary - May 6
 - MS/HS - May 13
- Association Meeting - May 24, 7PM
- Golf Tournament - May 26
- Baccalaureate - June 3, 7PM
- Graduation - June 4, 1PM

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Praise

James Hubbard

"I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works, I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High." (Psalm 9:1-2)

I was struck a few weeks ago while thinking about Easter, how truly amazing our God is! I mean, He actually took ALL our sin upon Himself, was beaten to with an inch of His life and then crucified for something He didn't do. That is literally unbelievable or perhaps even incomprehensible. While I understand the death and resurrection and what it means to me personally and eternally, I am not sure I ever really give Him the honor and thanks He deserves for what has really occurred. My words of gratitude feel empty and shallow, even somewhat lacking in understanding of the true depth of His mercy and grace toward a sinner like me. It was these thoughts and through discussion with the Spiritual Life Committee that the idea of an **Easter Praise Chapel** came about.

Why a Praise Chapel?

.....because if we don't praise Him, the stones will (Luke 19:40).....because He is worthy of praise (Psalm 48:1).....because He died to save us (John 3:16).

Praise through song and music helps us tangibly focus words of adoration to the Lord and gives us the vehicle in which we can truly honor Him. Praise, when done corporately, takes the focus off us as individuals and puts the focus on Him while magnifying our worship toward Him. Praise is a great way to show our thanks and

give Him the glory He deserves. David said in the Psalms after he was delivered from Saul,

"The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies".

David certainly understood the importance of sharing his praise for the Lord and is an example to us thousands of years later.

So, on the Wednesday before Easter, we had a praise and worship service to honor the Lord for His love and mercy toward us. In light of this, the 7th-12th grade classes each picked songs that they felt were special and which connected them to Easter. These were the songs New Covenant students sang during the chapel service. Some of the students shared why their class's song was important, others just worshiped God through the music and words they had chosen; some students sat, others stood, but all worshiped and God was given the glory. The result was powerful, the worship was honoring, the message was clear, and most importantly, **GOD was GLORIFIED**. It was a thrill to see the students honoring and praising the Lord so earnestly and openly.

Lord, help us remember to worship You in all we do, through trials, through good times and just because You are WORTHY!

Your will be done!!



Easter



Michelle Swisher

Many brave families came out in the rain on Saturday, April 23rd, to celebrate New Covenant Christian School's Pre-K through 2nd grade Easter egg hunt. Even though rain forced the egg hunt inside, the children and their families enjoyed more than an hour of fun, devotions, and worship. Children sang several songs with our early childhood teachers: Mrs. Swisher (Pre-K), Mrs. Neslund and Mrs. Kramer (K). The children also enjoyed

taking some quiet time to listen to a short story called "The Tale of Three Trees". After the story, the youngsters rose to the challenge of hunting the 300+ eggs hidden in the Library and Elementary wing. All students and families came away with smiles and resounding expressions of gratitude! A special thanks to Bill and Kay Litman for their leadership in this event.

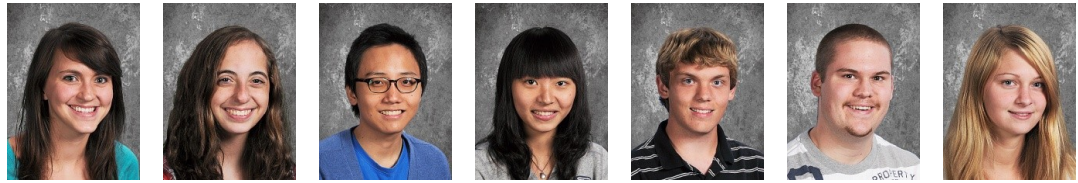


Senior Auction

Jacolia Copenhaver '11 & Amanda Meese '11

As the seniors lined up on the stage on the afternoon of April 1st, we were all a little nervous. But to our benefit, everyone was very generous and didn't let anyone go cheap. We were "sold" to teachers, students, staff, and entire classes. On April 4th, we did jobs from fold-

ing origami to running to McDonald's (multiple times!). Thank you to all of our buyers; our profit of \$1,500 was a huge blessing! As a class, we are looking forward to our senior retreat in May; the money raised will be used toward this class trip.



Serv-A-Thon

Stephanie Snyder

Each spring New Covenant Christian School students, faculty, staff, and volunteer parents participate in our annual Serv-A-Thon. This event provides an opportunity for New Covenant's students to serve various organizations in our community, and also serves as a fund raiser for the school.

New Covenant students and families are asked to get sponsors for this fund raising event! Serv-A-Thon donations are credited dollar-for-dollar to your family fund raising obligation.

On Friday, May 6th, Kindergarten through 5th grade will be serving the organization "American Foundation for Children with AIDS". AFCA is a non-profit organization that helps HIV+/AIDS children and their

guardians in Africa who have no other access to aid. AFCA provides critical AIDS and related medications, medical equipment and supplies, and much more to this area. New Covenant students will be putting together personal hygiene kits and sorting medical supplies. Donations are needed for the kits. If you can help, please contact the school office.

The week of May 9th our Middle and High School students will be serving a number of non-profit organizations in the Lebanon area. Details are currently being finalized for this week's events.

"But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you." 1 Samuel 12:24



Spring Soccer

Tania Meese



The weather for April has proved to be a challenging month for youth soccer! Despite record rainfall for the month, our youth teams are well underway, have done very well and proved to be a formidable force in the Lebanon Valley Youth Soccer League. It is our wish and prayer that win or lose, we will represent our Sav-

ior well! We have teams in every age category from U6 – U16. Check out the latest schedule and stats at <https://sites.google.com/site/newcovenantyouthsoccer/>

Spring Baseball

Tania Meese



The humble beginnings of baseball took root at New Covenant this April, meeting twice a week under the coaching of Mr. Shepler. Students practiced the fundamentals of hitting and fielding and enjoyed a time of fellowship on the baseball diamond behind the school. Students that participated were Jordan Kollar, Josh Meese, Mitch Kornhaus, Jacob Embich, Alex Shepler,

Nathan Keefer, and three students from Blue Mountain Christian School - Joel Heckman, Isaac Young, and Cole Seaman. Students improved their skills and their love for the game. New Covenant hopes to develop their team by 2012! For more information on baseball at New Covenant, contact Justyn Shepler directly at jshepler@nccspa.org.

International Luncheon

Kelly Vangeli

On Monday, April 25, 2011, the sixth graders held an international luncheon to celebrate the completion of their nation research projects. Over the past two months, students researched a country, wrote a report, developed a power point presentation, and created a display board. Family and friends of the students were invited to attend this activity. Each student prepared a food item from his or her researched country and shared their power point presentation. The food was delicious and the presentations were excellent!



New Student Pastor Position

Stephanie Snyder

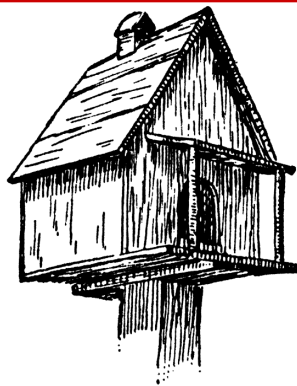
Dave Scheirer is the new Student Pastor at New Covenant Christian School. He began in March and expresses his enthusiasm and thanksgiving for the opportunity to be with the children and youth of this community in this reputable Christian setting. Dave is husband to Gwen for 11 years, and their children are Ian (8) & Carissa (5). Carissa is a kindergarten student at New Covenant. Dave has a B.S. in Art Education from Kutztown University and his Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy from Evangelical Theological Seminary in Myerstown. He has served in youth



ministry in the community since 1993, and overall since 1990.

The Student Pastor position at New Covenant is new (part-time through this school year). As we develop the job description, please feel free to add your voice to the discussion with your thoughts and ideas.

This past Saturday my son Ian, my daughter Carissa and I hung the three birdhouses which we painted this winter. These birdhouses are the perfect condos for our warm-blooded vertebrates of the *Aves* family. They were carefully and artfully constructed with the perfect sized openings for small birds, a perch for landing and looking out for prey, and even a roof with a little overhang for added shelter. The houses are colorful and fun and we wonderful humans who designed, decorated, and painted them seem to think they'll be the perfect shelter for our fine feathered friends. They were even coated with four layers of polyurethane for added weather-proofing and durability. Wow! What a gift to the bird world we have bestowed!



ble. According to Jesus, He has prepared a place with many rooms for His people (John 14:2). Jesus Himself will come back to escort His people there (John 14:3)! Imagine that: He desires for us to dwell with Him eternally. This doesn't begin when God's people go to heaven; it begins now, in the present! It's not heaven, but it is at least protection, shelter, and warmth in the here and now! Imagine God's disappointment when the people He invited, His creation, do not 'dwell' with Him. Yet He continues to hold out His promise to us.

"For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling. He will hide me in the shelter of His Tabernacle, and set me high upon a rock." David (Psalm 27:5)

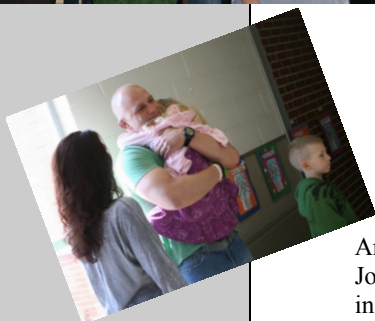
We took a thoughtful walk around the yard and contemplated each possibility for where the birdhouses could hang in order to attract residents and protect the birds from foul (or fowl) weather, shelter them from prey, provide warmth for their chicks, etc. Perfect. But, 'til now, we have noticed no tenants. Some have come to investigate, but no bird has signed a lease; so far...all of our trouble with no takers. Imagine our disappointment.

May you find New Covenant Christian School a place of equipping and education: also a place of shelter, protection, and warmth. A place that we, God's people, can experience a taste of the place to come which God has prepared for His people.

At my home, we still hope and watch for our birdhouses to fill with life. May we approach God's kingdom with the confidence that He indeed yearns for us to come to Him everyday and invite others as well.

I suppose our Great God has gone through greater trou-

A Hero Returns Home



Amelia Millard received an unexpected visit from her dad, Josh. Josh, returning from service in Afghanistan, stopped in to surprise her after being picked up at the airport by his wife, Becky. **Nothing like a father's hug!**

