

**ALABAMA BOUND**

Two of our friends from Covenant have moved to the state of Alabama, temporarily, so that their out-of-state children can be there to help with their care.

One of the ladies is Alice Dillman, who helped with the Covenant Café each Sunday. She broke her hip about 3 weeks ago. Her daughter, Chris, who lives in Trussville, Alabama, took her to her home so Alice could have her help while recovering.

Alice Dillman (c/o Chris Birmingham)  
1230 Hickory Valley Rd.  
Trussville, AL 35173

Jacquelyn (Jacque) Purdy, who sang with Covenant's praise team and choir, was hospitalized with a stroke several weeks ago. Her recovery hasn't been as quick as one would hope and, consequently, she had to return to the hospital a couple of times. Recently, her son, Darryl, took her to his home in Chelsea Alabama where she plans to stay at least a month, while receiving care there.

Jacque Purdy (c/o Darryl Eastman)  
244 Camellia Drive  
Chelsea, Alabama 35043

**TWINS PRAYERS ANSWERED**

*Croix and Cooper, born February 3, 2008*



These precious little boys, who waited for the right time to be born, are now embraced by all members of a very happy family.

Grandmother Barbara Willis has a wonderful job, seeing to her new grandsons whenever she's called upon to do so. And when she isn't...she's likely to drop by anyway!

To Barbara, this is what retirement is all about!

**MEMBERS OF  
OUR  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

We are very proud of those who serve on the Leadership Council at Covenant UMC. Their responsibilities are the overall administration and programming for the church.

Listed here are our Council members and their area(s) of responsibility:

- Ida Carveth*, Adult Ministries
- Jon Domeij*, Member at large
- Carol Faircloth*, Prayer and "Sacred Spaces"
- Kathy Freeman*, Co-Chair Trustees
- Rebecca Hyvonen*, Assistant Pastor
- Sue Macchiarella*, Administration/ Missions & Outreach
- Frank Mercer*, Council Chairman/ Worship / Lay Leader
- Vic Miller*, Co-Chair Trustees
- Paul Pollock*, Senior Pastor
- Leigh Slayback*, Worship & Music
- Donna Spencer*, Education and Youth
- Joan Varley*, Council Secretary & Attendance Records
- Open*, Staff Parish Committee Chairman
- Kay Wingard*, Missions/Outreach/ Ushers & Greeters

**COVENANT  
TRUSTEES  
2008**

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Pat Conway    | George Holm    |
| Kathy Freeman | Vic Miller     |
| Bill Fricke   | Richard Motley |
| James Harbour | Jack Weiler    |



**Ponderings**  
With  
**Pastor Paul**

The District Superintendent asked me several years ago, at one of our annual one-on-one consultations that take place every January, "Paul, what are your plans for the future? Tell me, what does your five-year plan look like?"

Not meaning to sound disrespectful, but in truth responding to his question I replied, "I don't have a "long-range plan ...it's not Biblical ....The Word says, 'Do not say what you will do tomorrow, rather say, IF IT IS THE LORD'S WILL I SHALL LIVE AND I SHALL DO THIS OR THAT.' " (James 4 :13 - 16)

I carefully pointed out that the word "plan" was not in the Bible in reference to human beings making plans; it's only found in respect to THE PLANS OF GOD which can never be thwarted. Even though the word "plan" is seldom found in scripture, there is another word that starts with "P" which is found and is relevant to this "discussion". It's the word "prepare." We, as humans, are not to be busy making OUR OWN plans but we are to be busy PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD !"

I'm sure our District Superintendent probably made a few "mental notes" about my response that day; he dropped the topic of "Long Range Plans" and moved on to other questions.

I know what "the world" says about "plans"... I know what "corporate managers" say about "plans." They say things like: "If you aim at nothing, then you'll probably hit it." And, "plan your work, then work your plan." And, "If you have no vision you'll have no victories."

I also know what "the ropes" were that held all these "sayings" together: words like "persuasiveness, encouragement, leadership, enlistment, training, inspiration, motivation, teamwork, and the all-important word from the 90's, synergy."

These ideas and their "rope words" have certain elements of truth that I dare not overlook if I want to operate "in the natural." But, God has not called me, or US, to minister "in the natural" but to do ministry "SUPER-naturally !!" That means that my "five-year plan" is to help cultivate a healthy Body of Believers in Jesus Christ. It means that all of us should be doing our part to "develop

***BIG BELIEVERS WHO ARE FULLY-FORMED WHO CAN FOLLOW JESUS AND BEAR FRUIT IN HIS NAME AND BY HIS SPIRIT !!"***

My intention is NOT to debunk goal-setting, but rather to ask us all to think about how churches generally tend toward using "worldly" and "natural" solutions for their congregations; when the solutions should be found BIBLICALLY and should be birthed IN THE SPIRIT AND BY THE SPIRIT.

Having "no goals" in my mind does not mean the absence of direction, strategy, or preparation. It DOES mean:

- \*\*\* We shouldn't undertake anything without a clear sense of God's direction;
- \*\*\* We should not utilize promotion or fund raising that depends on human genius or experience;
- \*\*\* We should not pursue anything that overlooks "Vital Worship; Transformed Lives; and Effective Servanthood."
- \*\*\* We should still pray often and heartily, gather together in one accord, and maintain koinonia fellowship as we do missions and ministry together.

I don't believe that my original intent was to prove a point to our District Superintendent, or to challenge the system of The United Methodist Church. It just seemed to me that The New Testament Church was supposed to be a LOT SIMPLER and MORE FRUITFUL than the way "we" do things today in many denominational settings. Pray that God would lead ALL of us into maturity in Christ Jesus.

Thoughtfully submitted: **Pastor Paul**

## TRUSTEES CORNER

The Trustees held their meeting on March 3, 2008. As always, the Trustees goal is to keep all CUMC servants informed as much as possible. The following topics are listed, not necessarily in order of importance, as current items on the Trustees agenda. These items are either complete or scheduled for future discussion.

Recently, a 2007 Van for 12 passengers was purchased with the trade in of our 1998 fifteen passenger van. This occurred due to the generous contribution of one of our congregation.

The CUMC Disaster Relief Plan is now being formulated with Larry Lewis as the Conference Disaster Relief Coordinator.

Items for Church maintenance recently purchased were a pressure washer and hedge trimmer.

The Cell Phone Tower update includes construction to start in approxi. one month and the Church has accepted Buddy LaCours offer of tying our drainage system into his future retention pond.

Another item up for discussion is the possible refinancing of the Church mortgage of \$1.5 million, which has an adjustable 7% interest rate.

Thank you for your interest and have a very Happy Easter. Blessed in Christ.

James L. Harbour, Trustee

<b>FEBRUARY 2008</b>	Income.....	\$61,143.0
	Expense.....	\$63,755.51
	Deficit .....	-\$2,608.89

## LIBRARY NOTES:

IN - How To Succeed at Being Yourself by Joyce Meyers

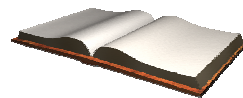


SG -Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

PR - Pray The Price by Terry Teykl

## FOR VIEWING:

DVD-Joshua



DVD-Dinner With a Perfect Stranger

## Covenant United Methodist Church

Offers members and visitors three Sunday morning worship services and a Wednesday evening service, plus Faith Building Classes for adults and children

**FAITH BUILDING CLASSES/ ADULTS & CHILDREN....9:45**

**WORSHIP SERVICE.....8:30, 10:00 and 11:00**

**SERVING A GROWING CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION**

Rev. Paul Pollock.....Senior Pastor

Rebecca Hyvonen.....Assistant Pastor

Leigh Slayback.....Director of Music Ministry

Nate Mudge.....Media Director

Donna Spencer.....Education & Youth Ministry

Rick Rosengrant .....Maintenance

Jim Saucier.....Maintenance

Sue Macchiarella.....Administrative Director

Elaine Kinion.....Administrative Assistant

### - MINISTERS -

### ALL PEOPLE OF OUR CONGREGATION

### - NEWSLETTER -

Kitty Maiden, Editor

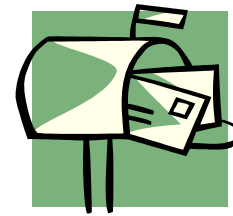
672-1177

kitink@bellsouth.net

The church office is open Mon.-Thurs.  
9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.; Fri 9:00 a.m.– 12 noon  
Phone (386) 767-8544

[www.jesusatcovenant.org](http://www.jesusatcovenant.org)

EMAIL: [umc@jesusatcovenant.org](mailto:umc@jesusatcovenant.org)



## FROM THE MAILBAG

Oh, how much I love my Covenant Church family!

Thank you for all your calls, your cards, your visits and your prayers that have been with me throughout this time of my knee surgery. I will be at Indigo Manor in the rehab section until April 1st, when I will be going home.

Many thanks and love to you all,  
Duke Chaffee—

To: The Covenant Church.

How can we express our appreciation for all that you have done? Your kindness and prayers for Larry mean so very much to all of us. And, we thank you.

David, Richard, Ruby, Shiela, Lois (sister) Lori,  
Debbie, Remc Love from all the  
Munsch family

Dear Covenant Family,

Thank you for your prayers, phone calls and cards, as I recovery from hip surgery. I miss my church and good friends very much.

A grateful thank-you to Pastors Rebecca and Noel for prayers prior to and following the surgery.

The Lord has blessed me with good family and friends. I look forward to returning soon.

Respectfully,  
Alice Dillman, Trussville, AL

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for the birthday cards and your friendship. All this made "Making 90" something special. I've always said, "I would rather have one rose while I'm alive than a bushel full, when I'm dead. Thanks again,

George E. Pollock

Erla Jean Frehne speaks out on —

## ANGER

Anger...deep and strong feelings aroused by injury or injustice, accompanied by an impulse to retaliate. Along with the feeling of injustice, each party feels it necessary to prove that they are right and prove domination by inflicting more rules and regulations upon their adversary. And so—the conflict grows. The bedfellows of anxiety are deceit, impatience and bitterness. They all line up to complicate and grow the problems — into "Oh, yes' —'By the way' — this or that is also a problem. And so it grows like a heap of garbage.

Are you a collector of garbage? It all looks so appealing when you pick it up. Now it smells and is getting too heavy to carry. Trash filled hearts do not fare well either — what anxiety! We need to dump this stuff!! For my own problem, I realized that each of us had been extremely judgmental. We needed to practice forgiveness and see each other as blameless, guiltless and forgiving as God has forgiven us. By taking responsibility for my own interpretation of the problem and my angry emotions — I can experience peace.

If you have an anger problem, stress or frustration feel lack of fulfillment, change your belief system to giving and love, instead of getting and fulfillment. Believe in miracles!! Are you still seeing pictures of past experiences and distorted old memories? Remember you are free to choose to see or not to see these experiences from the past. Peace of mind is the goal. Again forgiveness is the vehicle used for correcting our perceptions. To forgive is to **LET IT GO—Peace of Mind!**  
**SMILE! Give God the Glory**

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our ATTITUDE **Charles Swindoll**

