

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED**

Dec 23-26

for Christmas

Jan 1-2

for New Year's

The church building will be

CLOSED

Jan 5-9

for year end closeout & planning

**A REFLECTION OF
THE BEAUTY OF THE SEASON**



Susan Beierlein - 2007

November 2008

Income \$54,373 Expenses \$62,054

Net (loss) -\$7,681

Covenant has paid 100 % of our
apportionments this year.

Total amount of apportionments for 2008
\$62,530.

**MEMBERS OF OUR
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

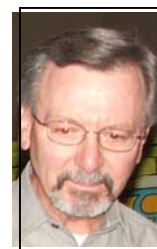
We are very proud of those who serve on the Leadership Council at Covenant UMC. Their responsibilities are the overall administration and programming for the church.

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

- Patty Inis, Evangelism
- Leonard Addison, Staff Parish
- Ida Carveth, Adult Ministries
- Jon Domeij, Member at large
- Carol Faircloth, Prayer and "Sacred Spaces"
- Kathy Freeman, Co-Chair Trustees
- Sue Macchiarella, Administration/ Missions & Outreach
- Frank Mercer, Council Chairman/ Worship / Lay Leader
- Vic Miller, Co-Chair Trustees
- Molly Motley, Volunteer Coordinator
- Paul Pollock, Senior Pastor
- Leigh Slayback, Worship & Music
- Joan Varley, Council Secretary & Attendance Records
- Kay Wingard, Missions/Outreach/ Ushers & Greeters

**COVENANT
TRUSTEES**

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Pat Conway | Vic Miller |
| Kathy Freeman | Richard Motley |
| Bill Fricke | Jack Weiler |
| James Harbour | Lee Schneider |
| Charles Hinman | Doug Simmons |



Ponderings
With
Pastor Paul

The Christmas Story depicts two very different types of people: The Shepherds and The Wise Men. I'm glad that they're BOTH in scripture because they represent two distinct groups of people who "come to know" Jesus.

The Shepherds were busy doing just what shepherds usually do: they were busy taking care of their sheep. They were NOT looking for Jesus. Rather, the Good News of great joy came TO them in the midst of their daily & evening chores. They were caught by surprise!

On the other hand, The Wise Men represent another group of people: DILIGENTLY SEEKING to find the new baby who had been born king. They purposely traveled, and literally kept searching, until they found Jesus. They even came prepared with gifts! They did not give up and ultimately their intense focus yielded fruit.

Some people come to know Jesus because they've been purposely seeking God. They are "wise men" and "wise women" and, yes, they're still out there today. They diligently keep on searching for God, for Truth.

The Old Testament declares that "if you seek Me (God) with all your heart, you WILL find Me." Others are more like the "shepherds" who are surprised when God shows up right in the middle of where they're living! How good to know that during the busiest moments of our daily lives there are times when God's Presence and His Glory "find" us. Right there in the midst of the ordinary and mundane stuff! Whew! Thank God for that! Those moments are "shepherd moments."

Make no mistake about it though, the reality of Jesus has BOTH "shepherd qualities" and "wise men qualities" woven throughout our lives. My response is to say, "Praise God for that!"

I also have learned a thing or two about Jesus' Presence from some precious people.

One time, several years ago, I was visiting a lady in her home during the month of May and I noticed that she had a Christmas tree ornament hanging on a book dangling from her bookshelf. My first thought was that she either had forgotten to put the ornament away months ago, or else there must be some reason why it was in an obvious place. Before I could say anything, she simply said, "I see you've noticed my Christmas ornament. And NO, I didn't forget to put it away. Every year I select a different ornament after Christmas is over and I hang it right there where everyone and their brother can see it. But it's really for me. It reminds me that Christmas doesn't come just once a year, and that it's not just one season we celebrate in December. That tree ornament is a daily reminder that Jesus was born so that He could be with me as "Immanuel" EVERY day throughout the year!"

I said to her, "Oh, I like your style! We must be kindred spirits: I even sing "Joy to the World" in the middle of July."

If it takes a Christmas tree ornament to remind you that Jesus cares enough to send the very best, Himself and His Presence ALL year long, then go ahead and leave an ornament up this year in a conspicuous place. Amen.

With Jesus' Joy at this special time of the year;
Pastor Paul and Susie.



THANK YOU TO THE GIDEONS

Many thanks to Jack Hoyt for the gift of 25 Bibles for YMCA Good News Clubs. And thanks to the many loving members of our congregation for their donations.

Tracy Jansen



COVENANT UMC CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

Friday & Saturday,

December 5th & 6th - 7:00 pm

Children's Academy of Fine Arts at Covenant
presents

"Miracle On MainStreet"

Sunday, December 7 - 2:00 pm

Port Orange Christmas Parade

Come and Support Covenant's Entry of
"Christmas Carols"

Thursday, December 11 - 7:00 pm

Covenant's Praise and Worship Choir
with The Voices Of Liberty presents

"Noel, Night Of Everlasting Love"

Tickets \$10 PH: 386-589-1208

Tuesday, December 16 - 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Call Charmaine 756-3762. Meet at the church to
ride over. We need 10

people to help guide drivers thru the campus while
they look at the lights.

Florida United Methodist Children's Home

Drive thru dates Dec 12-24 6 - 8 pm

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services

Candlelight Services at 4:00, 8:00, and 11:00

Wednesday, December 31

New Years Eve

New Years Eve Gathering at 11:30 p.m.

Friday, January 2 - 5:00 p.m.

Un-Hanging of the Greens

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

Leigh Slayback..... Director of Music Ministry

Nate Mudge.....Media Director

Lee SchneiderMaintenance Supervisor

Rick RosengrantMaintenance

Caryl TaylorMaintenance

Jim Saucier.....Maintenance

Christine Jarvis, Faith Casey, Carol Crimmons,
Jack HumphreyNursery Staff

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.

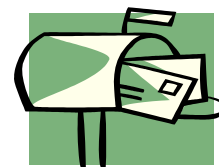
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon; 1 - 4:00 p.m.

Fri 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Phone (386) 767-8544

www.jesusatcovenant.org

EMAIL: umc@jesusatcovenant.org



FROM THE MAILBAG

December 4 2008

Dear ones,

I have the pleasure of working with you, my Covenant family, and with your news-letter and have been in a position to watch the fine accomplishments of our mission teams; your work toward the birthing of a new church at Venetian Bay; the membership growth; the retention of a dynamic pastor for our church; outreach into the community; our team of van drivers; the growth of CAFA as a viable interest for our children in the world of music and drama; the work of numerous volunteers; the fantastic job of our church staff; the wonderful music of our choir; VBS; the children's church services and everything else... things too numerous to mention. So much love has gone into the making of our Covenant.

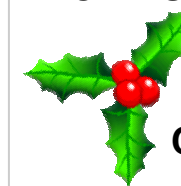
Sunday, November 30, we had a dinner for Donna Spencer, our Youth Director who is preparing to meet a new challenge in Memphis, Tennessee. God's blessings go with her, as well as the many blessings from members of our church.

In the spirit of the season, there's good news from my grandson (former member of Covenant, UMC, "Cito" Cervantes). The band, Casting Crowns, will be going to the White House to participate in the Christmas celebration. The event will be televised on CBS, December 17th.

Keep the good news coming in and try very hard to meet the monthly deadlines so we won't miss out on your news. Love & Merry Christmas to you and yours.

-Kitty

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE



VENETIAN BAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

573 N. Airport Rd.

New Smyrna Beach

386-427-8229

Sunday, December 7 - 10:00 a.m.

Worship Service, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 13 - 6:00 p.m.

Venetian Bay Town Center; New Smyrna

Caroling & hot chocolate

Saturday, December 13 - 7:00 p.m.

Venetian Bay Town Center;
New Smyrna Beach

Covenant's Praise and Worship Choir

with The Voices Of Liberty presents

"Noel, Night Of Everlasting Love"

Tickets \$10 donation PH:386-589-1208

Thursday, December 18 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Meet at
Venetian Bay Community Church

for

Cookies, hot chocolate and

Caroling in the Community

Sunday, December 21 - 5:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service

at

Venetian Bay Town Center