



September 2019

# the **New Covenant**

# Window

## Take A Look Inside

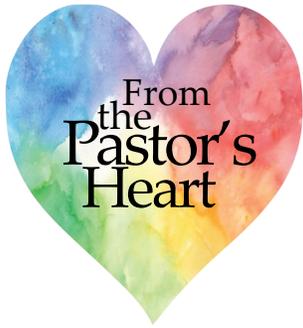
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*Sharing God through love and service*

## To Bee or Not to Bee?



I have again received two questions! The first: Why is the Bee Movie so awesome? I must confess that I've never seen the Bee Movie...but after a little research for this article I've decided that it's moved up to my must see movie list. I also have a few ideas about why it might be so awesome.

First, and most obvious for my generation is that anything that was created by Jerry Seinfeld would just have to be awesome. Kramer's even in it. How much more awesome can you get? Well I suppose the rest of the Seinfeld crew would be a plus but they were probably already busy...that or the old gang just had too hard of a time being all together and taking on new characters. Since I didn't find an article on it, I guess we'll never know.

A second reason that the Bee Movie is surely awesome is the social theme wrapped up in bees generally...but I don't think this is really the reason. Young people today are exceptionally attuned to such issues but I don't really think this is what appeals to anyone...it doesn't look like extinction is a major theme of the movie.

So why do I now want to see the Bee Movie? It looks like little Barry Bee is the underdog on a mission to right an injustice...the humans have stolen the honey. And to top it off, it looks like the great big humans are afraid of the little bees and create their own problems reacting out of their fear. What a great movie!

Looking for a little extra laughter lately, I've started watching a few favorite comedians on You Tube. I notice that I prefer the comedians that talk about things that are or have been part of my life. Since I've had children, the jokes about raising kids got much funnier. And the older I get, the funnier the "mature people" jokes get. That's because it not only speaks to our experience but also because what makes jokes funniest is the element of truth that they contain. And the more that they speak to our experience, the more we know just how true they are.

So back to the Bee Movie which is meant to primarily appeal to a younger crowd and surely appeals to the child in each of us...what is the truth that is highlights? The most obvious truth is that it is typically older folks (compared to children and young people) who hold the bulk of the power in our world and daily life. And perhaps those who are older among us might remember when we wanted to save the world...when we still thought we could make a difference...before we became part of the status quo. Most of us have known a time when we were the underdog. Most of us have known a time when we fought (or wanted to fight) for a cause that was deeply personal and important to us. I suspect that it is the shared experience of being young and idealistic, or at least the memory of those days, that makes the Bee Movie awesome for young and old alike. So some are still young and want to change the world while others remember longingly the days when they believed that they could.

Jesus doesn't seem to have been much of a joke teller, but he sure could tell a good story. He told stories of hope and possibility like the lost being found. He told stories of great love like a shepherd laying down his life for the sheep and looking for the one that had wandered away. He told stories of community around the sharing of a meal. And he always, always reached out to lift up the underdog. He called into question our systems and structures of power. Jesus reminded (still reminds) us that our lives can be better, that we can make a difference in this world that desperately needs saving.

But all that I've shared about the Bee Movie is utterly predictable based on watching a trailer and reading a few reviews. Even the overreacting humans in fear of little bees is predictable. After all, it is a bit of a character of how power structures keep the powerless in their place. But the reason I've now got to see the movie is that I need to find out how it ends. Does our little Barry Bee ultimately admit defeat in the face of impossible odds? After all, I can still buy honey at the grocery store. Or does he hang on and keep up the fight? Does a community come around him to build him up and strengthen him for the work before him? Do others take up the fight? How are we to understand Jesus when he tells us to not hinder the children when they seek to come to him? Surly a guy as deep a thinker as Jesus meant something more than that we are to tell the kiddos about him.

In churches far too often we focus on our need for young people as numbers and as a source of energy. We want them to take up our work, fulfill our old roles, do things our way...and they experience us as wanting to suck the life blood out of them. What if Jesus' message to us is to build them up...to take on their causes and work? What if we are meant to let go of our old dreams to take up their new dreams for the building up of the Body of Christ? What if....?

Next month's question: Who created the Trinity? Perhaps we need to change the name on the box from 'ask the pastor' to 'stump the pastor'. See you in church!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Dana*

# SEPTEMBER

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;"><b>September 2</b></td> <td><b>Labor Day</b> Church Offices Closed</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 4</b> 5:45 pm - 6:30 pm</td> <td>Pray It Forward Resumes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 5</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm</td> <td>Fellowship &amp; Games</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 8</b> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm</td> <td>Fresh Start Worship Service Begins</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 12</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm</td> <td>Fellowship &amp; Games</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 14</b> 10:00 am - 12:00 pm 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm</td> <td>How to Love Scripture and Support Same Sex Marriage Class Parent's Night Out</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 15</b> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm</td> <td>Fresh Start Worship Service</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 18</b> 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td> <td>Ewing House (Seekers Class)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 19</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm</td> <td>Fellowship &amp; Games Sew What's</td> </tr> </table>	<b>September 2</b>	<b>Labor Day</b> Church Offices Closed	<b>September 4</b> 5:45 pm - 6:30 pm	Pray It Forward Resumes	<b>September 5</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fellowship & Games	<b>September 8</b> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Fresh Start Worship Service Begins	<b>September 12</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fellowship & Games	<b>September 14</b> 10:00 am - 12:00 pm 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm	How to Love Scripture and Support Same Sex Marriage Class Parent's Night Out	<b>September 15</b> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Fresh Start Worship Service	<b>September 18</b> 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Ewing House (Seekers Class)	<b>September 19</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Fellowship & Games Sew What's	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;"><b>September 20</b> 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm</td> <td>Lifetouch Directory Photos</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 21</b> 10:00 am - 5:00 pm</td> <td>Lifetouch Directory Photos</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 22</b> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm</td> <td>Fresh Start Worship Service</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 26</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm</td> <td>Fellowship &amp; Games</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 28</b> 9:00 am - 2:00 pm</td> <td>Pumpkin Patch Work Day</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 29</b> 5:30 am - 6:30 am 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm</td> <td><b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> Austin Street JAMBoree JAM Choir Practice JAM Group Fresh Start Worship Service</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 30 - October 6</b></td> <td>3rd Quarter Statements Available</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>September 30 - October 28</b></td> <td>Turn In All Saint's Day Information</td> </tr> </table>	<b>September 20</b> 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Lifetouch Directory Photos	<b>September 21</b> 10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Lifetouch Directory Photos	<b>September 22</b> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Fresh Start Worship Service	<b>September 26</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fellowship & Games	<b>September 28</b> 9:00 am - 2:00 pm	Pumpkin Patch Work Day	<b>September 29</b> 5:30 am - 6:30 am 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	<b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> Austin Street JAMBoree JAM Choir Practice JAM Group Fresh Start Worship Service	<b>September 30 - October 6</b>	3rd Quarter Statements Available	<b>September 30 - October 28</b>	Turn In All Saint's Day Information
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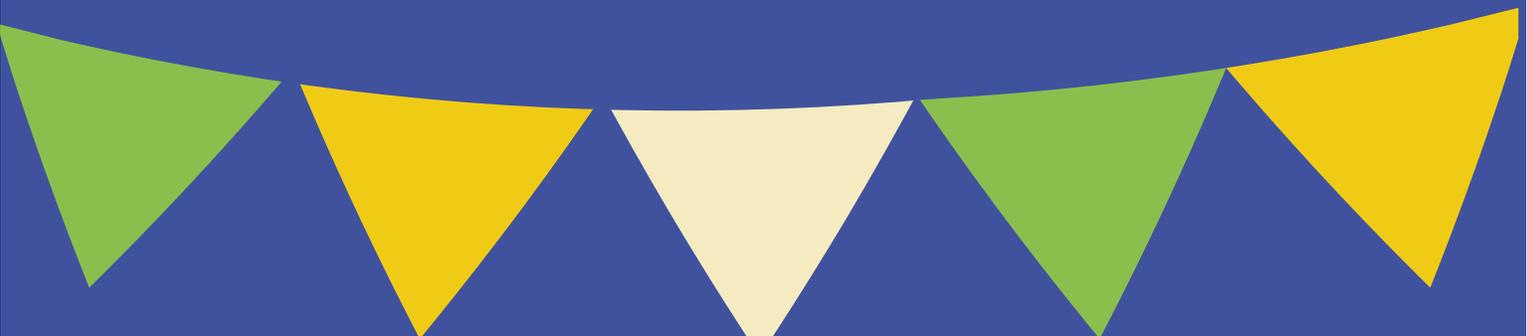
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| <b>6:</b> Walter Easton  | <b>15:</b> Michael Ficarra                          |
| <b>7:</b> Liz Lunday   | <b>16:</b> Dan Rogers                               |
| <b>8:</b> Naomi Norton   | <b>17:</b> Lesley Wheeler                           |
| <b>9:</b> Everett Carew Sr.<br>Rev. Dana Norton<br>Debbie Willis | <b>22:</b> Bridget Jagiel                           |
| <b>10:</b> Mike Reed   | <b>24:</b> Julie Browning                           |
| <b>12:</b> Barbara Gilbert<br>Momo Jabati                        | <b>26:</b> Craig May<br>Joe Traugott                |
| <b>14:</b> John Elfers   | <b>30:</b> Gary Miller<br>Josh Embrey<br>Tom Termin |

## *Pray It Forward!*

Physical meetings return September 4th at 5:45 pm in Hallowed Grounds.  
Please send all prayer requests & celebrations to  
Cindy Wolfe via email: [maytag9713@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maytag9713@sbcglobal.net) or text: 214-315-9992.  
You can also see Linda Easton or Cindy Wolfe during services.

1 Peter 4:8

*“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”*



# You're Invited!

NEW COVENANT YOUTH AND CHILDREN

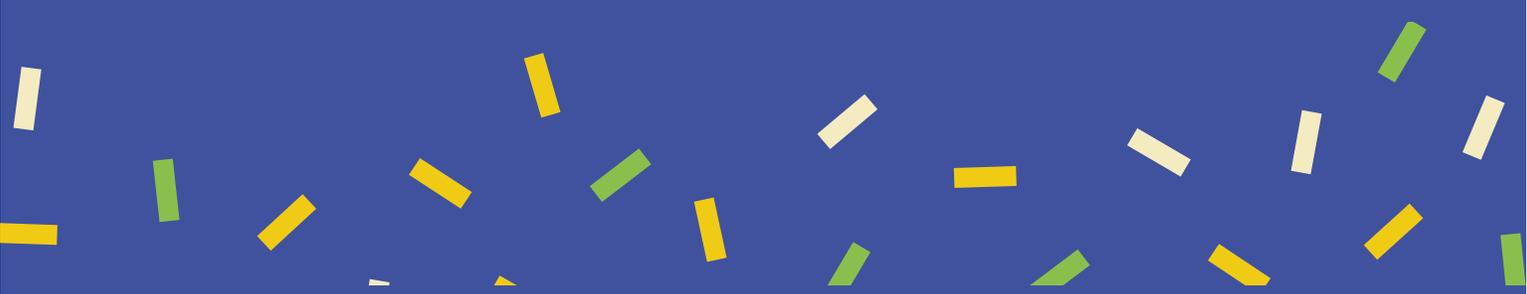
## JAMboree

*Celebrating the kickoff of our fall events*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH**

**12:30 pm - 2:00 pm**

Join us for a picnic style potluck with hot dogs and burgers provided by the NCUMC Youth. We will have indoor and outdoor games immediately following lunch. Please bring a picnic style side to share.



## JAM – Jesus And Me

Laura May

With the start of the new school year, NCUMC youth and children groups are getting a bit of a facelift. Going forward, children and youth will be known as **JAM**. Inspired by the wonderful Kerri Embrey, JAM will allow us to have separately led ventures that are still cohesive in look and feel. Beginning in October, the youth and children of New Covenant can look forward to the following:

### **JAM Choir**

Led by Kerri Embrey  
Open to children and youth of all ages  
Meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

### **JAM Group**

Led by Samantha Saffle  
Open to youth 6th grade and up  
Meets the 4th Sunday of each month from 3:30pm - 5:30 pm

### **JAM Missions**

Led by Laura May  
Open to children and youth of all ages  
Meets the 4th Sunday of each month from 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

### **Parents Night Out**

Pizza, movie and a craft  
Led by Laura May  
Open to children and youth of all ages  
Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Kids are invited to participate in some or all of the activities. For ease of scheduling, regular meetings of all three groups will be held consecutively on the 4th Sunday of the month with lunch provided. We hope that by stacking all of the activities into one fun-filled Sunday we will allow our youth to participate in these activities as well as their other commitments.

In addition to new group names, we have new faces in youth and children Sunday school! Dan Rogers will be leading the new High School Sunday School Class which will now meet downstairs. Kathy Rogers has done a wonderful job over the past month as the Children's Church Leader. Children's Church meets during the sermon portion of late service and is open to kids through 2nd grade.

There are so many exciting activities planned and we need your help! JAM activities are only possible with adult volunteers. We need at least two adults at each activity in order to be in compliance with Ministry Safe policies. If you are able to volunteer to help with any of the above activities please let the leader know. We are also looking for groups who would like to sponsor lunch for the kids on the 4th Sunday of each month. Interested parties can contact me.

## Pumpkin Patch Time!!

Debbie Willis

I cannot believe that it's almost OCTOBER! The NCUMC Pumpkin Patch has become our largest fundraiser over the past few years, contributing a little over \$5,000 to the life of the church, each year. Past funds have been used to support the Missions and Ministries of the church such as:

### Missions

Austin Street

Ewing House

Project Transformation

Sharing Life

### Ministries

Youth

Children

Music

Worship

And the list goes on and on!

It's exciting to be allowed to lead this annual event. I am blessed to have a large number of volunteers step up to help plan each of the activities and events – and we would not be the patch that we are if it were not for Linda and Gary Dunn and their creative visions.

Each year, we have been able to add a little bit more activity and excitement. In addition to the pumpkin sales this year, we expect to bring you the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual chili cook-off to benefit the Youth and Children, a couple of pet adoption events, the annual Fall Festival, and new this year, a CRAFT FAIR! I hope to also bring back our pumpkin centerpiece crafting and build on that theme with some other demonstrations / crafting events. More to come on that.

Since we are now in our 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, we have numerous return customers that have built this into an annual tradition to come take their fall pictures and buy their pumpkins.

I look forward to each of you spending a few hours with us, visiting with the community and selling them a pumpkin.

### **Calendar highlights:**

Sunday, October 6 – Pumpkin delivery (tentative, of course)

Saturday, October 12 – Chili Cook-off – bring your best recipe (also bake sale and silent auction)

Saturday, October 19 – Texas Paw Prints – cat and kitten rescue organization

Sunday, October 20 – Fall Festival

Saturday, October 26 – Craft Fair

Sunday, October 27 – Blessing of the Little Pumpkins (kids wear their costumes and receive a blessing before going out to Trick or Treat.)

\*\*\* As you take pictures at our patch this year and place them on social media, please use the hashtag **#NCUMCPP** \*\*\*



## Breaking Down SCRIP

Debbie Willis

It's SCRIP Sunday!!

Some of you know what that means, others have no clue. If you don't know, I'm excited to explain it. If you do know, but aren't taking advantage of the opportunity, now is the time to join in!

### What is Scrip?

Scrip is fundraising while you shop. You buy gift cards for over 750 retailer brands you already shop at and earn a rebate on every gift card you purchase at face value. That rebate goes right to our organization.

### How it Works

We run our scrip program through ShopWithScrip.com, who has worked with over 48,000 nonprofit organizations over the course of 23 years.

For example –

Walmart offers us a 2.5% rebate. When you buy a \$100 Walmart card – **YOU PAY \$100 (and receive a card for the full face value of \$100)** – the church buys the card from the gift card supplier at a discounted cost of \$97.50, keeping the additional \$2.50.

Chili's offers us an 11% rebate. When you buy a \$25 Chili's card – **YOU PAY \$25 (and receive a card for the full face value of \$25)** – the church buys the card for the discounted price of \$22.25 from the supplier, and keeps the other \$2.75.

Looking at the examples above, the first thought is, well, that's nuts to buy Walmart for a measly 2.5% rebate when we can get so much more, percentage-wise, from Chili's. However, when you think about it, we spend a lot more time buying from Walmart than from Chili's. Both have their place in the ordering system, but it takes them and the other 200+ local retailers to earn true "bank" for our church.

### So ... that's the basics ... now for the numbers.

We have been members of this program for 11 years. Our average **EARNINGS** per year are approximately **\$1,500.**

Circling back to the Walmart example above – over the life of the program, our members have ordered a total of 2,156 WALMART cards!! Earning a total of \$3,261 just by shopping at Walmart. Truly amazing!

*Top 10 lifetime earners for New Covenant:*

<u>Retailer</u>	<u>Current Rebate %</u>	<u># of cards</u>	<u>Total funds raised</u>
Walmart/Sam's Club	2.5 %	2,156	\$3,261.36
Chili's	11.0 %	410	\$977.25
AMC Theaters/Loews Cineplex	8.0 %	332	\$698.25
Safeway/Tom Thumb/Albertsons	4.0 %	399	\$667.50
PetSmart	5.0 %	494	\$588.00
Amazon.com	2.25 %	964	\$536.28
Bed Bath & Beyond	7.0 %	199	\$377.25
Red Lobster/Olive Garden	8.0 %	146	\$328.50
Starbucks	7.0 %	251	\$306.90
Texas Roadhouse	8.0 %	114	\$228.00

Orders are placed the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, with deliveries the next Sunday.  
When you are ready to start helping us grow our emergency fund, see Debbie Willis.  
Call or text 972-742-9205 or email [dwillis1700@gmail.com](mailto:dwillis1700@gmail.com)

## One Church Photo Directory, Coming Right Up

Jim Handy

I have posed for 4 or 5 picture directories at New Covenant. Each photo has been noticeably different from any of the others. With a family of four – not counting pets – things tend to change, especially after about five years. The pictures started out displaying myself, my wife, our toddler and our 6-year-old. My last directory photo was of me and my dog Sophie. (Oh yes, pets are most welcome)

Most of you know that our next session for directory photos will be in a few weeks – Sept. 20 & 21. It will take place in the church and should take about 20 minutes of your time. You are encouraged to bring your whole family and friends with you for the pictures. And in case you don't know, it is FREE. Plus you get a free directory and an 8/10 of your favorite photo.

Lots of people have not yet signed up for a photo session. If you have a favorite time for your appointment, you should immediately get on our NC webpage or hit the Sunday table in the coffee area. Many of the time slots are filled for those two days, but there are more than enough left for the rest of us.

My only problem is that I haven't decided whether or not I want to bring Sophie along for this one. Like me, she's seven years older and fatter since the last directory.

If you ever watched the TV show, Bob Cummings, as a kid, you'll remember his quote that always opened the show. Standing behind his 1950s professional photographer camera, he would look at you and say:

*“Hold it! I think you're going to like this picture.”*

## Hello again from the Phone Ministry Group!

John Elfers

*“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up ...” 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

The small group of phone ministry volunteers will be starting another year of phone calls after a summer hiatus. We enjoy being able to stay in touch with everyone and reminding everyone that your congregation is keeping you in their thoughts and prayers in whatever season.

I am writing this to ask for your feedback and assistance on a few items.

First, if anyone would like to volunteer to make calls to members of the congregation, please let me know. At this point, we are reaching everyone in the congregation bimonthly. Second, if you are not receiving calls from the phone ministry group or would prefer receiving calls on a specific phone number, please be sure to contact the church office or me. Likewise, if you would like to opt out of receiving calls for any reason, please contact us. Lastly, if anyone has any feedback or ideas for updating or enhancing this ministry, let me know.

Thanks for supporting this ministry and making it such a blessing for us when we reach you.

## History of Hymns

Sarah Reed

# Awesome God

*“Our God is an awesome God, he reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power and love.  
Our God is an awesome God.”*

This chorus has been one of my favorites and remains one of the most recognizable of Contemporary Christian choruses. I knew that Rich Mullins composed this famous piece of music but I did not know much about his life. In my research, I discovered the following:

Rich Mullins, the author of this praise song, delighted in doing the unexpected. He was raised in a Quaker church that celebrated quietness and waiting upon God in stillness. But when he went to Bible college, he formed a rock band and, later, a touring group called the Ragamuffin Band. He had a zany sense of humor and at the same time a deep appreciation for St. Francis of Assisi. Like St. Francis, Mullins was called to work with the poor, and he spent the last two years of his life on a Navajo Indian reservation in the Southwest.

Once, as he was driving across the country on his way to a youth conference, he began to doze off. Trying to keep himself awake, Mullins began preaching to himself. The sleepier he got, the more exuberant he got in his preaching; by the time he arrived at the conference, he had written “Awesome God”. He didn’t think it was a great song but the students attending the conference loved it, and soon its popularity had spread across the country.

Sadly, he was killed in a tragic car accident in 1997 but his music lives on. His family founded ***The Legacy of a Kid Brother of St. Francis*** to continue his mission to develop programs of art, drama and music camps for Native American youth and provide a traveling music school serving remote areas of the reservations.

As we move through our life, may we always, no matter what, keep the words of Rich Mullins in our hearts. Truly we serve an Awesome God!

## Progress on Audio/Visual Worship Supports

Jeff Browning

Hello New Covenant Friends - this is an update on the audio-visual media used in our Sunday worship services.

1. Thank you for your patience with the sound. The sound has been cutting out in the wireless microphones and other times blowing up with terrible feedback. I have been working with Dale and Cindy on recent Saturdays to make improvements. We are learning as we go. I was excited that this past Sunday was the first time we made it through the entire children's sermon with no issue with the wireless mic. We will continue to try new things to get the sound acceptable. I am reaching out to a sound board expert to help us get past the current issues.
2. Starting immediately, **ONLY** those with training on the sound board will be permitted to make adjustments on the sound board. A single button innocently pressed or a relatively small tweak/adjustment can have negative impacts on the sound for upcoming services.
3. Each Sunday at both services, we will strive to have a sound board trained team member supporting the sound and another person supporting the slides you see on the screen above the altar.
4. If a function/event requires sound / visual media, they will need to contact me to schedule sound / visual media support.
5. I want to thank John Barham for loaning the church his video camera to continue to capture/record the weekly sermons delivered by Pastor Dana. We will continue to put these recordings on Youtube for the foreseeable future. We have started to look at the viability for replacing the camera with a church owned camera.
6. Finally I want to thank the media support team for all their work over the past year - this includes Tori Childers, Lou Gonzales, Mark Mester, Mike Payne, Mike Reed, Keith Willis, Cindy Wolfe and Dale Wolfe.

I welcome any/all feedback/suggestions/prayers for the media and thank you again for your patience.



## Thank You

Jim Handy

My mother (step-mother, technically) died on August 21<sup>st</sup> – three days ago as of this writing. Ninety-two years old. She and I first met in 1971. I was twenty-three and she had recently divorced out of a horrible marriage. My dad met her at a “Parents without Partners” event.

My real mom died after I had just turned 18. And Blanche was nothing like my mom – totally opposite in some qualities. A part of me held that against her for the first couple years. But I eventually noticed that my dad was more stable and calm with her. He no longer had periods of drunken viciousness like I’d regularly seen during my childhood. I never saw he and Blanche even argue.

I grew to know Blanche as a person who worked hard, was smart, had integrity and a great sense of humor, and became my dad’s best friend. My admiration of her grew into love through the years. When Dad died in 2002, she and I became even closer. I came to refer to her as my mom rather than my step-mother. She was also Grandma and, last year, she became Great-Grandma.

I’ll miss her of course, but I know she’s still around, in another, richer, part of God’s world. That helps soothe the pain of the hole in my heart. I’m most grateful to God for putting her in my life – in my family’s life.

I’m also grateful to Him for all my friends at New Covenant who have reached out to comfort me. You are the sisters and brothers of my other family. Thank you for your compassion. It’s always there, and it’s a true blessing.

## NCUMC Polos

Cindy Wolfe

We have worn our "GO GOD" shirts for many years and it has served us well. We have a new vision statement: "Sharing God Through Love and Service" and it is time to update our look.

Now through Sep. 15th, we are taking orders for a purple performance polo with our vision statement on the chest. These shirts will help identify us as a family of faith at all of our church events (think Pumpkin Patch) and when we are moving in and around our community. The cost of the shirt is \$20 with additional costs for larger sizes; see the order form.

Order forms are available on the table in the Narthex, on the Mission's Board, and in each Sunday School classroom. Complete your order form and submit with your check or cash (in an envelope), marking them with a notation for Polo Shirts. You may submit your order form through the collection plate during worship or to the church office or to me.

If you have questions about sizing, please ask. If you do not see a size on the form, please ask. I was limited to space and there are a few more sizes available that are not listed.

Scholarships are available for shirts. See me for more information.

**(Please note: the picture does not depict the color scheme very well. The right side of the heart is a lime green, with the left a bright gold.)**



## Hospitality Update

Audrey Payne

Hospitality: the friendly and gracious reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers....

In Biblical times acts of hospitality were an integral part of life especially in the reception of strangers and travelers. To share food with others was to share life and therefore created a bond of fellowship, unity, and intimacy.

New Covenant is a house of hospitality. We graciously receive visitors and invite them to become a part of our faith community.

Part of having a hospitable home is having pleasing and inviting surroundings. Recently, Laura May and Karen Crownover set out to make the interior of New Covenant not only look more welcoming but also be more functional for all who use our facilities. One area identified for a makeover was our kitchen. Years of haphazard use has made the kitchen a difficult place in which to function, and I hope you now see the improvement made in this area. There are a few finishing touches to be made, but it is a much more organized and welcoming space. Since the kitchen is a self-serve space, guidelines are being prepared so that it can be maintained more efficiently.

I am always looking for interested people to help with ideas for future church gatherings and to help with refreshments for the Hallowed Grounds Coffee nook.

I'm looking forward to a busy, and hospitality driven autumn and winter at NCUMC!

*Are you under 40?*  
*Looking for a FRESH way to worship?*

Well do we have something just for you!!

# Fresh Start

In Fresh Start, you will find a way closer to God than you ever thought possible. You will be able to speak and think about the scripture in a completely different, re-imagined way!

Come check it out every Sunday, starting September 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Childcare will be provided.

## 18 Years of Prayer

Cindy Wolfe

**Luke 13:10-17** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>10</sup> On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, <sup>11</sup> and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." <sup>13</sup> Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

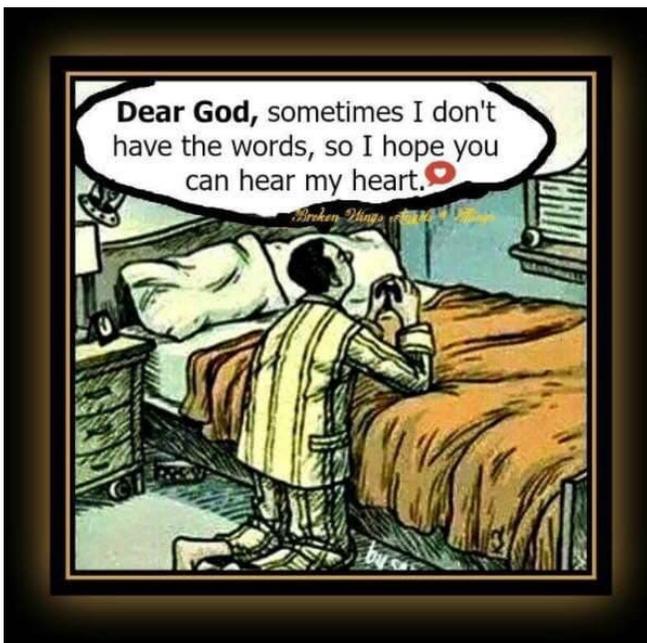
Pastor Dana spoke on this scripture and instead of focusing on the synagogue leaders' reaction, she focused on the woman's condition and what may have happened after she was healed. But she said something that made me think, paraphrasing of course, "she prayed for eighteen years; how long would you pray for something?"

To be truthful, I don't know if what I heard was the message she was intending to invoke, but I know that no matter, the Holy Spirit whispered in my ear. Many of us pray daily, weekly, monthly for ourselves and others. As the *Pray It Forward* (PIF) team leader, I help ensure that prayer needs are given to the faithful PIF members. I help facilitate the list of prayers for the bulletin each week. How long would we pray for something? I mean, we have a rotating list of "Current" and "Continued" prayers. How long should a request be on each list? How long do we give God to "fix" our problem?

Eighteen years the woman in the story was afflicted. Did she pray continually for 18 years? Did she have seasons of hope and then some of despair? Certainly, she struggled with her faith and hope while suffering, waiting on God to "fix" her. Or maybe she spoke with God daily and trusted that she was exactly where she needed to be in her condition.

If I am honest, I am afraid that in this woman's shoes, I may have given up on my prayers and God.

<sup>13</sup> Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.



But the message to me is God did not give up on the woman. He sent Jesus, in the flesh to show love and compassion. He healed her in a time and place that no one would believe.

God loves us and hears the prayers of our heart. If you are suffering, grieving, sick, going through hard times, don't panic, don't give up, look up at the sky and praise God!

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** *New International Version (NIV)*  
<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

happy fall Y' ALL



## Vegetarian Lentil Spaghetti

Sauté over medium heat, ½ each, Onion, Green/Red Pepper, and Celery) and 1 tsp. chopped garlic in 2 Tbs. olive oil until onions caramelize.

Blend in food processor one 14½ oz. can Del Monte stewed tomatoes (Italian Recipe) until tomatoes are diced into smaller pieces. (Do not over process tomatoes.) Add tomatoes to sautéed onion mixture. Stir in any additional Italian seasons you may wish in order to satisfy your taste. Add ground black pepper and a few slugs of Tabasco sauce to taste. As required, add as much sugar as might be needed to cut the acid “kick” of the tomatoes. Add ½ cube Knorr chicken bouillon. Bring to simmer.

To this mixture add ¼ - ½ Cup washed, dry lentils. The quantity used will depend on your personal desires. Simmer over lowest heat for 45 minutes or until lentils are tender. Add salt to taste only after you have added the bouillon and sauce has cooked for awhile. Thicken, as desired, with prepared corn starch. Serve over favorite prepared pasta.

### Corn Starch Preparation:

1 cup water  
¼ cup corn starch.

Bring to boil, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and turns clear. As the last step and to thicken the tomato sauce, spoon desired amount of corn starch mixture into sauce and stir well until glob is completely dissolved.