

COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
 (Disciples of Christ)  
 2700 72nd Street  
 Urbandale, IA 50322

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 Permit 1586

ADDRESS SERVICE  
 REQUESTED

**Visitors**  
 Glenda Hughes  
 Chase Ballard  
 Rebecca Marion  
 Jacie Blunt  
 Diane Lair  
 Amy Morrell  
 Sam Heuss  
 Ray & Jo Burnett  
 Deanna Young

**Financial Notes**  
 Sept. 8, 2013  
 Total Deposit \$2,164.00  
 Sept. 1, 2013  
 Total Deposit \$5,147.00  
 Aug. 25, 2013  
 Total Deposit \$1,121.50

**Attendance**  
 Sunday, Sept. 1      Worship 49  
 Sunday, Sept. 8      Worship 51  
 Sunday, Sept. 15     Worship 53  
 Sunday, Sept. 22     Worship 45

**How to Reach Us**  
 Church Phone 515-276-3781  
 FAX 515-253-0174  
 pwtimer@covenant-christian.org  
 blundy@covenant-christian.org  
 church@covenant-christian.org  
 www.covenant-christian.org

**www.uppermidwestcc.org**  
 Christian Church in the Upper Midwest  
**www.disciples.org**

**The next newsletter will be mailed on  
 Wednesday, October 16. Articles to be  
 submitted by Monday, October 14.**

# the COMPASS

## Covenant to a team . . . volunteer to a task.

Producing a new set of By-Laws with a streamlined (and hopefully) revitalized church structure has been a long, evolving process. It has been frustrating at times and telling at others. Over all, it has been a faithful process of discernment for a congregation wrestling with what it means to be church in these changing and challenging times.

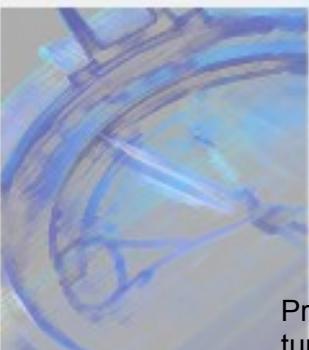
I'll remind you that through it all, we have always sought to be true to our roots. That has always been a two-fold proposition: **1)** true to our Christian roots and seeking a structure that reflects a New Testament community of Disciples of Christ and **2)** true to the roots that are unique to Covenant Christian church.

It's to the second of these that I now turn with fresh eyes and new clarity with a repeating mantra: **"Covenant to a Team. Volunteer to a Task."** The most challenging piece of our restructuring seems to be where the rubber hits the road and stuff actually gets done around here. It has meant several mutations of the "serving schedule" and the process of enlisting help and service. At the same time, enlisting folks to serve on teams has also been a source of ongoing effort.

With this one-liner, we have a piece of distilled wisdom from a year's worth of struggle and learning. With a careful eye to our own history of inviting participants to make a personal covenant as a sign of their commitment to the church, we invite all to "Covenant to a Team." With strong functioning teams focusing on ministries of growing in love of God and deepening connections, we will be able to implement the vision of a caring community of faith. Then the work of finding people to "Volunteer to a Task" begins to move forward with the support of these teams and some administrative attention from team leaders and staff.

October will be a time of Stewardship emphasis that will continue to explore ways for each

of us to **"Covenant to a Team and Volunteer to a task."**



Volume 5 Issue 9  
 September 25, 2013

covenant  
 christian  
 church  
 sunday  
 worship  
 10:00 a.m.



2700 72nd  
 street  
 urbandale, iowa  
 50322

church phone  
 276-3781  
 www.covenant-  
 christian.org

We are spiritual seekers working to grow in our love of God,  
 deepening our connection to each other and  
 sharing with the world our passion for justice and peace.

journey in . . . deepening our connections.

**At a Glance: Fall Timeline**

There are several important events this Fall that impact the life of the congregation and our ministry together. Here's a quick reference to the events and a brief description:

- **September 29** *By-laws review after worship*  
 A Question and Answer session to review the proposed by-laws.
- **October 6** *By-laws review before worship*  
 A second opportunity to meet with board members to review the by-laws. (8:45 a.m.)
- **October 6** *Congregational Meeting*  
 A brief congregational meeting to approve the proposed by-laws. (after worship)
- **October 6-November 10**  
*Stewardship Campaign*: An emphasis on stewardship and the opportunity to covenant to a team and pledge to support the ministry of Covenant.
- **November 3** *Ministry Action Plan*  
 Regional Staff person Julie Gibson will be with us in worship on November 3 to help lead a process of discerning mutual expectations for ministry among pastor and people of Covenant.

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Jayde Hildebrand  
 Shirlee Holmes  
 Donna Wilcox  
 Jo Sohn  
 Karen Hart

**Notes & News**

- Congratulations to **Gale** and **Shirlee Holmes** celebrating milestone birthdays in October!
- Congratulations to **Gwen Graham** celebrating a milestone birthday "down under."
- Bring your pets (or stuffed animals) for the first ever Pet Blessing service on **October 6 at 2:00 p.m.** on the Covenant lawn. We'll be joined by critters from Urbandale UCC.
- Also new to Covenant is an exciting outreach adventure: **Trunk or Treat! October 27, 4:30-6:30 p.m.** We'll want you to be there with a trunk of candy or other goodies to hand out to our children, the children of Urbandale UCC and any other children who want to show up! The time will include games, face-painting and a simple meal.

deepening our connections . . .

**SPLASH** will continue to meet on the first two Wednesdays of each month. (October 2 and October 9) A meal is provided at 6:00 p.m. followed by fellowship and outreach activities for children.

**DIVE DEEP** is now offered for all adults and especially the parents of SPLASH kids. Following the meal, this adult group shares time in fellowship and faith sharing.

**FIRST FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP** will meet October 4 at 6:30 p.m. We've recently added a third fellowship group for families so that families with children can participate in this opportunity to deepen connections. If you are interested, please RSVP to one of the host families:

Paul Witmer and Lynn Heuss (FF for Families), Karen Vroman and Don Hiscox, Doug and Barb Minear.

**Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting  
 September 29, 7:00 p.m.**

The Pastoral Relations Committee is a group of members that liaison between the congregation and the minister. Some of the committee responsibilities include strengthening the relationship between the minister and the congregation, channeling the changing/evolving expectations between the minister and the congregation, assisting with the minister's annual contract and recommendations to the board for annual budgets, helping the minister reflect on annual continuing education and assisting with the recruitment of person(s) into the ministry.

This year's committee is comprised of Carolyn Ratashak, Erin Hiscox, Jerry Warwick and Dana Schock.

We would invite you to share with any of the committee members praise, concerns or questions. Please see or call Carolyn, Erin, Jerry or Dana before Sunday, September 29.

Dear Covenant Family,

Thank you for the \$500 scholarship. This will help me as I am putting the money toward an honors program at Gallaudet University to travel to Costa Rica to help deaf children with communication skills. I appreciate all of your support and prayers.

John Isaacson

journey out . . . sharing with the world our passion.



**Reconciliation Ministry Offering Helps . . .**

. . . to provide training and programs to broaden our awareness, help heal the brokenness in our racial interaction, to develop redeeming relationships, and. . . ultimately transform communities. . .

In 2013, our Church gave \$235. We plan to collect our offerings for this special **Reconciliation Offering** on **Sundays: September 29 and October 6**, to experience the *Joy of Giving*.

**October**



**BIRTHDAYS**

Derek Nash	10/2	Don Cavanaugh	10/3
Corby Roberts	10/3	Dale Schnoor	10/5
Ethan Roberts	10/5	Paul Cartwright	10/9
Max Pauley	10/11	Joe Nash	10/12
Deanna Hart	10/13	Howard Sohn	10/13
Gwen Graham	10/15	Gale Holmes	10/16
Shirlee Holmes	10/18	Anne Twombly	10/21
John Isaacson	10/26	Julie McClatchey	10/31