

2011

MINISTRY AND MISSION

OF

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2011
CARING COMMITTEE

Members: Susie Walker, Betty Cameron, Betty Stephens, MayDel Redeker, Suzanne Buchanan and Joanne Fowler

Meetings are held as needed on Committee Night

The major purpose of this committee is to care for the congregational members who are homebound, ill or experiencing a life-changing event.

On-going Ministries

Homebound communion: Served once each quarter to homebound members who choose to receive it.

Meals to families: Meals are primarily organized in the event of a death, birth, or major illness. We served 4 meals (120 people), 4 receptions (455 people) at 9 funerals. We took 17 meals to 4 members following lengthy hospitalizations.

Telephone Assurance Program: Four members are receiving phone calls daily to check on their well-being. We accept volunteers to make these calls and members who would like this check-in phone call.

Flowers to Homebound: Delivered at Easter and Christmas.

Prayer Chain: Prayer support for people in crisis.

Card Ministry: Support for illness or life changing event. Cards are also sent to church visitors.

Tape Ministry: Audio tapes of the weekly worship service are available to homebound members.

Renaissance Ministry: Meets quarterly providing a program at lunch time.

Our goal for 2012 is to offer church members a way to have emergency contact info put into their cell phone or thumb drive which can assist first responders in knowing medications, allergies and contact numbers of family/friends who should be contacted in case of emergency situations. This is the ICE program.

ANNUAL REPORT 2011
EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

The Education Ministry team added another two sub-committees this year. The Joy Class Council and Preschool board were added. It now consists of – Adult Ed. Committee, Youth Council, Children’s Committee, Library Team, Joy Class Council, and Preschool Board. Each group has met as needed to vision and carry out the ministries for those areas of the church.

ADULT EDUCATION

The Adult Education sub-committee met to plan Sunday morning class offerings as well as Small group bible study offerings.

Serendipity continued to follow a Scripture-based program with various topics offered throughout the year.

The *Exploring Christianity* program continued to attract a range of people. In January the *Nooma* video series by Rob Bell was offered and led by different people each week. Next *Presbyterian Theology* was led by Andy Morales. Don Gordon led *How to Measure your Life* during Lent. In May Richard Davis led the discussion on *5 Practices of a Fruitful Congregation*. During the summer an Intergenerational study, *Servant or Sucker*, was offered. In the Fall Susan McGinn led the class in a book discussion over *Love Wins* by Rob Bell. Then Andy Morales led a class on “*The Bible*”. Neill Morgan led a book discussion in November over *The Misunderstood Jew*. And during Advent Linnea Williams led a lectionary study using the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum.

Small Group Study – Disciple Bible IV finished in the spring. In the Fall Disciple Bible Study was given a rest. Two lectionary small groups were started in the Fall using the *Feasting on the Word* study. Also Neill Morgan led *The Bible is My Crazy Uncle* study he created again January – May and then again in the Fall. The Wednesday Morning Study continues each week as well as the Men’s Breakfast group.

JOY CLASS COUNCIL

This council was established in the summer right after long time teacher and founder of the Joy Class, Doris Clark, moved. This class continues to reach adults with developmental disabilities. They meet in the Library each week to study scripture, pray, and learn together. Teachers Vivian Burgoon, Sherri Davidson, and Terri Reese stepped up and take turns leading each week. This is a very supportive community, and the council worked on transportation and communication issues. The council spent time planning fellowship opportunities for class members for the Fall.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Council is made up of youth, parents, youth directors, DCE, and congregation members at large. They plan for the week to week youth ministry activities of our youth group as well as Sunday school teachers for Junior and senior high classes, confirmation mentors, Youth Sunday, and all the camps and conferences that the youth attend throughout the year, as well as WOW. They strive to provide a balance of fellowship, service, study, and worship each month during youth activities. The Youth Council spent time this year developing better ways to communicate with youth and their parents.

J Tucker served as our Youth Director until May then he studied abroad for a semester. In his absence, Jennie Nichols, Assistant Youth Director assumed both positions for the Fall semester. J returns as the Youth Director in January 2012. They meet weekly with the DCE to plan the week to week specifics of the Youth Council vision. They provide a very strong leadership team for this church and its youth.

Camps, Conferences, and Retreats: The Jr. High youth attended fall and spring Youthquakes as well as Jr. High Jubilee at MoRanch in the summer. The Sr. High attended SHYC (Sr. High Youth Connection) in January as well as Synod Youth Workshop in the summer. In the fall we held our fourth annual Confirmation Retreat with an emphasis on group building activities.

STARS: (Students Taking Action Regarding Spirituality) is leadership training offered by Grace Presbytery Youth Ministry Council. We had 3 youth in the STARS program in the spring. In the fall we had 1 more student start their training. They continue on after training leading youth and children's events across our presbytery as well as serving as youth leaders in our own congregation.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday school: We are in our eleventh year of Workshop Rotation model of Sunday school. We are using the Rotational Workshop curriculum through our denomination. We have a group of very dedicated teachers. Our Director of Music, Amye Derix continues to lead the music workshop one week every other month.

What's on Wednesdays (WOW): Continued as normal in the spring. In the Fall it got a face lift and is now called WOW – MISSION IN ACTION. It runs for six weeks each semester with the emphasis being on a different mission project for children and youth to participate in each week. There continues to be a time for homework, play, snack, scripture study & worship as well. Dinner is offered after the program ends and is open to families to attend.

Vacation Bible School (VBS): A successful VBS under the direction of Kelly Reed, with the help and support of lots and lots of volunteers. Our VBS program is a wonderful success because of all the volunteers! Over 90 children in attendance over the course of the week ages 4 years – 5th grade!

Camp: We sent a group to Kidquake this spring and also some children to Grace Presbytery's summer camps.

Monthly Family Events: New this year, the committee is planning an event each month. This includes such things as Parent's Night Out and Easter Egg Hunt that have been offered in the past. New events such as Game Nights, Movie Nights, etc. are also being planned.

PRESCHOOL BOARD

The Session voted in the Spring to make the Preschool a part of the Church again, instead of a separate entity. The Board met often at the time of the vote to make sure that all financial and insurance matters were taken care of correctly. The preschool continues to be blessed with an excellent teaching staff and assistants.

BRIGHTMAN-CRAIG LIBRARY REPORT

Members of the Committee: Dawn Cantrell, Jean Chambers, Lee Main, and Ann Williams

Meeting times: Usually Wednesday mornings, sometimes staying through the afternoon. Occasionally, worked additional days during the week.

The Library Committee always tries to keep the library looking neat and inviting to people. The committee members worked hard this year to process new books, create a card catalog, and keep a display table up to date. We are blessed with the dedication and care these ladies put into our church library.

ANNUAL REPORT 2011
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

In the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus tells the gathered disciples, ***“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”***

This year, we focused on the *“Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations”* - Radical Hospitality; Passionate Worship; Intentional Faith Development; Risk-taking Mission and Service; and Extravagant Generosity. A Sunday School class was taught in conjunction with a sermon series given by Rev. Neill S. Morgan, and a rededication of pledges, time and talent was requested at the end of the series.

On November 18th, Stewardship hosted a “We Give Thanks” luncheon focusing on the issues of “How has Covenant Presbyterian Church touched your life?” and “How have the programs, people, facility affected our community?” The luncheon was very successful with approximately 125 in attendance, and more than 20 speakers giving thanks for the many ways Covenant Presbyterian Church has affected lives in 2011.

We thank you for support of our church and its mission, and have been so grateful to be witnesses to the grace and power of Jesus Christ among us, in our community, and throughout the world. Serving on the committee were Nickie Harrison, Kathy Manning, Amy Bell and Donna Collum.

Blessings,
Kathy Manning
Co-Chairperson, Stewardship Committee

Evangelism and Communication 2011 Annual Report

It's been quite a year for Evangelism and Communication! In 2011, we embarked upon the major endeavor of developing a new website. To go along with that, we started the task of designing a new logo for the church. The website should be ready to go live very soon, with many thanks to Bert Garcia, Linnea Williams and Kathy Manning for handling the lion's share of input and direction. Also, thanks go to Neill and Bert again for meeting with the logo designer and spearheading the process.

Newspaper advertising went off without a hitch as usual, thanks to the efforts of Dawn Cantrell. We even got some free publicity for the Christmas Eve Service from the Herald Democrat when they spotlighted the service on the TV directory! Also laboring behind the scenes are Ron Roberts and Walter Brice, who keep the Kairos updated and informative, often by cajoling the rest of us! Thanks to them as well.

I will be stepping down as chair, but will remain on the committee. I really enjoy changing the sign and welcome any input for ideas. I remain gratefully indebted to the many fine people who helped keep things running during my tenure!

Terri Chapin

Finance Committee
2011 Annual Report

Bagging the money after the offering on Sunday, taking it to the bank, picking it up from the bank (after signing for it), counting the money with the Financial Secretary and then making the bank deposit are all tasks performed weekly by the Finance Committee. Checks are signed, financial reports are analyzed and a number of other duties are completed by this committee. The Finance Committee meets regularly on Committee night. We planned the Senior trip to see "West Side Story".

The final financial reports for 2011 have not been completed at this time. While we are unable to quote exact numbers, we are able to give you some facts. For 2011 the Session passed a 45,518.19 deficit budget. They were willing, if necessary, to use the surplus from 2009 of 7,511, the surplus from 2010 of 12,770, and to take 25,237.19 from reserves. We estimate that our income is approximately 27,000 more than budgeted income, our expenses are 7,500 less than budget. We shall have exact figures by January 12.

Serving on this committee were Betty Bledsoe, Sarah Hagberg, Howard Haun, Lyn Jostes, Mary Lynne Jones, Jerry McGowen, Jacque Mehaffey, Ray Stephens, Art Stoolfire, Barbara Vogelsang, Dorothy Wells, and Bobbye Wynne-Stoolfire. Non-voting members include Nickie Harrison, treasurer, and Neill Morgan, pastor.

Mary Lynne Jones
Jerry McGowen
Co-Chairpersons

PROPERTY COMMITTEE
2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Members: Ogden Baur & Chuck Vaughn co-chairs, Bill Johnson, Cam Gillespie, John Denton, Cameron Stephens, Jerry Chapman, and Pete Reese

Meetings were held on an as needed basis with other communication through emails and phone calls.

The purpose of the committee is the maintenance, upkeep and repair of the physical property of the church.

Assure church is in good condition for all functions and ministries.

Projects for this year included obtaining contracts with new pest control provider and landscape and irrigation provider at costs below budgeted amount. An ongoing project is to update and improve the air conditioning heating system. An engineer, Scott Stevens, has been retained to study our system and make recommendations and if appropriate provide guidance with bid specs.

Committee members with the assistance of other church members lock and unlock the church on Sundays.

Chuck Vaughn
Co-chair Property Committee

WORSHIP COMMITTEE
2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Members: Colleen White and Lana Caswell-García, Session Members; Nancy Morgan, H.S. (Bert) García; Bob Robertson; Joyce McGowen, John and Barbara Denton, Elise Stumpff, Kathy Roberts; Dr. Clyde Hall; Tom Fowler

Staff Members Participating in Meetings: Rev. Neill S. Morgan; Marti Kaufmann; Janet Chester; Jamie Stephens

Meetings: The committee met on a monthly basis as needed. This year meetings were held in March, May, August, and November.

Purpose: The Worship Committee exists to facilitate the congregation's worship services. Goals this year included preparing the sanctuary for worship, overseeing the preparation of the bulletin, supplying greeters, ushers, lay readers and sound system operators, preparing and serving communion, and assisting the church staff in any way needed. As worship is one of the foremost purposes of the church as a body, this committee is integral to fulfilling the church's mission statement.

On-going Ministry: The work of the Worship Committee is on-going throughout the year, and although exact numbers are not available, it seems likely that well over 150 people participated in the work of the committee by serving as greeters, ushers, communion servers, lay readers, and sound system operators, helping decorate the sanctuary for the various liturgical seasons, preparing and serving communion, and facilitating worship in any number of other ways.

Special Events: Committee member Bob Robertson wrote a revised Information Guide for Ushers and a set of instructions for the operation of the Russell Jordan Memorial Bell. The Worship Committee worked with representatives of Austin College and of Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church to coordinate the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service at Wynne Chapel.

Respectfully Submitted

Lana Caswell-García

Committee Co-chair

**MISSION COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

Denominational Offerings One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, and Joy Offerings were collected this year.

Mission Budget was able to support ministry at a global, national, presbytery (regional), and local level with money going to our denomination, presbytery, and local agencies. Support for seminary students was also given from this budget.

Special Projects – The School House Project (led by the Stewardship committee this year), Alternative Gift Market, Angel Tree & and The Littlest Angel projects were all very successful ministry projects this year.

Monthly Mission – In January homebound members of the congregation were visited and brought care packages assembled. In February trash was picked up around the church. In November a very successful Thanksgiving meal for Four Rivers Outreach was held. In December our committee assisted Fellowship & Caring in hosting Christmas Caroling to church members.

The Mission Committee did not meet much of the year. In the late fall it started meeting again and making plans for a more active 2012.

2011 Annual Music Report

Psalm 108: 1-3

“My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul. Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.”

The Lord continues to bless the music ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church. Over the past year, we have enjoyed the return of handbells, which offer musical selections several times a year during our Sunday morning service. Dr. Lisa Thomas agreed to lead that group in addition to serving as church organist. Amye Derix continues as the Director of Music Ministry/Chancel Choir Director, and over the past few years, we have welcomed new singers into the choir, most recently Susan McGinn. We are also always happy to have college students return during their breaks, and this year Suzannah Morgan shared her musical gifts with us by singing a solo during the Christmas Day service. Summer is always a little different as far as music goes. The choir takes a break from rehearsing in the summer months, but comes early Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. in June and July to practice music for the service. In August, we usually have small groups, solos, or duets instead of the choir anthem. This year, we had several people help out with solos and small groups: Charlie Schweizer, Brawley Marze, Alan White, Sarah Stevens, Darlene Schweizer, Julie Crannell, and Amye Derix. Also, the organist takes a hiatus for about 6 weeks in the summer. Thankfully, Elizabeth Anne Jones stepped up to fill in as our summer organist. We really appreciate the gifts of all of the musicians that offer their talents for the glory of God here at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The handbells rehearse at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday nights, upstairs behind the balcony, and you may contact Dr. Lisa Thomas at the church office for more information about that program. The chancel choir is currently meeting at 7:00 p.m. also on Wednesday nights in the choir room behind the sanctuary. If you are interested in learning more about or joining the choir, please contact Amye Derix at the church office.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the music ministry of this church. I am truly blessed to be here.

Amye Derix