



Covenant Church of Easton

The Salt Shaker

Beginning!

It's a word we rediscover this time each year – “**beginning**.” For the most part it's a word of change, of progress, of delight. A birth marks the **beginning** of a new life. A groundbreaking marks the **beginning** of a build. A wedding marks the **beginning** of a forever relationship. And so on . . .

“**Beginning**” is found 95 times in the Bible. Consider 9 of those times as we “**begin**” a new year.

1. **Genesis 1:1** (Today's NIV) – *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
2. **Proverbs 1:7** (Today's NIV) – *The fear of the LORD is the **beginning** of knowledge . . .*

Everything began with God, and all good things are the work of His hands – including us! THANK YOU, LORD!

3. **Proverbs 9:10** (Today's NIV) – *The fear of the LORD is the **beginning** of wisdom . . .*
4. **Mark 1:1** (Today's NIV) – *The **beginning** of the good news about Jesus the Messiah.*

Solomon was a wise observer of life. Not only did all good things begin with God, all knowledge and wisdom in our life and for our lives also begins with God. LORD, MAY WE INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM.

5. **John 1:1** (Today's NIV) – *In the **beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

Jesus has always been – and was in the beginning. The Gospel of Jesus began 2,000 years ago – and it begins today in lives surrendered to Him. HELP US TO SURRENDER TODAY, LORD . . . AND HELP US REACH OTHERS FOR THEIR BEGINNING WITH YOU!

6. **Luke 24:27** (Today's NIV) – *And **beginning** with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

The heartbroken disciples walking to Emmaus had not understood the Scriptures about the Messiah. Jesus revealed to them the ONE message of the Bible – that He would be among them and make all things clear. LORD, HELP US TO LISTEN TO YOU AS WE STUDY THE BIBLE. HELP US FULLY LEARN AND LIVE THE ONE GREAT STORY.

7. **1 John 3:11** (Today's NIV) – *For this is the message you heard from the **beginning**: We should love one another.*

There can be no doubt, the message of the Bible is about love. God's love for us, and because of that, our love for one another. LORD, HELP ME LOVE YOU MORE BY LOVING OTHERS MORE!

8. **Revelation 22:13** (Today's NIV) – *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the **Beginning** and the End.*

When everything is said and done – it is God who began and it is God who will complete. LORD, HELP US TO TRUST WHAT YOU HAVE BEGUN IN US, AND WHAT YOU WILL COMPLETE.

Have a blessed New Year! **Pastor Craig**

Children's Ministry

Last month was fun and exciting with all our Christmas activities, which wouldn't have been possible without all the support from the congregation!

Thank you Freddy Spisto for helping prep the foam wreaths!

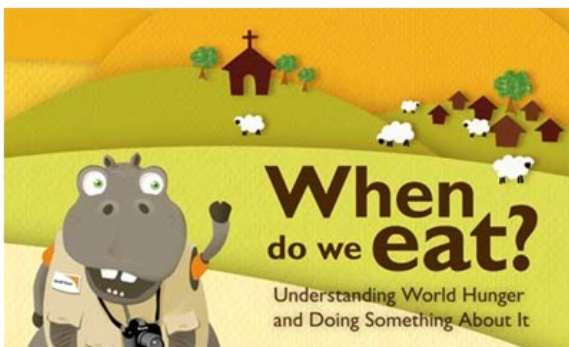
Pictured at right: Spencer Hatfield & Josh Jackson



Pictured left to right: Spencer Hatfield & his gingerbread Nativity; Ashley Austin (Ms. Frizzle) & Billy Kattler help with the FNO skit; & Kindergartners & 1st graders puppet show

Friends' Night Out

When Do We Eat: Understanding World Hunger and Doing Something About It



Starts up Tuesday, January 10th

6:30-7:45 pm

Grades K-5

Trailblazer Retreat

Pilgrim Pines in Swanzey, New Hampshire

January 20-22 for 4th & 5th graders

Cost: \$125

Contact Roseann for more info

www.pilgrimpines.org



Do You Have the Time?

"Time? I have no time. I wish there were more days in the week to accomplish all I have to do". Have you ever thought something similar yourself?

God has given us all the same amount of time in a day and we all choose to use it differently. We've talked about stewardship as giving our time, talents & treasures back to God. Stewardship of our time begins with the care of how we use our time and sharing the gift of time with others. Time is one of the most precious possessions we have. **How we spend our time is perhaps the clearest indication of our progress in our Christian walk.** Time once spent can never be recovered. God gives us each day as a gift to use as good stewards. It means seeing our lives, 24 hours each day, as an opportunity to serve the Lord and to build up His kingdom.

"So,.... Whatever you do, do it all for the Glory of God".
1 Corinthians 10:31

So how do you spend your time each day? First and foremost stewardship of your time should involve spending time with God. Recognizing that every day is a gift from God, you should make it a priority to spend some time each

day with God through prayer, reading your Bible and quiet meditation.

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received"
1 Peter 4:10

How are you using your time for the common good of the body of Christ? Busyness in our lives has become the rule rather than the



exception. Sunday may be the only time your family is able to do things together. Your evenings and weekends full of sports and other activities may make it impossible for you to serve on any ministries. But you still have an important role in the church, a role only you can fill. Christ is the head of the body and He has a plan and purpose for His church just as He has a personal will for your life. As a member of His body what you do or refuse to do as an individual affects the whole

body. Your participation counts! It is God's will for you and your family to give your time and exercise your gifts for the common good of his people.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me"
Matthew 25:40

So now the big question is - How do you spend your time? It's easy to fill our days with work, family, friends, chores and entertainment. If you look at your schedule and decide what is really important, you may find you can give some time to help others - your neighbors, the young, the sick, the elderly, the handicapped, shut-ins and the needy. You can promote social justice - help change society for the better, make the world a better place. You can share the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ!

Be a good steward of your time by using each day wisely, giving of your time generously and becoming a pipeline for God's love.

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.
St. Francis of Assisi

The Stewardship & Finance Ministry

Visitor Parking

Please note that 5 parking spaces directly in front of the church have been designated as "**VISITOR PARKING**". Please leave these spots open for those who are visiting. It's another way to help people know that they matter to us and that they really are WELCOME! Thank You!



A Word from Gary & Pauline Carlson

Missionaries – Shonan Community Church, Japan

Tsunami Relief Work

Gary finished his second semester teaching missiology in September, which meant he was free to head north to help in relief efforts in Iwate prefecture. He went for the first time in October, and again at the end of November.

It was amazing to see the devastation caused by the March 11th tsunami. Visits to temporary housing units were occasions to try to bring some help and hope. You can read more and see pictures from these two trips on our blog: blogs.covchurch.org/carlson/.



Tsunami cleanup continues



Handmade Christmas Wreaths

Shonan Community Church

At the end of October we celebrated one year in our new church building, giving thanks to God for the opportunity to be his witnesses in a new community. We have been thankful for the chance to connect with people through English classes and children's events. It will take time, but we believe we are slowly building relationships with our neighbors. We have seen in previous experiences how God uses this initial time to lay a foundation for later, fruitful witness.

This month of course we are putting on several Christmas events, including a children's program and a concert/candlelight service. Pray with us that people will come and share with us the joy of Jesus' birth!

East Coast Conference News

Jason Condon is our new Associate Superintendent and has been very busy as Director of Church Planting for the East Coast Conference. I would like to ask you to go to these web pages to see how some of these churches are flourishing.

Josh Throneburg

Highrock Brookline, MA
www.highrockbrookline.org/

Kiho Lee

Worship Frontier
Brookline & Lexington, MA
www.worshipfrontier.org/

Frank Catalano

Evergreen Church, Sanford ME
www.evergreenchurch.org/

Monyroor Teng

Sudanese ECC, Manchester NH
www.sudanesechurch.com/

I think you will catch the excitement of these new churches reaching out and growing.

Jason writes, "We're blessed to have incredibly gifted church planters who take calculated risks at significant personal sacrifice to see the Gospel break through in new contexts among unreached people. I can confidently say that each church plant has some level of growth in their reach and impact over this past year. The

struggles and joys are just as present as with any established church, though sometimes felt more intensely in these young congregations."

Jim and I are planning to visit a church plant in Harlem on Sunday, January 15 for the service and then the yearly review. I'll let you know how the visit goes and give you their web site and two other new plants in the New York and New Jersey area in the February edition of the Salt Shaker.

Alma Kearns
Trustee

Treasurer's Report

The Unified Fund financial results for the eleven months ended November 30, 2011 were as follows:

<u>INCOME</u>	
Unified Receipts	\$442,885
Investment & Other Income	<u>2,302</u>
Total Income	\$445,187
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Excess of Expenses over Income	<u>\$(4,971)</u>



Although the Church is still running a deficit, it is more than \$10,000 lower than last month. This improvement is due to higher than budgeted expenses for November. Nevertheless, receipts for the eleven months are still around \$10,000 lower than anticipated. If the Church is to be in a break-even position at the end of the year, receipts must amount to \$53,000 for the month of December. For the first two weeks of the month, receipts amounted to just over \$21,000. Therefore, receipts must average \$16,000 per week for the last two Sundays of the year. In order for this to happen, we all need to review our giving. If it is not up to date, please attempt to become current. If you are up to date, please consider an extra year-end gift. Deficits need to be avoided since the Church has little room to absorb them.

Thank you for considering with the Lord's help how you can continue to share His abundance.

Bob Fiscus
Treasurer

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



1/1	Brittany Morgan Scarlet Mojcher	1/14	Rosann Daniels
1/2	Ethel Thomas ♥Randy & Margo Cobaugh♥	1/15	Andrea Stetson Jim Meyers
1/3	Mark Mojcher Elizabeth Thomas Michelle Valente	1/16	Charlotte Hickey
1/5	Jesse Lent	1/19	Diana Swanson Gabriela Estrada
1/8	Jill Monroe Ashleigh Testa Spencer Hatfield	1/21	Bob Merritt
1/9	Alice Sundman AJ Keegan	1/22	Paul Linder
1/10	Leonard Nelson Julie Royster	1/23	Bruce Cooper Noah Slater
1/12	Fred Chapman Andrew Royster	1/25	Adrian Ambrose Tyler Forstrom
1/13	♥Michael & Lillian Valente♥ Margaret Bjers	1/27	Kyle Anderson
		1/28	Nancy Wilber Roseann Slater Ryan Greer
		1/29	Marco Delfino
		1/31	♥Jim & Alma Kearns♥

Motion of Mercy

The only thing I don't like about being a recording artist in this day and age is you can't do records any more. I remember as a kid how it was so cool to go to the store, usually Sears, and buy a 45 RPM record so I could take it home and play it to death. If the sun accidentally hit the record [for a long period of time] it would warp. It was amazing how warped some records would get and still play.

There is a song that I totally love called "MOTION OF MERCY", and there is actually two versions of it. There is a solo version, which I personally can't stand because it just sounds boring. Then there's a version that has backup vocals, which I'm nuts about. Two days ago they finally released the backup track for it and I hit the ceiling with excitement because to me it's the best song of 2011. So I bought the sheet music as fast as I could, I mean I've been checking daily for the backup track release, so we were talking major excitement here. And the cool thing was, the sheet



music included a harmony part, so I did my version as a duet and with the added backup vocals, WOW! This came out really great! I wish I could put this on a 45 and watch it warp.

We often think of mercy as something personal because it's God forgiving someone personally. But part of why I did it as a duet is because the motion of mercy is kind of a duet because we get called to put mercy into action by going out and helping others. God doesn't just change the way and the why we are just so we can personally have a better life. God changes our hearts so we can go out into the world and make a difference.

Are you tired of how warped the world seems to be? This new year, why not take the mercy that God has given you and put it into motion? Perhaps showing the Son to people that keep repeating the same wrong things might help them to change their tune. That's the motion of mercy.

Snoopi Botten

MOTION OF MERCY

<http://pastorsnoopi.twigs76.com/songs/MOTION%20OF%20MERCY.mp3>



Bib's Corner

As the New Year starts and the old year ends
There's no better time to make amends
For all the things we sincerely regret
And wish in our hearts we could somehow forget.
We all make mistakes, for it's human to err,
But no one need ever give up in despair,
For God gives us all a brand new beginning
A chance to start over and repent of our sinning.
And when God forgives us we too must forgive
And resolve to do better each day that we live
By constantly trying to be like Him more nearly
And to trust in His wisdom and love Him more dearly.
Assured that we're never out of His care
And we're always welcome to seek Him in prayer.

A New Book — A Great Read

I recently received an email from Michael A. Smith about the completion and publication of a book by his late father Dr. Terry A. Smith – former beloved pastor of the Covenant Church of Easton. The title of Dr. Smith's book is *Instructions for the King's Knight*. It includes sermons preached by Terry – many of them at Covenant.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE KING'S KNIGHT is an uplifting collection of sermons written by the Rev. Dr. Terry A. Smith, encompassing lessons about life, death, love, marriage, divorce, forgiveness, and entertainment, to name a few. After his death, his son, Michael A. Smith, found in his father's effects the results of a forty year career spent studying and telling people about the Word of God. If ever a son was left with an instruction book about how God wants us to live, containing all of the wisdom from the life and career of his father, a wise, gentle, brilliant, prolific warrior of the Light, this is it.

This is an e-book and as such must be ordered online through most any one of the e-book retailers. I've personally read it and highly commend it. To order your copy of *Instructions For The King's Knight* online, I recommend that you log onto <http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/95463>

Instructions for The King's Knight



*Rev. Dr. Terry A. Smith
edited by Michael A. Smith*

Pastor Craig



Tuesday DISCIPLESHIP CLASS

We conclude Semester 1 (*THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*) on January 10th and begin Semester 2 (*THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*) on January 17th. Classes are held in the large classroom every Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:15 pm. All are invited and welcome!

Tuesday PRAYER MEETING

Prayer meeting is held every Tuesday at 8:15 pm in the Chapel. Come and pray for one another, for the Pastoral Search committee, for our church families, and for our community. Those who regularly attend often speak about the blessings received as we spend time together in prayer. All are invited and welcome!



CANCER FREE SUNDAY — January 22nd

Have you noticed how long our “prayer concerns” list has become? Have you noticed how many people are dealing with cancer – in their life or the life of a family member? It’s enough! It’s time to stand up to cancer and pray up for God’s healing power to be released! It’s time to also pray for those who seek a cure – a vaccine, an antidote, whatever – that God may bless them with success.

At 7:00 PM on Sunday, January 22nd we will meet to pray for God to put an end to cancer – in the people we know and love, AND in our world. Join us as we seek God for a miracle!



 <p>BIG SUNDAY</p>	<p>January 29 10:00 am Where we can all worship together.</p> <p>On this Sunday there will only be <u>one</u> worship service.</p> <p>Come join us as we unite our hearts and minds as we worship the Lord our God together.</p>
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 <p>Silent Prayer Service Monday, January 30 7:00 – 8:30 pm Come when you can Leave when you must.</p> <p>Mark 1:35: Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.</p>
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SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

- 8:00 am Worship Band Rehearsal
- 8:45 am Quiet Prayer Time
- 9:00 am Traditional Worship Service
- 10:00 am Sunday School—All Ages
- 10:00 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am 2nd Worship Band Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Women's Bible Study
- Adult Sunday School
- 10:45 am Quiet Prayer Time
- Contemporary Worship Service
- Children's Worship
- 11:45 am Fellowship Time



THESE EVENTS OCCUR WEEKLY, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

& TUESDAY EVENTS

- 9:00 am CBS Leaders
- 5:45 pm King's Kids (KK)
- 6:30 pm Friends Night Out (FNO)
- 7:00 pm Bible Study "SHOW...and Tell!"
- 7:00 pm 2nd Service Band Rehearsal
- 8:15 pm Prayer

WEDNESDAY EVENTS

- 6:30 pm Tres Dias Men's #96
- 7:00 pm OASIS
- 7:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY EVENTS

- 6:45 am Women's Bible Study
- 6:45 pm JHAMS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 BIG SUNDAY 10:00 Worship <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 OFFICE & CCC CLOSED 7:30 pm AA	3 NO King's Kids NO Friends' Night Out 6 pm Un-Decorate the Church	4	5 7 pm Pastoral Search Committee	6 12:30 pm Joyful Sisters Bible Study 4:30 pm Council of Churches	7 8 am Women's Arts & Crafts 4:30 pm Outside Group
8 WINTERFEST	9 6 pm Church Council @ the Carlson's 7:30 pm AA	10 5:15 King's Kids Sing for Your Supper	11	12 6:30 am The Journey	13 12:30 pm Joyful Sisters Bible Study	14 WINTERFEST—Lake Champion, New York
15 12:15 pm Worship Theatre Arts	Church Office & CCC Closed Annual Reports Due 7:30 pm AA	17 Salt Shaker DEADLINE	18 3 pm Outside Group	19	20 12:30 pm Joyful Sisters Bible Study	21
22 7 pm Cancer Free Sunday	23 7:30 pm AA	24 NO King's Kids NO Friends' Night Out	25	26 6:30 am The Journey	27 12:30 pm Joyful Sisters Bible Study	28
Trailblazer Retreat					TRAILBLAZER RETREAT—Pilgrim Pines, NH	
29 BIG SUNDAY 10:00 Worship	30 7 pm Silent Prayer Service 7:30 pm AA	31				
January 2012						
MIDWINTER CONFERENCE — Rosemont, IL						

January



Covenant Church of Easton

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Covenant Children's Center: 203.374.3049

January Worship

NEW TESTAMENT FLYOVER

January	1	Acts 1:8; 12:24; 16:5 19:20; & 28:30-31	ACTS, Part 3 – The Church Explodes Holy Communion	Pastor Craig
January	8	Romans 5:1	ROMANS – At Peace With God	Pastor Craig
January	15	1 Corinthians 1:10	1 COR. – United in Thought & Purpose Children's Message	Pastor Cary
January	22	2 Corinthians 5:20	2 COR. – Let God Change You Drama: <i>God Is God</i>	Pastor Craig
<u>BIG SUNDAY—1 Service, 10:00 am</u>				
January	29	Galatians 5:1	GALATIANS – We Are Free!	Pastor Craig