



## NOT MEANT FOR DEATH!

To the disciples of Jesus Christ, Calvary was an irretrievable disaster. Golgotha — Place of a Skull — scarred their souls. It seemed like the closing of the book and the last good-bye. It seemed as though all their dreams and hopes had come to an end. The bottom had fallen out of their world. They had given their all in loyalty to their Leader; everything had been centered in Him, and now — He was **dead**.

Betrayed by those He trusted, scourged by those He pitied, abandoned by those He loved, and crowned with a crown of thorns, Jesus carried His cross to an outlaw's grave.

He who had been born in a borrowed manger and rode to triumph on a borrowed beast, was laid in a borrowed tomb. A heavy stone was rolled before His grave. Upon it was placed the seal of Rome, with which no one dared to tamper. They doubled the guard. The last act of devotion on the part of His followers was to prepare and anoint His body for burial. If they had thought He would rise again, they would have brought flowers and fruit. Not a single disciple believed He would live again.

Then the miracle begins. On the third day, out of the gloom of the garden of the Arimathean came the voice, "He is not here. He is risen!" (Matthew 28:6) Jesus was **alive!** They were not alone anymore. He had walked back into their lives.

Death had not changed Him. His love had not ended; His compassion had not folded up; His forgiveness had not shriveled. Time and space had not changed Him. Mary knew Him by His voice, the pilgrims of Emmaus knew Him by the way He broke bread and the disciples knew Him by the nail prints in His hands.

*He is not here;  
for he is risen, as he said.*  
—MATT. 28: 6—



The resurrection of Jesus Christ brings triumph out of tragedy, light out of the darkness and life out of death. The victim on Golgotha's hill is the Lord and Victor of the empty tomb. This is the foundation of the Christian religion. Thus to every Christian, Easter is not just a day to be honored once a year, but a joyous reality every day of the year.

What does Easter mean to you? Does it mean primarily new hats and new clothes? Is that what Easter is all about? The resurrection of Christ speaks to new life. Christ wants to give you life — eternal life, victorious life, His life. Will you let Him? Is He a reality in your life? Has God's resurrection power taken hold of your life? Have you been transformed by the resurrected Lord? Is He alive in you?

Jesus says today what He said 2,000 years ago,

*"I am the resurrection and the life.*

*He who believes in me **will live**, even though he dies;  
and whoever lives and believes in me **will never die**" (John 11:25-26).*

**Because He lives, we too shall live!**

**Pastor Lars**

# MAUNDY THURSDAY

**March 28 at 7:00 pm**



**A NEW MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE** — Our Maundy Thursday Service this year, will be a meditative and prayerful time of worship centered around the Stations of the Cross. The choir is going to play a central role in leading us into worship as we meditate on the road to the cross that Jesus walked. Sitting together in the Sanctuary, the choir, readers and guided prayer will help us contemplate each station. The desire is that, as we examine the steps of Christ for us, it draws us into a deep worship experience with our loving Savior.

**12:00 – 3:00 PM**

**COME WHEN YOU CAN;  
LEAVE WHEN YOU MUST**

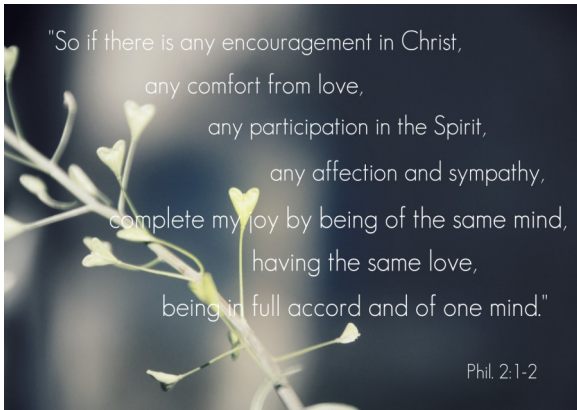
**GOOD  
FRIDAY**

**A TIME OF SOLITUDE & REFLECTION  
we remember**



Easter Sunday  
Worship Times:  
9 am Traditional  
10:45 am Contemporary

## Council Retreat



On Saturday, March 9th the Church Council will be participating in a half-day retreat to plan our programs and ministries for 2013 and beyond. We will be using the book titled Simple Church to guide our planning. The scripture that we will base our work on is from Philippians 2:1-2:

*If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.*

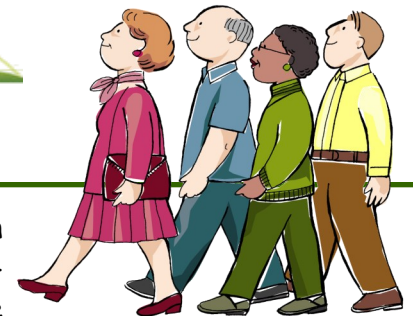
We look forward to sharing the updates on our plans with all of you as they unfold.

*Jim Meyers, Council Chair*



## Senior Luncheon — March 10

The Foundation students will be hosting a luncheon for all Seniors on Sunday, March 10th after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Worship Service. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Marilyn Steel. Cost is \$5.00 per person. The next Senior Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, April 21st.



*Calling All Seniors!*



**It's that time of YEAR!**  
**Covenant YOUTH & FAMILY Event**  
**DATE: Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**TIME: 5:00 PM - ???**  
**PLACE: Covenant Church of Easton**

## 5TH ANNUAL FLOOR HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



**ALL AGES WELCOME!!**  
 Invite your friends, family, parents, and grandparents!  
 There's something fun for everyone!

*Special features, great food, bounce house, competitive bingo, Wii dance offs, darts war, a fun Hockey Competition, and LOTS MORE!!!!!!*

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for REC TEAMS: 4:45-5:15  
 Registration for COMPETITIVE TEAMS: 4:45-5:45  
 Admission is \$8.00 per person; \$25 max per family  
 Dinner is included.

To register, email Kyla Stetson - [kylatrinks@yahoo.com](mailto:kylatrinks@yahoo.com). REC League Games begin at 5:15 sharp!



## Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Pastoral Search Committee has been meeting weekly through January and February, only pausing for the snowstorm and its aftermath!

We're going deeper into the interview process with prospective candidates. So, we meet to prepare for

interviews, to interview, to discuss and reflect on what we've heard, and to spend time in scripture and in prayer.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the pastoral search, for our church, and for the Pastoral Search Committee. As we journey through this search, our hearts have been touched many times by the pastors we have met and come to know as they share their life stories and ministries with us. It continues to be a privilege and a blessing to see our God working out His plans through each one!

*The Pastoral Search Committee*



**HEALTHY BODY**



**HEALTHY SPIRIT**



*Spring into*  
**Healthy**



**Living**

**A FREE HEALTH FAIR**



**FOOD & NEW HEALTHY IDEAS  
GAMES & SNACKS FOR KIDS  
BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS  
HEALTHY BREATHING  
FITNESS IDEAS  
AND MUCH MORE!**



**All ages welcome!  
Invite your friends & neighbors!**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16**

**2 to 5 PM**

**Covenant Church  
of Easton**

**1 Sport Hill Road  
Easton, CT 06612**

Questions?

Contact Kasia Lindeberg  
203.331.1224

# COVENANT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



For **FAMILIES** with kids of all ages  
**Saturday, March 23rd**  
**4-6 PM Free**



Bring your friends and neighbors to hear  
the Good News that Jesus is alive!

## Pilgrim Pines

### Your Covenant Camp & Conference Center

Pilgrim Pines is dedicated to providing fantastic programs for campers of all ages. From our children's and youth camp, to our men's and women's conferences, the goal is the same - to create exciting experiences, memorable moments, and a safe place to meet God. Whether it is through our faith-stretching ropes course, phenomenal worship and teaching, unforgettable camp activities, or simply relaxing by the lake, a camping experience at Pilgrim Pines provides a breath of fresh air in the midst of our hectic world. We hope you can join us soon! For more information pick up a brochure in the Welcome Center or visit [www.pilgrim-pines.org](http://www.pilgrim-pines.org).



## Camp Squanto Summer 2013 Dates

**PATHFINDERS** (entering grades 2-3)  
June 26-29

**TRAILBLAZERS** (entering grades 4-6)  
Session 1: June 30-July 6  
Session 2: July 14-20

**JUNIOR HIGH** (entering grades 7-9)  
Session 1: July 7-13  
Session 2: July 21-27

**NAVIGATORS** (entering grades 8-10)  
July 28-August 3

**SENIOR HIGH** (entering grades 11-12)  
June 30-July 27

**VOYAGER**  
Session 1 (grades 7-9) July 14-20  
Session 2 (grades 10-12) July 21-27

# Treasurer's Report

The financial results of the Unified Operating Fund for the one month ended January 31, 2013 were as follows:

## INCOME

Unified Receipts	\$36,251
Investment & Other Income	<u>101</u>
Total Income	\$36,352

## EXPENSES

	<u>\$43,140</u>
Excess of Income over Expenses	<u>(\$6,788)</u>

The first month deficit is a function of low Unified Receipts and relatively high expenses. Unified Receipts averaged \$9,063 per week, almost 10% below the average needed to fund the Annual Financial Plan and only slightly above last January. Expenses for the current month were higher than normal because there were three staff paydays, a situation which occurs twice every year. Normal full-time staff compensation, including all benefits, is 71% of total expenses. However, the percentage is currently lower

because the cost of the Interim Senior Pastor and the Interim Music Directors is less than it has historically been for full-time positions. This results in lower than normal personnel costs.

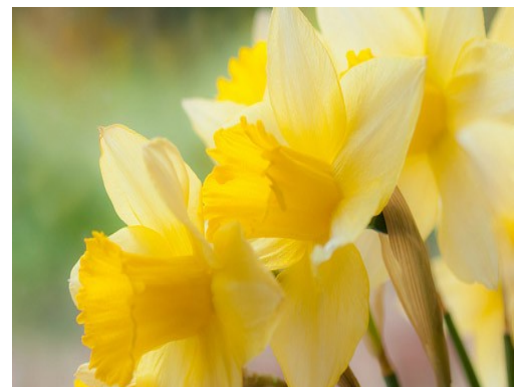
At this writing, Unified Receipts through the first three weeks of February are lower on a weekly basis than January. As you know, services were cancelled due to the snow storm, which has undoubtedly affected offerings. This points up the need to maintain normal weekly giving, even when attendance is interrupted, because the work of the Lord through the Church goes on uninterrupted regardless of weather conditions. If you want to find out more about a technique to maintain normal weekly giving, please ask any member of the Stewardship and Finance Ministry for more information or contact the Church Office.

**Bob Fiscus**  
Treasurer



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3/2 Colleen Herrmann
- 3/3 Zachary Wirth
- 3/4 Jessica Estrada
- 3/7 Phylis Linder  
Cat Heitz  
♥Bob & Ruth Lewis♥
- 3/8 Crista Forstrom  
Nick DelBuono
- 3/9 Mark Spisto
- 3/10 Chuck Forstrom
- 3/11 James Anderson
- 3/12 Greg Cobaugh
- 3/13 Zach Stetson
- 3/15 Ron Koenig
- 3/17 Rebecca Zager
- 3/18 Nicole Pittera
- 3/19 Ashley Austin
- 3/21 Dylan Lindeberg
- 3/23 Kristina Meyers
- 3/24 Ann Boyle  
Logan Meyer
- 3/27 Dom Mastrianno
- 3/28 Terry Morgan
- 3/28 ♥Bob & Linda Fiscus♥
- 3/30 Bob Lewis, 3rd



# Get Ready...Spring Is On the Way!



Starting in April the Service Ministry wants to help you make your lawns look good. Teams will drop in to rake, repair, and clean up the mess the winter has left. We'd also like to offer this to your friends and neighbors. Look for a sign up in the Welcome Center.

Contact Steve Lindeberg (203.331.1224) for more information.

Spring Lawn  
Clean Up

## Miscellaneous

**CAN YOU HELP?** The SERVICE MINISTRY is collecting Baby Items - Diapers (all sizes), Baby Food (all age levels) and Baby Formula. For more information, please contact Kasia Lindeberg (203-331.1224).

**DID YOU KNOW?** ANDY OBER, InterVarsity Area Director will be on site a couple of days a week using the old Children's Center office as his office. Andy's job is to set up InterVarsity chapters on all the college campuses in SW CT. His wife has started one at Fairfield U. InterVarsity does college campus ministry, setting up Bible studies and small groups, and leadership training for evangelism on campuses.

**FOR MEN ONLY** A MEN'S PRAYER GROUP meets every Saturday morning from 6:00-8:00 am in the Chapel at Covenant. All men are invited and welcome to attend.

**EAST COAST CONFERENCE** THE 123RD ANNUAL MEETING takes place in the Philadelphia area this year. Christ Covenant Church of Harleysville will be hosting the Conference Annual Meeting April 12-13; while St. Peter's Church of Hilltown will be hosting the Ministerial Association Meeting April 11-12th. This year's delegates representing Covenant Church of Easton are Alma Kearns, Kasia & Steve Lindeberg and Pastor Cary.

**COMMUNITY INFO** CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SCHOOL in Trumbull is hosting a K-12 Open House on Sunday, March 10 from 2:00-4:00 pm. To register, please contact Martha Olson (203.261.6230, ext. 555 or [molson@kingsmen.org](mailto:molson@kingsmen.org)).

**CHURCH DIRECTORY** THE 2013 CHURCH DIRECTORY will be printed this month. If you have not gotten your updated information or picture to Gail Lent, please do so ASAP.

# Never Ending Questions

What are my gifts?  
Who should I help?  
How can I witness for Jesus?  
What can I pass on?  
Where do I need to be?  
What would Jesus do?  
What direction should I go?  
Am I on the right path?  
What would help me develop my gifts?  
Is what I'm doing honoring God?  
Am I listening to God or listening to myself?  
What should I do next?  
Is this God's will?  
Am I drawing closer to God?  
Am I hanging around godly people?  
Am I being a godly role model?  
Do I have the heart of Christ?  
Is what I'm doing helping to build God's Kingdom?  
Am I making the right choice?  
Am I holding a grudge?  
Do I have anger that needs to be resolved?  
Am I doing what is right?  
Am I being respectful?  
Am I planting a seed?  
How can I help others grow?  
Am I demonstrating faith?  
What do I need to do to be stronger in the Lord?  
Am I reflecting God?  
Am I blessing others?  
Do people see Jesus in me?  
How does God want me to act?  
Am I waiting on the Lord?  
Am I being honest?  
Am I where I should be?  
How can I be of service?  
Am I being encouraging enough?  
Am I being humble?  
Am I taking care of God's temple?  
Am I glorifying God?  
How can I be a neighbor?  
What does the Bible say about this?  
Who am I?



Where am I going in life?  
Am I following Jesus?  
Am I listening to God's voice?  
Am I inspiring others?  
Am I showing love and compassion?  
Do I have the joy of the Lord?  
Am I being patient?  
Am I being kind?  
Am I doing to others what I would like done to me?  
Am I being faithful to God?  
Am I being a servant?  
How can I shine for Jesus?  
Have I prayed about this?  
Am I being thankful?  
What does my life reflect?  
Am I being led by God?  
Am I worshipping God with my whole heart, mind & life?  
Am I being righteous?  
How can God use me?  
Am I being a good leader?  
Am I walking with God?  
Is God my source of strength and help?  
Is God my shield against evil?  
Am I resisting temptation?  
Is God in my home?  
Do I have a godly tongue?  
Is God shown in my conduct?  
Do I turn to the Bible in all situations?  
Do I worship only God?  
Am I showing mercy and forgiveness?  
Am I sharing?  
Am I being gracious?  
Is God the center of my life?

God doesn't change reality to meet a person; rather, He changes a person's heart and mind to handle the situation that is before him. Never stop asking questions because it helps you to always be ready to handle reality and to know you are always doing God's will.

*Snoopie Botten and Blake Roberts*

EAST COAST CONFERENCE WOMEN MINISTRIES

# ANNUAL CELEBRATION 2013



## Beautiful Feet . . .

*Run to God,  
Take a stand,  
Walk toward those  
of different cultures,  
Dance in step  
with the music of Heaven*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013 9:00am-3:00pm**

**Bethany Covenant Church, 785 Mill Street, Berlin, CT 06037**

*Bring YOUR beautiful feet, invite a friend and enjoy  
a time of worship, inspiration and connection!*

# Easter Flowers

**Sign up in the Welcome Center or contact the Church Office to order your Easter flowers.**

You may take the flowers you ordered after the Easter Sunday Service.



**\$10.00 Each**

Lilies – 6" pot, 4-5 blossoms

Hydrangeas – 6" pot

Tulips – 7" pot, 8 bulbs

Hyacinths – 8" pot, 5 bulbs

Daffodils – 6½" pot, Large flowers

# Nate & Bethany Johnson

## Serving in Austria

### WE HAVE EXCITING NEWS!

On February 5th, we received an email from our teammates in Vienna. They had a letter there for us from the Austrian government and said it was "good news". What was that good news? **OUR VISAS ARE APPROVED!**

*We were blown away by this.* To receive our visas only one month after application is totally unheard of and truly miraculous. We could try to explain it away or figure out what happened, but in the end, God worked a miracle! We believe it was because of so many diligent prayers that this door has been opened for us. Please join us in thanking and praising God, as He has officially opened the door for us for long-term ministry in Austria! *"Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon His Name; make known His deeds among the peoples!"* (Psalm 105:1)



*Today is the day that we were handed our visa cards to live in Austria.*

### WHAT'S NEXT

Receiving our visas this early was unexpected. In order to determine next steps and timelines, we spent time praying and discussing the situation with our field leaders in Vienna and teammates in England. We are eager to return to Austria, but also want to honor our commitment to the missionaries here.

Based on these factors, we determined the following schedule:

- February 20-23: Visit Vienna to pick up our visas and begin our apartment search
- February 23-March 13: Finish our time (and apartment rental) in England
- March 13: Return to Vienna and continue searching for an apartment
- April 1-5: Participate in the Austria WorldVenture team retreat
- April: Move into an apartment and have our household goods delivered from the US!

We are eager and excited about these next steps. The thought of having a home to call our own is thrilling, after nearly two years living a transitive lifestyle. *Please pray for patience in the coming months, as we talk through the final steps towards being settled in Vienna. As we begin our apartment search, we are looking for a place to call home for the next 3-5 years. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as we visit and evaluate apartments.*

*Nate & Bethany Johnson*

# MISSIONS

# MARCH



## Covenant Church of Easton

1 Sport Hill Road  
Easton, CT 06612



[www.coveaston.org](http://www.coveaston.org)  
Phone: 203.371.8335  
Fax: 203.373.9025

Rooted in Christ - Reaching Out to the World

# March Worship

## TWO SERVICES EACH SUNDAY - 9:00 am and 10:45 am

March	3	<b><i>The Church &amp; Evangelism, Part VIII</i></b> (The Parable of the Sower and the Soils) Luke 8:1-15; Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20	Pastor Lars
March	10	<b><i>The Church &amp; Service, Part IX</i></b>	Pastor Cary
March	17	<b><i>The Church &amp; Missions, Part X</i></b> Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:17; Luke 24:49; John 20:21-22; Acts 1:8	Pastor Lars
March	24	<b><i>PALM SUNDAY</i></b> <b><i>What Does the Lord Need?</i></b> Luke 19:28	Pastor Lars
March	31	<b><i>EASTER SUNDAY</i></b> <b><i>When in Doubt, Remember Thomas</i></b> John 20:24-31	Pastor Lars