



Covenant Church of Easton

The Salt Shaker

GREATNESS

Jesus got His disciples together to settle things down. "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around," He said, "and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served — and then to give away His life in exchange for many who are held hostage."

Mark 10:41-45 (The Message)

For me the setting was how I remembered the boys locker room in Junior High and High School. We'd just played a tough game and all the guys were boasting about how their play had made all the difference. We were self-congratulating about who was the greatest. So it was with Jesus' disciples. They had just been arguing about who of them was the greatest. Jesus "settles" them. He doesn't embarrass, He doesn't berate, He just gives them a clear understanding of what really matters, what is truly great in His kingdom: SERVING.



At the end of April we were privileged to host the East Coast Conference Annual Meeting. There were about 80 pastors in attendance on Thursday and Friday and about 125 delegates from Covenant Churches joined us on Friday afternoon and Saturday. It was a great Annual Meeting; challenging presentations, moving testimonials, inspiring worship and good business decision making. I thoroughly enjoyed being the host pastor for this event. But what I enjoyed most was watching all you who volunteered to create a seamless experience for everyone who attended.

I'm not talking merely about the kind and quality of the food you prepared and served – even though the meals and snacks were over the top in presentation, taste and quantity. People at every table I sat at commented openly about how good the food was as well as the ample servings.

What I'm talking about is the way volunteers went out of their way welcoming, answering questions, giving directions to important places like bathrooms and the overall hospitality you showed people. You made sure that everyone was being taken care of.

Long before the conference began we had several people doing major work in preparing for each of the meeting and classroom sites. And when the presenters came you made sure that every need they had for their space was fully supplied: projection, amplification, display tables, etc. Additionally whenever a need arose you responded cheerfully and fully to meet that need.

In the midst of one of the busiest times of the weekend a needy family from the community came asking for some help. You brought them to me and then proceeded to package some cheese, crackers, sandwiches and soup so they could have a couple of good meals. Additionally one of you went to the supermarket and picked up some gift cards to give them. Friends, this is exactly what Jesus was telling His disciples. You've caught it! THIS IS GREATNESS!

Pastor Craig

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

Understanding God's Special Gift of Holy Communion



May 6, 13 & 20 at 10:45 AM
A 3-week Sunday school class for kids in grades 2-5 with their parent(s).

Holy Communion is a joyful, sacred part of our worship of God, and all who love Him are invited and commanded to participate. But when should a child begin to receive it? How can we explain it, and how much can they understand?

The activities in this Sunday School series will guide families in exploring the Scriptures with age-appropriate themes to understand God's special gift of Holy Communion.

Please sign up with Roseann Slater (203.371.8335 or roseann@coveaston.org).

Please note: Children will not take Communion in this class.



Game Night & Ice Cream Sundaes

Friends' Night Out

Invite your friends! Everyone is welcome! Friends Night Out (kids in Kindergarten-Grade 5) is having a Game Night & Ice Cream Sundaes on Tuesday evening, May 15th, 6:30-7:45. Please contact Roseann Slater for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
July 30-August 3 ~ 9 am – 12:15 pm
Cost: \$25 (\$15 sibling; \$50 max/family)

A promotional graphic for Vacation Bible School. It features a cartoon wolf head in a circular frame on the left. In the center, a group of five children (two girls and three boys) are smiling. The background shows a scenic view of a lake and forest. Text includes 'Gospel Lights', 'SONRISE National Park VBS', 'Point Your Kids To JESUS!', and 'Park Opens Summer 2012'.

VBS
STAFF
LUNCHEON

Sunday
June 3rd
12:15-1:15 pm



GOSPEL CHOIR SUNDAY

PERFORMANCE

Sunday, May 20th
10:45 Worship Service

REHEARSAL

Wednesday, May 16
7:30 pm

Greg DeTroy will be teaching, playing and conducting.

An Opportunity for a Blessing

Have you seen what's new in the Fellowship Hall? New carpeting has been installed! All we need now is some financial support.

The total cost for the new carpeting and installation was \$3000. If you are able to offset some of the cost, your donations would be greatly appreciated AND you'll be blessed.

For more information, please contact Bob Forstrom.



Pilgrim Pines Family Work & Worship Weekend

MAY 25-28, 2012

Use your talents and willing hands to help prepare the Pines for another exciting summer season. In exchange for your work, Pilgrim Pines will provide excellent meals, lodging, recreations, group activities and worship times.

You, your family, friends, and anyone are invited to participate in the work and worship weekend. You don't need any building or carpenter skills in order to pitch in! All you need is some energy and a willingness to get dirty, try new things, flexibility and able to enjoy the company of others who want to pitch in, too.

COST

Adults: \$55
Children 8 & Under: Free

For more information and/or to register, please visit www.pilgrimpines.org.



Treasurer's Report

The financial results of the Unified Operating Fund for the three months ending March 31, 2012 were as follows:

INCOME

Unified Receipts	\$130,623
Investment & Other Income	<u>154</u>
Total Income	\$130,777

EXPENSES

Excess of Income over Expenses	<u>(\$4,338)</u>
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For the first time this year, expenses exceeded income. This occurred because income was below that anticipated in the Financial Plan. Monthly income projections in the Financial Plan are based on anticipated expenses, with the result that income and expenses in the Plan are exactly equal each month. As it happens, projected expenses for the first quarter were higher than for any other quarter, which means projected income was also higher than for any other quarter.



The main reason first quarter expenses are normally higher than any other quarter is because electricity use in the first quarter is at its height and we expect to have snow plowing bills in the winter months. This winter's mild weather allowed us to enjoy about \$6,500 of savings in these two expense areas.

Even with these savings, income fell short of projections. This is largely because giving patterns do not necessarily follow expense patterns. For instance, the annual Financial Plan will be met if giving is \$10,255 per week on average. The average for the first 13 weeks of this year was \$10,048. On this basis, giving is only about \$2,700 under the Financial Plan, certainly no cause for alarm at this stage of the year.

May the blessings of the Lord be with you,
Bob Fiscus, Treasurer

Thank You

Thanks for the beautiful handmade blankets and newborn hats which you generously and kindly made for us here at Birthright to give to the mothers and babies who put them to good use by their need of the warmth these items provide.

Kathy Hedtke



- 5/1 Cheryl Pitterra.
D.J. Greer
Alexa Meachen
- 5/2 ♥Jill & Dave Diana♥
- 5/3 Matthew Delfino
- 5/4 Sofia Estrada
♥Christine & Bill Austin♥
- 5/6 Karen Sheridan
♥Nancy & Peter McDonald♥
♥Joan & Alan Bjork♥
- 5/7 Brett Gibbs
♥Jill & Ben Miller♥
- 5/8 Katrina Hatfield
♥Kallie & Don Sebestyen♥
- 5/9 Peter Drummond
- 5/10 ♥Andrea & John Stetson♥
- 5/11 Matthew Blair
- 5/12 Pat Swanson
Michael Testa
Sarah Ambrose
- 5/14 Dan Wiemer
- 5/15 Mindy Hatfield
♥Maureen & Tim Herrmann♥
♥Linda & Arnie Gustavson♥
- 5/20 Mallory Kellerman
Morgann Kellerman
- 5/1 Tim Anderson
Jeff Drummond
Olivia Malewicki
- 5/22 Wivan Sundman
- 5/23 Isobel McEwan
- 5/24 Carmen Rosa, Jr.
- 5/25 ♥Phylis & Paul Linder♥
- 5/27 Kyla Trinklein
♥Jennifer & Joe Anderson♥
- 5/28 Allison Linnen
- 5/29 David Pitterra
- 5/30 Betty Patterson
Steve Domyan
Bobby Lewis





You are Invited to
a Bridal Shower to Honor. . .

Kyla Trinklein

**Sunday, May 20 at 12:30 p.m.
Covenant Church of Easton
1 Sport Hill Road, Easton**

Sign up on the Poster in the Welcome Center by May 16th
JoAnn Gibbs (203.878.6568)
Melissa Otten (203.610.4647)

Prayer Meeting

A 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!

Discipleship Class

We begin a series of exercises this month to discern the “spiritual gifts” God has given each of us and how those gifts can help build up our church to be even more effective at winning people to Christ, helping those who are hurting and building up the body of Christ.

Anyone (and everyone) is welcome to join us on Tuesdays at Church from 7:00–8:15 pm in Classroom C. For more information, please speak with Pastor Craig.

Wind Beneath My Wings

<http://theflameofhope.co/karaoke/WIND%20BENEATH%20MY%20WINGS.mp3>

In a few years this celebration for Pastor Craig and Carolyn will be a memory. Just like it was over 30 years ago when I first met Craig.

At age 15 I felt like nothing because I didn't know who I was or what my gifts were. Craig was my wind; encouraging me to write, getting me a voice chip and never dreaming it would sing, and he was always there helping me through different stages of my life.

As a Church, I'm sure you all felt the wind from both Pastor Craig and Carolyn. I'm not active in your Church so sadly I can't write anything on that. But I saw Gail's deadline and the suggested topics. I can only assume that the celebration dinner is part of saying goodbye. And from the one time I was at your



Church, I'm sure Pastor Craig and Carolyn have impacted all of you as much as they have impacted me.

If I could be there, I would probably sing "Wind Beneath My Wings" because I'm sure everyone can think of these fine people as a pair of wings that guide us into steps to knowing God so we can all soar. I think I can say that these two people helped

make everyone of us individual "Salt Shakers" so we can all plant seeds so others can come to know Christ.

Pastor Craig and Carolyn, thank you for your fine service. God bless you!

Snoopi Botten



Paul Veerman in Sri Lanka

To the left is a picture of Paul Veerman in Sri Lanka. He went there to support three ministry programs and needs in the country.

One is the radio broadcast. The radio broadcast is Biblical in nature to several countries besides Sri Lanka and in various languages.

Two is the persecuted children project. Children from Christian families are demeaned and treated poorly in public schools and especially if they are the children of pastors. Sri Lanka is primarily Buddhist and Hindu.

Three is moBible which is a voice recorded Bible message delivered to cell phones in their heart language.



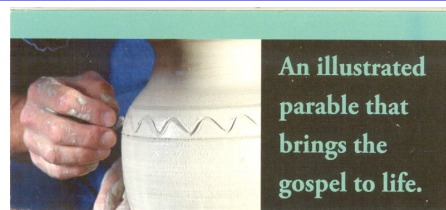
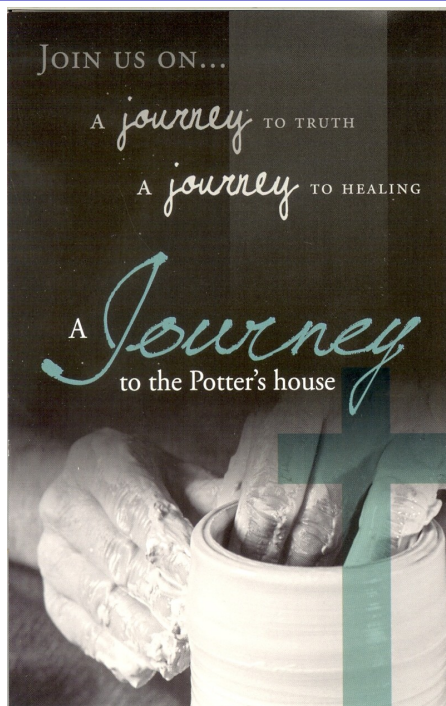
Interestingly, the other person on the elephant is Bryon Swanson who works at Back to the Bible in Lincoln, NE and is a member of the 1st Covenant Church of Lincoln. Small world!

Upcoming Community Event

"A Journey to the Potter's House" Michael Ferris

"A Journey to the Potter's House" was born out of the lessons Michael Ferris learned in the process of healing from his own brokenness. Seeing how God can take something painful and translate it into something that can reflect the glory of God, Michael blends his gifts of craftsmanship, creative communications, his love for people and his love for God to bring a message of hope and redemption as we live our lives as clay, in the hands of the Potter.

Michael lives in Connecticut with his wife and four children.



An illustrated parable that brings the gospel to life.

"This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, go down to the Potter's house and there I will give you my message."

Jeremiah 18:1

Nowhere is there a more vivid example of the relationship between God and His people than is seen in the relationship between the potter and their clay.

A Journey to the Potter's House brings you face to face with God in a way that will forever change the way you understand His working in your life. This is one journey you don't want to miss.

Friday, May 4th, 2012 at 1:15pm
Black Rock Congregational Church

3685 Black Rock Turnpike, Fairfield, CT 06825
In the church sanctuary.

For more information visit:
BRCC.org



COME JOIN TOGETHER AS A CHURCH FAMILY
TO SAY "FAREWELL" TO PASTOR CRAIG & CAROLYN
AND TO **CELEBRATE** THE 19 YEARS
THEY HAVE SPENT WITH US AND SERVED US
AT THE COVENANT CHURCH OF EASTON

Saturday, June 30, 2012

Food, Fun, Frolic and Fellowship

Seating will be Limited

There will be a "suggested donation" to help defray dinner costs

Babysitting available for children under 5

Watch for more details coming soon



May 5

Murder Mystery

Dinner Theatre

A NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN

Date

Saturday, May 5

Time

Doors Open – 6:15 p.m.
Dinner – 6:30 p.m.

Location

Covenant Church of Easton
1 Sport Hill Road, Easton

Additional Info

Cocktail Attire, please
Babysitting Provided, upon request

Join Us!

Join us for this wonderful evening of delectable cuisine and enjoyable entertainment as we help send our Senior High students to CHIC this coming July. Our popular Murder Mystery Dinner returns with an all new plot and storyline.

3-Course Gourmet Meal

A specially prepared meal by some of the wonderful chefs at Covenant.

Tickets on Sale Beginning Sunday, April 8th

Reserved Seating!

Ticket prices \$35/\$40.
Hurry! this event sells out fast! Buy your tickets early for best seating.

Information

Jill Monroe
(203) 261-3150
jjemonroe123@att.net

COVENANT SENIOR HIGH CHIC FUNDRAISER • www.coveaston.org • 203-371-8335

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:00 am Worship Band
 8:45 am Rehearsal
 9:00 am Quiet Prayer Time
 Traditional Worship Service

10:00 am Sunday School—All Ages

10:30 am Fellowship Time
 2nd Worship Band Rehearsal

10:45 am Women's Bible Study

11:45 am Adult Sunday School
 Quiet Prayer Time

10:45 am Contemporary Worship Service
 Welcome to the Table (grades 2-5 w/parents)
 Fellowship Time

THESE EVENTS OCCUR WEEKLY, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

TUESDAY EVENTS

9:00 am CBS Leaders
 5:45 pm King's Kids
 6:30 pm Friends Night Out
 7:00 pm Bible Study
 7:00 pm 2nd Service Band Rehearsal

8:15 pm Prayer

WEDNESDAY EVENTS

7:00 pm OASIS
 7:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY EVENTS

6:45 am Women's Bible Study



May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 10:45 am Children's Worship	7 7:30 pm AA 6th Anniversary Celebration	1 5:15 pm King's Kids Sing for Your Supper	2	3 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	4 12:30 pm Joyful Sisters Bible Study	5 8 am Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm CHC Murder Mystery Dinner
14 7 pm Council 7:30 pm AA	15 SALT SHAKER DEADLINE 6:30 pm FNO Game Night & Ice Cream	16 6:30 pm Trees Dias Women's #96 7:30 pm Gospel Choir Rehearsal	17	18 12:30 pm Joyful Sisters Bible Study	19	Pastor Craig on Vacation
20 10:45 am Gospel Choir 12:30 pm Bridal Shower - Kyla Trinklein	21 7:30 pm AA	22	23	24	25 12:30 pm Joyful Sisters Bible Study	26
27 10:45 am Children's Worship	MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed 7:30 pm AA	29	30	31		

MAY



Covenant Church of Easton

1 Sport Hill Road
Easton, CT 06612



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Email: gail.lent@coveaston.org
Covenant Children's Center: 203.374.3049
E-mail: andrea@coveaston.org

MAY WORSHIP

Sundays at 9:00 am & 10:45 am

May 6	James 1:4, 2:18	MATURE CHRISTIANITY Holy Communion	Pastor Craig
MOTHER'S DAY			
May 13	1 Peter	TBA	Pastor Cary
May 20	2 Peter 1:3	GROWING AND GUARDING MY FAITH Children's Message	Pastor Craig
May 27	1 John 1:3-4 2 John 1:6 3 John 1:3	Authentic Christian	Pastor Craig