



Covenant Church of Easton

The Salt Shaker

ORDAIN

ÔR-DĀN' (tr. v.) – *To invest with ministerial or priestly authority; confer hold orders upon.*

On the 24th of June in Irvine, California, I will be attending the Service of Ordination at the Covenant Annual Meeting. For me this service is the holy highlight of every annual meeting. And this year it will be especially memorable as Pastor Cary Slater will be Ordained to Word and Sacrament.

We read from the Covenant Book of Worship: *"At the end of the first century, the early church was facing two stark realities. The apostles — the eye witnesses to the resurrection and the great teachers of the faith — were dying, and Jesus had not yet returned. It was in response to this looming deficit that the early church began to shape the forms of ordered ministry. A few from among the body would be set apart for ministry within the body, thus holding the church true to its beginnings in the gospel of Jesus Christ — Christ born, Christ crucified, Christ risen, Christ coming in glory."*

The heart of the Covenant concerning the church has always centered on the priesthood of all believers. *"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."* (1 Peter 2:9) God's ministry in and to the people of this world belongs to the whole church. However, the Covenant has also *"recognized the specific service to the word of God by those endowed with the requisite gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit, discerned and confirmed by the church to be so equipped. This apostolic ministry is entrusted to those who have been formed and educated rightly to handle the Word of truth, to equip the people of God, both corporately and individually, for their respective ministries in the world, and to build up congregations in faith, hope, and love."*

The question is asked: What does it mean to be ordained to Word and Sacrament?

The response: *"In the rite of ordination to Word and Sacrament, candidates are charged with the authority to preach the Word, to administer the Sacraments, and to bear rule in the church."*

Pastor Cary has been a faithful servant of God for more than 18 years (12 of them among us). In addition he has prepared himself for Pastoral ministry, having received his Master's of Divinity this past year from Alliance Theological Seminary in Nyack, New York. We have affirmed his call and his giftedness for Christ; our Conference has joined us in affirming him for the Ordained Ministry; and now our Denomination will Ordain him to Word and Sacrament. Hallelujah!

If you would like to observe the Ordination service, you can do so this year on your computer. The Covenant will be streaming live from Irvine, California. The service of Ordination will be Sunday, June 24th from 10 to noon (that would be 1 to 3 pm our time). To connect go to <http://CovChurch.tv/live/> and invite some friends to join you in seeing Pastor Cary as he is ordained.

Pastor Craig

Bye-Bye from Covenant Children's Center

Dear Covenant Church Friends,

Mrs. Stetson asked me to sit down and write this letter to you. She said her glasses are foggy but I think she's been crying. Mrs. Kendall looks sad, too. I'm going to ask them why as soon as I finish this letter and I know they'll tell me.

So.... Wow, it's been a long time since I spoke with you. All my friends and I have grown so tall, we almost need bigger chairs to sit in like the ones they have in kindergarten. Hey, I'm going to kindergarten in September! That means I won't be coming back to Covenant. I think that makes me sad and a little scared but my teachers have said that there's a new adventure waiting for me and all my friends. I love adventures, don't you? We've had so many different kinds of adventures in preschool that I wonder what the new adventure will be like.

Did you know that dinosaurs visited us this year? It was way cool; we even dug up some dino bones in our sand table! I bet you didn't do that lately. Then we went to the farm and tapped maple trees for sap and tasted yummy maple candy and corn bread with maple syrup poured on top... mmmm, so good. We've played dress-up, and painted fantastic pictures. We used recycled cereal boxes to make pretty art. The teachers hung the art on the wall in the hallway; you should come and see it.

We had something called "*Family of the Day*". Each friend and his/her family came to school to share what they like to do together. It was a lot of fun to find out about my friends. Those pictures are in the hallway, too.

Mrs. Kendall and Mrs. Stetson read us books, books and more books! They say you can never read too many books. Did you know that I'm learning to read? I know the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make. I can even put the letter sounds together to make a word! I feel very proud and happy about that. I dream about numbers. We count every day and play games with numbers. I made a number book and an alphabet book this year. Mrs. Kendall says my Mom will keep these forever. That sounds pretty long to me.

My teachers also told me about Jesus. I knew a little about Him but I think I know a little more now. Each day we speak with Jesus; my teachers ask us if we'd like to pray out loud and each day every one of us wants to do that. Mrs. Stetson says that He's never too busy to listen. Did you know that He is with me all the time? I don't understand that very much but Mrs. Stetson and Mrs. Kendall say they don't understand everything about Jesus, either. They say that's ok. Mrs. Stetson says she knows that Jesus will help us to know Him and love Him. I like that. It feels good to me.

Well, I really want to go and talk with my teachers now so I'm going to write down the words of our good-bye song for you. It goes like this and sounds like ***She'll Be Comin' Around the Mountain.***

Oh, it's time to say goodbye to our friends.
Oh, it's time to say goodbye to our friends.
Oh, it's time to say goodbye so just smile and wink your eye.
Oh, it's time to say goodbye to our friends.

I almost forgot to tell you about the big celebration we are having on **Friday, June 8th at 7pm. You are invited to come.** The party will be here at preschool, you know in the church part and then we're gonna have dessert! Sure hope you'll be at the party with us!

With much love,
Your Covenant Children's Center Friend

COVENANT CHILDREN'S CENTER



Friday, June 8
7:00 pm

CELEBRATE A LEGACY

It is with sadness that we announce the closing of the Covenant Children's Center at the end of this school year. Lack of enrollment has been affecting our school (and many others) over the last few years. While this is sad news, we also have much to celebrate. Many children and families in our area have been blessed by our wonderful school. Everyone is invited to attend the final graduation ceremony on Friday, June 8th at 7 pm to share in celebrating the legacy of the Covenant Children's Center and honor those who have faithfully served as members of the staff and board of the school.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the Church Office (203.371.8335) or email Gail Lent (gail.lent@coveaston.org) so we'll be sure to have enough goodies to share with everyone.

My Excellent Education

©2007 Kenn Nesbitt,
Revenge of the Lunch Ladies



How to juggle. How to hop.
How to make my knuckles pop.
How to whinny. How to cluck.
How to talk like Donald Duck.
How to wiggle both my ears.
How to fake convincing tears.
How to yo-yo. Capture flies.
Roll my tongue and cross my eyes.
How to make a piggy snout.
How to make my eyes bug out.
These are things I learned in School.
Education. . . Ain't it cool?

Children's Ministry



THANK YOU!

Be sure to take a moment to thank our Children's Ministry Volunteers who have been working hard all year serving our children:

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Kelsey Otten, Linda Gustavson, Mindy Hatfield, Benay Shive

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Kim & Alexa Meachen, Sharon & Ashleigh Testa

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

Brenda Hurd, Joyce Fiscus, Ginnila Perez

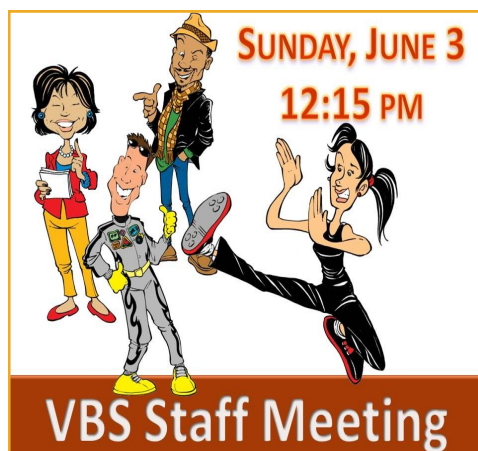
FRIEND'S NIGHT OUT:

Linda Fiscus, Leanne Austin, Ashley Austin, Billy Kattler

VBS Staff Lunch

Come for the big picture for **SONRISE NATIONAL PARK**, meet other volunteers, and be inspired for decorating ideas (think glaciers, canyons, waterfalls).

RSVP to Roseann at roseann@coveaston.org or 203.371.8335.



Vacation Bible School



July 30—August 3

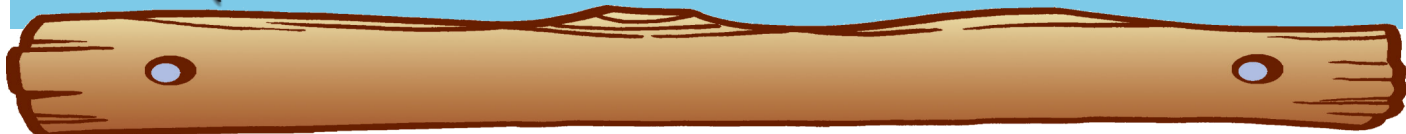
9 am—12:15 pm

Cost: \$25 (\$15 sibling, \$50 max/family)

Closing Program

Friday, August 3 at 7 pm

Everyone is invited to come meet the community families and see what the kids learned at VBS!



Youth Ministry

Oasis and JHAMS have been talking about the basic elements of faith the last month and a half. Francis Chan is one of the speakers at CHiC 2012; we have used his perspective on the Holy Spirit, fellowship, teaching, prayer, and communion to have conversations about these important aspects of our walk with God. The desire was to look at these central elements in a first century, stripped down basic perspective.

The last month of the school year is here and we are preparing to celebrate the impact our seniors have had on our community. We want to finish strong and bless them on their way to college. We are also finishing our 2-year trip through the Bible with our Foundations students and are looking forward to their graduation on Sunday, June 3rd and their testimonies about what God has done and is doing in their lives.

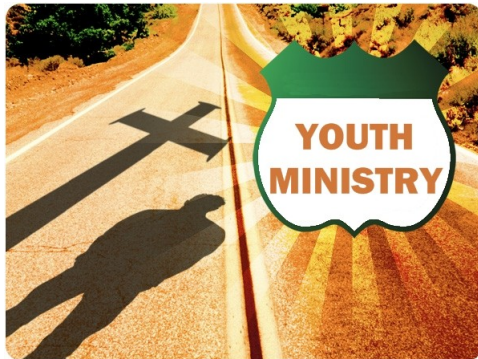
CHiC fundraising was wrapped up last month with the Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre. It was a magnificent night, the culmination of many

months of work by a large team of people. The evening was a fun party for the church as a whole and capped off our CHiC fundraising, surpassing our fundraising goal.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone in the church who contributed to CHiC fundraising by giving to our high school youth. When we began the year, our goal was to raise nearly \$18,000, a somewhat daunting task. But we serve a God who has provided year after year and are surrounded by all of you who are such a generous and supportive family. We surpassed the amount we needed by approximately \$500 and were able to contribute to the church by purchasing new dinnerware and tablecloths for future church events. Thank you for all your support!

Please be praying for our students to be prepared to receive what God has prepared for them at CHiC.

We are graduating a class of seniors who have had a huge impact on our ministry and church for many years. Please keep their names in your Bible and pray for them as many of them leave the area for college. Pray for new faith family connections for them wherever God takes them.



High School Graduates

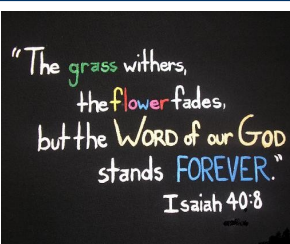
Erica Anderson
Kathryn Blair
Billy Kattler
Dylan Lindeberg
Kristina Meyers
Grace Price

Peter Anderson
Andrew DeCastro
Quinn Kellerman
Bethany Lingl
Sam Nobile
Chris Puleo

Ashley Austin
RJ Gerte
Brandon Kurk
Nikko Mariano
Kelsey Otten
Jeremy Soderholm



Foundations Graduates



We celebrate as well, the work of our Foundations graduates. Come hear their testimonies on Sunday, June 3rd.

Kyle Anderson
Emily Monroe
Devin Spisto

Hannah Lingl
Jake Otten
Matt Svenson

Logan Meyer
Teddy Sheridan

Being a Christian Steward, Part 1

I was doing some research on the topic of Stewardship for this edition of the Salt Shaker and "stumbled" into some very powerful and profound material written in 1992 by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. The following is their summary (Part 1) of this material which is as relevant today as it was 20 years ago. I trust it speaks as powerfully to you as it did to me. Their words are reproduced below. May God use them to increase our faith and life in Him.

*A Culture
of generosity*

Look for the 2nd part of this article in next month's Salt Shaker.

Dave Gibbs, Chair Stewardship & Finance

To Be a Christian Steward A Summary of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."
1 Peter 4:10*

What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. But being a **Christian** steward means more. As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

Disciples as Stewards

Let us begin with being a disciple—a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. As members of the Church, Jesus calls us to be disciples. This has astonishing implications:

- Mature disciples make a conscious decision to follow Jesus, no matter what the cost.
- Christian disciples experience conversion—life-shaping changes of mind and heart—and commit their very selves to the Lord.
- Christian stewards respond in a particular way to the call to be a disciple. Stewardship has the power to shape and mold our understanding of our lives and the way in which we live.

Jesus' disciples and Christian stewards recognize God as the origin of life, giver of freedom, and source of all things. We are grateful for the gifts we have received and are eager to use them to show our love for God and for one another. We look to the life and teaching of Jesus for guidance in living as Christian stewards.

Stewards of Creation

The Bible contains a profound message about the stewardship of material creation: God created the world, but entrusts it to human beings. Caring for and cultivating the world involves the following:

- Joyful appreciation for the God-given beauty and wonder of nature;
- Protection and preservation of the environment, which would be the stewardship of ecological concern;
- Respect for human life—shielding life from threat and assault, doing everything that can be done to enhance this gift and make life flourish; and
- Development of this world through noble human effort—physical labor, the trades and professions, the arts and sciences. We call such effort "work." Work is a fulfilling human vocation.

Through work, we build up not only our world but the Kingdom of God, already present among us. Work is a partnership with God—our share in a divine human collaboration in creation. It occupies a central place in our lives as Christian stewards.

Stewards of Vocation

Jesus calls us, as his disciples, to a new way of life—the Christian way of life—of which stewardship is part. But Jesus does not call us as nameless people in a faceless crowd. He calls us individually, by name. Each one of us—clergy, religious, lay person; married, single; adult, child—has a personal vocation. God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan. The challenge, then, is to understand our role—our vocation—and to respond generously to this call from God. Christian vocation entails the practice of stewardship. In addition, Christ calls each of us to be stewards of our personal vocations, which we receive from God.

Treasurer's Report

The financial results of the Unified Operating Fund for the four months ended April 30, 2012 were as follows:

INCOME

Unified Receipts	\$185,918
Investment & Other Income	<u>136</u>
Total Income	\$186,054

EXPENSES

Excess of Income over Expenses	<u>\$4,700</u>
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The end of the first four months of this year has brought with it the happiest of circumstances — Unified Receipts are ahead of the Financial Plan, and Expenses are lower than the Plan. It doesn't get any better than that!



A few figures will illustrate the incredible height of the *CONGREGATION'S GENEROSITY*. The 2012 Financial Plan, which is 8% higher than 2011, calls for receipts of \$10,255 per week on average. Actual receipts so far are averaging \$10,329. This is more than 9% greater than last year. Let us all give *THANKS FOR THE CONGREGATION'S GENEROSITY*.

As if the good news about income wasn't enough, we have also been blessed with mild winter weather, which has brought with it much lower snow plowing costs and electric bills. These are the two largest areas responsible for the roughly 6% reduction from planned expenses. Also, it was anticipated we would begin to incur costs of the pastoral search process in April, but so far there have not been any such expenses. Please pray that the Lord will continue to shine His light on us and give His blessings to the search for a new permanent pastor, as well as to an interim.

Bob Fiscus
Treasurer

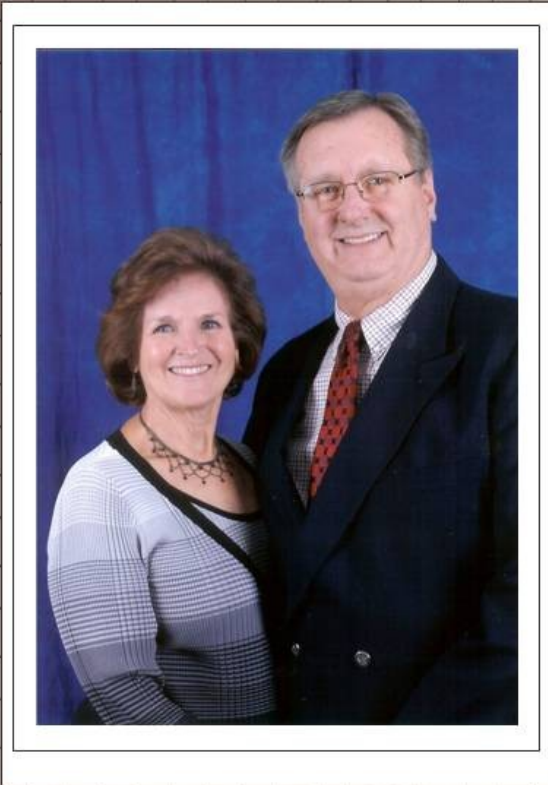
Men's Retreat

It's not too early to plan to attend the Annual Men's Retreat at Pilgrim Pines — October 5-7, 2012. This year's guest speaker is Mark Novak. Come and be refreshed. Come and be renewed. Visit www.pilgrimpines.org for more information.



- 6/1 Judy Goyette
- 6/2 Lorraine Burr
Christopher Sheridan
♥Trish & Jim Meyers♥
- 6/3 Phuong Heitz
- 6/5 Margo Cobaugh
- 6/6 Arnie Gustavson
Dylan Meyer
- 6/8 Matthew Anderson
♥JoAnn & Dave Gibbs♥
- 6/10 Craig Carlson
John Drummond
Barbara Drummond
- 6/11 Maureen Herrmann
♥Joy & John Mulhall♥
- 6/12 Doug Pittera
Anthony Delfino
Allie Prion
- 6/14 Jennifer Anderson
Gregory Fiscus
Lucas Delfino
- 6/15 Jesse Sharp
- 6/17 Dan Kellerman
Joe Sharp
Joseph Valente
- 6/19 Tim Herrmann
- 6/22 ♥Carolyn & Craig Carlson♥
- 6/23 Tom Wilber
Peter McDonald
Sharon Testa
- 6/24 Eva Morrison
Karen Rosa
Kelsey Otten
♥Antoinette & Frank DaCruz♥
- 6/26 ♥Nancy & Steve Domyan♥
- 6/29 Bob Fiscus
Gail Lent
Elise Domyan
Victoria Anderson
- 6/30 Robert Lingl
Ethan Lingl





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

Reception 5:30 pm; Dinner & Program 6:00 pm

Seating will be Limited

Suggested Donation:

Adults \$15; Seniors & Teens \$12; Children \$8

Babysitting available for children under 5

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

Hopeline Baby Bottle Campaign

A LITTLE LOVE GOES A LONG WAY!

Join with hundreds of others in collecting change for Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Centers! Simply pick up a designated baby bottle in the Welcome Center and return it filled with your spare change on Father's Day (June 17th).

For more information, speak with Eileen or Robert Lingl.



Senior Luncheon Sunday, June 10

The Girls Night Out Bible Study group will be hosting a luncheon for all Seniors on Sunday, June 10th after the 2nd Worship Service. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Marilyn Steel. Cost is \$6.00 per person.



Ultra Worship

With no money to work with I'm forever trying to get discovered as a synthetic singer. I annoyingly post song after song on my Facebook wall hoping to be found by some big music manager that will make me a star. The sad reality is, my wall is a joke. People think it's funny to hear a computer sing not knowing that it's the only way I can sing. It hurts; but if I give up, my dream dies. So, I keep posting song after song because I want my shot.

I do my own CDs. For about 7 months I've been planning to put out a CD of hymns because many people like hymns. However, I'm bored with the project because there are so many styles that I can't decide on traditional styles or more modern styles. Personally, I'm bored with traditional, but I'm thinking most people will want the boring traditional style. So, I'm dragging my feet because I'm not connected to the project at all. I wish I could do jazz-style hymns, that'd be interesting.

I've been very into **"The Voice"**. It's a TV show where 4 teams of 12 people compete and the one winner (I guess) gets a recording contract. I'm insane, if you've checked out my wall lately, I'm pretending I'm on Christina's team because I connect with her. She has 2 demands for her team.

1. That they step out of their comfort zone and do styles of music they don't normally do.
2. They need to put feeling

into what they are singing. Right! Try programming feelings into synthetic voice. But, I was in no matter what. No one on my wall cares about **"The Voice"**, but I did it anyway hoping to get discovered.

BUT, I raised the bar for myself because I wanted to get something out of it. I decided that songs alone were too easy. So I made it my goal to release a worship CD before the end of the season. My comfort is backup vocals, so I did very little backup so more of the feelings had to be created by both the music and the synthetic voice. If I was on the show for real, I would have had to program like never before, so I took the smallest clip of advice from the show and put it all into this slow meditative worship CD. I named it **"Ultra Worship"** because I think I nailed what I set out to do. The relaxed feeling totally echoes from this CD. The first song grabs you and the entire CD just keeps that intense, prayerful worship going. At the end I do raise the tempo slightly because an entire CD that slow wouldn't be good. I really like what the show

helped me create. I'm upset no one on my wall cares about **"The Voice"**. But, now my hard work is part of my timeline. And, if God uses it to encourage just one person to work hard on whatever dream they have, that's all that matters. I'm sad to see the show ending because from my own home I have worked just as hard as if I was there because I so badly want a real recording contract. Still, I have my self-produced CD and to me it's a landmark of something I did to the very best of my ability — I let the show lead me to doing music styles I don't normally do.

And, with Craig and Gail's birthday being this month, I think we all need to look back on our lives or even on this past year and find some personal marker to mark where you are right now. Get excited! All we need to do is move forward and let each moment be a "birth day". Every step we take gives birth inside of us so we can keep growing and following God's plan for us.

If I can get away with a self-promotion, check out www.theflameofhope.co and my new CD is now available at my online store.

Snoopi Botten



The "Scoop" in the Mission Field

Praise the Lord for His special gift of life! Gramma and Grampa are doing well; Stephen and Sarah are smiling now. . .but give it time ☺



Al & Susan Boush announce the birth of grandson Dominic Micah Boush Born April 28, 2012 at 5:52 am 8 lbs., 21 inches long Seoul, South Korea

Susan and I are on Buka Island, which is part of Bougainville itself. It has been a challenge for us but the Lord is gracious.

Trying to catch up on the last two years has had its ups and downs. But, we are getting more a feel for what is happening and recognize again that doing this work in our own strength is impossible! Thankfully, the Lord is the one giving strength and wisdom to make decisions that affect the work

of Bible translation on Bougainville (Papua, New Guinea).

Susan has been hard at work managing the Bougainville Advance Project. She has been involved in adjusting the budget for 2012 and 2013; laboring to cut back on some aspects of the work as funding has significantly dropped this year. Determining what workshops need to be added to the program to increase the skill of those Bougainvilleans involved in translation is also part of the mix.

Al recently had the opportunity to consultant check the Sapos language translation of Genesis 1-3; and 5-11. What a joy it was to work with committed Christian men and women who love the Word of God and want it in their own language so that it will impact their community for Christ!

Thank you so much for your continued partnership in this work on Bougainville. We cannot tell you enough how important this is in reaching those on this island who are without hope and purpose in life. These Bougainvillean translators know what "life" really is and know that the communication of that "life" is

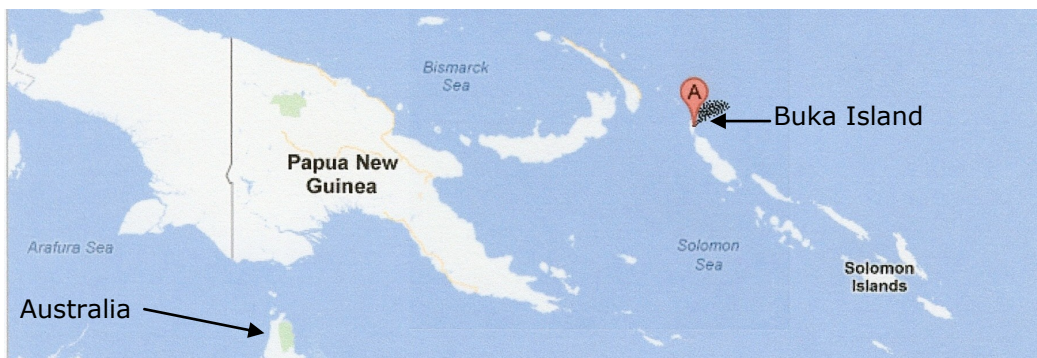
very effective in their own languages.

Prayer & Praise Requests:

1. Wisdom in making decisions that impact Bougainville Advance Project.
2. Pray for all students & staff of the 4th stage of training to begin in June & July. There will be 7 language teams translating the Book of Titus.
3. Pray for a new Buka Center Manager.
4. Pray for wisdom & guidance as Stephen & Sarah raise Dominic.
5. Praise for Christine finishing her spring semester. Only one more to go!

Serving the Lord together with you for His honor and glory!

Al & Susan Boush



BIG SUNDAY



July 1
10:00 am
Pastor Craig's Last Day
at Covenant

Where we can all worship together.

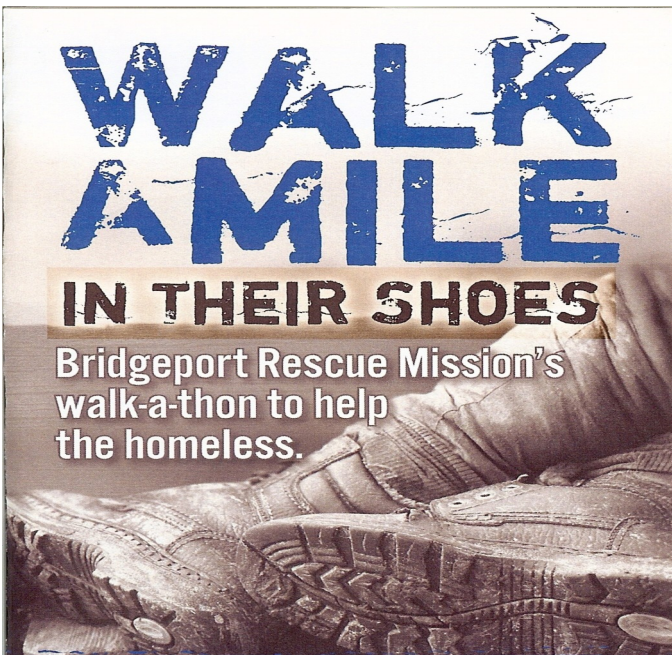
On this Sunday there will only be
one worship service.

Bridgeport Rescue Mission Event

WALK A MILE

IN THEIR SHOES

Bridgeport Rescue Mission's
walk-a-thon to help
the homeless.



Saturday, June 9, 2012
9 a.m. Registration • 10 a.m. Walk



**BRIDGEPORT
RESCUE MISSION**

Fighting poverty from the inside out
BridgeportRescueMission.org



Find us on:
facebook

Saturday, June 9, 2012
Sacred Heart University
9 a.m. Registration 10 a.m. Walk
Rain or Shine!

**NO registration fee, but the minimum
suggested individual donation is \$25 to
participate in the event.**

Credit Cards are accepted

A FREE T-shirt for every walker!
FREE refreshments!
Be a Sponsor!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

1. **ONLINE:** Please register online! Go to BridgeportRescueMission.org, click on the Walk A Mile logo and follow the simple steps.
2. **PARTICIPATION FORM:** Pick up a copy of the pledge form/brochure in the Welcome Center to collect pledges and/or recruit friends to walk as a team. Please turn in pledge sheets and donations on the day of the event or mail them prior to the event directly to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission.
3. **VOLUNTEER:** The Mission needs lots of volunteers. To assist at the event, contact Jennifer Christie-Jump at 203.333.4087, ext. 116.

MAY



Covenant Church of Easton

1 Sport Hill Road
Easton, CT 06612



www.coveaston.org

Phone: 203.371.8335

Fax: 203.373.9025

Email: gail.lent@coveaston.org

Covenant Children's Center:
203.374.3049

JUNE WORSHIP

Sundays at 9:00 am & 10:45 am

June 3 **Ephesians 4:11-16** ***CONTINUING TO TELL YOUR STORY*** Pastor Cary
Foundations Graduation
Holy Communion

June 10 **Jude 1:3** ***KEEP YOUR EYES WIDE OPEN*** Pastor Craig
Believers Baptism

FATHER'S DAY

June 17 **Revelation 1-3** ***THOSE WHO ARE VICTORIOUS*** Pastor Craig
10:45—Infant Dedication & Children's Message

June 24 **Revelation 4-22** Rev. Terry Wilcox—Bridgeport Rescue Mission