



Covenant Church of Easton

# The Salt Shaker

## Discipleship & Discipling

### Introduction

Unfortunately, like most Christians, I did not know what discipleship and discipling was until I had been a Christian for many years. Although my first serious introduction to discipleship took place in college, my first experience with discipling did not take place until after I became a pastor and disciplined young men in my first church. Because I had never been disciplined myself, I ventured out in discipling by hook and crook, learning along the way.

When I was introduced to The Great Commission, I was given the impression that the emphasis was on going, on becoming a missionary. But Matthew's account makes it clear that the emphasis is on "making disciples." The verb "make disciples" is the only imperative in the passage. This means making disciples is a **command**. The word "go" is in the participle form and could be translated, "As you go, make disciples of all nations." It seems therefore that Jesus was assuming that they would go. For He had already told them that they were to be His *messengers of the Good News of the Kingdom* to all nations (Luke 24) and that it was He Himself who was sending them (John 20).

Based upon the assumption that they would go, Jesus now points out to them that **the essence of their work is the making of disciples**. The **process of discipling** includes not just initial **faith in Jesus**, but also **baptism** and the **observance** of all that Jesus taught (Matthew 28:19).

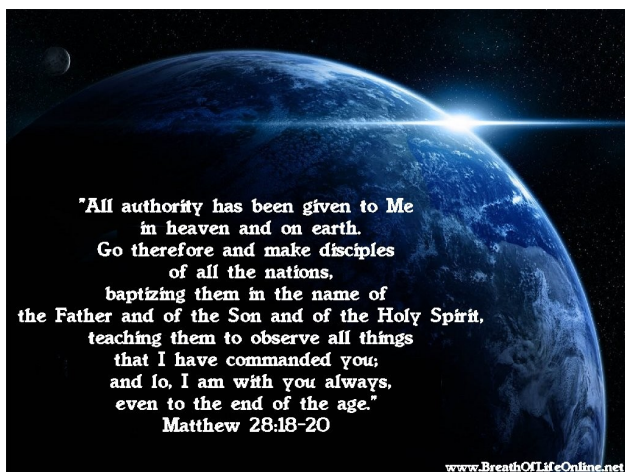
It is the task of Jesus' workers, therefore, not just to scatter the seed in an indiscriminate manner, but to cultivate people in such a way that they become devoted followers of Jesus Christ. The Eleven obeyed—and a chain was started that comes right down to you and me today. We are here as believers because they obeyed all of Christ's commands, including the one to "go and **make disciples**."

This is the task of each and every one of us. It is the task of a disciple. Then people become the "treasures" we lay up for ourselves in heaven (Matthew 6:20).

Discipleship and discipling are a prominent theme in Scripture and it is unfortunate they have not held an equally important place in many of our churches.

**Discipleship and discipling go hand in hand**, for discipleship apart from discipling tends to remain theoretical. Discipling is putting flesh to the bones with its **relentless emphasis on accountability**.

*Pastor Lars*



# Midnite Mishmosh

October 12<sup>th</sup> 8 pm—October 13<sup>th</sup> 7:15 am

Cost = \$30



**Gear up for the Annual Midnite Mishmosh Event!** You and your friends will get to play **Laser-tag**, use the **batting cages**, play **ultimate Frisbee**, **flag football** and **volleyball** try out the **inflatable obstacle course**, or spend your money in the video **arcade**. Plus discover the amazing sport of **Whirlyball** – all you need to know is you play lacrosse while driving bumper cars.

If that is not enough, add **broomball** and **ice skating** for a couple hours in the middle of the night. We finish off the night with some **movies** at church (with background lullabies so you fall asleep) and a pancake breakfast together.

This one will be remembered! Invite your friends to a night you can talk about all year! Don't forget to pick up a permission slip from Pastor Cary or you can download one from the church website — [www.coveaston.org](http://www.coveaston.org).



"Let those whooo are wise...  
...think about the Lord's great love."  
Psalm 107:43 (NIRV)

Covenant Children's Ministry

**Hay Rides ~ Crafts ~ Games  
Dance Party!  
Special service project, too.  
Come in costume if you wish!**

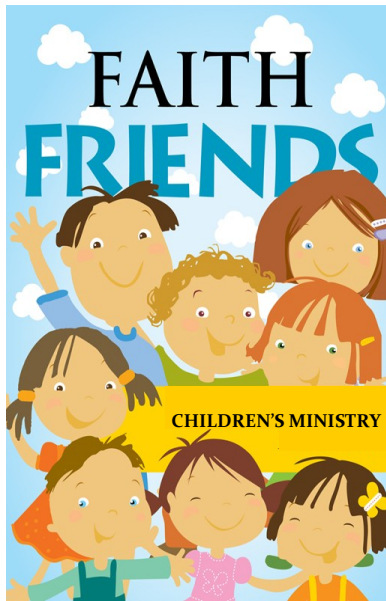
**Harvest Party**  
**Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**4-6 PM Free!**

# Children's Ministry — Faith Friends

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The Children's Ministry would like to start a letter writing activity to give each person in our congregation an opportunity to link up with one of our Sunday School students and help them get to know you better by writing a note to them each month. Students will not be required to write back, but might be encouraged to do so.

All you have to do is tell them something about yourself and ask them a question. It will be a good way to reach out to a child and



share something of yourself with them. We have both boys and girls in Sunday School, so MEN this request is going out to you as well.

If you are interested, please leave your name and address (ASAP) in Gail Lent, Roseann Slater or Alma Kearns' church mailbox. Children receive lots of emails and texts, but not many letters; what a wonderful and simple way to bless our children.

## Get Your Baby Fix!

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The Children's Ministry has been especially praying about our early childhood ministry these past few years. And praise God! We have some new little ones!

As you know, we have had to let 2 of our Sunday morning sitters go, so we now have one sitter in the preschool room. It's just not safe having babies, toddlers and preschoolers in one room. We really need to clean out and organize the nursery, and staff it with regular volunteers on a rotation.

I know some of you have the spiritual gift of liking to clean — if that's you, let Roseann Slater know your availability for work day cleaning out the nursery (day/evening/weekend?).

If you are able to do a monthly shift during either of the worship services (9:00 or 10:45), also let Roseann know.



## Church Policy on Nuts (food, not people)

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With the blessing of the Children's Ministry, the church policy on nuts has been changed. The risk of injury to young children with nut allergies has diminished with the closing of the Covenant Children's Center. Therefore the Church Council has agreed and voted to eliminate the ban on nuts in our church.

# Treasurer's Report

The financial results of the Unified Operating Fund for the eight months ended August 31, 2012 were as follows:

## INCOME

Unified Receipts	\$337,497
Investment & Other Income	<u>113</u>
Total Income	\$337,610

## EXPENSES

	<u>\$346,376</u>
Excess of Expenses over Income	<u>(\$8,766)</u>

August is the first month in the last five months that there has been a deficit of expenses over income. This deficit is entirely due to a downturn in offering receipts. Through the first two-thirds of the year, offering receipts are over \$28,000 less than the Financial Plan adopted at the start of 2012. This shortfall is a large source of concern as we enter the Fall months when spending normally picks up from the low-spending Summer months. Therefore, you are urged to bring your gifts up-to-date if you have fallen behind, or consider increasing your offerings even if you are current.

Fortunately, expenses are nearly \$21,000 less than expected, largely due to lower than anticipated spending by the Search Committee and the Personnel and Finance Ministries. However, much of these savings are likely temporary and may be expected to reverse over the last one-third of the year, particularly if the pace of the Pastoral Search process increases. Also, it is anticipated that the cost of replacing Dan Wolgemuth will increase expenses.

On another note, the Church loaned \$30,000 to Pastor Craig and Carolyn in 1999 to aid them in buying their home in Milford. They have now paid off this loan, which bore no interest, but did provide for sharing the increase in value of the home. The payment to the Church was \$37,421, which has been added to the Parsonage Fund.

Also, the **3 MORE** Capital Campaign is now underway. Through the third Sunday in September, 8 pledges have been received for a total of \$46,770. A big thank you to those who have already pledged and an invitation to everyone else to join them.

**Bob Fiscus**, Treasurer



- 10/1 Andy Zäger
- 10/3 Bob Lindquist  
Amy Wiemer  
Erika Michaels  
Erinn Michaels  
♥ Steve & Kasia Lindeberg
- 10/4 Dave Diana  
Teddy Sheridan
- 10/5 Amber Hoyt
- 10/6 ♥ Jeff & Janet Munley  
♥ Mike & Diana Ambrose
- 10/9 Thomas Keegan
- 10/10 ♥ Joe & Laurie Joy Sharp
- 10/12 ♥ Mark & Stephanie Wirth
- 10/14 Terry Greene
- 10/15 Matt Rieger
- 10/16 Mikey Testa
- 10/18 Luiza Estrada
- 10/19 ♥ Chuck & Crista Forstrom
- 10/20 Kylie Forstrom  
♥ Bob & Claire Forstrom
- 10/22 Bob DelBuono  
Jessica Anderson  
♥ Bob & Diane DelBuono
- 10/23 Paula Keegan  
♥ Robert & Eileen Lingl
- 10/29 Don Norkawich  
Will Werner
- 10/30 Rob DelBuono
- 10/31 Cindy Francis



# PRAYER *Service*

Monday, October 29  
7:00-8:30 pm

Everyone is welcome to attend the Silent Prayer Service. This is a wonderful time to get alone with God in the quietness of the Sanctuary. Prayer Ministers are available to pray silently for you between 7 and 8:30 pm.

Come when you can; leave when you must.



Everyone Welcome! Join Us!  
Next Meeting: October 21  
Contact Sandi Logan

DEPARTMENT OF  
**THEATRE**  
**ARTS**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Each Month  
12:15-2:00 pm  
Large Classroom

## Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

Now that we are back to TWO worship services, we are back to TWO Coffee Hours — one after each service. Look for the TWO clipboards for signing up to help! And remember, “Goodies” are optional. Instructions are available OR one of the Fellowship Ministry volunteers is happy to “coach” you on your first time — but it really is easy. This is a great opportunity to serve your church family and get to know the folks at Covenant.

If you want to help with Coffee Hour, but would prefer to just “*leave a treat*”, that’s great too! Fellowship can always use non-perishable snack food to have on hand when items are needed.



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**Kris Freeley** would like to thank everyone for your prayers, love, words of encouragement, cards and visits. “It was super being covered in prayer and knowing that before surgery. It really meant a lot,” said Kris.

**Have you noticed?** Our friend Snoopi Botten hasn’t had an article in the Salt Shaker the past couple months because he’s been dealing with some health issues and been in the hospital. Please remember Snoopi in your prayers.

# Community News

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*The Congregational Church of Easton* will celebrate its 250th Anniversary during the month of October with a number of events the church has planned to mark this important milestone. Everyone is welcome to attend. Checkout their website for more information: <http://www.eastonchurch.org/anniversary/anniversary.html>.



*Covenant Village of Cromwell Benefit Event, "It's a Wonderful World"* will be held Sunday, October 7th at 5:00 pm at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell. Proceeds from the benefit will enhance the funds they use to finance benevolent care. RSVP to Jane Carlson, 860.754.3025.

*Take a Look Tour — Christian Heritage School* in Trumbull will host information tours on Tuesday, October 9th and November 6th. You can register by calling 203.261.6230, ext. 555 or visit their website [www.kingsmen.org](http://www.kingsmen.org).

*Christian Heritage School Fall Festival* takes place on Saturday, October 13, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm — Rain or Shine (575 White Plains Road, Trumbull).

*Covenant Village of Cromwell's* October Open Houses will take place Sunday, October 14 & 28 (2 to 4 pm) and Wednesday, October 10 (10:30 am). Space is limited, RSVP to 860.754.3039 or visit [covenantvillageofcromwell.org](http://covenantvillageofcromwell.org).

## News from Pilgrim Pines, Swanzey NH

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### FALL FOLIAGE

2012

October 8-11, 2012

Day trip to  
*Castle in the Clouds*

High in the Ossipee Mountain Range, you'll see a breathtaking vista of Lake Winnepesaukee and the hills and mountains beyond.

Come and be refreshed.  
Come and be renewed.

Call 603.352.0443 or visit  
[www.pilgrimpines.org](http://www.pilgrimpines.org)

### MOTHER DAUGHTER RETREAT

November 16-18, 2012

Moms and daughters, and even grandmas, will enjoy a weekend of spiritual nourishment and plain old fun all in a gorgeous setting surrounded by God's beautiful creation. Best of all, the memories made during this very special retreat will last forever!

Geared towards girls ages 11-18.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE PINES

November 22-23, 2012

Come and enjoy Thanksgiving at Pilgrim Pines. Worship together with family & friends on Swanzey Lake.

No cooking, no cleaning, great food & fellowship and a whole lot of fun!. Come and enjoy!

You might even take the challenge of a Polar Bear plunge in Swanzey Lake!

# Missions Corner

We have big news to share . . . Just a few days after our last email newsletter went out, **we reached 100% of our monthly support and were cleared for departure!** It was exciting (and a bit surreal) to finally reach 100% in commitments and move into a new phase of the process - preparing to leave. We are so blessed by God's provision and faithfulness to us. Thank you for your prayers and support that has opened the door for us to move to Vienna and begin ministry!

We get on a plane in Chicago on **Sunday, October 7th**, with one-way tickets bound for Vienna. When we arrive, we will immediately take up residence in a fully-furnished temporary apartment for the rest of 2012. After being "nomadic" for over a year, we are excited to move into an apartment, even though we can only temporarily call it home. The apartment is next to a park, close to downtown (where we will take language classes), and has easy access to public transportation.

We look forward to meeting our neighbors and worshipping at a local church when we arrive.

*Would you pray that God prepares the hearts of neighbors we will meet and leads us to the right church while we are in language school?*

You may recall that we will need to **leave Austria for 90 days beginning on January 4th**. This is because our long term visas will not yet be processed and our tourist visas will expire. During these 90 days, we plan to serve in another country and learn about church planting from seasoned missionaries.



The two church planting internships we are considering are with WorldVenture

missionaries in England and Turkey. As we explore each opportunity, *please pray for wisdom and discernment for us and WorldVenture leadership. Pray that we would know which internship will be the best fit and prepare us for our future ministry in Austria.*

The rest of this month will be spent packing and sorting, planning for departure and saying goodbye. Leaving our friends and family, everything that is familiar, and our home culture is very difficult for us. We are excited about our life and ministry in Austria, but that doesn't make saying goodbye easy. *Please pray for us as we prepare to depart, that we would enjoy special times with friends and family and that our hearts would have peace about our upcoming transition.*

Your Partners in Ministry,  
**Nate & Bethany Johnson**



Austria, officially the Republic of Austria, is a landlocked country of roughly 8.47 million people in Central Europe.

**Capital:** Vienna  
**Currency:** Euro  
**Population:** 8,419,000 (2011)  
**Official Language:** German

# October

"Come, little leaves"  
said the Wind one day;  
"Come to the  
meadows with me  
and play. Put on your  
dresses of red and  
gold; for summer is  
past, and the days  
grow cold."

- George Cooper

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www.bjupress.com

## 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

E-mail: [gail.lent@coveaston.org](mailto:gail.lent@coveaston.org)

Rooted in Christ - Reaching Out to the World

## PILGRIM PINES MEN'S RETREAT

*October 5-7*

*"Building Your Core Strength"*

*(A journey through the Beatitudes)*

Download the Registration Form Online:

<http://pilgrimpines.org/wp-content/uploads/mensretreat2012.pdf>