

The Covenanter

FEBRUARY 2017

Cape Cod



Covenant
Church

Mission
Statement

By the grace of God, we strive to be a welcoming community of Christ's disciples; committed to sharing His love, maturing in faith and growing His church on Cape Cod and throughout the world.



TRANSITIONS

by Pastor Johnny

“For I the Lord do not change.” – Malachi 3:6

From Moses to Joshua...from Elijah to Elisha...from Barnabas to Paul...from slavery to freedom...from wilderness to Promised Land...the scriptures tell us a remarkable narrative of the faithfulness of God. Through all of life's changes, through all of the transitions the people of God face, He is always faithful. He is with us every step of the way: ahead of us preparing, beside us providing, under and above us protecting, behind us supporting. God's faithfulness never fails!

All of us experience transitions in our lives, and the life of the church is no different. For the last two years we have planned and prepared for this second stage of our church's transition as Pastor Tom slides into a part-time pastoral role, with a primary focus on congregational care. I will take on more of the traditional "Senior Pastor" role in terms of leadership, preaching and administration.

On a tangible level, much will seem the same, as both pastors will be engaged in the ministries and life of our congregation. On a practical level, Pastor Tom will be working part-time, available for counseling and appointments by contacting the church office, and I will be moving into the "Pastor's Office" downstairs.

But most importantly, the same God who led us into this time of transition, who provided and guided along the way, continues to lead us onward as a congregation, into new opportunities to serve His Kingdom and share His grace and love with our neighbors near and far. He has not, does not, and will not change. He is our Rock on which we find our foundation, and on which we stand.

As we were recently reminded by Pastor Tom in his sermon on "Transitions", from the book of Joshua: *“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

**Please Note: Due date to submit:
2nd Monday of the month
(for the following month)**

(or earlier if possible).

Please be as brief as possible.

**To submit your article,
please send it by email to:**

capecovenantchurch@comcast.net

If you do not have email,

please **type** your submission and leave
it in the office.

**If you are interested in having a list of
church family members' birthdays
and anniversaries, you may pick up a
list in the office.**

Who was this person whom we celebrate on February 14th? St. Valentine is believed to have been a priest or bishop in Rome who was beheaded on February 14th for helping couples wed despite a law banning all marriages. Valentine cards are based on the story that Valentine sent a farewell note to his jailer's daughter whom he had healed, telling her to trust in Jesus and his love. He signed it "from your Valentine." Whatever the facts, love is certainly something to celebrate! Tell someone you love them today.

God
Loves
You
Always!!



St. Valentine
beheaded 269a.d.

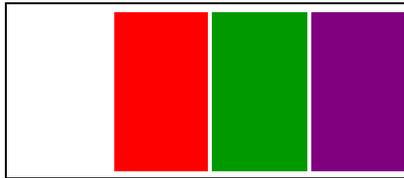
*The proof of love is in the
works. Where love exists, it
works great things. But when
it ceases to act, it ceases to
exist.* Pope St. Gregory the Great



SAY IT WITH FLOWERS!

Did you know that you can provide the flowers for the front of the church on Sunday mornings?

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to commemorate or celebrate someone or a special event. You are asked to provide a donation of \$40 to cover the cost, and Martha Young and the office will take care of the rest! It is a wonderful way to enhance worship and remember someone or something special in your life.



**THE COLORS IN OUR
CHURCH**

Have you ever wondered what the colors at the front of our church mean? The cloths, or vestments, on the pulpit, altar and Bible vary depending on the season of the church. Our church year begins with Advent, and the color is purple. It symbolizes humility, and also royalty — Christ's whole person in one color! White is used on special days and seasons, like Christmas, Epiphany, Christ the King Sunday and Easter. It symbolizes purity and Christ's Kingship. Red reminds us of the blood shed for us by Jesus, but also the fire of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The green symbolizes new life and growth. It is used throughout the season of Pentecost, and also the season between Epiphany and Lent.

**SUNDAY MORNING
COFFEE HOUR
SUPPORT!**

Please talk with your commission or group chair to volunteer if you are able for the month as listed below. Commission chairs...please talk with Hal Smith, 339-793-0548, to coordinate.



February, Finance Commission
Andrew Foss, 508-694-7751

March, Worship and Music Commission
Margaret Potter, 508-430-2164

April, Evangelism Commission
Bill Bohlin, 508-694-6064



THANK YOU NOTES

A special thank you to all those who made the church so beautiful during the holiday season. First, Martha Young who put up the wreaths at our doorways, provided floral arrangements (all year long!), and, with Roland, put up the banners in the Narthex. Then, Harry and Jean Canning for setting up and decorating the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary. Every year it is a beautiful reminder of the light that has come into our world. And Norm and Marlyce Peterson for the Christmas Card Tree in Fellowship Hall. It is great to see all the cards from here, there and everywhere.
Thank you one and all.

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, support, and meals provided during my recovering from my shoulder replacement! It means so much to me to that so many people care. The weeks since surgery have gone smoothly with a few challenges, of course.

Thanks, also, for the generous check I received for Christmas!! It will come in very handy, I know. I am blessed to be able to work with so many talented people in the music ministry of our church!!! Much thanks to Sara and Marlyce for accompanying our choir and congregation!

Thank you again for everything!
God bless all of you in 2017! Love, Nancy Nelson

I would echo Nancy's words to thank everyone for all the love and support I receive every day at this church. Your generosity is wonderful. Each person in this church is truly a blessing to me. Thank you so much,
Sara Pattie

Dear Covenant Church Family,

It is with a grateful heart that I thank you for your generous Christmas gift and for all the love and support you've shown me throughout the year. I feel very fortunate to receive so many blessings while doing my "job" here at the church! Your kindness and thoughtfulness are true gifts and very much appreciated. All the best for a wonderful new year!
Sincerely, Joan Thompson

Dear Members and Friends of the CCCC!

How can I even begin to thank you for your generosity? I was deeply touched by your Christmas gift — AGAIN! We have a marvelous church, filled with people who look to care and share in so many ways. Nancy and I sure know your caring and sharing.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Together in Christ, Pastor Tom

Dear Church family,

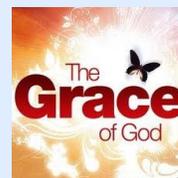
Thank you! How blessed we are to call Cape Cod Covenant Church our home. Since the first day we arrived 2 years ago, you have made us feel so welcome, so loved and so supported. Again this year, your generosity is overwhelming to us. The thoughtful and generous staff gift, and the many expressions of kindness shown to us over the holidays remind us of just how grateful we are for each of you. Again, thank you for your love, and for the opportunity to serve alongside you here on the Cape.

Peace,
Pastor Johnny, Ann, Tobi, Lucy, Elsie and Tanner

To my friends at Cape Cod Covenant Church,

I can't believe I have been here for approximately 8 wonderful years, and have been the beneficiary of your Kindness, Thoughtfulness, and Lagniappe (a New Orleans term meaning "extra"). Your Wonderful Christmas Gift was certainly appreciated and well-shared with my Family who got to visit during the Holidays. You can probably tell I really enjoy our church and especially the people.
Thank All of You once again.

Love, Bob Wilson





THE COVENANT COMPANION MAGAZINE

Are you interested in learning more about Covenant news? Our denominational magazine, the Covenant Companion, is a news source of the Evangelical Covenant church, and it informs, stimulates thought, and encourages dialogue on issues that impact the church and its members. Articles deal with Christian life, the church, spirituality, issues impacting the Christian community, social justice, and outreach ministry.

The annual subscription is \$18.00 and if you are interested in receiving the magazine, you can write a check to our church and denote that it's for the Covenant Companion. We have a group subscription which lowers the price a bit. For those of you who already receive the magazine, please forward your check of \$18 for the upcoming year. Thank you.

**COMPUTER THURSDAY!
9:30am-12:30pm**

Welcome back Tom Donahue!!
Computer Thursday is held **on the second Thursday of each month.**



Next one will be on February 9th
Anyone wishing help with their computers, laptops, etc., or have questions about email and using the internet are welcome to drop by!

NEW OFFICE SCHEDULES

If you need to reach Pastor Johnny, Pastor Tom, or Joan, please call the office (508-385-2223) at any time and leave a message, and they will respond to you as soon as they are able.

Pastor Johnny's day off is Thursday
Pastor Tom is available by appointment through the church office.

Open office hours for Joan are Tuesday-Friday, 9 am-noon or by appointment in the afternoon.

The office is closed on Mondays.

LENTEN SCRIPTURE READERS



Would reading scripture during worship enhance your Lenten journey? The Worship and Music Commission invites you to check your calendar and consider reading on a Sunday morning in March or April convenient for you. Passages are provided ahead of time along with Guidelines for Scripture Readers.

Contact Sheryl Stone at capesalstone@gmail.com or 508- 432-1412 if you are interested or speak to Pastor Tom, Pastor Johnny or any member of the commission.



**Thank you from the
Hands of Hope Outreach Center**

Dear friends,

Thank you for your generous donations of toys and gift cards and volunteers to the Cape Cod Council of Churches Christmas Toy and gift program. We would not be able to successfully assist the many needy families who request help from us without the kindness and generosity of friends like you. Families are so happy to be able to put something under the tree for their teens.

We also appreciate the funds for good purchases and food you send through the year. We recognize your efforts to help our less fortunate neighbors and we thank you for your continued support.

Over the last 12 months our Food Pantry and Outreach Center has helped over 2,700 people with emergency food, eviction notices, oil, overdue utilities, and funds to move into new housing. This assistance would not be possible without the help of our many donors.

We all wish you good health and happiness in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Catherine Driscoll, Director
Carole Kull, Assistant Director
60 volunteers

And all the clients at Hands of Hope

Current Prayer Concerns

February concerns

Elsa Abele (friend of Kristine Strand) Undergoing treatments for lung cancer
 Rachel Ash (niece of Stuart and Bonnie Eyman) Suffered a second stroke while recovering from surgery
 Cindy Doherty Health concerns and treatments
 Norma Houseman Hospice care, Eagle Pond Nursing Home
 Helen King Health concerns
 Don MacDermot (Tim Howard's grandfather) Undergoing radiation and chemo treatment for spinal cancer, St. Vincent's
 Denver Mayo (8-year-old relative of Kristine and Ingrid Strand) Home recovering from brain surgery
 Margaret McNabney (close friend of Bill Potter's cousin, Connie) Serious heart problems, Hammond, IN
 Bonnie Reinke (friend of Kristine Strand) Treatments for bone cancer
 Howard Schneider (Nancy Mutty's brother-in-law) Battling pneumonia
 Harold Warner (Lolly Warner's son) recovering from surgery

Recent health concerns and undergoing treatment

Heidi Arsenault Ongoing health concerns
 Bill Buyer (son of Bob and Margaret Buyer) Cancer treatments
 Terry Curry (friend of Bill Potter) Cancer diagnosis
 Judy Daly Undergoing treatments
 Mary Daly (friend of the Agurkis family) Recovering from broken vertebrae in her neck and back
 Ed Nimmo (friend of Sue and John Peschier) Pancreatic Cancer
 Duane Peterson (relative of the Mancini's and the Dvorak's) Pancreatic Cancer
 George Popovici (good friend of Jimmy Roberts) Health concerns
 Jimmy Roberts Treatments at Dana Farber
 Carol Ryder (extended family of Carl and Ann Shelley) Treatments, NY
 Bob Wakefield Recovering from surgery and continued dialysis treatments, Home
 Dona Jean Wassell (Lynn Read's cousin) Health concerns
 Nina Wikman (friend of Lynn Read and Nancy Russo) Cancer diagnosis



Ongoing concerns

Christopher Baker	Fran Hedlund
Ardis Bardh	Arthur Hvoslef
Avis Cayton	Isabelle Isham
Bob DuBois	Bob and Pauline Nelson
Kay Endris	Joyce Nickerson
Ted Glasgow	Eleanor Olson
Bunny Haas	Edna Swanson
George and Thelma Hartmann	Blake Watson



How You Can Support Pilgrim Pines!

If you shop on-line through Amazon, please sign up for **Amazon Smiles** and choose **Pilgrim Pines** as your charity. Amazon Smiles is a non-profit arm of Amazon in which 0.5% of all purchase prices are donated to the charity of your choice. So you can shop like normal and support Pilgrim Pines in the process! A win-win!



Newsletter!

As you may know, we are now emailing our newsletter to those who have email. If you'd prefer, you are always welcome to receive a printed copy in the mail, or you can pick yours up at church. Just let Joan know in the office if you would like to do this. Thank you!



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 10am and you are welcome to join us as we continue our study of the Psalms.

Contact is Lolly Warner, 508-362-4789

Covenant Wednesday Evening Bible Study

This group meets at 7pm

Contact is Rev. George Elia, 508-362-9276.

Ladies' Book Groups

The Wednesday Evening Ladies' Book group will meet at Donna McCaffrey's house on February 15th at 6:30 pm. The Saturday Group will meet at church February 11th and 25th at 8:30 am.

Contact is Sharon Hirsch, 508-385-6787.

Men's Discussion Group

Meets Saturday mornings in the church library at 8 am. You are welcome to join us anytime.

Contact is David Valle, 508-896-5113

**Thursday Breakfast Groups
both at 8:30 am**

Ladies meet at Olympia's Restaurant in South Yarmouth

Men meet at Grumpy's Restaurant in Dennis

JOIN US!

Albert "Alby" Stecker
P.O. Box 7
38 Uncle Levis Lane
South Chatham, MA 02659
Phone: 508-432-8308



YOGA for the NEW YEAR!

Alice Boyle is offering free yoga classes on Saturday mornings at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. We will meet during February on the 4th, 11th and 18th. There will not be a session on the 25th. Bring your mat. If you don't have one, we have some available for your use. Come join us!



Youth News!

Did you know that we consistently have close to 20 kids each week at our new CLUB 47 youth group (grades 4-7) that meets on Friday nights from 6:30pm-8:00pm? Tyler McMurtrey and Ann Agurkis faithfully volunteer with this group each week.

Did you know that our Senior High Youth Group continues to grow as kids invite their friends to join us each Sunday night from 6:00pm-7:30pm? Annie Poirier faithfully volunteers with this group each week.

Please continue to pray for these two groups (and for our volunteers) as they provide an important outreach into our community, and provide a safe, fun place for our youth to gather in fellowship & faith.

MERCHANDISE CARDS

Merchandise Cards to support the homeless on Cape Cod are on sale after church on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month.



Various denominations are available from merchants, such as Stop and Shop, Shaws, CVS, etc. Cards from additional merchants can be ordered. Please see the retail card table in Fellowship Hall.

PANTRY DONATION BOX

On the first Sunday of each month the Hands of Hope Food Pantry box is at the front of the church for your donations. You may bring food donations at any time, but this helps remind us each month to remember the food pantry when we are grocery shopping.



Suggested items include:

soup, mayo, mustard, ketchup, juice boxes and healthy school snacks, canned fruits and meats, cereals, pasta and sauce. And they are always in need of juice! Thank you for your continued support.

Mission of the Month for February

OUR CHURCH'S ADOPTED CABIN AT PILGRIM PINES

Pilgrim Pines is the conference center owned and operated by the East Coast Conference of the Covenant Church. It is located on the shores of Swanze Lake near Keene, New Hampshire. Pilgrim Pines offers a unique camping experience in three areas:

- (1) Camp Squanto for young people grades 2 through High School
- (2) Mayflower Family Camp for adults and families
- (3) a Campground with RV and tent campsites.

For close to 60 years Pilgrim Pines has provided a Christian camping experience for countless children and families. Maintaining vital programming as well as 60 buildings is very expensive and Pilgrim Pines has depended heavily on the help of volunteers over the years. The year 2012 was named the Year of the Volunteer at Pilgrim Pines and our church stepped up to help. We adopted a cabin at Mayflower Family Camp that was in need of much work from plumbing to painting to window installation to new curtains, light fixtures, etc. With generous contributions of time and money and beautiful original art work, Lakeside Cabin 4A & 4B received a major improvement at the hands of loving volunteers from our church. Staff at the Pines were thrilled with the transformation as were the families who stayed there. It has now been over four years since that effort and we must honor our commitment to keep up with the care of this cabin we have adopted. We want to continue to infuse love into the walls and floors and fixtures of our cabin. The roof and chimney are in desperate need of repair. Please consider contributing to this effort understanding that Pilgrim Pines is a place where children and families experience and share the love of God and find themselves nourished in body, mind and spirit. You may also consider volunteering your time when we once again have a work weekend at Pilgrim Pines in the Spring of 2017. The work weekend dates are April 21-23. Look for sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. The work weekend will be for all ages - there is work for everyone and lots of fun too.



The Covenanter

Cape Cod Covenant Church
P.O. Box 219
S. Dennis, MA 02660
Return Service Requested



"O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!" Psalm 105:1-4

WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:30am

Sunday School:

Adults 9:00am

Children during church service

NURSERY CARE

Provided during worship throughout the year

We look forward to seeing you!

Pastor Johnny Agurkis and Pastor Tom Nelson
Cape Cod Covenant Church, 11 Satucket Road, Brewster, MA 02631
mailing: P.O. Box 219, S. Dennis, MA 02660
Phone: 508-385-2223 Email: capecovenantchurch@comcast.net
website: www.capecodcovenantchurch.com