

The Covenanter

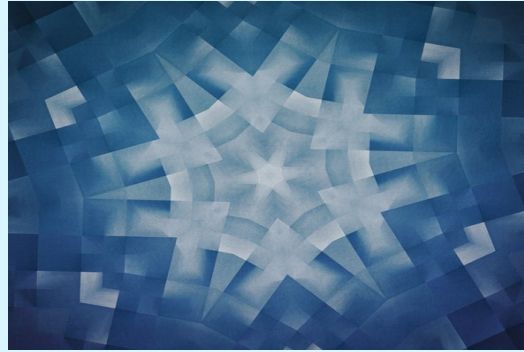
DECEMBER 2016



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.



"Advent begins in the dark." – Fleming Rutledge

It's been a bit shocking to the system since we set the clocks back, just how dark it is getting in the afternoon. The long lazy days of summer are well past and seem like a distant memory. Winter's cold and darkness are extending their grip as we enter into the season of anticipation and preparation that we know as Advent. Advent begins in the dark...and leads us to the Light that shines forth from the manger.

Covenant worship leader David Bjorlin has written a beautiful new hymn, entitled "Advent Begins" that we sang in worship on the first Sunday of Advent. May its words usher us in and guide us onward as we begin our Advent journey.

*Advent begins in the darkness of night,
Waiting and watching for signs of a light,
Walking in faith that the path will appear,
Daring to follow in spite of our fear*

*Advent begins with our dreams yet deferred.
Love sounds ridiculous, prayer seems absurd.
But in the midst of life's center-less maze
We lift together our protest of praise.*

*Advent begins in oppression's domain
Marked by the cries of confusion and pain.
Yet hope is kindled where justice is done,
Mercy is nurtured, and peace is begun*

*Advent goes on till the promised dawn breaks;
Tyrants are toppled, and God's dream awakes,
Hope is perfected, and faith is made sight,
Love is our center, and Christ is our light.*

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.



Hands of Hope Outreach Center Holiday 2016

As you prepare for your holiday meals,
help another family by donating special
holiday items for the food pantry.

Suggested items include:
Stuffing mix, Gravy, Boxed Potatoes,
Cranberry Sauce, Canned Corn,
Pickles, Olives, Relishes, Crackers or
Cookies, and Corn Muffin Mix. You
can also donate a gift card towards
turkey purchases. Thank you!

And don't forget that we also collect
food for the Pantry on the first Sunday
of each month in our box on the altar.
Items include soup, stew, chili, healthy
school snacks for kids.



CELEBRATIONS OF THE SEASON

ST. LUCIA BREAKFAST—Saturday, Dec. 10th, 10:00am

Join us for this annual tradition! Yummy food and a special program
with our Lucia Queen make this a great way to make the season bright.
Please sign up in Fellowship Hall!

The choir will practice after the breakfast!

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT **December 11th, 10:30am, during Worship**

COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING, Sunday, Dec. 11th, 4:00pm

The Fellowship Commission invites you to join in an old-fashioned
carol singing trip around the community. (see p. 4)

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG – Wednesday, Dec. 14th. 7:00pm

Get ready to sing all those Christmas favorites. We'll share stories and
songs that will help us feel that special spirit of the Christmas season.
God is good to us all year long, so let's let him know how happy we are
to celebrate his presence in our lives.

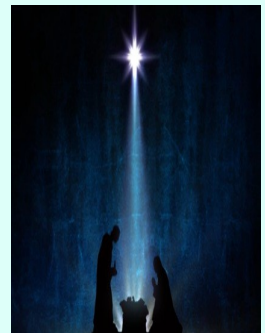
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT **December 18th, 10:30am, during Worship**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE **Saturday, December 24th, 5:30pm**

CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE **Sunday, December 25th, 10:30 am** **No Sunday School or Nursery**

Come be blessed by a special service of
worship to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our
Lord and Savior.

NEW YEAR'S MORNING SERVICE **Sunday, January 1st, 2017, 10:30 am** **Adult Sunday School and Nursery only**



CHRISTMAS CARD TREE



We have set up our special Christmas Card Tree again this year. You are invited to send your Christmas greetings to Church friends and family by placing your card on the tree. The money you save on stamps can be placed in the donation box next to the tree.

Don't forget to check the tree when you come to church to see all the beautiful cards.

EMAIL CHANGE

Paul and Sharon Hirsch have changed their email to cape.hirschs@gmail.com



GOD'S GIFT

As we go through Advent this year, be renewed in your faith. Read carefully the words of your favorite carols, and find new meaning. As you sing them, feel the music and words filling your spirit, and let the worries of this world be washed away as we "wait for that great and glorious day." Ponder these words from the old "Wexford Carol"

Good people, all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind what our good God for us has done in sending His beloved son.

STUDY GROUPS



The Tuesday Morning Bible Study is studying the Book of Psalms and finding it a guideline for daily living. Please join us any time as our discussions are interesting, lively and open to all who wish to participate. We will not meet on December 27 or January 3, but will resume January 9th.

Ladies' Book groups will meet at the church December 3rd at 8:30 am and at the Hirsch's December 7th at 6:30 pm.

Covenant Wednesday Evening Bible Study will not be meeting during December.

SATURDAY MORNING YOGA



We will be meeting this month. Come join us December 3rd, 17th and 31st. Help relieve the holiday tension, and start the new year right!



To my Cape Cod Covenant Church family,

I can't tell you how much I appreciate all the phone calls, visits and get well wishes from you during my time of recuperation after my fall. I hope to be with you all very soon. Sincerely, Bob Buyer

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.

December, Properties

Lee Brigham, 508-494-0993

January, Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Lolly Warner, 508-362-4789

February, Finance Commission

Andrew Foss, 508-694-7751





HANDS OF HOPE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This is a very special mission of the Cape Cod Council of Churches where they collect gifts for ALL those in need—from infants to adults. You may bring your **unwrapped, new** gifts to the Hanging of the Greens Service or during the first week of December.

The last collection day will be Friday, December 9th! Gift ideas include **new** clothing, toys or games, books, gift certificates for clothing and CDs for teens.

The Cape Cod Council of Churches is very grateful for all donations.
Thank you!



LUCIA BREAKFAST DECEMBER 10th

Join us for our annual Santa Lucia breakfast on Saturday, December 10th at 10 am

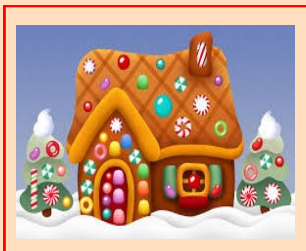
There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, so plan to do some good Swedish cooking. We can also use helpers to set up and clean up. If you have Swedish decorations, let Debby Barbo know and bring them to church Friday the 9th. If you'd like to help, contact Debby Barbo for more info at 508-367-4486

MERCHANDISE CARD SALES

Merchandise Cards to support the homeless on Cape Cod will be on sale after church on the 4th and 18th of December. It's a great way to get Christmas gifts and help others at the same time.

There are several denominations available from various merchants, such as Stop and Shop, Shaws, CVS, etc. You may also order cards from additional merchants such as the 99 Restaurant, Olive Garden, Regal Cinemas and more.

THANK YOU!



BABY SHOWER!!



Join us as we "shower" Baby Hunter and parents Tyler and Jenna McMurtrey with love on Sunday, December 4th, during a special FOOTBALL coffee hour! Baby gifts and extra treats are welcome. Join in a touch football game out front or cheer on your favorite Cape Cod Covenant player! Suggested gifts: diapers (any size but newborn), wipes, books, baby clothes sized 6 months or older. All are welcome to join in the fun to celebrate the McMurtrey family!



COME CAROLING!

We will be caroling this year to share the joy of the season with those in our community who can't get out and enjoy. We'll meet at church at 4 p.m. and carpool around town. Then we'll return for pizza and other goodies. Join in the fellowship and fun.

Prayer Concerns

December concerns

Kevin Baker and family (brother of Martha Brigham's co-worker) Kevin is on life-support
Cindy Doherty Health concerns and treatments
Tom Donahue Recovering from hip surgery, home
Kevin Elia (son of George and Evelyn Elia) Hospitalized with infection
Bonnie Eyman Eye disease and adjustments
Rachel Ash (niece to Bonnie and Stuart Eyman) who suffered a stroke while recovering from recent surgery
Norma Houseman Hospice care, Eagle Pond Nursing Home
Ralph Houseman Recovering at home from recent hospitalization
Don MacDermot (Tim Howard's grandfather) Undergoing radiation and chemo treatment for spinal cancer, St. Vincent's
Diana, Jay and Heather Stolberg, and Bethany Gurski (Relatives and close friends of Jennifer and Stephen Johnson)
Nancy Nelson Recovering from shoulder replacement surgery
George Popovici (good friend of Jimmy Roberts) Critical health concerns
Jimmy Roberts Treatments at Dana Farber
Mary Shea (Ryan Shea's grandmother) Rehab following a minor stroke, upcoming surgery
Denise Sorabella Undergoing treatments
Julie Stecker (Al Stecker's wife and mother to Claudia Stecker and Andrea Love) EPOCH, Harwich
Bob Wakefield Home, recovering from surgery and continued dialysis treatments
Harold Warner (son of Lolly Warner) Critical wound care



Ongoing concerns

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

Recent health concerns and undergoing treatment

Heidi Arsenault Ongoing health concerns
Bob Buyer Recovering at home from a recent fall
Bill Buyer (son of Bob and Margaret Buyer) Cancer treatments
Jay Carter (son of Avis Carter) Health concerns
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
Harry Elia (11-year-old grandson of George and Evelyn Elia) Recovering from surgery
Ed Nimmo (friend of Sue and John Peschier) Pancreatic Cancer
Rosa Palumbo Recovering from surgery at home
Duane Peterson (relative of the Mancini's and the Dvorak's) Pancreatic Cancer
Carol Ryder (extended family of Carl and Ann Shelley) Treatments, NY
Dona Jean Wassell (Lynn Read's cousin) Health concerns
Nina Wikman (friend of Lynn Read and Nancy Russo) Cancer diagnosis



The Evangelical Covenant Church

Mission of the Month – December

The Mission of the Month for December is our Denomination - the Covenant Church. Founded in 1885 by Swedish immigrants who had very little, the Covenant Church was originally called Mission Friends. This name reflected their determination to make concern for people facing hardship the heart and hallmark of their church. Their struggles made them sensitive to the struggles of others. In their first year they managed to buy a house called the Home of Mercy where they cared for the sick, elderly and orphaned. In the past 130 years the Covenant Church has gone from its immigrant beginnings to a fast growing, multiethnic, multigenerational denomination of over 850 churches in the United States and Canada with ministry partnerships in 38 countries on 5 continents. In addition to hospitals, schools, retirement communities and camps, the denomination supports missions projects all over the world including medical missions, community development and disaster relief. They are involved in human trafficking awareness, racial reconciliation, homes for disabled adults, abuse victims advocacy, children's treatment facilities and much more including supporting new churches like ours over 35 years ago. We are privileged to support a denomination that has supported us and is so deeply rooted in the mission of mercy and justice and care for others especially those in need.



WINTERFEST 2017

An East Coast Conference retreat for students in grades 8-12

January 6-8, 2017

Young Life's Lake Champion in Glen Spey, NY

Register online at www.pilgrimpines.org

See Pastor Johnny for more details



THANK YOU!

What a year! Our first Holly Day Fair was a great success, and showed great Fellowship, Leadership and Discipleship. Special thanks goes to Jennifer Johnson. Her faith, leadership and planning abilities made it all happen. And many thanks belong also to the volunteers who spent so many hours getting things ready for the big day. Here are a few:

Our main greeter was Bonnie Eyman

The Bake Sale table was taken care of by Evelyn Elia, Donna McCaffrey, and Marlyce Peterson
Brad Johnson and Stephen Johnson co-chaired the Country Store, with the able assistance of Tim Howard

Susan Smith and Joyce St. Pierre were in charge of the Arts and Crafts table

Avis Carter, Joyce Fuller and Laurel Peterson took care of the Jewelry room

Alice Boyle and Evelyn Smith co-chaired the Plant Sale Table

Bill and Debbie Bohlin oversaw the luncheon

Laura and Allison McCarthy were in charge of the Kaffe Stuga

Sharon Hirsch and Sheryl Stone co-chaired the Book Nook

Ursula Coute and Joyce Zavorskas organized and took care of the Art Room

Ingrid and Kristine Strand were in charge of the Scandinavian table

Ruth Gawle and Nancy Mutty hosted the Christmas table

Margaret Potter and Donna Howard hosted the Gift Basket table

Barbara Malkasian and Christine Smith co-ed the Linens table.

And that doesn't even tell the half of it! There were so many who donated time, goods and hands to serve. Hal Smith kept us going with coffee (THANK YOU!), and Bob Wilson helped set up before and clean up afterwards. Thanks also to Joan Thompson for her patience and help with all the preparations, and especially to our Pastors Tom and Johnny for all their guidance and help.

We are truly blessed here at Cape Cod Covenant Church.



And from the Christmas Table gals:

We were overwhelmed by the many beautiful Christmas items donated for our table at the Holly Day Fair. Consequently, we had many happy shoppers. Thank you for your support.

Ruth Gawle and Nancy Mutty

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

**Adult and Children's Sunday School
9:15am**

**NURSERY CARE and KIDS' TIME
(through Grade 4)**

**Provided during worship throughout the year
We are looking forward to seeing you!**

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