

Spectrum

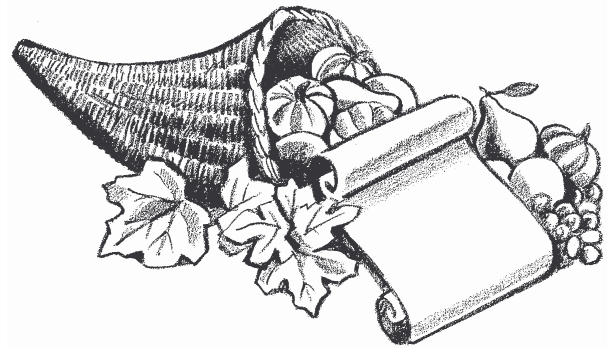
NEW COVENANT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
P.O. Box 2262, Columbia, MD 21045 (410) 370.9663
www.newcovenantmcc.org

Pastor's Ponderings:

Celebrating Another Year of God's Faithfulness

November has always been my favorite month of the year. I love the transition from Fall to winter, with colorful leaves giving way to the simplicity of bare branches. I love the first chill that settles over the land. And, though I know I'm very unpopular on this count, I also love the lengthening nights. I appreciate the introspective and "hibernating" spirit that the long stretches of nighttime encourage. Then there's Thanksgiving, which is a holiday that I always enjoy.

But in addition to all these reasons why I love November, there is of course another event that makes this month a special time in my life. November marks our anniversary as a consecrated and commissioned Metropolitan Community Church congregation. This year, we're turning three!



Anniversaries are always occasions to consider where we've come from. As I look back over the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the many ways the Holy Spirit has been embodied in our community. We have an even more committed "core" group of members and friends than we did last year. This is evidenced by positive growth in worship attendance, which has particularly increased over the past three months, and by your increased level of financial giving. We have had new folks coming from the Laurel area and new "faces" in leadership. We have continued our past outreach activities (such as our participation in both the DC and Baltimore Pride festivals). We have added two new ministries of social justice – our first school supplies drive for Dwight Eisenhower Middle School and our ongoing work with Oaklands' food pantry. We have continued offering Christian Education classes, and we have begun the first of our new adult educational courses, Christianity 101. (By the way, did you know we have eleven folks giving their all in this high-commitment course?!) And we have also started a monthly Children's Church to nurture the spiritual growth of our young members. Yes, and on top of all these things, we have continued proclaiming the good news of God's love through our worship and witness, and we have continued working together to live our faith as a community. The past year has been full of the Spirit, indeed!

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New Covenant MCC Vision Statement

Creating Community

Inspiring Spiritual Growth

Transforming the World Through The Love of Christ





- **If you are worshipping with us for the first time**, we are especially glad that you are here! Please don't leave without visiting our information table in the narthex and picking up useful information about our community's life, ministry, and activities. We would love for you to fill out a **"Let's Get Acquainted Form"** and place it in the offering basket as your contribution to us this evening.
- **If you would like to become a designated "Friend"** of New Covenant MCC and receive a permanent name tag each week, please complete a green "Friend's Registration" form from the information table.
- **All guests, members, friends – please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad** in the atrium to record your attendance. This helps us keep track of our attendance records and gives you the opportunity to indicate your interest in any of the community events that are announced.
- **Offering Envelopes** are available on the information table. If you would like us to keep a record of your giving for your tax purpose, please legibly print your name and address on the envelope. Please see an usher, host, or the pastor for any additional information about our community. Let us worship God!

All Saints Sunday is November 4th

Take an opportunity to record the name of your deceased loved ones in our congregation's "book of our beloved dead."

All Saints Sunday is a time when we remember the entire community of the baptized – both living and dead – who are called saints by virtue of our baptism. The custom of commemorating the entire community of saints on a single day goes back at least to the third century. Though we who are living are saints of God through our baptismal relationship with Christ, the Sunday's readings and liturgy invite us to focus our attention on the saints who have died. We are not ultimately separated from them, the church reminds us. Christ claims us in life and in death, and we who live in Christ are therefore joined by the "great cloud of witnesses" every time we gather in Christ's name.

In keeping with the tradition of All Saints Sunday, we will share a litany of the saints, commemorating our "famous" ancestors who show us what it means to be faithful. And we will also commemorate our deceased loved ones who likewise join the "Great Cloud of Witnesses" in cheering us on. In preparation for our remembrance, all are invited to record the names of their deceased loved ones in our congregations "Book of Our Beloved Dead," which is available in the narthex. Those names will be read aloud as part of our All Saints worship.

(continued from page 1)

In addition to considering where we've come from, anniversaries are also occasions to consider where we're going. I am excited to be embarking on another year with this wonderful, committed, vibrant, and generous community of faith. This fourth year of our life as an "official" church holds so much possibility for us and for our world. We have only touched the tip of the iceberg in our community! There are still so many people who need transformation in their lives. There are still so many who need to let go of patterns of addiction, abuse, insecurity, and self-hatred. There are still so many people who need to re-connect with the God who created and loves them. There are still so many of society's last and least who are trapped by poverty and exclusion. There are still so many who doubt there can be any Good News when our world is filled with so much bad news.

WE can make a difference in the lives of the many people who need to hear the good news of God's love and who need to receive care in that God's name. WE have unique gifts to share and a holy vision to guide us. Each one of us is instrumental in building this progressive, faithful community that we know as "New Covenant MCC." Each one of us is needed if we are to serve our hurting world as God calls us to do. As we celebrate our third anniversary as a church, I invite you to consider how you will share your presence, passion, and gifts to live the vision of our community. *(Stewardship Covenant Cards are a great tool to help you do this. We will be dedicating them in our anniversary worship on Sunday, 18 November. Pick one up from the narthex and see this edition of Spectrum for more information!)*

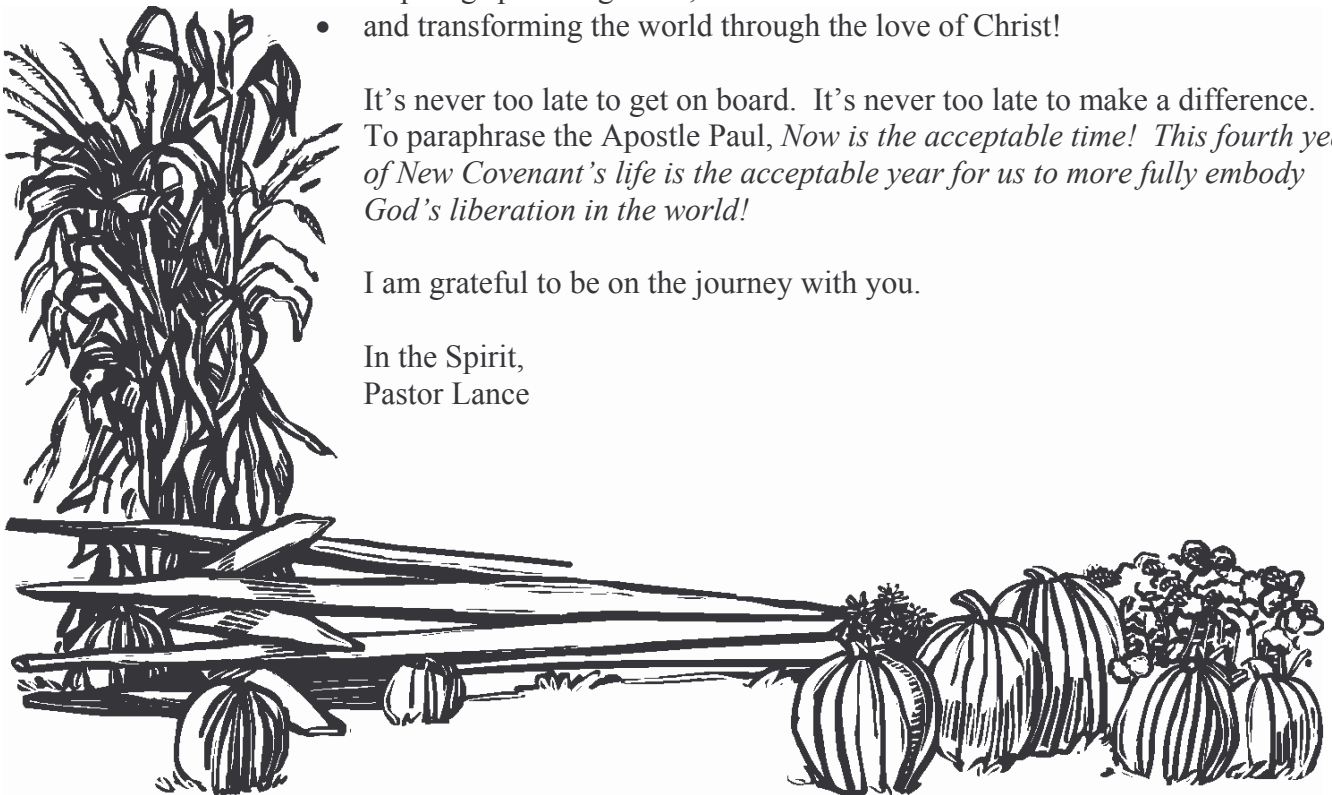
God has been faithful to us in so many ways this past year... and these past three years as an "official" church... and the years before that as a parish extension, too! God has given us a *community*, nudged us to *grow* spiritually, and transformed us so that we might *transform the world*. This fourth year of our life together, let's give back to our faithful God by more fully, consistently, and passionately doing what God has called us to do:

- creating community,
- inspiring spiritual growth,
- and transforming the world through the love of Christ!

It's never too late to get on board. It's never too late to make a difference. To paraphrase the Apostle Paul, *Now is the acceptable time! This fourth year of New Covenant's life is the acceptable year for us to more fully embody God's liberation in the world!*

I am grateful to be on the journey with you.

In the Spirit,
Pastor Lance



Get Ready for an Exciting Anniversary Weekend!

Doing Business, Having Fun, Worshiping God!

17 & 18 November, 2007

SATURDAY, 17 November, 4:30 p.m. – Fall Congregational Meeting!

Our congregational meetings are certainly about the shared business of our community, but they are far from dull! At our coming meeting, we will be assessing how we have and have not lived up to the vision God has given us, we will be discerning opportunities to move more faithfully with the Spirit, we will be electing new officers, approving our next budget, and hearing about upcoming events. If you are a Member of NCMCC, this is an important way that you fulfill your promise to “participate in the business of this community.” We need your voice! If you are not a Member of the church, you’re more than welcome, too!

SATURDAY, 17 November, 7:00 p.m. ~ Third Anniversary Party!

After our congregational meeting, we will be celebrating by bowling! Our third anniversary party will be held at the Brunswick Bowling Lanes in Columbia, and it is sure to be a fun-filled extravaganza! The cost to bowl is \$18.00, and that includes pizza and soft drinks. If the cost is a hardship for you, the church will gladly pay your way – just let Pastor Lance or David K., our church treasurer, know. Please feel free to invite your friends and family to celebrate this wonderful occasion with us! For any questions about the party, please contact either one of the Congregational Care Team leaders: Bob A. or Chris L..

SUNDAY, 18 November, 6:30 p.m. ~ Stewardship Sunday!

During our anniversary weekend, we will take an opportunity to rededicate our lives to God’s service in the world. As part of that, we will dedicate our 2008 stewardship pledges for the life and ministry of this congregation. Though Stewardship is something we are called to participate in year-round, we at New Covenant take a few weeks each year to prayerfully consider the ways in which God is calling us to dedicate our money, time, and presence for the ministry and mission of our church. The central tenet of Christian stewardship is this: God gives and gives and gives to us, and we are called to give our lives back to God in gratitude. Consistent giving to our community of faith is an opportunity to respond in grateful joy for God’s many gifts to us.

Stewardship Covenant Cards are available in the narthex. Please consider using these cards as a tool through which you can rededicate your life to God's service and renew your commitment to the covenant that forms the life of our congregation. During our anniversary worship on the 18th, we will rededicate our lives to God's service and present our Stewardship Covenant cards as a tangible sign of our commitment.

Christmas is around the corner...

It will be here before we know it, anyway, and it's certainly not too early to mark your calendar and schedule time for your community of faith this Christmas!

Due to space limitations at Oaklands, we will not have a Christmas Eve service on December 24th. Instead, we will have a special ***Christmas Day Worship Celebration at 11:00 a.m.*** on ***Tuesday, December 25th***, with a Christmas morning social preceding the service..

So... make time for your family of choice as we welcome Christ's presence anew this Christmas.

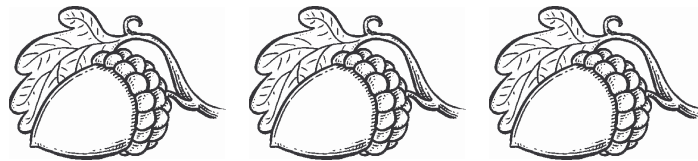
Christmas Day Social

Tuesday, December 25th, 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Worship

Tuesday, December 25th, 11:00 a.m.

Oaklands Presbyterian



Food Pantry Collection

Partnering with Oaklands Presbyterian to Transform the World!

Our host church, Oaklands Presbyterian, runs a food pantry for local individuals and families who cannot afford enough food for themselves. Oaklands works with Laurel Advocacy and Referral Service (LARS), which assesses the needs of local individuals and refers them to area churches and non-profits that supply them food. In December 2006, Oaklands provided food for 11 individuals and 14 families – that a pretty significant number of hungry folks who have been fed, especially given that Oaklands is a fairly small congregation.

New Covenant has an ongoing partnership with Oaklands to help stock and organize the pantry. **We need people to bring non-perishable food items on an ongoing basis.** *If each of our members does her/his part, we can make a significant contribution toward the world's transformation!* **Do your part – consider bringing at least one bag per month!**

For more information, please contact Penny S. or Debbie D.,

Thank you for supporting this important effort!

New Covenant Calendar (October 28 – December 2)

Sunday, October 28:

6:30 pm Worship
The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, November 4:

Daylight-Saving Time Ends

4:00 pm **Music Coordinators Meeting**
5:00 pm Music Rehearsal
6:30 pm Worship
All Saints Sunday

Tuesday, November 6:

7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, November 7:

7:00 pm Christianity 101, session VII

Sunday, November 11:

6:30 pm Worship
The Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Children's Church during worship

Monday, November 12:

Interfaith Fairness Coalition's Thanksgiving Service
7:30 pm, Govans Presbyterian Church, Baltimore

Wednesday, November 14:

7:00 pm Christianity 101, session VIII

Saturday, November 17:

4:30 pm Fall Congregational Meeting
7:00 pm Third Anniversary Party
Brunswick Bowling Lanes, Columbia
(see Chris L. or Bob A.)

Sunday, November 18:

5:00 pm Music Rehearsal
6:30 pm Worship
The Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Anniversary Worship/ Stewardship Dedication

Sunday, November 25:

5:00 pm Music Rehearsal
6:30 pm Worship
Reign of Christ

Saturday, December 1:

World AIDS Day Health Fair (Northern Virginia)

Sunday, December 2:

6:30 pm Worship
The First Sunday of Advent.
Joshua Love, special guest preacher!



World AIDS Day

Saturday, December 1

New Covenant MCC is participating with MCC of Northern Virginia, Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM), several other area MCC congregations, Little River UCC, and many others to host a community health fair on the theme of Body, Mind, and Spirit. The event will include a keynote address from Joshua Love, MCC's international HIV/AIDS and Drug Literacy Program Specialist, a variety of panel presentations, booths sponsored by area agencies promoting a variety of health and wellness resources in our community, health testing/screening, and much more. Joshua will also be our special guest preacher at New Covenant on Sunday, December 2.



New Covenant's Children's Church

November 11th, 2007

On the second Sunday of each month, we host a "Children's Church" that takes place in the nursery during our worship service. During this time, our Children's Ministry leaders lead our kids in games, crafts, and Bible lessons.

On November 11th, during the Passing of the Peace, our children are invited to go down the hall for Children's Church with our instructors, Patrick and Tom!

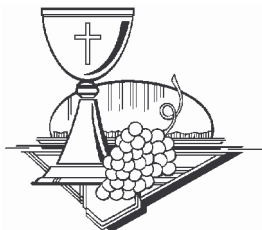
To support this ministry, contact Patrick H. or Tom M..



INTERFAITH, INCLUSIVE THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Monday, November 12, 7:30pm at Govans Presbyterian Church (5825 York Road, Baltimore, 21212). Reception following. Sponsored by the Interfaith Fairness Coalition of Maryland. Our own Greg Satorie will be leading music during the service, and he will also be representing our community during a time of congregational sharing!

Holy Communion



If you are unable to attend a Sunday worship service due to illness or incapacity, please call Rev. Lance at 410.370.9663. He will bring Holy Communion to you the following Tuesday (or an appointment will be made for a time that is more convenient for you.)

MUSIC MINISTRY

Would you consider offering your musical talents to assist our NCMCC Ensemble with music for our Advent and Christmas celebrations? Talk with Greg Satorie, David M., or Stacy R. for more ideas on how you can be part of the joyful noise we make in worship.

Stewardship Update and Comparison Report

September 2007

Average Weekly Attendance: 28
 Offering: \$5,745.03
 Fundraising: \$0.00
Total: \$5,745.03

Our monthly expenses total **\$4,371.07**. That means that last month we collected **\$1,373.96 *more*** than our approved expenses. Praise God for your commitment! Our congregation's mission is sustained by your generous support!

August 2007

Average Weekly Attendance: 26
 Offering: \$3,801.64
 Fundraising: \$0.00
Total: \$3,801.64

September 2006

Average Weekly Attendance: 23
 Offering: \$4,165.44
 Fundraising: \$0.00
Total: \$4,165.44



Don't
Forget
Your
Tithe

New Covenant MCC Ministry Directory

Board of Directors

Moderator	Rev. Lance Mullins (revlancem@yahoo.com)	410.370.9663
Vice Moderator	Patty G.	
Treasurer	David K.	
Clerk	Stacy R.	
Member at Large	Jamison M.	

Team Leaders

Art & Environment	Annette D.
Minister of Music	Greg Satorie
Coordinator of Worship	Jamison M.
Congregational Care Team	Bob A. Chris L.
Spectrum & Coordinator of Internet Outreach	Joshua A.
Coordinator of Hosting and Ushering	Marsha M.
Children's Education Coordinators	Tom M. Patrick H.

**Receive the electronic version of Spectrum and important announcements through our Internet Discussion group on Yahoo Groups at: NewCovenantMCC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com