

Covenant Chronicle

May 2011
(an early edition)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Blessing of the Animals	1
KJV Bible Birthday	1
Upcoming Events	2
A Word from Ernie	2
Sermon Series	2
Session News	3
Editorial	3
Music Notes	4
CYG & Haiti	5
Booker Academy	6
Habitat	7
Camp Covenant	8
Committee Faire	8
Tom Key	9
STWG	10
Calendar	11
Birthdays	12

Blessing of the Animals Service: THIS Sunday!

We are planning to have a “Blessing of the Animals” service on Sunday May 1 at 5:30 PM. To my knowledge Covenant has never hosted one of these services in the past so it will be an interesting adventure for all of us and hopefully will attract folks from the neighborhood as well.

Animal blessings have been a part of the Catholic and Episcopal traditions for a long time. Those churches often hold their services in October on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the animals and, some say, of ecology.

The relationship between humans and their pets is a very special one, today, too. Research has shown that having a pet can benefit humans by providing companionship, improving



health, teaching children responsibility, and even increasing one’s life span. Unfortunately, many inhumane things have been done to animals by humans in the name of having dominion over them. We sometimes forget that this planet belongs to them as much as it does to us. By blessing animals we are reminded that

cont'd on p. 2

King James Version (KJV) of the Bible 200 Years Old Tomorrow!

Many of us set goals to read the entire Bible in a year. If we're really committed, we might attempt the Bible in 90 Days reading plan. What if we could make history by reading the entire King James Bible in 400 seconds?

May 2, 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. To celebrate the occasion, the YouVersion community is going to read the Bible together — in just 400 seconds. (For those of us who struggle with math, that's 6 minutes and 40 seconds.)

Here's how it will work:

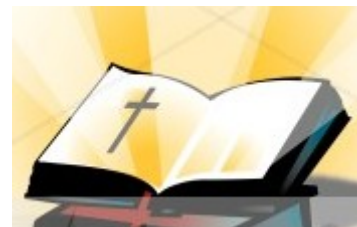
1. We'll all volunteer (and sign up) to read a small section from the Bible out loud.
2. On Monday, May 2, starting at 12:00 PM Noon U.S.

EDT, 11 AM CDT (GMT-5), we'll each read our portions out loud, simultaneously. Think of it like a global flash mob.

3. We'll all share what we're doing with our friends on Facebook and / or Twitter.

That's it! Visit <http://youversion.com/kjv400> for details and to reserve your spot. , we hope you can join us as we make history by celebrating history.

Sincerely,
Your Friends at
YouVersion



UPCOMING EVENTS (for more details & Committee Meetings see May Calendar)

- ◆ May 1 - Intergenerational Sunday School 9:00 am / Blessing of the Animals Service 5:30 pm
- ◆ May 5 - Presbytery Meeting 9 am
- ◆ May 12 - Second Thursday Women's Group
- ◆ May 13- Parents' Night Out #1
- ◆ May 14 - Habitat Build Week 1
- ◆ May 14 - Club Covenant Mother Daughter Banquet 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- ◆ May 15 - Elder Installation during morning worship / Covenant Church Committee Faire Day 12:00 noon
- ◆ May 21 - Habitat Build Week 2
- ◆ May 22 - Music Sunday
- ◆ May 24 - Session Meeting 6:30 pm
- ◆ May 27 - Parents Night Out #2
- ◆ May 28 - Memorial Day Weekend - No Habitat Build
- ◆ May 30 - Memorial Day

Blessing of the Animals Service cont'd.!

cont'd from p. 1-

they are a sacred part of God's creation and we are indebted to them in countless ways. As one pastor who has led several animal blessings states, blessing one's pet "brings comfort to the animal owner in your congregation because it is supportive of something that is dear to them and important to their way of life...Animals help to create community by introducing animal-lovers to other animal-lovers and helping them to find a common ground. And this event fosters intergenerational communion, attracting visitors in strollers, wheelchairs, on bicycles, on foot and on walkers, by horseback, in trucks, cars, and on motorcycles."

Please join us on Sunday May 1 at 5:30 PM for this special service. Bring friends! (Human ones, too)



A Word From Ernie

In May and June, at the urging of the Worship Committee, in our sermons will be exploring how and why we worship the way we do. Why bother with worship? What is the point?

If you have any questions about worship, please ask me, or email me (ernie@covpresatl.org) and I'll try to address them somewhere along the way. Blessings, Ernie

NEW SERMON SERIES: WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE WE DOING WHEN WE WORSHIP?

- May 1 - Why Get Up On Sunday Mornings?
- May 8 - Is There Any Word from God?
- May 15 - Who Does Our Worship Serve?
- May 22 - Why Have Music in Worship?
- May 29 - Remembering the Big Story
- June 5 - God's Feast By Any Name
- June 12 - Surprise and Order
- June 19 - Worshipping in God



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS IN JUNE

Beginning June 5 until Rally Day in August
our worship service will be at 10 a.m.

SESSION



At its meeting on April 26, 2011, the Session:
Examined and approved the new elders elected at the February 6 congregational meeting: Brent Adams, Jo Ann Hartin, Yvonne Thayer, and Abby O'Callaghan.

Our new officers will be installed on May 15th.
Endorsed Brenda Smith as an Inquirer to become a

Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church USA.

Discussed the use of our parking lot by the Booker Academy, which is leasing space in our basement for a Day Care, for drop off of children.

Re-elected Bill Eidson as church treasurer

Worked on plans for the Committee Faire on May 15th after worship

May editorial: Due to the need to publish this early in order to more fully get the word out about our upcoming Blessing of the Animals Service I need to skip the editorial commentary this month. (Had a coupla' thoughts rubbing together but rather than do something slapdash I'll start working now on next month's.)

As this issue comes out we are rapidly racing towards summer: the chill of winter is long gone, school will be soon out and the "byes" of summer will start as people began taking their various vacations. (Last year, if you remember, we took a look at how widely traveled our church family was (and is). In this newsletter we look forward to our first ever Blessing of the Animals Service and note the celebration of the 400th Birthday of the King James Version of the Bible. (An interesting history if you ever dig into it.) Ernie introduces a new sermon series called *Why Worship?*; Brad includes his focus on aspects of worship; Bill talks about the Youth summer schedule, we get an update on the Haiti Nutrition Program, the status of the Booker Academy's process, the schedule for Habitat, the Committee Faire, a look deeper into the summer months, the calendar, and of course our May birthdays.. I hope you enjoy this issue, too. Feedback will make it better. Send any suggestions or corrections my way. Onward to June! **Oscar**



Music Notes by Brad Schultz



As Easter and Holy Week have drawn to an end, thoughts shift to what comes next. The fast of Lent has been broken, and we are stronger for them, but the rhythm of church life changes dramatically after the last Alleluia of Easter Morning. With so much going on in the coming weeks and months, it's hardly a time to sit back. So stay alert, participate, and inquire!

Beginning on Sunday and through the season of Easter, we will focus on the why, what, and how of worship each week. Music is, of course, an important part of the conversation, and it will have its own day, in worship on May 22. Many hymns and anthems will be a part of that hymn festival, which we're calling, "Singing the Faith," and we hope you'll make every effort to be there and be a part of it. That will also be the last Sunday of the music groups for the programmatic year, before we move into our summer worship schedule.

During the summer months, when worship moves to 10, bell and children's choirs go on hiatus, and any who are interested in joining the Summer Choir are welcome to meet in the choir room for rehearsal at 9:15 on Sunday morning. Rehearsals are very low key, usually preparing one or perhaps two anthems for Sunday worship. I'm picking music now, so it will be available in the Choir Room far in advance. Rather than treating this as an opportunity to relax the schedule during the warmer months, let's consider this an opportunity to give choir a try if you've thought about joining us in the past, or if your Wednesday schedule doesn't permit it during the year. I'd love to see a full choir loft every week, and I know you would too.

We've made some delightful connections with some recently endowed anthems added to our collection. Envelopes are available if you'd like to donate a musical anthem for \$50 in honor or in memory of someone or something. We are also off to a very good start on the Sanctuary piano fund, just over a quarter of the way to our goal of 88 keys donated at \$100 each. Thanks to those of you who have supported us in these two projects.

If you have questions about any of the above, please don't hesitate to ask!

See you at worship and at work in the world,

Brad



The piano that has served us in the sanctuary has given up the ghost. The pin block which holds the strings in tune has cracked beyond repair, and replacing that integral part will far exceed the cost of replacing the entire piano. We will kickoff a formal fundraising campaign for a new instrument soon, however, donations will gladly be accepted towards the purchase of a new or slightly used grand piano at any time. Simply mark "piano" on the memo line of your check.



Covenant Chronicle



End of Year CYG Events

May 1st Assisting with Blessing of the Animals service
Meet at 5:00 to help finish setting up.
We'll have snacks and a short time of fellowship
after the service. There will be no dinner, and pick
up will be at 7:00

May 8th Mothers Day – No CYG

May 15th Dinner and Fellowship

We will meet from 5:30 – 7:30 to share in a meal and wrap up our discussions on Dr. Seuss. If you are going on the mission trip there will be a meeting beforehand at 5 where we'll go over paperwork that is required for the trip. Final balances will be due at this time.

May 22nd End of the Year Celebration

We'll tie-dye t-shirts, play games, and have lots of fun together.

Important Summer Dates

June 19-24 Mission Trip to Asheville

July 14-15 Harry Potter Lock-In



A request was made for a handy checklist for the BCM Food Collection...

BCM—Food Collection

The Mission Committee has started a monthly collection of food for BCM's pantry on the first Sunday of each; December was our first month. Due to your generous donations, we were able to make two deliveries instead of one. The Mission Committee and BCM thank you very much.

We will continue this process throughout the year, and if you forget to bring on the first Sunday, the following Sunday will be fine. There are two designated bins marked BCM; one outside the sanctuary on the Terrace street side, the other near the doorway in the Westminster Room off the parking lot. The suggested shopping list below will feed a family of four:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Instant oatmeal or grits - 1 box | Peanut Butter - 2 small jars |
| Jelly - 1 small jar | Cornbread mix - 2 boxes |
| Soup - 4 cans | Macaroni & Cheese - 4 boxes |
| Dried beans - 1 bag | Spaghetti - 1 medium box |
| Rice - 2 bags | Spaghetti Sauce - 2 jars |
| Canned Vegetables - 4 cans | Canned Beans - 3 cans |
| Canned Tuna - 4 cans | |

Haiti Nutrition Program Update:

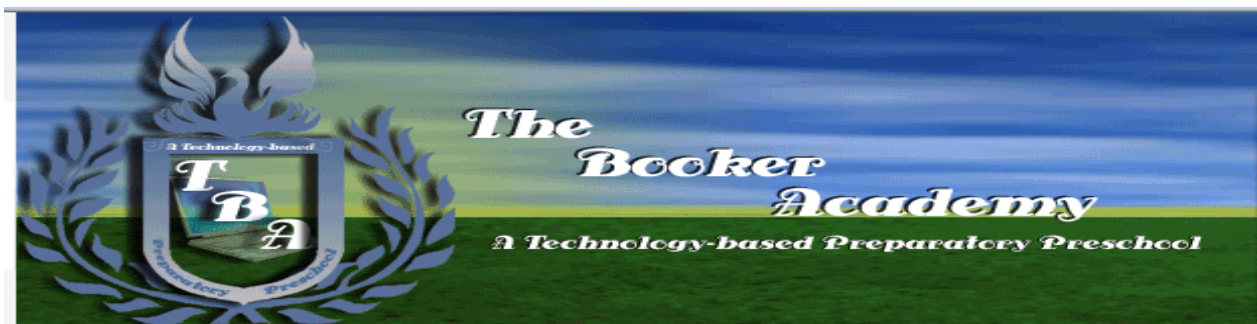
The grant we received from Meds and Food for Kids has been underway for six weeks now. The children are receiving the "peanut butter medicine" to treat severe malnutrition and it is going well. In fact, we just received news from MFK that they have increased the size of our grant! Instead of 30 children our grant has been increased to 50 children that will be treated under this

program. This is exciting news and we will have a more complete update after our trip down there next week. Be sure to check out the program at <http://mfkhaiti.org/> Thanks again for your support at the recent Haiti Lunch and Learn. The food was donated and we received enough from the proceeds to treat 4 children with malnutrition. Wonderful work!



May Newsletter

Covenant Chronicle



Covenant Presbyterian Church Members,

Upcoming Events for The Booker Academy Preschool

- Submission of Application for Builders Permit
- All family and friends to the Covenant Presbyterian Church community are invited to submit resumes to be considered for an interview for open positions. Please contact TBA for further details.
- Look for an advertisement for The Booker Academy Preschool to be featured in the May issue of the new "Simply Buckhead" magazine.

LaTrese M. Scott

Director

Buckhead Center

The Booker Academy

A Technology-Based Preparatory Preschool

Phone: 678-457-5330

Fax: 678-623-5728

<http://www.thebookeracademy.com>

Thanks again for your support and warm words of encouragement.





HABITAT - Dust off your tools and get ready. We will be building another HABITAT house with our partnering churches beginning May 14. Details on the location and the family will be provided once they are available. A sign up sheet follows, please complete and turn into the church office. If you have any questions, contact Bill Roberts at 404 261-5003 or at weroberts@bellsouth.net

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND SUBMIT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

Name: _____
Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
E-mail address: _____

Covenant will build a Habitat House again this year along with other churches. As we go to press we do not have the dates yet. Look for them in the bulletins in coming weeks. A typical schedule looks like this:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yes, sign me up! <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday 5/14 | Build walls, panels, install floor joists, and decking, raise the walls |
| Yes, sign me up! <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday 5/21 | Set trusses, plywood roof, install windows, inside framing |
| MEMORIAL DAY | Saturday 5/28 | NO BUILDING ACTIVITIES |
| Yes, sign me up! <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday 6/4 | Install shingles, siding, insulate walls
Covenant Day! |
| Yes, sign me up! <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday 6/11 | Complete siding, exterior painting |
| Yes, sign me up! <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday 6/18 | Interior trim, cabinets, interior/exterior painting
Youth Build Day (16 AND OLDER, ADULTS WELCOME) |
| Yes, sign me up! <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday 6/25 | Interior painting, misc. items
WOMEN'S Build Day (ALL WELCOME) |
| 4th of July Weekend | Saturday 7/2 | NO BUILDING ACTIVITIES |
| Yes, sign me up! <input type="checkbox"/> | Saturday 7/9 | Landscaping and House Dedication |

Contact Bill Roberts at 404.261.5003 or via e-mail at weroberts@bellsouth.net for more information. No matter what your skills, or lack thereof, **we need your help!** We will meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. to car-pool, and maps will be available for those who will meet us at the building site.



Camp Covenant!

For Families – did you know that Camp Covenant offers a summer of fun at an affordable \$110 weekly rate? Campers from ages 4-14 will enjoy bowling, swimming, nature walks, family movie nights and field trips to Zoo Atlanta, Six Flags and the Center for Puppetry Arts. Your child can attend one week or the whole camp summer (June 1 – July 30). The camp operates from 7:30 am to 6pm five days a week and lunches are provided! Several of our Covenant youth are graduates of Club Covenant and the camp program! Call 404-237-9509 or clubcove@bellsouth.net for details.

For members of the congregation – do you have a special skill or talent that you would like to share with the campers at Camp Covenant? Deborah Walton encourages members of the Covenant family to volunteer to lead an art project, to share their musical talents, to read to the younger children or just come and meet these great campers.

Club Covenant believes in giving children what is right, not merely what is left.



A Spring Cleaning Fling

Thanks to all who helped in the recent church cleanup. We got our entire sanctuary pews swept, dusted, organized and even had the cushions steamed clean in time for our Holy Week services.



COVENANT COMMITTEE FAIRE: May 15 right after worship

If you have ever been curious about what Covenant's committees do or have ever wanted to join one but didn't know how this is your chance. On Sunday May 15 immediately following worship come on down to the Fellowship Hall. Each committee will have a table with the committee representatives there to tell you what they do. You can sign up right then and there! Being a part of a committee is a great way to get involved with the church community and add to the service of the church.

Please consider it and join us on May 15.

Besides joining a committee you will be able to sign up for:

- Covenant's Braves Baseball game
- Dinner Groups for next fall
- Alternative Gift Market work
- Dinners for the Youth Group
- Ushering
- Lay Liturgy reading And more ...

Following is a list of Covenant committees that may spark an interest:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Worship</i> | <i>Christian Education</i> |
| <i>Mission</i> | <i>Congregational Life</i> |
| <i>Administration</i> | <i>Parish Care</i> |
| <i>Personnel</i> | <i>Club Covenant</i> |
| <i>New Members</i> | <i>Publicity</i> |
| <i>Youth</i> | <i>Stewardship</i> |
| <i>Buildings and Grounds</i> | |

We hope to see you there!





A Night of Revelation Thursday, May 12 | 7:00 PM Sanctuary

Trinity Explores, in partnership with Women's Link, welcome performer Tom Key for a special evening of experiencing the Book of Revelation as it was meant to be—through spoken and sung words—at 7 pm on Thursday, May 12. The Book of Revelation provokes more curiosity than any other in the Christian canon—bizarre, fearsome images of four horsemen, mutant locusts, the scarlet whore of Babylon—but also the wondrous river of life, a renewed creation, and a healing tree of life. It's quite a book, but it was never meant to be read in solitude as written words. Tom will help open for us the journey of Revelation, into the heart of God's own dream for our world.

Since 1995, Tom Key has been Executive Artistic Director of the acclaimed Theatrical Outfit in downtown Atlanta, a professional company giving dramatic voice to the themes of spirituality, race, and community in the American South. As a solo performer, Tom Key has been in demand across North America for three decades, including appearances at The Lambs Theater off Broadway, The John F. Kennedy Center of Washington, D.C., The Alliance Theater, Harvard and Yale Universities and Oxford University in England. He is well known as the actor and creator of the off-Broadway musical hit "Cotton Patch Gospel," in collaboration with the late singer-songwriter Harry Chapin. For his performances, direction, or script adaptations based on works, including Leonard Bernstein, Harry Chapin, Truman Capote, Saint John, Clarence Jordan, C.S. Lewis, Flannery O'Connor, Walker Percy, Hank Williams, and Tennessee Williams, he has won critical praise from The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Seattle Times, The Dallas Morning News, The Boston Herald, and The Atlanta Journal Constitution. Key is dynamic as a performing artist and has been described in Creative Loafing as "An actor with such energy that even standing still, he seems to quiver like a divining rod."

Don't miss this special performance at 7:00 pm on May 12, in the sanctuary.

Cost is \$5 per person.

Child care is available by reservation only, 404-237-6491 or

nireland@trinityatlanta.org.

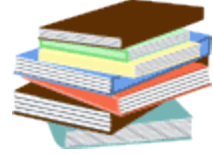
Covenant Chronicle

SECOND THURSDAY WOMEN MEETING FOR MAY:

Our last meeting before the summer break will be Thursday, May 12, 6:30 PM at the clubhouse pool of Jo Ann Hartin, 55 Willow Glen NE, Atlanta 30342.



Please bring an appetizer to share (in an unbreakable container) and a paperback book that you would like to swap. We will be poolside so bring your bathing suits if you want to swim. Wine available for two dollars a glass. Hope to see you there!



Coming Up . . .

May 1 - BCM First Sunday Food Collection

May 1 - Blessing of the Animals Service at 5:30 p.m. in our parking lot.

May 14 - Habitat Build begins

May 15 - Covenant Committee Fair, immediately following worship.

Each committee will have a table with their committee representatives there to tell you what they do.

May 22 - Music Sunday

And further out . . .

June ? - Church Picnic (TBD)

June 13 - 16 Vacation Bible School (The Shake It Up Café)

July 30 - Braves vs. Marlins (Saturday at 7:00 pm)

Tix on sale at Committee Fair

On-going Classes

Held in the Sanctuary Parlor

Bible Study

Men's—Wednesdays 7am

Women's — Wednesdays 10am

Women's Spiritual Circle

WSG 3 - Monday - 10:00 am

WSG - Monday 11:15 am-12:45 pm
(new)

WSG 1 - Thursday - 10:00 am

WSG 2 - Thursday - 6:15 pm

CHOIR SCHEDULE

Adult Choir - Wednesday, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Bell Choir - Sunday, 8:30 a.m.*

Treble Choir (2-8 grade) - Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Music Discovery (3-6 years old) - Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

*For more information on joining any of our choirs,
please contact Brad Schultz.*

(all meet in choir room unless otherwise noted)

** Meet in Sanctuary*

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Blessing of the Animals Service 5:30pm	2	3	4	5 Presbytery Meeting 9:0-0 am (Radcliffe) National Day of Prayer	6	7
8 Mothers' Day (No CYG)	9	10	11	12 STWG See article	13 PNO #1	14 Habitat Build Week 1 (see article) Club Covenant Mother Daughter Banquet
15 Covenant Committee Faire Day 12:00 noon CYG 5:30 pm	16	17	18 12 noon Club Covenant Board 2 pm Admin Committee	19	20	21 Habitat Build Week 2 (see article)
22 Music Sunday Worship Service	23	24 Session Meeting 6:30 pm	25	26	27 PNO #2	28 Memorial Day Weekend No Habitat Build
29 Summer Choir Starts	30 Memorial Day	31				Habitat Build Week 3 (see article) Covenant Day

Cub Scouts (September—May)

Held in the Scout Hut

#1 Tigers, 1st Grade - 1st & 3rd Tuesday 6 - 7pm

#2 Wolves, 2nd Grade - 2nd & 4th Wednesday 6 - 7pm

#3 Bears, 3rd Grade- 1st & 3rd Wednesday 6 - 8pm

#4 Webelos, 4th Grade—1st & 3rd Wednesday 7—8pm

**Covenant Presbyterian
Church**

2461 Peachtree Road, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30305
404.237.0363



***"Equipping the People of God
to Serve Christ in the World"***

1 BUCK GRIFFIN

1 ELENA CHANG

2 RICHARD JAYNES

3 CAROL LAKEY HESS

4 JORDAN GRIMMESEY

5 RANDY LANFORD

5 RENA MARROQUIN

9 BRUCE PARHAM

10 SONJA GREELEY

11 LYNNE DAVIS



11 BROOKE TAYLOR

15 BEVERLY JACOBS

15 DEBBIE GRIFFIN

19 AVERY DAVIS

21 BARBARA CROFT

26 BETH PRICE

28 PRICE COLUSSY-ESTES

30 SHIRAH DUNPHY

31 JIMMY SANDERS