

Covenant Presbyterian Church
445 Shelton Road
Auburn, AL 36830

334-821-7062

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 175
Auburn, AL 36830

Return Service Requested

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Pastor

Gary Spooner

gary@covenantpcauburn.org

Associate Pastor

Rick Stark

rick@covenantpcauburn.org

Pastor of Youth
and Families

David Dobbs

david@covenantpcauburn.org

Pastor, Reformed
University Fellowship

Richard Vise

ruf@covenantpcauburn.org

Secretary

Gloria Jackson

gloria@covenantpcauburn.org

Worship Music
Coordinator

Robin Durbin

robin@covenantpcauburn.org

Church Office

(334) 821-7062

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

www.CovenantPCAuburn.org

April 2008

April 5

Church-wide Workday

7:00am-11:00am

April 4-6

Youth's Tuskegee Mission Project

April 6

The Lord's Supper

Celebrating the Sacrament

April 12-13

Missions Conference

April 19

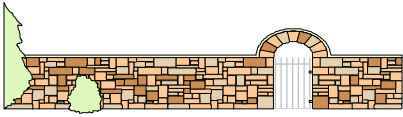
Women's Mission to Hope's Inn, LaFayette

10:00am-2:00pm

April 27

Graduation Blessing for

High School Seniors 6:00pm



From the Wall

Have you ever felt like you were moving, but you weren't? Your car is in park, and when the car next to you begins to move, you get the sensation of movement.

Have you ever felt like you were standing still, but you weren't? In passenger jets there is little sensation of motion, yet it travels 400 miles per hour.

I get both sensations as pastor-leader of our flock. Sometimes a flurry of ministry activity looks like we're getting a lot done, but in the end, little is changed. At other times, it seems nothing is happening, and, out of the blue, I hear that new life has been sprouting under my nose.

Some churches have the outward appearance of great momentum, only to show later, that few persevering disciples were made. Willow Creek Church, at one time one of America's largest churches in membership, recently evaluated the job it was doing and concluded the church was not producing mature followers of Christ.

Other churches have the outward appearance of dinosaurs on the landscape of their city. But a closer inspection reveals a deeply biblical and serving fellowship quietly preserving and restoring the city's heart. Trinity PCA in Montgomery is such a church.

I suspect you, too, have sensations about life here at Covenant. If you know Christ and live in the Spirit, most of the time your "sensations" will be correct. Churches that look alive usually are. And churches that look, well...asleep, often are. Remember, Paul says, "The spiritual man appraises everything." The presumption is that someone with the Spirit of God appraises correctly. (1 Cor. 2:14-16)

Yet, there have been and will be those times when we equate activity with health. And we will be wrong.

There have been and will be times when we equate a slow pace with spiritual staleness. And we will be wrong.

Sometimes God puts His work on stage. Sometimes we try to stage God's work. Sometimes God works like leaven in a loaf, silent and secret. And sometimes we loaf in guilty silence.

Be on the alert so that when He comes He will find you doing His will whether it is noticeable or not.

~ Gary

ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ

"Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father..." (James 1:17)

Good gifts. Who can forget the gift given to the nation by the U.S. Olympic Hockey Team, February 22, 1980? Against impossible odds, in the midst of very difficult circumstances, the U.S. Hockey Team upset the Soviets, 4-3, in Lake Placid, NY, paving the way for the gold medal. Many of you may recall how for weeks on end (even to this day), neighbors and strangers alike found common ground for unlikely conversations regarding the 'gift.'

James teaches us ... that our Father in heaven gives richer, more significant gifts to His children: the gift of *'belonging'* to a common-yet-eternal family (1:1); the gift of *confidence* in a real sufficiency for life (1:4); the gift of *answered prayers* (1:5); the gift of the *certainty of reward* at the end (1:12); the gift of divine *care and protection* (1:13, 17); and the gift of *transforming truth* (1:18).

But under what circumstances ... does He offer these gifts to us? Surprisingly, James makes it clear that it is in the troubled waters, the trials of this life, where the flesh is weak and the odds look impossible. The offer [and experience] of such 'gifts' of grace change the way we see and respond to life in a broken world, and in the long run produce something far more valuable than Olympic gold (1 Peter 1:7). That is the reason James encourages the Christian to "consider it all joy..." (1:2); or in other words, "welcome the trials and testing as friends."

Gifts in the garbled circumstances offer something else, too. In a similar way as that unforgettable moment in Olympic history, there is now common ground for unlikely conversations with the hairstylist and the stockbroker, with our classmates and coaches, at the cash register and the civic club, with our neighbors and strangers all around town... because in our shared, common grief of a stacked deck and impossible odds, we have opportunity to converse about 'gifts' given based upon another's work, another's triumph... *the work and victory of Jesus Christ.*

Is this not what is described by John at Jacob's well (Jn.4:3-26)? Go read it for yourself. Common circumstances, unlikely conversations, and surprisingly uncommon gifts from Another One. This is the gospel. This is your story... and you just might be surprised who would be interested in hearing it!

~Rick

Women in the Church



Bible Studies for Covenant Women

Wednesday mornings

9:30am The *Book of James*, taught by Dana Lee, continues.

10:00am Older Ladies Bible Study. *Hebrews*, taught by Lue Slagh, at Cynthia Rouse's home.

Hope's Inn

On **Saturday, April 19**, the women of the church are visiting Hope's Inn in LaFayette, Alabama. Hope's Inn is a part of Harvest Evangelism and is a crisis shelter for women and children in need. We will leave the church at 10 am and return at 2 pm. In order to plan for lunch needs and transportation, please contact the church no later than Monday, April 14. We encourage you to bring your daughters (12 and older).

We are collecting the following items (in the Fellowship Hall) to bring to Hope's Inn: twin sheet sets, bath towels, kitchen towels, pot holders, kitchen utensils.

If you have an easy, economical recipe, place on a 3 x 5 card (include your favorite verse).

"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch"

Isaiah 62:1

Kitchen Attention

There are some missing rectangular table cloths and they are needed for church events. If you have borrowed them, please return them to the kitchen.

Parish Nurse

Congratulations to *Evelyn Mickle*, who has just completed a nearly 45-hour congregational/parish nursing program. After earning a certificate, she was pinned to be our congregation's health nurse which combines faith and training as a nurse to become a part of the mercy ministry of the church. Evelyn's hope is to be available to our congregation, working under the elders and deacons by assisting in home/hospital visits and assessment of congregational needs within the scope of the grief team under mercy ministry.

Another Grandson

Congratulations to Gary and Jill Spooner, on the birth of **Garrick Evans Pittman**, son of the Spooner's daughter, Caroline, and her husband, Richard. Garrick was born March 16th in Nelspruit, South Africa, a few hours drive from their home in Swaziland.

New Members

Please welcome our new members, *Jere and Gail Andrews* and *Brandon and Elizabeth Meyer*, to Covenant. The Andrews, who have four children and nine grandchildren, are enjoying retirement in Auburn. The Meyer's have a daughter named Skye and Elizabeth is expecting their second child any day now. Brandon is a student at Auburn University.

Budget Recap February

Actual Income	\$28,059.
Actual Expense	39,590.
Budget Income	\$40,450.
Budget Expense	40,042.
YTD Actual Income	\$50,622.
YTD Actual Expense	89,969.
YTD Budget Income	\$80,900.
YTD Budget Expense	80,086.



Basin and Towel

Did you know that there are twice as many verses in the Bible discussing money and possessions than are devoted to faith and prayer combined?

2,350 – that is the approximate number of verses in the Bible addressing money and possessions! Jesus said more about money than heaven and hell. It is amazing to think that 15 percent of the words of Jesus recorded in the New Testament refer to the subject of money and possessions! This raises an obvious question: **WHY?**

Randy Alcorn attempts to answer that question, claiming “*there is a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we think and handle money. We may try to divorce our faith and our finances, but God sees them as inseparable.*” God is after our hearts. He wants us to love Him with our “*whole heart, soul, and might.*” (Deuteronomy 6:5) Jesus knows our hearts can be easily enticed and distracted by money and possessions.

The PCA Book of Church Order charges the men who hold the office of Deacon to “*develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church.*” (ch.9, section 2) To that end, we will highlight in our newsletter some of the principles of scripture Alcorn uncovers in his two books, The Treasure Principle, and Money, Possessions and Eternity.

In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus lays the foundation, which we pray will become our own conviction: “*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*” It is our prayer that the truths of scripture will not only pierce the hearts of the men, women, and children at Covenant, but that such convictions of faith and love will be demonstrated in our tithes and offerings to the church, all to the glory of God.

Covenant Deacons

NURSERY KEEPERS

- April 6** Judd, S.Tillman
& Spooner
- April 13** Colquitt, J. Shiflett
& T. Tillman
- April 20** Walldorf, DiJulio
& Anders
- April 27** Reaves, Ward &
Cornett

If you are unable to keep this date, please swap with another family.

PASTORAL ELDERS

- April 6**
Dan Givens
- April 13**
Elbert Lee
- April 20**
Gary Spooner
- April 27**
Steve Dowling

COVENANT OFFICERS

Covenant Elders

- Steve Dowling
Dan Givens
Elbert Lee
Jon McDonald
Bob Norman
David Rouse
Steve Shiflett
Gary Spooner
Rick Stark
Tom Tillman

Covenant Deacons

- Ron Anders
Jack Johnson
Bret Missildine
Jeff Shiflett
Ottis Stephenson
Scott Tippins
Don Upton
Tom Wadsworth