

# The Covenanter

## Silverhill Covenant Church

“To work for God, God’s people, and to win souls for His Kingdom”

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As I was thinking about this June newsletter I remembered that Fathers' Day is in June. Sonora Smart Dodd thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Her father had raised her and her five siblings after her mother died. He had sacrificed so much and worked so hard to keep the family together she wanted to show him how much she loved and appreciated him. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge declared the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day. The following poem says just a little of what my Dad means to me.

### MY HERO

As I ponder the love that I saw in his eyes,  
A Godly love, given without compromise.....  
I recall many times that he stood by my side,  
And prodded me on with great vigor and pride.  
His voice ever confident, firm and yet fair,  
Always speaking with patience, tenderness and care.  
The power and might of his hand was so sure,  
I knew there was nothing we couldn't endure.  
It's true, a few others provided insight,  
Yet, he laid the foundation that kept me upright.  
He's the grandest of men to have lived on this earth,  
Although he's not royal by stature or birth.  
He's a man of great dignity, honor, and strength.  
His merits are noble, and of admirable length.  
He's far greater than all other men that I know,  
He's my Dad, he's my mentor, my friend and hero.

--Written by Debbie Hinton Young

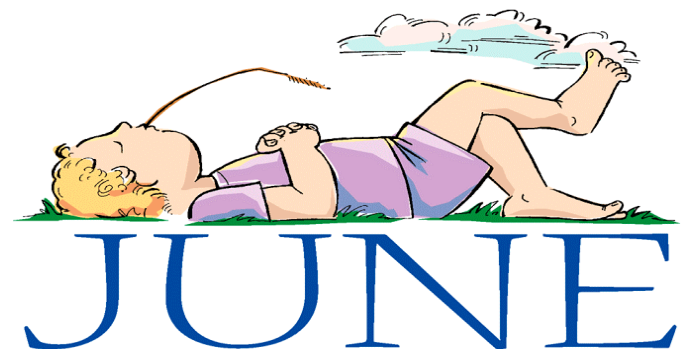
It saddens me to inform the church body that when the school term ended May 9, the Silverhill Christian Academy closed for the final time. After many hours of discussion and prayer, the board felt that keeping the school open was no longer an option. We began, almost a decade ago, with the high hopes of growing and becoming self-sufficient, but this simply did not happen. Without more students, more room and more support, the heartbreaking decision to close had to be made.

But we do not consider this endeavor a failure. The dozens of children who have attended here have been nurtured, education and introduced to Jesus. SCA was conceived and born from prayer, commitment and financial sacrifice, and many lives have been touched. There are no words to express thanks to so many who have given so much of themselves. God works in seasons, and perhaps the season for the school has ended.

The permanent building will, of course, go to the church. The temporary building, as well as many of the supplies, have been donated to another Christian school in the area. If you donated anything to the school and would like to have it back, contact me and I will try to make that happen.

We praise God for allowing this ministry and pray that the seeds that were planted will continue to flourish.

Pastor John,  
for the Board of Silverhill Christian  
Academy



The Silverhill Covenant Church would like to express appreciation to Shannon Goodwin, Amy Garrison, and Willodean Ard for their faithful service to the Shining Stars Preschool.

As a result of Shannon's resignation, we are currently reorganizing our preschool under the direction of our Council and existing Children's Ministry. The preschool will be a ministry for the children of active members of the Silverhill Covenant Church.

# Upcoming Events



June 9 – 13, 2008 - VBS - Keep the teachers, helpers, and students in your prayers. The theme this year is "Power Lab" - Jesus gives us power to.....?

June 15, 2008 - Fathers' Day - Remember your Dad

June 28, 2008 - All Church workday. Get your gloves and tools ready.

July 4, 2008 - Independence Day - Thank God that we live in a free country. Remember the men and women who have given so much for our freedom.

July 13-16, 2008 - Covenant Campers Youth Retreat.....If you can help, see Tina Grider for a staff application. If you have never gone to camp, it is an awesome experience. Campers watch for more information on getting your applications. Invite your friends - sign up early so you're not left out. Theme this year is "Heart of a Champion".



The April meeting of **SENIORS WITH A PURPOSE** was enjoyed by about 15 people who met for lunch and to hear a very interesting program about what Teen Challenge is doing in Baldwin County. Teen Challenge was started fifty years ago by Rev. David Wilkerson. The program has become one of the most successful programs of its kind dealing with life-controlling addictions. As of right now, Baldwin County only has facilities for men. (Women's facilities are in the plans) Those entering the program spend 12-18 months in a discipline oriented environment that offers a balance of Bible classes, work assignments, and recreation. The story of Teen Challenge is told in the book **THE CROSS AND THE SWITCHBLADE** by Rev David Wilkerson.

**SENIORS WITH A PURPOSE** had their last meeting on May 13th until the September meeting on the 9th of September. A lunch of Pizza was enjoyed by about 15 or so people. After everyone

was finished eating, Karen Adams gave a very interesting talk titled "Alzheimer's Disease - working toward prevention with a healthier you." After her very interesting talk, she was willing to answer any questions that anyone had. (I noticed Sunday when walking thru the Christian Center that Karen has a bulletin board display titled "You Are What You Eat" - check it out- lots of good info.)

Emily Pitts has a big "Thank You!!" to all who gave beautiful and useful gifts at her Bridal Shower Sunday afternoon May 18th. The wedding of Emily and Whit Salter is Friday May 30, 2008 in our Church. (May has been a big month for Emily - she graduated from West Florida University May 3rd with a degree in Nursing.)

On May 28th our Wednesday night "Family Night Celebration" programs will begin. Everyone is invited to join the fun and fellowship. This night the children will be presenting a program telling about what they have learned through the fall/winter programs. A Hot Dog and Cake meal will be provided to all. A "Fisher's of Men" Award will be given to a very special person. Come find out who this person is.....and why they are special.

**Did you know that there are more collect calls on Fathers' Day than any other day of the year?**

## FROM THE PAST.....

From THE FOLEY ONLOOKER, Thursday April 7, 1960

"The Mission Covenant Church is launching out on "Sunday School enlargement campaign with a slogan "Will You Help? Will You Pray? Will You Visit?" The theme is "We Would See Jesus", and the Aim is "New Sunday School Pupils; a larger Sunday School; the Word Reaching More Hearts". The goal of membership is 200 or more."

This "news" from the Silverhill News by Louise Lundberg even though it's from almost 50 years ago, could very easily be applied to our Church and Sunday school today. Think about it.

The following is an excerpt from Irene Forman's report (Education and Personnel) given at the Quarterly Business meeting that I thought was important enough to repeat.....A quote from Chuck Swindle, "I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. That's right. No other single disciple is more useful and rewarding than this. No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified."

Inside your church bulletin each Sunday, you will

find a Scripture verse for the month. We read that together each Sunday during the worship service. We are actively learning these verses during Sunday school assembly each Sunday morning at 8:45 with the help of our very gifted Sunday School teachers and students. If you haven't been coming, you are missing a blessing. Thank you Tina Grider's Sr High Class (Cory Kucera, Tanner Grider, Eli Grider, Garrett Shackelford) Karen Adams' Nursery Class, Debbie Kucera's 3rd-5th grade class (Emily Garrison, Macey Walden, Caleb Devine) for your participation.



Tiffany Forsman and Chris Fetner on their marriage April 12th.

Kristen Goodwin and Justin Helton on their marriage April 26th.

Emily Pitts and Whit Salter on their marriage May 30th.

Barbara Langley on the birth of Great-granddaughter Zoey McKenna Langley. She weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces and was born May 8th. She is the grand-daughter of Jim and Treva Langley and of course we can't forget great-grandpa Jim Langley. And of course, Mom & Dad.

Marilyn and Harry Brown have two new grand babies-----quoting Marilyn "one is White and one is Brown" ----- if you don't understand that one, ask her to explain.

Stephanie (Brooks) and Todd Hull on the birth of their daughter. For those who don't know Stephanie is the granddaughter of Willodean and Alonzo Ard.

Welcome Home to Brian Doubrava. He is the manager of Guy Harvey Restaurant at The Wharf in Orange Beach.

Thank you to those who helped with the water ministry at the Antique Car Show May 24th and also those who donated the water.

Kathy McGrew wants volunteers for a Sunday School prayer ministry. She wants two people every Sunday during the Sunday School time to pray. If you want to participate, see Kathy. She is making a schedule that will let you know when it is your turn.

Susan Langley says there will be no Bible Studies during the summer but they will begin again in the fall. Watch the newsletter for more information.

To those of you who may not have been at the Business Meeting or Church the first Sunday of May we have six new members. Lamar Giles, Annette and Bob Carson, Jana and Tom Tindal, Shannon McMillan. If you haven't welcomed them yet, make a point of welcoming them into our Church family.

Covenanters affirm that sound doctrine, subject to the authority of the word of God alone, is a necessary though not sufficient condition for vital and growing faith. With this as background, we make four basic affirmations concerning our faith in common with the whole Christian Church.

- We are an apostolic church.
- We are a catholic church.
- We are a Reformation church.
- We are an evangelical church.

**We are an apostolic church** because we confess Jesus

Christ and the faith of the apostles as recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Covenanters have always affirmed the Bible to be "the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct." The Apostle Paul writes that "all scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). The Covenant Church has not chosen to be more precise than this in stating its view of inspiration. The authority of the Bible is supreme in all matters of faith, doctrine, and conduct, and is to be trusted. "Where is it written?" was and is the Covenant Church's touchstone of discussion with regard to faith and practice. In this sense, we are an apostolic church.

**We are a catholic church.** The word catholic literally means universal. We are part of the universal Church that has existed from the days of the apostles until now. This includes all who confess faith in Christ. In the first several centuries of the Christian era, the Church developed a series of affirmations concerning the faith that has been accepted by Christians throughout history. The Covenant Church considers itself a part of that catholic tradition and recognizes its indebtedness to the early creeds and confessions of the Church as concise statements of biblical faith. We refer especially to the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, though the same could be said for the Chalcedonian and Athanasian creeds.

#### ***Apostles' Creed***

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;*

*and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

### **Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed**

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

**We are a Reformation church** in that we see ourselves as standing in the mainstream of the Protestant Reformation, particularly with reference to the doctrine that justification is by faith alone. While affirming with the reformers the sovereignty of the word of God over all creeds, and the priesthood of all believers, the Covenant Church has placed particular importance on the Reformation emphasis on salvation by grace alone through faith alone—apart from the works of the law. This is well stated in the following excerpt from the Augsburg Confession of 1530, a Lutheran confession with which other Reformation churches would generally have agreed:

*It is also taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfaction, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness, as Paul says in Romans 3:21-26 and 4:5.*

**The Covenant Church continues to be shaped by Pietism, a renewal movement that originated in seventeenth century Europe and emphasized the need for a personal life in Jesus Christ,**

**sanctification through the Holy Spirit, and call to service in the world.** Pietism, in seeking a balance between the head and the heart, affirmed that correct doctrine is a necessary though not sufficient condition for vital and growing faith.

A leading spirit in this movement was Philipp Jakob Spener (1635-1705), who through his widely influential writings challenged the Church to deeper spirituality. Particularly important was his call for widespread reading and study of the Bible; greater participation by lay people in the work of the Church; simple, clear, and direct preaching geared to the needs of the people; and the abandonment of theological hair-splitting in favor of practical concern for living the Christian life. The influence of Pietism extended throughout northern Europe and enriched the lives of many through its emphasis on the new life in Christ.

**We are an evangelical church.** Five centuries have passed since the Reformation. New issues have arisen upon which Scripture has shed light. The Covenant Church, consistent with its background in Pietism, sees in the emergence of evangelicalism a movement that gives expression to several of its basic emphases.

Many have defined evangelicalism as Protestantism. It is more accurate, however, to view it as a religious awakening that flowered in Europe and America during the nineteenth century. Waves of spiritual revival have swept the Protestant West for more than two centuries. **The Covenant Church has grown out of these awakenings, and Covenanters have enjoyed cooperating in mission at home and abroad with all who follow Christ.** In this they are true to the spirit of the text expounded at the birth of the Covenant in 1885: "I am a companion of all who fear you" (Psalm 119:63).

**Evangelicals historically have been characterized by a number of significant emphases: a strong insistence on biblical authority; the absolute necessity of new birth; Christ's mandate to evangelize the world; the continuing need for education and formation in a Christian context; and responsibility for benevolence and the advancement of social justice.**

**Consistent with its affirmation** of classical Christianity and its own historical experience, the Covenant Church affirms as central to its life and thought a number of evangelical emphases. Foremost among these are the following:

- the centrality of the word of God,
- the necessity of the new birth,
- a commitment to the whole mission of the Church,
- the Church as a fellowship of believers,
- a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit, and
- the reality of freedom in Christ.