



December 2011  
CovenantExperience.com

# CONNECTION

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Christmas Defined .....	Pg. 2
Covenant Christmas Offering.....	Pg. 2
A Very Funny Christmas With Mike Rayburn ...	Pg. 2
Helping Your Kids Connect Christ.....	Pg. 3
Lessons Learned Thru Spontaneous Giving....	Pg. 4
Ladies Cookie Exchange .....	Pg. 4
Adopt-A-Dorm .....	Pg. 4
Volunteer Of The Month .....	Pg. 5
A Radical Way to Help Spread The Gospel.....	Pg. 5
Celebrating The Little Things .....	Pg. 5
Christmas Morning Outreach .....	Pg. 6
Christmas Eve Services .....	Pg. 6
Christmas Poinsettias .....	Pg. 7
Christmas Eve/Day Baptisms .....	Pg. 7
Financial Update .....	Pg. 7
December Events .....	Pg. 8



Covenant is a God-centered church, leading people into an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ, purposefully building bridges that connect Christ to our community, region, and world.

## Christmas Defined

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I am a lover of words and their origins. While some enjoy the roar of an engine or the artful finesse of fly fishing, I like words. The ability to skillfully say what you really intend to say gives me great pleasure. Yes, I know I need to get a life but when I get one, I'll know how to share it verbally with others. So this love caused me to try to understand an important word: Christmas.

When we say the word Christmas, it evokes so many emotions and thoughts but where did we get it and are we using it correctly. A quick definition could sound like "a religious holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ." As I look deeper I see that it is made up of two words: Christ and mass originating from the Old English phrase *cristes maesse*. *Cristes* points us to the Greek "christos" which translates to Messiah. There is not a lot of wiggle room for that one. *Maesse* on the other hand, is a very interesting word. The earliest recollections of this word comes from the end of a Catholic service where the priest would say, "ite missa est" (go, it has been sent or offered).

Wow, then, Christmas isn't about sales, stress or a quadruped with a crimson proboscis. It is not a thing or a onetime event. Christmas is a movement in response to what God did for us. The Messiah was sent and offered for us, so we go. We go with this good news. We go with the understanding that we have a great gift in Jesus to share to a hurting world. He alone makes it Christmas. So, when I wish you a Merry Christmas, I am now telling you to "receive joy because we have been sent to our world to share the love of God's chosen one who was sacrificed for the sins of all mankind." With great clarity and purpose I wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Pastor Terry

## Covenant Christmas Offering

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Something about this season brings out the best in people and a heart to make a difference. So, we want to capture that momentum. On December 11, 2011, we will receive a special gift offering during both of our Sunday services. This year we will use 100% of this, over and above tithe, offering to fund benevolence, missions and ministry tools.

We're providing special giving envelopes and encouraging everyone to come prepared to give on that day. If you are

going to be out of town on that day, or if you'd like to go ahead and donate early, you can go pick up an envelope at any of the upcoming services, give at the Kiosk in the foyer or go online to [www.covenantexperience.com](http://www.covenantexperience.com) and continue to our "GIVING" page.



### A Very Funny Christmas With Mike Rayburn

Friday, December 9 at 7 p.m. at Covenant Baptist Church in Shepherdstown, WV.

Tickets are available at:

<http://covenantchristmas.eventbrite.com/>

\$15 Individual  
\$10 (Groups of 10+)  
\$25 VIP

Mike has been called, "The World's Funniest Guitar Virtuoso." (He'd settle for Cleveland's Funniest Guitar Virtuoso but... whatever). Mike currently performs over 120 shows per year and cuts from his "Mike Rayburn at Carnegie Hall" CD are in current rotation on XM Comedy, Sirius Comedy, and on countless morning radio shows nationwide.

## Helping Your Kids Connect Christ To Christmas...

With Santa on every corner, Rudolph and Frosty songs playing in every store, and the inability for some school systems to properly discuss the real meaning of Christmas with our children, we want to help you as parents find ways to really help your children connect Christ to Christmas. As parents you are the primary faith influencers for your children. The best way for them to really connect Christ to Christmas is to watch you and your life and the ways you connect Christ in your own lives. Here are a few ways to help you with some family ideas, that hopefully can become a tradition at your house.

1. Introduce your nativity scene a few pieces at a time and read the corresponding passages of scripture that go along with these characters. Always save the baby Jesus for Christmas morning and then take time to read the whole Christmas story together.
2. Participate in a giving project together. Nothing says Christ in your Christmas like giving to others. In doing this you can remind your children that God gave us the gift of love at Christmas through Jesus Christ. Even if you already packed a shoebox for children around the world, look for people who might need a shoebox in your own neighborhood. Pack a few bags or boxes to give out to homeless people you might notice around the streets or in a



restaurant or standing on a street corner with a sign. Fill your boxes with toiletries, granola bars, juice boxes and then leave them in your car so you are armed and ready to give them out as God leads you to the people.



3. Be prepared for random acts of kindness. Pay for the car behind you in line at McDonalds and use this as a way to teach your children that Christ loves everyone- even the people we don't know, God knows them all.
4. Bring them to our Christmas Eve services and then talk about them when you go home.
5. Take your kids Christmas caroling to a nursing home, the hospital (call first) or just to your neighborhood. Carry a portable boom box and play a CD to help you sing if you need it.
6. Instead of making traditional ginger bread houses, make your own edible Nativity Set using ginger bread or sugar cookie dough and then decorating with frosting.
7. Above all, just make sure that before or right after you open your Christmas presents that you spend time reading the Christmas story together, with younger kids they can act it out, with older children you can each take a turn and maybe light a candle. Sing Silent Night or play a carol and pray together.

These ideas along with advent calendars, advent wreaths, attending our annual birthday party for Jesus on Sunday, December 18 will definitely help you and your kids stay connected to Christ this Christmas!

## Lessons Learned Thru Spontaneous Giving

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This all began because I wasn't sure how I could make my son Treyven's 13th birthday amazing. I decide to totally break the bank and take six boys to dinner at Ryan's. We pulled onto Foxcroft, and saw a homeless man walking all alone, in the rain, in the dark. We pulled in for gas when Treyven jumps out to give him some birthday cash, and an umbrella. He gets back into the car and says, "Mom, he has the most beautiful eyes! They were like crystals!" I ask the boys if we should buy him some dinner, too. They all say yes, so we hop over to Papa John's and I run in and ask if they have anything that can be ready quickly. I explain that we would like to get this guy some dinner, and they GIVE me a fresh, pizza and water bottle. They said it was uncanny how this one pizza was made wrong, and they had just pulled it out of the oven, and were writing it off.

Jake and Trey jumped out of the van and ran it over to him. Jake says, "Mom, his eyes ARE amazing. They look like that picture of Jesus that the young artist made. You know, the one Colton Burpo said looks like Him." They continued to think of things he may need, all throughout dinner. Then....the homeless man walks into Ryan's. He uses some of the money to get dessert and hot soup. I watch the boys to see their reactions. Treyven looks worried. Alex is watching what he eats. Jacob is obviously thinking he needs to do more. Shayne asks me where he will go next.

I looked at the concern on his face and can't help but feel as if our efforts are too puny. I made a mental note to stock the van with bags for our homeless neighbors. I will put gloves, hats, socks, non-perishables, rain ponchos, money, and some things to help them take care of their bodies. I will include a note saying that we care, and that Jesus put them in our hearts and prayers. I will call them Jesus bags.

I don't think Treyven could have had a better 13th birthday. I know it's one I'll never forget. Every time we turn onto Foxcroft, I hear from the kids, "I wonder if that guy is here!" Part of me hopes he isn't. That part wants him to have a job, a place to live, people who love him, and a connection to a church community. Part of me wants him to be there so that my children will have the opportunity again to look into the eyes of the needy, and share the love that God has for those who are broken or hurting. All of me wants him to know Christ.

Tara Oliver

## Ladies Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 11 from 2-4 p.m. in the Great Room

- Bring 2 dozen home baked (please no store bought) cookies to sample and 2 dozen to exchange. Everyone will go home with at least 2 dozen assorted cookies.
- Drinks will be provided. Childcare provided if you call to reserve in advance.

Contact [gscheffers@covenant-mail.com](mailto:gscheffers@covenant-mail.com) for more information.

## Adopt-A-Dorm

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Andy Stanley advises that we should "do for one what we wish we could do for many." It is in that spirit that we are excited to be launching our Adopt-A-Dorm program at Shepherd University by adopting Gardiner Hall. While we certainly would love to be able to adopt the entire campus, and maybe someday we will, we want to start this year by focusing our time and attention on this one dorm.

Gardiner Hall is a coed dorm on the east side of campus (near the dining hall) that houses primarily first-year students. There are 128 residents, and the dorm is split about 2/3 female to 1/3 male in same gendered halls with common bathrooms. Most rooms house two students, although there are a couple triples. In addition to the residents, the dorm also houses several offices on the bottom floor, including the Health Center, Counseling Services, and the Career Development Center.

Our desire is to encourage and develop a rapport with the college students living in Gardiner. We want them to know that we are here for them and that they are safe with us. There are many ways that we can be present in the students' lives. We are going to start by doing two activities at the beginning of December.

On Friday, December 2, we are going to host a Christmas Party for Gardiner in the lobby. We will watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas," and serve refreshments. We are asking people from Covenant to help in a few ways. First and foremost, pray that God would provide opportunities for us to talk with students. Additionally, we are asking for snacks that we can serve to the dorm. We want to serve desserts, appetizers and snack trays.

We are also going to be providing a Study Break for students on Monday, December 5th, the first day of final exams. We will be setting up video games and providing snacks and finals goodie bags to the students in the lobby. We have one small group who will be helping but would love to have a few more people to provide cookies, desserts, and other snack foods to make this work.



It is our hope that these events will be the kickoff to a great relationship with Gardiner Hall for the rest of the school year. Hopefully, by the end of the year students will wish they had lived in Gardiner because of all the extra attention the students there received. If you are able to help with these events in any way, or if you would like to be a part of the Adopt-A-Dorm Prayer Team, please contact Kyler at [kbarr@covenant-mail.com](mailto:kbarr@covenant-mail.com) or 304-876-2212 ext. 26.

## Volunteer Of The Month

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Rich has been attending the Church since 1990- and I started going in 1992. We both started going to Covenant through attending CSU at Shepherd. Rich works with catering at Shepherd University and I am a nurse at Winchester. We moved away for 5 years to live in New Jersey but we missed our Church family and the area so much we relocated to Martinsburg in 2005. We have 3 kids; Josh who is 9 years, Jacob who is 7 years, and Abby who is 21 months old. Rich changes the Church sign and ushers when he can. I sing on the worship team.

Rich and Patti Lanham

**THANK YOU!**

A Radical Way To Help Spread The Gospel



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Give the gift of Childcare at our special services this season. We need extra workers to volunteer for our special services on December 9, December 23-24 to allow our guests to feel like they can leave their children in a safe secure place and enjoy the services. We know that this is a great time for many families to receive the Gospel. Are you willing to do something "radical" and give of your time to serve our families at Christmas? If so, please contact [jsatterlee@covenant-mail.com](mailto:jsatterlee@covenant-mail.com) for more information. We need approximately 6 workers per service and one person to serve as the manager.

## Celebrating the Little Things

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In our small group- we like to call ourselves the Small Group Chicks- we have much joy and celebration each time we meet together on Friday mornings. We are giddy as we pick our favorite flavors of coffee, tea, or cocoa and make it with the "Keurig coffee machine", then enjoy a variety of goodies as we begin our fellowship time. Then we move into our time with the WORD of GOD, usually through a DVD speaker followed by discussion and prayer and even though we try to wrap up around noon, sometimes we just linger longer to soak up every minute of fellowship that we can.

While every week is a celebration, it's the little things that mean the most to me as the group facilitator. I was overjoyed a few weeks ago as I observed in action the spiritual growth in some of our young mothers. When one of our members was completely overwhelmed by a difficult concept presented on the DVD session, before I could say a word, two of our "chicks" spoke up quickly and immediately addressed the issue taking time to explain so thoroughly what the speaker was saying in a way that the other member also gained understanding. I just sat back and thought, "My girls are growing up.... They think they are not teachers, and yet here they are teaching each other."

I love my group. I'm not just the older lady teaching the younger ladies, but weekly they teach me, they keep me young, they give me joy, and provide me great love and support- as we do for each other. Sometimes we are looking for the BIG SIGNS and WONDERS when God just wants us to celebrate the little things. I pray that during this season, you will find some little things along the way to celebrate together about Jesus and His special gift of love to us all.

Gail Scheffers

## Christmas Morning Outreach

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We are inviting the families of Covenant Church to take part in a simple family outreach on Christmas morning that will be coordinated by 24:7 Youth. The hope is to provide gift baskets on Christmas morning to people whose jobs keep them away from family and friends. For example, if you sign up for the Sheetz in Shepherdstown, your family would take a gift basket to Sheetz on Christmas morning for the employees to share. These baskets could contain food, small gifts, crafts, or whatever else you want to give. The idea is to give a personalized present from your family to the employees on behalf of Covenant Church. A Christmas card from your family would be a nice touch along with bringer/includer cards available to place in the baskets.

In order to coordinate this effort, we will be using a website called Signup Genius. Signup Genius is a free site that not only provides a place to keep track of signups, but also emails you and reminds you what you signed up for a couple days before the event. In order to view a list of some places that are open Christmas morning and sign up for a location, check out our event page at:  
[www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C49ACAB2EA64-christmas](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C49ACAB2EA64-christmas)

The gift baskets that you give to the workers in our community can share the love of Christ in a tangible way on Christmas morning. Our hope is that God will use this simple outreach to significantly impact our community.

If you have any questions or know of anywhere that is open Christmas morning that is not on our list, please don't hesitate to contact Kyler at [kbarr@covenant-mail.com](mailto:kbarr@covenant-mail.com) or 304-876-2212 ext. 26. This is going to be a great addition to our Christmas season!

Kyler Barr

## Christmas Eve Services

### *"Here with Us"*



Dates: December 23 & 24, 2011

Time: 7 p.m.

*There is a great amount of comfort and joy in knowing that we are not alone in our struggles and victories. "Here with Us" is not only our title for this year's Christmas Eve services, it is also the message of love from the Heavenly Father. Come enjoy live music, refreshments, candle lighting and a message of hope.*

### Christmas Day Service

Date: December 25, 2011

Time: One service only 9 a.m.

*As we prepare for the rest of the Christmas day celebrations, why not begin the day worshipping the Reason for the Season with your church family. One service, one heart, one story of the birth of Jesus.*

### New Year's Day Service

Date: January 1, 2011

Time: One service only 11 a.m.

(Free breakfast available from 9:30-10:30)

*After saying farewell to 2011, start the New Year off with a bang. Join us for breakfast and an opportunity to give God our first and best as we worship Him. Childcare available for children up to 3 years old.*

***Hope to see you at one of these services!  
Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***

## Christmas Poinsettias

Who do you wish to honor this Christmas season? We have a 7-12" bloom poinsettia that you may purchase for \$7.00 in memory of, in honor of, or to the one you love. Please use the envelopes located on the table as you come in the Worship Activity Center and complete with whom you are honoring, place check or cash in it and place in the offering basket. Please purchase your flowers by no later than Sunday, December 18 so we can include your information on the list with the others. Those purchasing a poinsettia will be able to take their flower home at the end of the Christmas Eve services.



## CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY BAPTISMS:

Christmas is a great time to show the world, your family and friends that you are a believer in Jesus. Baptism is one way we can express this. We plan to have baptisms at both of our Christmas Eve Services (December 23 and 24) as well as on Christmas day (December 25).

If you have a child, in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, who is interested, Mrs. Gail will host a class to prepare your child for baptism. Parents and child will attend this class together held on Sunday, December 11th at 10:30. Room to be announced. To sign up for this class, please contact Mrs. Gail at [gscheffers@covenant-mail.com](mailto:gscheffers@covenant-mail.com) or call 304-876-2212 ex 33. All children who are baptized are asked to meet with Mrs. Gail prior to baptism.

Adults can sign up by contacting Arlene King by Sunday, December 18 at 304-876-2212, ext. 39 or e-mail her at [aking@covenant-mail.com](mailto:aking@covenant-mail.com) to let her know which date you prefer.

## Financial update as of 11/20/11:

General Budget: \$12,223.36  
Use Me: \$2772.00  
Budget Need to Date: \$338,461.54  
Budget Received to Date: \$314,503.25

Mortgage 2011 Need to Date: \$ 207,009.00  
(This number includes the full November payment)

Mortgage 2011 Received to Date: \$203,266.30  
(Note: A mortgage shortfall of \$1,263.45 was drawn from contingency funds. Amount remaining in contingency is \$60,506.42)

## Car Care Ministry

Single parents and deployed service persons's spouses can get a FREE oil change on the first Saturday of each month from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. by making an appointment.

Call (304)876-2212 ext. 52 or e-mail [carcare@covenant-mail.com](mailto:carcare@covenant-mail.com)

## Staff Contact Information

(304) 876-2212

**Terry Crawford**- Lead Pastor & Programming Director  
[tcrawford@covenant-mail.com](mailto:tcrawford@covenant-mail.com) ext.27

**Arlene King**- Office Manager & Member Services  
[aking@covenant-mail.com](mailto:aking@covenant-mail.com) ext. 39

**Ken Oyerly**- Creative Arts Pastor  
[koyerly@covenant-mail.com](mailto:koyerly@covenant-mail.com) ext.29

**Charity Wrotchford**- Upward Creative Arts Admin Asst.  
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**Gail Scheffers**- Children's Director & Women's Director  
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**Jennifer Satterlee**- Children's Ministry Asst.  
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**Kyler Barr**- Student/Young Adult Ministries  
[kbarr@covenant-mail.com](mailto:kbarr@covenant-mail.com) ext.26

**Bill Walters**- Family Ministries/ Counseling  
[bwalters@covenant-mail.com](mailto:bwalters@covenant-mail.com) ext.34

**Stacy Boyles**- Financial Services  
[sboyles@covenant-mail.com](mailto:sboyles@covenant-mail.com) ext.25

**Steve Lowrey**- Facilities Director & IT Manager  
[slowrey@covenant-mail.com](mailto:slowrey@covenant-mail.com) ext.35

## Shepherding Management Team

Terry Crawford: (304) 2212 ext. 27  
Glenn Gravatt: (304) 876-6212  
Ken Oyerly: (304) 2212 ext. 29  
Dr. Jeffrey Kellogg: (304) 876-2851

## November Calendar Of Events

- Thurs., Dec. 1: Morning Mix Exercise at 10:00 a.m.  
Upward Basketball Evaluations at 6:00 p.m.
- Fri., Dec. 2: OCC Short Term Mission Trip to Charlotte  
NC-December 2-4  
Upward Basketball Evaluations at 5:30 p.m.  
24:7 Youth Prayer Night at Kevin & Whitney  
Cole's at 6:00 p.m.
- Sat., Dec. 3: Iron on Iron at 8:00 a.m.  
Ballet Class 10:00-2:00  
Upward Basketball Evaluations  
Christmas Parades in Shepherdstown &  
Charles Town
- Sun., Dec. 4: Morning Services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
Twice is Nice Clothing Ministry open  
10:30- 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  
Business Meeting at 12:30 p.m. (after  
11:00 service)
- Mon., Dec. 5: Budget Busters Couponing Club at 12:30 p.m.  
Step Aerobics at 6:00 p.m.  
Open Gym for 5th-9th Graders 6:00 p.m.  
Nursing Home Ministry @ Canterbury of  
Shepherdstown 7:15-8:15 p.m.
- Tues., Dec. 6: Morning Mix Exercise at 10:00 a.m.
- Wed., Dec. 7: Zumba at 6:00 p.m.  
24:7 Youth Middle School Mid-week Gathering  
at 6:30 p.m.  
Twice is Nice Clothing Ministry 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 8: Morning Mix Exercise at 10:00 a.m.
- Fri., Dec. 9: Christian Comedian Mike Rayburn in the  
Worship Activity Center at 7:00 p.m.
- Sat., Dec. 10: Iron on Iron at 8:00 a.m.  
Ballet Class 10:00-2:00
- Sun., Dec. 11: Morning Services at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
Ladies Cookie Exchange 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
in the Great Room
- Mon., Dec. 12: Step Aerobics at 6:00 p.m.
- Tues., Dec. 13: Morning Services at 10:00 a.m.  
24:7 Youth High School Mid-week Gathering  
at 6:30 p.m.
- Wed., Dec. 14: Zumba at 6:00 p.m.  
24:7 Youth High School Mid-week Gathering  
at 6:30 p.m.  
**\*\*NEW\*\*** Budget Busters Coupon Club Room 437  
from 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 15: Morning Mix Exercise at 10:00 a.m.  
Nursing Home Ministry @ Heartland of  
Martinsburg 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Fri., Dec. 16: 24:7 Youth Prayer Night at Kevin & Whitney  
Cole's at 6:00 p.m.
- Sat., Dec. 17: Iron on Iron at 8:00 a.m.  
Ballet Class 10:00-2:00  
Nursing Home Ministry Team Meeting at  
10:00 a.m.
- Sun., Dec. 18: Morning Services at 9:00 & 11:00  
Birthday Party for Jesus-Great Room at  
9:00 & 11:00  
Twice is Nice Clothing Ministry 10:30 -  
11:00 a.m. and 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- Mon., Dec. 19: Step Aerobics at 6:00 p.m.  
Open Gym for 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Graders 6:00 p.m.
- Tues., Dec. 20: Morning Mix Exercise at 10:00 a.m.
- Wed., Dec. 21: Zumba at 6:00 p.m.  
Twice is Nice Clothing Ministry 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Thurs., Dec. 22: First Day of Winter  
Morning Mix Exercise at 10:00 a.m.
- Fri., Dec. 23: Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.
- Sat., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 25: Christmas Day  
Communion  
**ONE SERVICE ONLY at 9:00 a.m.**  
**(NO NURSERY OR CHILDCARE PROVIDED)**
- Monday, December 26 through Saturday, December 31:  
Covenant and its offices are closed all week***
- Wed., Dec. 28: Nursing Home Ministry @ Willow Tree  
Manor of Charles Town at 6:30 -7:30 p.m.
- Sun., Jan. 1: New Years Day  
**ONE SERVICE ONLY at 11:00 a.m.**
- Mon., Jan. 2: Covenant and it's offices are closed

*Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!*