

# Arbor Covenant Church

## Newsletter

October 2016

Madison Wisconsin

### Baptisms and Dedications –

In recent months Arbor has celebrated both infant baptisms and an infant dedication. Both baptisms and dedications are great reasons to rejoice and give thanks for the gift of children, for the gift of the life of faith, and for the gift of God's salvific work in the world. But there are differences between the two. Since we celebrate both at Arbor, it might be helpful to briefly outline how they differ.

The following primer is adapted from a bulletin insert that has been used at multiple ECC churches\*:

*Infant Dedication* The dedication of a child, also commonly referred to as the blessing or presentation of a child, is a service for parents who want more than anything else the blessing of God on their child but discern that a decision about baptism be reserved for their son or daughter to make at a later date. Grateful for the gift of a child, the parents are accepting their responsibility for nurturing the child in the love and grace of God. For the congregation, the blessing of a child is a ritual of hospitality in giving welcome to the child and support to the parents—sharing in their joy and in the task of nurture, and looking forward to the day when, as a confessing believer, their child chooses to be baptized.

*Infant Baptism* The presentation of a child for baptism is an act of faith on the part of the child's parents or guardians, grounded in the belief that God is the primary actor in baptism and that all baptized believers are on a journey of living out their baptismal covenants. In this case, hearing the word of God, repenting, and believing are connected events as a child is raised and nurtured in the faith by the whole church. Confirmation (or confirming one's baptism) becomes an important time for the faith of the child to go deeper, and the child can then choose to live out her or his baptism in a life of faith.

If you have any questions between these distinctions, please let me know and I would be glad to discuss them with you.

Pastor Peter Morris

\*Among these congregations are Glen Ellyn Covenant Church.

## Arbor Hills Get-Together

Thursday October 6

Last week there was a shooting on McDivitt Road (on the other side of Todd Drive) in the middle of the day. Neither the victim nor the suspect live in the neighborhood. The victim is in critical condition with a head wound.

The children at Creek Day Care (in Arbor Covenant) were kept in the building.

For those in the neighborhood, this was understandably very upsetting. The neighborhood is generally a safe, quiet neighborhood. The Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association is providing an opportunity for neighbors to gather and share their experiences. Arbor Covenant Church has volunteered to host and provide a supper to participants. The supper will begin at 6:30.

**Details of this dinner are still being worked out. If you are able to help with either food preparation or serving, please contact Pastor Peter on Wednesday.** We have absolutely no idea of how many people will be coming so it is important that we remain flexible until Wednesday.



On a recent Sunday, Lissa Turner took a few pictures of our very special Sunday School kids. It is a lively bunch and we are blessed that they are part of our congregation.



## Human Sexuality Discussion Survey

Last fall and winter Arbor Covenant convened a series of conversations about human sexuality and our posture towards our friends and neighbors in the LGBTQ+ community. We arranged these discussions around our stories, focusing on scripture's centrality while considering how the theological distinctive of the Covenant church might inform our community's response. Because they involve the lives of people we love and convictions that we hold dear, these conversations were not always easy, but they were necessary. And I want to thank everyone who participated for their faithfulness and their charity to one another and their commitment to our community.

As we go forward, we want to build off these discussions and consider what God might be calling us to do as a congregation. This is a process that requires prayer, discernment, and openness to the Spirit of God. It also involves ongoing open communication between everyone in our church. To promote and continue open communication the Leadership Team wants to make sure that everyone's voice has been heard. Accordingly before we begin discerning any next steps, we will be circulating a simple survey to the congregation. Its purpose is to allow anyone who was not able to engage in previous discussions as they may have hoped to join in now.

The survey is a way of identifying aspects of the discussion that we may still need to consider, and to allow everyone to offer their opinions, their hopes, their fears, and their frustration. It will be included as an insert in bulletins the first couple of Sundays in October and made available at the information center throughout the month.

## October Happenings

### North Park Concert



North Park University's Choir and Chamber Singers will be performing at Arbor on October 22. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this wonderful concert. This would also be a wonderful opportunity to invite friends who might enjoy the music and fellowship

We will be feeding the group after the concert before they depart for their next stop in Racine. We are asking church members and friends to contribute food to the dinner. We will need salads and desserts. Please watch for signups on the bulletin board in the fellowship room. We will also need a few people to volunteer to set up the fellowship room, serve the food and clean up.

## Arbor Hills Halloween Party

The Arbor Hills neighborhood will be having their annual Halloween Party at Arbor on October 29. You are encouraged to join the fun. The Halloween event is on October 29, at 10:30 am and will be over by noon. Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association is doing the programming and there will be games and treats and fun. Everyone at Arbor Covenant is invited to join in the festivities. One way to do so might be to park your car in the parking lot and pass out candy to kids as they trunk or treat through the parking lot.



## Covenant Women Holiday Bazaar

For many years the women of Arbor Covenant have participated in a holiday bazaar. Most of those years it has been the one at the Monona Community Center. This year the dates are November 19 and 20. Some of the things we have used the money earned from this bazaar for are as follows: support our youth in mission trips, contribute to an adult mission trip, help women to go to the Women's Retreat, share in the cost of a new vacuum cleaner, most recently purchase the coffee for church and the Personal Essentials Pantry. We would love it if many of you are able to help us this year with items for the bazaar. These items do not have to be Christmas items as there is a large Christmas room as well as two non-Christmas rooms. We often have knitted, crocheted, sewn, quilted, etc. items. Baked items such as breads, bars, candies, salty snacks, etc sell well. If you have questions, please see Sue Engstrom or Ruth Hallblade. We look forward to seeing evidence of the creativity of the women at Arbor. Men, if you have a hobby, please know that we would love to have your contributions.

## September Events of Note

### Woofter Baptism



On September 25 Rachel and Mike Woofter brought their infant son William Fredrick Woofter to be baptized at Arbor Covenant Church surrounded by his family and his Arbor community. Rachel's cousin Meghan and her husband Brian DeJong served as godparents.

Family that came to celebrate included Rachel's parents, grandparents, and brothers, Mike's mom, dad, step-mom and sister. Also Will's day care provider, the Espinoza family, was present



Saying farewell to Susan and Kevin Corrado was bittersweet. We had a special farewell in church and then on September 15 we gathered at the Corrado's condo on an absolutely beautiful evening. There was no shortage of food or company. Janis Hanson brought an absolutely delicious cake with flowers on top. A special farewell book was prepared.

The good news is that the Corrados have a son (and his wife) in Madison who occasionally need dog sitters. So we can hope to see them often. And Susan has invited us to come to their new place in Minneapolis.

## Covenant Women Retreat - Covenant Harbor

September 16-18 was this year's Fall Fellowship at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, WI. Four women from Arbor and several from Fountain of Life made the trip down from Madison. Arriving at the tent before anyone else, we Arbor women immediately began to fill the hospitality bags with what we had brought to share: pen and notebook, featuring the logo for the weekend; cross bookmark, knit with donated yarn by Gunnard; chocolate (women must have chocolate!); and emery board. We later added the retreat brochure along with a newsletter and other information from Women Ministries of the Central Conference. While we worked in the tent, other women set up the prayer room and prayer stations, while still others decorated the worship space, fellowship space, and dining areas. Before finishing final preparations in the afternoon, we enjoyed lunch at Egg Harbor Café.

*Fortify* was the theme for the weekend, with the focus verse of 1 Thessalonians 5:11, which in the NIV reads, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." Our speaker was Meagan Gillan, Director of Women Ministries. She gave four talks during the weekend, covering areas such as the origin of *fortify*, sources of fortification in the Christian life, the importance of encouragement, reasons to embrace our thorn ("For when I am weak, then I am strong," writes Paul to the Corinthians.), and suggestions for practicing the presence of God. Saturday night she shared some of her testimony and offered a time of prayer when women could come forward. We celebrated Communion together on Sunday morning.

Becca and her team from Fountain of Life provided music for the worship services. The women shared their musical gifts with enthusiasm and took turns leading the selections. We sang songs that were familiar and also learned some new ones. Whether the song was upbeat or contemplative, we were blessed by their ministry.

In between times of fellowship over food and worship on Saturday, women had the opportunity to attend a workshop in the morning and one in the afternoon. After presenting parts one and two of his four-part seminar "The Easter Jesus and the Good Friday Church" last year, Gregory S. Athnos, Professor Emeritus of North Park University, presented parts three and four this year. His wife, Doy, presented a separate workshop on studying the Bible. Among other morning presenters were Janice Kelly, Covenant missionary to Mexico, and Meagan Gillan, who titled her workshop "Beautiful Feet." Afternoon options included cooking with Deb Lampert, Covenant Harbor's Executive Chef; line dancing with Cathy; and "The Power of Forgiveness for Healing and Deliverance," presented by Carlotta V. Calmese of Fountain of Life. In addition, spiritual direction sessions were available by sign-up throughout the afternoon.

Saturday afternoon also afforded some free time. Women could take a speedboat or pontoon ride, try paddle boarding, do yoga, learn some self-defense, or fly high on the giant swing. Other options included walking along the lakeshore path, browsing the shops in town, or relaxing (napping?) on a chair overlooking the lake. It was a beautiful day, so hopefully women spent their time outside.

We were blessed to work with and get to know other Badger District women as we planned the last two retreats. Indiana has now taken up the baton, and we look forward to the blessing of next year's retreat under their leadership. Won't you join us?

Ulrika Swanson

## Arbor Covenant Website and Facebook Page

The updated Arbor website is up and running! Thank you for your patience as the leadership team and I worked things out. Using the church's website and other social media tools like Facebook allow us all to have an ongoing digital presence. We hope to make this an added method of communication for members and new comers. Go to [arborcovenant.org](http://arborcovenant.org) to see the new look, and "like" us on Facebook!

Amanda Fledderjohann

## Women's Retreat at Covenant Point

September 23-25, 2016

Karen and I attended the Women's Retreat at Covenant Point Bible Camp this year. As we drove up, we listened to the weather and thought that we would be wet all weekend as the prediction was for rain and more rain, but the skies seemed to clear and Friday was a beautiful fall day. Leaves were turning many colors and the air was crisp. Off to the camp we went.

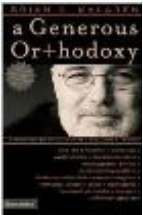
This year the attendance was down, but that didn't seem to dampen the spirits of all who attended. Our speaker was Dawn Swanson. She and her husband are at Grace Covenant Church in Iron River. They have 2 biological children, 3 adopted children and 3 foster children. She talked about how God helps us to be content in the circumstances that He guides us into and how all these things work together to bring about God's kingdom in our world.

Barb Boca Swanson, a missionary, talked about her new work in Sweden with the Syrian refugees. According to some statistics, Sweden has the highest per capita number of Syrian refugees and the challenge is there to teach them English and that the Jesus they know about is really the Savior of the world.

One of the biggest highlights of the weekend is getting away and being in the outdoors and seeing nature at it's best. Sue Pecotte



## Wednesday Night Study Group



Each Wednesday night this faithful group gathers in the home of Dan and Debby Meyer to worship, pray, and study. This season they will be reading Brian McLaren's *A Generous Orthodoxy* together. Contact the church for more details.

Oct 5. Worship: Ann-Britt. Study: Sarah

Oct 12. Not meeting

Oct 19. Worship: Mark. Study: Deb Meyer

Oct 26: Worship: Deb McGill. Study: Ann-Britt

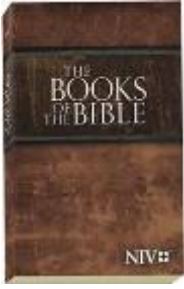
We're reading Brian McLaren's *A Generous Orthodoxy: Why I am a Missional, Evangelical, Post/Protestant Liberal/Conservative Mystical/Poetic Biblical Charismatic/Contemplative, Fundamentalist/Calvinist Anabaptist/Anglican Methodist Catholic Green Incarnational Depressed-Yet-Hopeful Emergent Unfinished Christian*. (whew). It was published in 2004 by Zondervan.



## Good Neighbor Personal Essentials Pantry

The product of the month is toilet paper. If you are able to donate, please leave in the basket in the front hall.

## Sunday Morning Adult Study Group



Join the small group each Sunday morning at 9:15 am as they read through the New Testament together. You can pick up a free copy of The Books of the Bible- New Testament (NIV) that is being used as the guide for this class. Read your copy during the week and come prepared to *share, listen, and grow*.

To prepare for this coming Sunday, October 2, 2016, last week's discussion ended on page 8, ending with "and the grace of God was on him."

## Parish Notes

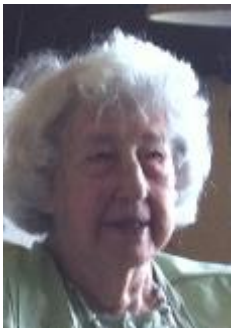
### Tom Collins note

FROM: Pastor Tom Collins, Madison, WI 9/5/16

Hello fellow pastors, friends and acquaintances.

Lynda and I three weeks ago entered a new phase in our lives primarily impacted by the fact that I no longer can walk. After several years of trying to compensate for increasing muscle atrophy due to a form of muscular dystrophy, inclusion body myositis, we have come to this unwanted change. We have moved the den furniture and made it into a room for me with a hospital bed and needed items including a Hoyer lift, a chair for Lynda, books and TV. Paid helpers come in morning and evening to get me up and down and we have found a handyman for some needs. Lynda helps with many things adding to our quality of life. We are making the best of the situation and Lynda takes me out with our handicap van, but we stay close by. Thank you for your prayers for our steadfast spirit and hope when you think of us.

### Sympathy



Barbara Illingworth Brown, mother of Phil Brown, died at University Hospital on September 27, 2016 after a short illness.

She had lived at Attic Angel Place in Madison for the last five years and immensely enjoyed both the community there and being close to her family.

During her five years in Madison, she was able to attend the weddings of two of her grandchildren and get to know three great-grandsons. She often remarked that the highlight of her life here was

being with family and the family felt privileged to have her in Madison.

Bobbie (as she was known to everyone) worked as a biochemistry professor at Washington University School of Medicine Department of Biochemistry in St. Louis until her retirement in 1989. She and her husband, David Brown, were partners in their research laboratory and home. She was very proud of her research which helped countless children with inherited metabolic diseases.

She is survived by her son Philip (Kristine) and daughter Emily Tyler (Tom). She is also survived by her grandchildren Jason (Elizabeth), Peter (Abbey) and Karin Colby (Ryan) and three great-grandsons Grant, Grover, and Ari Brown.



## October Birthdays

October 3 Erika Hanson  
 October 3 Michael Johnson  
 October 9 Peggy Kent  
 October 12 Maria Drews  
 October 17 Kevin Corrado  
 October 18 Glenn Hanson  
 October 22 Reba Turner  
 October 24 Elrene Lund  
 October 25 Judy Douglas  
 October 26 Dale Hallblade  
 October 28 Rod Johnson  
 October 28 Marijo Kessenich  
 October 30 Harry Engstrom

## October Anniversaries

October 1 Jan and Chuck Gietzel  
 October 18 Sue and Roger Springman



## Volunteer Lists

	Host	Nursery	Children's Church	Lay Reader	Projector
October 2	Joyce Boggess Mike Johnson	Elrene Lund	Ruth Hallblade	Rod Johnson	Chuck Gietzel
October 9	Sue & John Pecotte	Joyce Boggess	Mark Hanson	Matthew Fledderjohann	Michelle Stachowiak
October 16	Tamsin Ford Peter Morris	Amanda Pecotte	Fabio Mora	Mark Hanson	Sue Pecotte
October 23	Janis & Mark Hanson	Deb Levin	Lissa Turner	Joyce Boggess	Debby Meyer
October 30		Ulrika Swanson	Ruth Hallblade	Reba Turner	Mark Hanson



## October 2016 Calendar

						1
<b>2</b> 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship Communion Deacon Fund Offering	3	4	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM - Small Group at Meyers	<b>6</b> 6:30 PM Arbor Hills Get Together	<b>7</b> 10:30 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	8
<b>9</b> 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship	10	11	12	<b>13</b> 6:30 PM Leadership Team	<b>14</b> 10:30 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>15</b> 9:00-12:00 PM Work day at church
<b>16</b> 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship	17	18	<b>19</b> 7:00 PM - Small Group at Meyers	<b>20</b> 10:30 AM Community Meals at Luke House 5:30 PM- 7:30 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>21</b> 10:30 AM-1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>22</b> 4:00 PM North Park Choir Concert at Arbor
<b>23</b> 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship	24	25	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM - Small Group at Meyers	27	<b>28</b> 4:30 AM - 7:00 AM Homeless Shelter at Grace Episcopal * 10:30 AM--1:00 PM Personal Essentials Pantry	<b>29</b> 10:30 AM -12:00 PM Arbor Hills Neighborhood Party
<b>30</b> 9:15 AM Adult Study Group 10:25 AM Gathering Music 10:30 AM Call to Worship	<b>31</b> 				*Shelter Volunteers Peter Morris and Mark Hanson	