

The Caravan



Making Space for God

Interim Pastor,
Rev. Dr. Deborah Lind-Schmitz

A **whirlwind** is the best image of this last month. It would be enough to move from Iowa to Wisconsin to begin this new interim ministry. However, add a national conference, a workshop, moderating APIMS annual meeting, and welcoming our new granddaughter into this world, and you have a whirlwind of activity. Last week, I was able to enter into the whirlwind of Covenant's active life and community. And, I realized the necessity to make space for God. It was my own spiritual need, I must admit. Yet, once I articulated that need to others, there was a sense of relief, an affirming sigh, and a word of encouragement. Many of you said to me, "We need that spiritual space, a moment to breathe, a time to let go of the business and busyness". After all, it is summer. So, let's find that calm, quiet in the middle of the whirlwind, in the aftermath of the storm. Henri Nouwen's volumes of

spiritual direction come to mind. His spiritual direction urges us to find the calm, peaceful place in communion with God.

Jesus pulled away to quiet places to pray. He gathered his disciples into the pastoral settings of upper rooms, bodies of water and mountaintops to focus on spiritual matters. Jesus offered relief and rest, "*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*" (Matthew 11: 28) Sometimes we need to make time for God. Consider how you will make space in your daily routines, whirlwind summer plans, or while attending church events.

Even as we respond to the July 10th General Assembly decisions concerning NFOG and the amendments, I suggest we find Christ's quiet center and offer that sacred space to others.

...continued on page 3

July Highlights

Monday, July 4

- Church Office Closed

Sunday, July 31

- Youth-Led Worship at 9:30am
Our summer traveling high school youth will be sharing their experiences from the road as they lead worship on Sunday, July 31 at 9:30am. The contemporary worship band, *Exodus* will be providing the musical leadership. *Come and celebrate!*

Summer Sunday Schedule

Bradfield Cafe.....	9:00am-9:30am
Worship Service.....	9:30am
Bradfield Cafe.....	10:30am-11:00am

Nursery care is provided for children under three years.

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"Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place."

Reaching Out
by Henri J. M. Nouwen

Elders & Deacons 2011

Session

Kathryn Arndt, Ann Athas, Brad Brown, Peggy Bugg, Lisa Davis, Gordon Durand, Susan Hanauer, Chip Hunter, Laurie Jones, Sally Lorenz, Alicia Mundy, John Norman, Greggar Petersen, Carol Philipps, John Schilling, Emilie Songolo, John Strikwerda, Janice Walden

Deacons

Nina Browning, Rebecca & Winfred Byrd, Sharon & Barney Clark, Barb Danahy, Andrea Diaczun, Friedemarie Farrar, Mark Fields, Lesley Galway, Esther Hedfield, Julie Heinze, Jane & Randy Holveck, Evelyn Jennings, Rosemary Jones, Dennis Joosse, Susan Kau & Randy Zirk, Gwen Long, Barbara McCall, Nancy McCulley, Jan & Bill Minardi, Larry Poppelbaum, Steve Resan, Bob Richardson, Ann & Fritz Seybold, John Swartz, Mary Tibbitts, Mick Von Bergen, Nola Walker and Patty West

Staff

Interim Pastor, Deborah Lind-Schmitz.....dlschmitz@covenantmadison.org
Pastor Emeritus, William T. King
Youth Ministries, Steve Roylton.....sroylton@covenantmadison.org
Children’s Ministries, Donna Monson.....dmonson@covenantmadison.org
Parish Nurse, Mary Ircink.....mircink@covenantmadison.org
Melissa Hinz, Music Coordinator/Adult Choir Director.....mhinz@covenantmadison.org
Mary Cole, Children’s Music Coordinator.....mcole@covenantmadison.org
Organist, Douglas McNeel.....dmcneel@covenantmadison.org
Office Administrator, Mary Kieta.....mkieta@covenantmadison.org
Admin. Asst./Financial Sec., Steven Webster.....swebster@covenantmadison.org
Communications Coordinator, Molly H. MacVenn.....mmacvenn@covenantmadison.org
Custodial Staff: Dave Johnson & Eddie Quinn

Covenant Prayers

Covenant Members

Howard Adams, Joe Benton, Keith Brink, Nathan Buttell, Miriam Cerveney, Nona Crist, Gene DeFoliart, Jane Holveck, Joni Jaeger, Eleanor Jones, George Klingbeil, Ron Koenig, Margaret Lehmann, Libby and Phil Lewis, Lila Lightfoot, Mike Morgan, Emma Myer, Lucy Phillips, Jacquie Ross, Carol Stewart, Chris Temme, Gerrie Treu, Patty West

Covenant Friends

The People of Japan and those providing aid, Tom Adams, brother of Marie Crist, Hildi Boeck, friend of Noel & Dick Pearson, The Rev. Stewart Brooks, friend of Cindy & Tom Blewett, Robert Brown, uncle of Mary-Beth Rolland, Susan Parsons Cook, friend of Deb Cohn, Colleen Crescenzo, niece of Jan & John Swartz, Paul Cutlip, friend of Marybeth Friske, Karen Daugherty, sister of Gail Hunt,

Michael DeSciscio, father of Tara DeSciscio-Fussell, Juanita Doan, sister of Rose Severson, Martha Grabbit, mother of Peggy Bugg, Steve Harrison, Covenant friend, Cynthia & David Hershberger, parents of Linda Dolan, Gary Howe, father of Melissa Schmidt, Chon Hutchison, daughter-in-law of Ruth Hutchison, Lisa Jamison, daughter-in-law of Sally Jamison, The Kahl family, friends of the Whayland family, Shirley Knuth, aunt of Lee Jones, Robert Kozarek, friend of Lynda Sharpe, The Revs. Neal & Carole Lloyd and family, Covenant friends, Brad Mahoney and family, nephew of Christy Straavaldsen, Erik Maier, friend of the Gunder family, Bill McClure, brother-in-law of Rose Severson, Pam McGaan, friend of Amy & Doug Poland, Dorothy Schaefer Mehring, mother of Bob Schaefer, Eric Miller, Covenant friend and missionary to Kenya,

Mission Statement

Claimed and humbled by God’s grace, we are disciples journeying in covenant with God and one another. Our disciple-forming community is called to worship and pray together; to cultivate deep and nurturing reciprocal relationships; to minister faithfully in our daily lives; and to warmly welcome all into our fellowship as we seek a Christ-centered life. We cannot journey alone; we need one another. Together, with hearts, minds, and arms wide open, we reach out to others in love.

Church Office

Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm
Phone: 608-233-6297
Fax: 608-233-6489
Web: www.covenantmadison.org
E-mail: info@covenantmadison.org

Newsletter Deadline

August 2011 Issue
Due Monday, July 18, 2011
Articles can be e-mailed to Molly MacVenn, mmacvenn@covenantmadison.org or dropped off in the church office.

Emilie Nguidjol, mother of Emilie Songolo, Family of James Ogbeide, friends of Emilie Songolo, Anne Patten, sister of Alan Cormack, Jim Patten, friend of Eric & Kathy Wendorff, Neil Phelps, brother of Judy Stevenson, Carla Phillips, daughter-in-law of Lucy Phillips, Kathy Poutsch, friend of Hal Rebholz and family, Corp. Tyler Rascoe, grandson of Rose Severson, Craig Schuff and family, friends of Nan & Bob Schaefer, Marsh Shapiro, friend of Dick & Noel Pearson, The family of Mike Smith, friend of Christine Barden, Stew Sterling, friend of Kathryn Arndt, Gary Van Ess, brother of Vicki Alexander, John Van Ess, brother of Vicki Alexander, Ito and Jorgito Asencion-Talion

Making Space for God

Interim Pastor, Deb Lind-Schmitz

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I was very impressed by last summer's 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis. Honestly, I believe the following hopes proposed by Rev. Gradye Parsons, stated clerk, prepared our commissioners for honest and yet civil discussions. I resubmit them to Covenant Presbyterian Church (with a few adaptations) as we seek to be united as one Body in Christ.

1. **Prayerful decision-making.** The spirit in which decisions are made will be a prayerful and careful witness of decision-making for the entire church.
2. **Deeper awareness of the whole PC(USA).** (Presbyterians) will gain a deeper awareness of the length and breadth of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), realizing they are part of something much larger than themselves.
3. **Issues facing congregations.** Elders, deacons and members will discern with the whole church the issues and challenges facing this congregation.
4. **Common calling to a changing church.** A clear, common calling will emerge to actively and hopefully engage with the reality of a church in change.
5. **Attention beyond ourselves.** Attention will move beyond (self) to a world in great need, committing ourselves to gospel work: making disciples, feeding the hungry, welcoming the outcast, encouraging the fainthearted, working for peace – all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
6. **Enthusiastic sharing of the faith.** (All of us need to learn how) to talk about our faith with a contagious enthusiasm.
7. **Furthering the mission of Christ.** (We all will gain) a deep sense that (what we do) will further the mission of Christ in the world.

Session Update 6/28/11

Session approved the combining of the Evangelism and Congregational Life Committees. The purpose of both committees are similar, both are trying to enhance the participation and spiritual growth of members and non-members of Covenant church. The combination of these two committees will allow for more resources to engage the congregation, build relationships and strengthen the faith of all involved in the life of Covenant Church.

In response to the new Form of Government recently approved by a majority of presbyteries, session has formed a task force to review Covenant's bylaws and recommend changes that may be needed. Task Force members include Ann Athas, Laurie Jones, Mary Kieta, Carol Philipps, and Janice Walden, with Pastor Deb serving ex officio. Anyone who has ideas to suggest is urged to contact one of the task force members.

CCC (Completion of Capital Campaigns) - We Did It! will be a grand celebration on Sunday, August 7 in the courtyard after worship. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. All are invited to help burn the mortgages for Covenant Renewal (we had three - PC(USA), Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and Associated Bank) which we paid off completely this year. With gratefulness to the generous contributors to Capital Campaigns I and II, we gather to celebrate and give thanks to God for the renewed building which enhances our ability to carry out Covenant's mission and for the opportunity to tithe the building project with contributions to local and international mission projects.

Summer Worship

Sunday, July 3

Worship: 9:30am

Preacher: Interim Pastor, Deb Lind-Schmitz

Scripture: 2 Cor. 3:17-18 and Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Bradfield Cafe: 9:00am-9:30am & 10:30am-11:00am

Sunday, July 10

Worship: 9:30am

Preacher: Interim Pastor, Deb Lind-Schmitz

Scripture: Romans 8:1-11 and Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Bradfield Cafe: 9:00am-9:30am & 10:30am-11:00am

Sunday, July 17

Worship: 9:30am

Preacher: Interim Pastor, Deb Lind-Schmitz

Scripture: Romans 8:12-25 and Matthew 13:1-9

Bradfield Cafe: 9:00am-9:30am & 10:30am-11:00am

Sunday, July 24

Worship: 9:30am

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Mark Elsdon

Bradfield Cafe: 9:00am-9:30am & 10:30am-11:00am

Sunday, July 31

Youth Led Worship: 9:30am

The Interim Process for the Year

Interim's Developmental Tasks

1. Coming to Terms with History
2. Discovering a New Identity
3. Leadership Changes during an Interim
4. Renewing Denominational Linkages
5. Commitment to New Directions in Ministry

During the interim ministry there are five developmental tasks which help congregations prepare for their new pastor. These tasks often occur simultaneously and overlap. In your situation, having experienced co-pastors' resignations and an interim's completion of the discernment process, there is some history to sort out. So, at this early stage, my pastoral focus is on healing, stabilizing and reducing anxiety. At the same time, planning for the fall requires commitment to the future and discovering a new identity. Please consider following identity questions, "Who do people say "Covenant Church is?" and compare it to "What is God calling this congregation to do and be?"

Next Steps for the Session and Congregation during this transition

July 28: 7 PM Staff and Committee chairs will plan the year 2011-2012 calendar together. The goal is to offer a wide variety of opportunities for the coming year.

August 23 7 PM The session will focus on the recommendations of the discernment process. The process will be to evaluate each initiative in light of the present situation, prioritize and strategize methods of implementation.

September through December 2011

Select Mission Study Model

Approve Mission Statement

Approve Equal Opportunity Employment Covenant (Financial Package)

Session seeks approval to elect the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Recruitment of PNC

Congregational Meeting held to approve the Mission Statement, EOE Guidelines and nominees for the PNC.

PNC prepares the Church Information Form (CIF)

January and February 2012

If all goes according to schedule, the CIF will be completed and approved in January or February. And, the PNC will begin receiving Personal Information Forms (PIF).

March through June 2012 The process of reading, sorting, interviewing and candidating should not be rushed. You do want the best possible match for Covenant's future ministry.

The timeline above is not set in stone. However, you can see the transition is neither stagnant nor boring. Much will happen above and beyond the obvious, God willing.

*God bless us as we travel this road together,
Pastor Deb*

Did You Know? What DO You Know?

In the 1960's, Covenant's fellowship and service organizations led the church's mission efforts, depending on their pledges and a once-a-year Silent Bazaar for these funds. In 1989, a representative of the Medical Benevolence Foundation visited Covenant for a discussion of medical mission opportunities and accomplishments. Robert Patton's book, *Sojourners in Faith*, documents stories of mission and benevolence in the first 35 years of our history, but Covenant has experienced substantial growth in these areas, and these stories need to be recorded. As we plan the writing of a sequel to Patton's book, we are hungry for all the stories about our missions and benevolences. What do you know? Or, should the question this month be, "Do you know?" The answer, that is. Contact the church office, 233-6297 or info@covenantmadison.org.

Cares, Concerns & Joys

Thoughts and prayers are with Jan Swartz on the death of her mother, Thelma Carper; with Mary Zoroufy on the death of her aunt, Betty Bondehagen; with family and friends of Covenant member Donna Ryan; and with family and friends of Covenant friend, Lorraine Craig.

Congratulations to Covenant's Communications Coordinator, Molly, and her husband, Peter, on the birth of a daughter, Ella Sophia MacVenn. Congratulations, too, to Pastor Deb on the birth of a granddaughter, Camille Grace Kastanek, daughter of Pastor Deb's son, John, and daughter-in-law, Jana, and baby sister to Laura, Jakob and Mitchell. Congratulations to member Hermice Anders on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Brooklyn Crystine Kazda, daughter of Greg & Amy Kazda.

Adult Education

"Four Sundays with the Gospel of Mark"

Sundays at 10:40am

Led by: Alan Cormack

Room: C206 (*Upper level of the Christian Education wing*)

This is a shared reading and discussion of Mark's Gospel, which presents Jesus as the true Son of God. From the very start, he is doing strange and amazing things 24/7, with a sense of urgency and drive. In Jesus' day, as in ours, the world was far from the Kingdom of God. We will try to discover what Jesus as the Savior was lamenting about life in the world as it is and what his vision is for a transformed life of steadfast discipleship. Alan gives a brief presentation, and then facilitates the discovery of God's living word for us in a community of seekers. (*Childcare available until 11:30am.*)

"What You Always Wanted to Ask About the Bible!"

Class Follow-up

The Adult Christian Education Committee and class attendees were both interested and pleased with the variety of questions received and thoughtfully answered by the Bible Panelists on May 22nd. We have some additional questions that were not answered, because we ran out of time. So, in upcoming editions of the *Caravan* we will provide a short answer to one of those questions for our adult readers. We were fortunate enough to receive a question from one of our six year olds. Donna Monson will provide the response to questions we receive from children. (*See back cover for more details.*)

Youth Ministries

Confirmation Orientation

Our confirmation program will be open to all those entering the ninth grade this coming fall. There will be an orientation for prospective students and their parents on Sunday, August 28, 6:30-7:30pm. The goal of this one year program is to give students the chance to explore issues of faith on a deeper level and consider what it means to enter into membership in the church. Classes will be held beginning on September 18, during the Christian Education hour from 9:40-10:30am.

High School Youth Mission Trip to Kentucky!

This is the month when a group of 28 High School Youth and 7 Advisors will be taking part in the fine program operated by Maxwell St. Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Kentucky. During the week of July 16-23, they will be living in an 1850's house as they serve through various urban agencies throughout the city. They will be challenged, tested, worked hard, and fulfilled in all that God would have us experience. It is truly an opportunity for some great things to be experienced. On the way home they will stay a night in Cincinnati as they visit King's Island theme park.

High School Youth-led Worship July 31

Our summer traveling High School Youth will be sharing their experiences from the road as they lead worship on Sunday, July 31, at 9:30am. The contemporary worship band "Exodus" will be providing the musical leadership. Come and celebrate!

Flat Stanley at Covenant

Flat Stanley Vacation Photos can be e-mailed to dmonson@covenantmadison.org; or given to Donna Monson. These will be posted in the Bradfield Café so that congregation members and friends can see where families travel over the summer with Flat Stanley.

Questions Children Ask About the Bible:

“Who Made God?”

God was not made; God has always existed. This may be difficult to understand because everything we know has a beginning or an end – day and night, sports games, and movies. But God has no beginning or end. God always was and always will be.

Vacation Church School Thank You

We cooked up a great week in the Vacation Church School Shake It Up Café the week of June 13-17. All were surprised at how many food ingredients and utensils could be worked into crafts, games, science experiments, and singing. But most importantly, we learned through food related Bible stories ways to carry out God’s recipe for our lives. The success of VCS would not have been possible without the 25 children who attended and the volunteer Chefs who shared their gifts and time during the week. These Chefs are: Anne Gustafson, Ann Larget, Grace Gustafson, Jacky Jugenheimer, Mary Ircink, Heather Potter, Megan Munson, Eli Petersen, Amy Poland, Alex Poland, Sue Wood, Elizabeth Larget, Greta Larget, Jessica Salt, Beth Rodriguez Striciz, Gretchen Girard, Joe Hack, Alyssa Diaczun, Megan Vande Sande, Anna Pearson, and Katie Poland. A very special thank you to music director Mary Cole, and the Vacation Church School Co-coordinators Cindy Lovell and Gina Fritz.

Wednesday Night Yoga Continues

Yoga continues on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm in Bradfield Hall. A single class is \$8 or join the session for \$54. Checks should be made payable to Gary Spann. For questions please call Mary Ircink, Parish Nurse at 233-6297 x22.

Summer Blood Pressure Screenings

Visit with Mary Ircink, Parish Nurse, on Sundays July 17, August 7 and Sept. 11 for summer blood pressure checks.

Would a friendly visitor help?

If so, call Covenant’s Care Team!

Would you like a member of Covenant’s new 15-member Care Team to visit or assist you? This all-volunteer team offers rest and relief for caregivers, as well as, friendly visits and other assistance. To learn more about Care Team services, or about joining the team, contact Covenant member Mary Zoroufy at 277-8190.

**11th Annual Beach Days
Blood Drives**

July 5 - Beach Days Kick-Off Blood Drive

Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolen Drive

11:30am - 5:30pm

(presenting donors will receive a Red Cross t-shirt on July 5th only)

and

July 6 through July 9

Madison West Donor Center, 4860 Sheboygan Ave. & **Madison East Donor Center**, 2109 Zeier Rd.

Enjoy special summer refreshments and every presenting donor has a chance to win great raffle prizes! The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood.

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org to make a blood donation appointment or find Madison Donor Center hours.



Stewardship Corner

*It's Summer,
but Covenant's Bills Don't Take a Vacation*

A friendly reminder from your Stewardship Committee:

Although many Covenant members and friends are away during part or most of the summer, Covenant's bills still come in steadily and our staff is paid regularly. Sooo, please remember to keep up your regular pledges and gifts to Covenant during the summer. And thanks for your generous contributions that allow Covenant to continue its mission rain and shine, summer and winter.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed in August!

Can you deliver meals in August through the Meals on Wheels program? Volunteer with a friend or family member. Covenant will deliver meals to individuals on 2 routes the following Sundays: August 7, 14, 21, and 28. Meals can be picked up at 11:00am at Oakwood, delivered and be done by 1:00pm. Please e-mail Kathy Schlimgen at kaschlim@gmail.com or call 238-4067 if you can help! Sign up will also be in Bradfield Cafe on Sunday, July 17.

The Road Home - Volunteer Tours

Interfaith Hospitality is coming back to Covenant on Sunday, July 10. Volunteers are encouraged to have a tour of THE ROAD HOME office and day center where the homeless families receive case management (help looking for apartment, for a job and how to get back on their feet).

The next tour of THE ROAD HOME is scheduled for July 19th at 7:00pm. The office is at 128 E. Olin, Suite 202 in Madison. There is a volunteer training packet now available in an e-mail format if you would like to receive it that way. Contact Judy Stevenson at 231-3163, if you have questions.

Covenant to Host IHN Families

Covenant will again host four to five homeless families for the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) program of **The Road Home** organization, the week of July 10-17. We will team up with our "buddy" churches, Blackhawk, First Baptist and Westminster Presbyterian to provide safe shelter, meals, and activities for the adults and their children struggling with these major issues in their lives. This important ministry offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for Covenant members and their families. Sunday school rooms must be set up prior to their arrival and packed up on departure. The truck must be unloaded and loaded on Sundays, July 10th and 17th. Sheets and towels must be laundered at the end of the week and transportation may be needed to or from a guest's workplace.

Breakfast provider volunteers are still needed for Sunday, July 17; and dinner volunteers are still needed for Saturday, the 16th. After dinner activity volunteers are needed for both Wednesday and Saturday nights. These slots are a perfect opportunity for a Covenant family to involve their own children. As the host congregation, we are also responsible for overnight supervision each night. An overnight host is still needed for Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights of that week.

If you can share some of your time that week with these needy families, or if you aren't sure how you can help, please contact Judy Von Bergen, the week's coordinator. She would be happy to answer questions and help you find a way to share in this vital ministry. **Thank you!**

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - JULY 2011

Revised 6/28/11

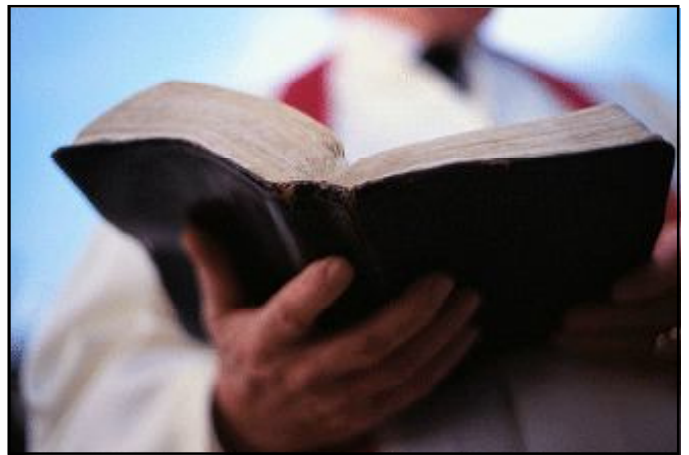
Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

* Bold indicates morning activities.						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00-9:30am Bradfield Cafe 9:30am Worship 10:30-11:00am Bradfield Cafe 10:40-11:30am Adult Ed Class	Office Closed	5:00pm Personnel Comm.	7:30pm Yoga	7:30am 6:00pm Men Men		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00-9:30am Bradfield Cafe 9:30am Worship 10:30-11:00am Bradfield Cafe 10:40-11:30am Adult Ed Class		7:00pm Adult Ed Comm.	<i>IHN Week</i>	7:30am 6:00pm Men Men		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			<i>High Schoolers to Lexington, KY</i>	7:30am 6:00pm Men Men 7:15pm Bldg & Grnds Comm.		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00-9:30am Bradfield Cafe 9:30am Worship 10:30-11:00am Bradfield Cafe 10:40-11:30am Adult Ed Class	Noon Women		7:30pm Yoga	7:30am 6:00pm Men Men		
31			7:30pm Yoga			
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“What You Always Wanted to Ask About the Bible!”

CLASS FOLLOW-UP

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We hope you find this approach interesting and that it encourages you to look at the referenced Bible passages and discuss what you read with the people in your life, including your children. Please e-mail your questions to k@arndtsite.com or dmonson@covenantmadison.org. You can also deliver your questions to the church office.