



Orchard Covenant Church

95 Berkshire Street  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

# *The Messenger*

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413-543-4204



MESSENGER

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## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

### Stewardship in Daily Life

The dictionary defines stewardship as the “careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” It seems a simple concept - take care of something for someone else. But for Christians, it carries significant meaning on several levels. Acknowledging your stewardship role means:



- You affirm that what you have is not yours, that everything comes from God and has been entrusted to your care
  - You realize that God expects you to actively manage your money.
  - You acknowledge that God works through you as you use and manage what He has given
  - You understand that while you may use your money for the well-being of yourself and your families, you are also commanded to use it to help others and further God’s kingdom
- You remember that God will hold you accountable for what He has given you

Martin Luther summarized stewardship like this: “I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.” For Christians, stewardship should be a way of life. It applies to time and the talents God has given, as well as to money and possessions. Stewardship includes:

- time management
  - doing everything possible to stay in good health
  - caring for the environment
  - money management
  - current charitable gifts - practicing generosity and sacrificial giving with every paycheck.
  - legacy charitable gifts – gifts from your assets after you no longer need them.
- Some say the church talks a great deal about money. That’s because money and possessions play such a large part in our life. How we handle money is a good barometer of our relationship with God. Billy Graham has said, “A checkbook is a theological document—it tells you who and what you worship.”

*Dear Church Family, I am including this article from the Covenant Trust Company to encourage us all to evaluate our personal stewardship – that is, how we give from what God has given us. This article is mainly about money, but we also are called to share our gifts of time and abilities. We’ll talk more about stewardship next month, but generosity is important every month. How is God calling you to give of yourself and from yourself? How do you practice trust in God through your checkbook?*

*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19)*

*See you in Church, Pastor Nancy Ebner*

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 3 – Debora Amina  
October 5 - Jen Mullins  
October 6 - Mark Thomas  
October 12 - Daniel Glassman  
October 13 – Nathaniel Niyuhire  
October 13 - Pastor Nancy Ebner  
October 17 - Ruth Campsie  
October 21 - John Howell  
October 22 - Amanda Kenyon  
October 22 - Liz Bromage  
October 27 – Mafumbo Nyabenda  
October 28 - Kyle Thomas  
October 28 - Sue Warner

## ANNIVERSARIES

Art and Diane Lawler – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Gordon and Janice Johnson – 24<sup>th</sup>

**[If your date is wrong or your name has been omitted, please contact the editor.]**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

October 2 – Cromwell Event  
October 7-9 – Men’s Retreat at Pilgrim Pines  
October 9 and 23 – Ebner Supper Fellowships  
October 22- Council Strategic Planning Retreat  
Community Luncheons – Every Wednesday Noon  
November 5 – Women’s Brunch  
November 6 – Daylight Savings Ends

## SUNDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Pastor Nancy and Wally Ebner will be hosting “Second and Fourth Sunday” Supper Fellowships this fall at their home, to which all are invited to sign up. They will be on the second and fourth Sundays at 5:30 p.m. They would like to fill their table with eight to ten people and you may sign up as a single person, or with family, or invite a friend to come with you. Children are welcome. The dates for these suppers are October 9 and 23, and November 13 and 27. Wally has made sign-up sheets that are in the Community Hall.

### A “Service of Consecration to the Lord’s Future.”

I’d like to invite all family and friends of Orchard Covenant to this Sunday’s communion service, October 2, at 11:00 am. Our journey of Christian vitality always includes confession, repentance and prayer. This Sunday’s service will be co-led by me and several members of the Council and Vitality Team, and is called a “Service of Consecration to the Lord’s Future.” We will end with our traditional invitation to the Lord’s Table.

## VITALITY MEANS LIFE!

Pastor Nancy Ebner

About a year ago Orchard Covenant Church was invited by our Covenant denomination to a journey in congregational vitality called “Navigate.” The map of that journey is called the “Vitality Pathway.” We have been moving along that path, step by step, for some time – the Veritas seminar, the conference in Kansas City, forming a Vitality Team, writing our Covenant for Holy Manners, attending the EPIC seminar this summer... Each step has brought learning and progress.

The next step is to gather for a “Service of Confession, Repentance, and Prayer.” This will be our 11am service on World Communion Sunday, October 2, and I pray for a strong sense of Spirit for that day and that many people will participate. The next step after that is the church-wide online survey called “Taking Your PULSE.” We’ll want every attendee to fill out the survey, either on your computer at home or on the computers at church, in a two-week time period. We’ll be getting more information about that to you as soon as we can!

Also our Council is entering into a strategic planning process, to discern new ways to express our mission and vision, and how we are to serve in a new season of ministry. This is a healthy process to work through every few years, as Jesus calls his church to ongoing renewal and adventure. Let’s go- let’s GROW!

## New Bible Study Group

“Priorities: Tyranny of the Urgent” is a six-week bible study fellowship group that will meet on Tuesday nights, **September 20 to October 25**. Pastor Ebner will be the leader and the group will meet at her house at 81 Berkshire St. next to church from 6:30-8:00pm

*Have you ever wished for a 30-Hour day? Every week we leave a trail of unfinished tasks. These studies are designed to help you put your life in order by discovering what is really important. Find out what God’s priorities are for you.*

Anyone is welcome. The Study Guide costs \$7.00.

### **TUTORS NEEDED!**

ACTS TUTORING has seven returning tutors and would like three more. We meet on **Tuesdays from 4:15-6:00 PM**. Please let me or John Howell know if you can help us out. You will be glad that you did! Joy Holsing, Site Director (567-5676)

**FROM THE CHAIRPERSON**

Mike Foster

There are three items that I want to bring to you:

1. Please pray with the Council as we meet on a Saturday in October to do some strategic planning. We want to continue to seek God's direction for us as a church, and to be sure our programs are consistent with what we understand our mission to be. This can be an important process, as the Spirit leads us to Christ's goals for us here in Indian Orchard.

2. As most of you know, your church Council does a routine annual pastoral review—usually in the Fall. As a part of that review, we ask that you pass along any concerns, blessings and/or thanksgivings about any aspect of Pastor Nancy's ministry among us to any of the Personnel Relations Committee (Charlene Abrahamson, Roberta Glassman and myself) at any time, before we complete the process in November. In addition, we have set aside Sunday, October 9, when Roberta, Charlene and I will be available in the Pastor's study immediately after the worship service, should you wish to chat then.

Finally, as a congregation we will soon select members of a Nominating Committee, to choose candidates for some Council positions for next year. Please be in prayer for the deliberations of that committee this Fall.

**THANKS**

Dear Orchard Covenant Church,

Thank you for your generous donation to our Tornado Relief Fund. The money you contributed will be used to help people in our neighborhood. Please pray that God will continue to guide us as we discern how best to help rebuild Springfield.

Pastor Mike Mirakian  
Evangelical Covenant Church

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Dear Friends of the Salvation Army,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation of \$860.50, all of which will be put toward the disaster relief efforts. We pray God's blessing on you and your families as you have cared so much for others.

Major Thomas Parks

**DAMAGE**

***During the microburst, our church facility sustained some hail damage to our roofs and siding. We have been working with a repair company along with our insurance company to ascertain the extent of the damage and what the insurance company will cover. We have received a verbal commitment from the insurance adjuster authorizing the replacement of the two roofs and the shutters/siding on Berkshire Street. We will be sharing more information with the congregation when we receive more definitive information and a written commitment from the insurance company. Please be praying and asking God to provide direction in this matter.***

***Richard Forbes, Properties Team***

**WOMEN'S BRUNCH COMING SOON!**

On Saturday, November 5, at 10:00 a.m., we will have a very special women's brunch. Come and eat some delicious food, and hear our wonderful speaker, Mandy Adendorff!

Mandy is known for her breathtaking paintings of faith and her powerful speaking ministry. She was raised in apartheid South Africa, a nation torn by violence and racial conflict. At age 15, Mandy, a Jewish girl, had a life changing encounter with the Messiah. She received her degree specializing in Art Education and Biblical studies in Johannesburg, South Africa. In 1993, her Live Painting ministry began in South Africa. Mandy began her ministry to a teenage generation broken by racial injustice and violence. She used live paintings to open minds and hearts before opening her mouth to speak God's Hope. She has been painting and preaching with passion to young and old for nearly twenty years.

We are so excited to have Mandy speak to us, with words and through her painting, as she shares God's message.

All women are invited! Please RSVP to Toni Wapner, 599-1411. There is no fee; a free will offering will be taken to benefit Mandy's ministry.

**URGENT NEED**

The Survival Center is in desperate need of food. Please donate!