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Covenant Presbyterian Church

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 Reno, Nevada 89523
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www.covenant-reno.org



“Choose For Yourselfes This Day...”

By Pastor Jay

“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” – Joshua 24:14-15

Dear Friends:

At its regular meeting at the end of August, your elected elders unanimously passed the following motion:

For reasons of faithfulness to Jesus Christ and submission to His Word as an essential of our faith, Session recommends Covenant Presbyterian Church seek dismissal from the PC(USA) and affiliate with another Reformed and Presbyterian body. Session will be diligent and prayerful

in seeking God's will with respect to that appropriate body.

Over the last month we have informed our members of this vote of Session through announce-ments at our worship services and in our written publications. Several good questions have been asked concerning this recommendation which I will briefly address here in the Chimes.



Continued on Page 2

Choose For Yourselves This Day... - Continued from page 1

1. Why did the Session unanimously vote to make this recommendation?

Each elder would give you his or her unique personal response to this question, but the common and essential reason would be something like this: *The recent actions of our denomination, removing right, important and clear Biblical standards for the ordination of church leaders, is a rejection of the Church's essential belief in the truth and authority of God's Word, the Bible. Like thousands of other faithful members of our PC(USA) church family who have lovingly and boldly kept "fighting the good fight" and have stuck with our denomination despite its decades-long march toward cultural accommodation and away from Biblical orthodoxy, your elders have said that the decisions of 2011 have "crossed the line."*

PC(USA) churches are now put in a position of choosing either to be faithful to Jesus Christ our Lord or to be faithful to our denomination. And so the leaders you elected, without exception, voted to seek separation from our beloved denominational family because we must love Jesus Christ more. "As for us and our household, we will serve the Lord!"

2. Why didn't the Session wait to vote on this until after they had asked us (the congregation) what we thought?

I have two good answers to this: polity and integrity.

Polity – Your elders have been called, by God and by you, to lead. And so they are leading. It is appropriate for them to do so. Our polity also limits the power of our Session, and we understand and embrace this reality. The motion above is a *recommendation*, and it cannot be more than that. It is a recommended *direction to pursue*. It does not, by the authority of our church elders, suddenly make us something other than a PC(USA) church. This motion *begins a process* that will and must include our whole church membership and our Presbytery of Nevada. The action of being dismissed out of the PC(USA) and into another Reformed and Presbyterian organization will not happen unless and until it is owned and affirmed by our congregation as a whole and voted for

by a great majority of our members. In addition, such a dismissal will happen in cooperation with our Nevada Presbytery according to its "gracious dismissal" policy.

Integrity – The Session could have come to the congregation as a whole, presented their perspectives on the crisis and then asked, "What do you all think?" And if there was confusion or a lack of consensus on their part about these things, this might have been wise. But since they are in solid agreement about the course of action God is leading us to pursue, this might have been misleading or manipulative. The fact is, your leaders are of one mind concerning God's will for us in this matter: We cannot remain connected to, and under the authority of, a church that denies an essential of our faith. In its present state, the PC(USA) is in such a state, and so we have initiated a process in our church family and with our presbytery that moves us toward dismissal.

3. What will this process involve?

First we will schedule special times to come together as a church family to share our concerns, ideas, hopes and fears, to listen to one another, to ask questions, to seek God's will for His Covenant Church and to pray. Several such regular Covenant Family Meetings we hope and pray will help us to move together

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Chimes Newsletter Submissions

E-mail:

chimes@covenant-reno.org or
julie@covenant-reno.org

Church Office:

Place articles & submissions on
the desk in office

To be a part of the Chimes "Creative
Team" contact [Julie Minedew](mailto:julie@covenant-reno.org)

Deadline for the November Issue
issue:

October 16th

Choose - Continued from page 2

faithfully in the way our Lord would have us go.

At the same time, your Session will continue exploring and researching other denominations that might provide the reformed, Presbyterian and Biblically faithful affiliation we are seeking.

In addition, the Moderator of our Presbytery will appoint a three-person "listening group" to meet with our leaders and our congregation, according to Presbytery's "gracious dismissal policy," to assess the nature and significance of our reasons for seeking dismissal and to see how reconciliation might be achieved.

4. How long will all this take?

We don't know. No one else has yet gone before us down this "gracious dismissal" road in our Presbytery. I anticipate that we should be ready to vote on our Session's recommendation by Easter of next year, but this is an educated guess. We won't go faster than seems fair and prudent, but our leadership is convinced that we need to keep moving and that a decision must be made concerning our future within or apart from the PC(USA) denomination.

Your Fellow Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Pastor Jay †

Musical Notes

Notes for October from the Director of Musical Arts

By Denell Hull

With September behind us, we are off singing and praising our way through the Fall season here at Covenant.

Covenant Choir

The Covenant Choir has begun sharing in our weekly traditional worship services and rehearsing Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the sanctuary. Are you interested in joining the choir but don't know how to read music? No problem. We'll help you find your notes. Clueless as to whether you're an alto, tenor, bass or soprano? Don't worry. We'll help you find your voice and sing God's praise in beautiful harmony. Join us this Thursday!

Praise Team

The Covenant Praise Team practices continue on Wednesday nights at 7:45 pm. New singers, instrumentalists and technicians are welcome to join us.

Children's Choirs

Our Chimin' Voices and Wiggle Workz [Children's Choirs](#) are off to a wonderful start as part of our new Lifeline Wednesday/Pioneer Club program. I am blessed to be sharing leadership for our children with Wiggle Workz director Barbara Landis and music interns Becca Engel, Maddy Pratt and Sierra Simpkins. At 4:30 pm on Wednesday afternoons our youngest singers get some good musical instruction and an opportunity to be part of the ongoing song of praise to the Living God lifted up from Covenant Church!

Nativity Tableau

We are also getting ready for this year's Covenant Nativity Tableau. Mark your calendars for November 27 at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and start praying and telling your neighbors about this special presentation of the music and the story of Christmas. †



Harvest Time in the Covenant Garden

By Bob Christian and Barbara Mize



Covenant's Community Garden has produced a bumper crop which has been shared with food pantries and local missions as well as families here at Covenant.

On a recent September morning I was able to catch Master Gardner, Bob Christian as he was busily harvesting in our [garden](#). After a very cool start

families in our community, and all who have come to church on Sunday mornings have helped themselves to the produce on our garden "Harvest Table". Right now

to thank some super garden helpers: Mary Anderson, Mike Blakely, Becky Conrad, Fred Crist and Will Davidson.

If you would like to be a part of the Covenant Garden

Bob Christian anticipates that we will harvest 1000 lbs. of vegetables by the time the growing season ends this Fall!

this summer, the harvest of vegetables is coming in fast and furiously now. For the past couple of months we have been enjoying delicious home grown tomatoes, as well as various squash, onions, beets, and potatoes. To date, Bob reports that we have harvested 725 lbs. of vegetables that have been distributed to The Gospel Mission, St. Vincent's, some

50% of the harvest is going out to agencies and the rest is being enjoyed by our Covenant families and friends. Bob anticipates that we will harvest 1000 lbs. of vegetables by the time the growing season ends this Fall.

Thank you to the 30 plus volunteers who have helped in various ways in the garden this year. We especially want

Group (a mission of CPC), please talk with Bob Christian, our resident Master Gardener or call the church office.✝



Changing Lives One Shoe Box at a Time

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God's love. This program of Samaritan's Purse provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ. Shoe boxes are packed with toys, candy, personal hygiene items, and small articles of clothing such as gloves, scarves, hats and socks and then sent to Samaritan's Purse who will ship them to needy boys and girls all around the world. Also included in each box is the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their own language, and they are also offered a discipleship course called "The Greatest Journey" where the children learn more about what it means to be a Christian. Many children come to know the Lord through this program.

Covenant's Operation Christmas Child campaign will start on Sunday, October 23rd. Material will be available at the OCC table in the lobby along



A few of the 8,173,749 children around the world who experienced Christmas joy last year when they received gift-filled shoe boxes donated by folks like you. These boxes are distributed by Operation Christmas Child, which is part of Samaritan's Purse.

with some boxes and miscellaneous items donated by others to supplement your own boxes. Also at the table, you can view a video presentation showing the impact of this very important ministry. We invite everyone to come and join us for an exciting 4 week adventure!

Want to participate, but don't have time to pack a box?

You can help by donating items such as toothbrushes,

toothpaste, soap or school supplies for others to use in packing boxes. You can also sponsor a box by donating money to pay for shipping boxes or let us pack a box for you.

For more information about [Operation Christmas Child](#) at Covenant please contact [Julie Minedew](#).



Bring filled Shoe Boxes to Covenant no later than Sunday

November 20th!

HELP!

I Know I'm supposed to read my Bible but I just can't get into it.....

First, let's get one thing straight - Salvation does not come from reading your Bible. Only faith in Jesus Christ can do that. And, no... you don't even get "Brownie Points" for doing it. But what you will get is a changed life and the chance to see the heart and mind of God in a fresh and personal way. The following are some tips that we have found useful for making Bible reading a part of our daily lives.

➔ Be Choosy

Choose a translation that works for you. There are many translations to choose from - New International Version (NIV), English Standard Version (ESV) and Contemporary English Version (CEV), just to name a few. Some are in contemporary English and are easy to read and understand. Ask your pastor, an Elder, or a Sunday School teacher for recommendations.

➔ Get the notes

Choose a study Bible that has footnotes with comments that will help you to understand what you are reading.

➔ Plan ahead

A reading plan will give you some direction and help you

to stay on track. Choose a reading plan that works for you. There are many, many different reading plans available. Some plans give reading assignments from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs each day. Other plans take you through the Bible in Chronological order. Dated and Undated Reading Plans are available on [Covenant's website](http://www.bibleplan.org) or from <http://www.bibleplan.org>.

➔ Pray About It

Before you start to read, pray. Ask God to help you to focus, to understand what you read and to find personal application for your life.

➔ Stick to It!

OK, Let's be honest here. There are some chapters, even books of the Bible that are "less interesting" than

others. You may be tempted to throw in the towel after reading long lists of numbers, genealogies or pages dealing with more than you ever wanted to know about mildew. Keep reading. It gets better. These sections are in the Bible for a reason. Ask God to help you figure out that reason. Your pastor can probably help here too!

➔ Dig In!

Don't just read the Bible - study it. Dig into your Bible reading and get all the information out of it that you can. Learn how to study your Bible by attending the "Mining God's Word" Sunday School Class currently being taught by Chris Rhodes. Or, for self study try out "Lord Teach Me To Study The Bible in 28 Days" by Kay Arthur, or "A Place of Quiet Rest" by Nancy Leigh DeMoss.



Reward yourself

Put a star on your calendar for each day that you read. You'll be amazed by your "stick-to-it-ness" when you have a visual record.



Get a Bible buddy

Research has shown that those who enlist a friend lose more weight and exercise more. The same can be said of Bible Reading. Challenge a friend to read with you or join a Small Group or Bible Study where you can discuss what you're reading.



Grab a Pen

Read your Bible with a pen and Journal or notebook in hand. Take notes while you read. Write comments. Write down questions that you want to ask your pastor about.

Forget what you're Kindergarten teacher said about writing in books. It is OK to write in your Bible. If your conscience still won't

allow you to write in books you can always make a photocopy or print out a copy of the text you are studying and make notes on the copy.



Make it a Family Affair

Get your kids into the Bible too. Why not read a chapter each night at the dinner table or at bedtime.



Schedule it

Make an appointment with God everyday to read the Bible and keep it. We routinely carve out time for other things - a favorite TV show, going to the gym, or coffee with friends. We eat everyday to keep our bodies nourished. Likewise we need to feed our heart and mind each day to keep our spirit strong and healthy.



Tie it Together

Tie your Bible Reading time in with something that you

love to do or routinely do. Grab your favorite beverage to sip while you study. Or, don't allow yourself to eat breakfast, check e-mail, watch TV, etc until you have finished your Bible Reading.



Go Digital

Try out an electronic version of the Bible. Bible Reading Apps are available for I-Phone I-Pod, I-Pad, etc. Many are free. Since most people carry these devices with them all the time, Bible Reading can be fit into small "snatches" of time while you wait in a waiting room, stand in a check out line or waiting to pick you kids up from school.



Be Amazed

Just do it and watch how the Bible comes to life for you. You will be amazed at how God will speak to you through Scripture about things that are going on in your life .✝



The Bible is not only a book which I can understand; it is also a book which understands me.

—Emile Caillet

Men's Retreat



Men's Retreat

October 21-23

Zephyr Point
Conference Center

Register by
October 9

Cost \$175

Covenant's annual Men's Retreat will be held at the Zephyr Point Conference Center at Lake Tahoe the weekend of October 21-23.

Retreat Facilities

Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center is located at Zephyr Cove at Lake Tahoe. The views of the lake are breath-taking. The center includes all the comforts of a modern hotel. For more information about Zephyr Point you can visit www.zephyrpoint.com.

Registration

The deadline for registration is October 9, 2011.

To register, please fill out the registration for located in

the Men's Retreat Brochure.

Retreat Brochures can be found on the info board in the Church foyer or they can be downloaded from the [website](#).

Registration forms may be turned into the church office along with a check in the amount of \$175. The registration fee includes lodging, retreat sessions and meals.

Speaker

Our speaker this year will be Shawn Young, National Director of Chapter Planting for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Shawn's ministry has impacted over 6000 students in Nevada and Northern California over the last 20 years. He is also co-founder of the Chapter-

Planting Academy, which has launched 99 new InterVarsity chapters in 5 years. Shawn is a talented bible teacher, who weaves deep biblical insights with humor and practical personal challenges into every message. He is passionate about developing genuine disciples of Jesus and mobilizing leaders of the Kingdom. †



Speaker Sean Young
Director of Chapter Planting for
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

Couples Date Night

Hey Mom & Dad can you use some time to yourselves?

The Fellowship Ministry Team along with Covenant's Youth Groups will be hosting a Date Night for couples with young children. This event will take place on Saturday, October 8th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The cost is \$10.00 per family and will include a nice dinner with desert for mom and dad as well as dinner and free childcare for the kids.

Following dinner, Pastor Danny will offer a brief talk on marriage followed by entertainment. Signups for this event will be taken in the church foyer before and after Sunday Worship services. †



Photo Directory

Great News! Covenant's new photo directory is nearly complete. We are waiting for just a few more photos. Thank you to our photographers, John Hill and Ben Minedew and to all those who have already been photographed. If you have not had the opportunity to have your picture taken

please watch the church bulletin for information about upcoming picture make up days. The church office asks that even if you choose not to have your picture taken that you please fill out the contact information form so that we can make sure that our database is up to date. †



LifeLine Wednesday

LifeLine Wednesday is off to a great start! We have seen this program grow



quite a bit as many families participating in Pioneer Club have opted to join us for the LifeLine Wednesday meal.

The LifeLine Wednesday Host Team is looking for volunteers to help with meal preparation, as well as setup, cleanup and serving. So grab your friends, small group or ministry team and sign up. Not

a 5 star chef? No problem. The host team is looking for simple, family friendly meals such as deli sandwiches, soups, or casseroles.

To schedule your group or to get more information, please contact Becky Christian or the Church Office. †

A Prayer for “Pumpkin People”

After Liz Curtis Higgs wrote the popular children’s book *The Pumpkin Patch Parable*, people began using her analogies to say a prayer while carving their Halloween pumpkins. The pumpkin prayer, a Christian alternative to Halloween traditions, reminds people of all ages what God has done for us. Use it this fall when your family makes jack-o’-lanterns.

• While cutting off the top of the pumpkin, pray, “Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you.” (See Proverbs 1:7.)

• While removing the seeds and pulp, pray, “Remove the things in my life that don’t please you. Forgive the wrong things I do, and help me forgive

others.”
(See Matthew 6:14-15.)

• While making eyes, pray, “Open my eyes to see the beauty you’ve made in the world around me.” (See Psalm 104:24.)

• While making the nose, pray, “I’m sorry for the times I’ve turned up my nose at your many gifts.” (See James 1:17.)

• While making the mouth, pray, “Let everything I say please you.” (See Psalm 19:14.)

• While lighting the candle, pray, “Lord, help me show your light to others through the things I do.” (See Matthew 5:16.)

After carving your pumpkins, display them as examples of how God’s love transforms us into new creations. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.) †



Church Staff

Pastor
Jay Hull

Directory of Family Ministry

Danny Fierro

Musical Arts Director

Denell Hull

Children’s Ministry Director

Stefany Berry

Youth Director

Adam Hemsley

Office Coordinator

Barbara Mize

Office Assistants

John Kanuch

Julie Minedew

Clerk of Session

Kay Blakely

Chimes Publisher

Julie Minedew

Elders

Administration

John Kanuch

David MacDonald

Christian Education

John Hill - Chairman

Evangelism

Jim Hemsley

Fellowship

TJ Hill

Mission

Dave Berry

Personnel

Patty Geiger

Chris Rhodes

Worship

Kevin Nolen

Samuel Dueñas

Deacons

Dale & Mary Anderson

Ann Christie

Meg Davis

Joanne Dickson

Jayne Engel

Barbara Kanuch

Roby Monson

Jennifer Oliver

Rita Ringle

Helpful Tools To Bring:



Outside Work

- Wheel barrows
- Steel rakes
- Shovels



Inside Work

- Cannister Vacuums with attachments



Fall Work Morning

Saturday, October 1

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Fall Work Morning

Lend a Helping Hand on Saturday, October 1st!

In just a couple of days we will get together for a few busy and productive hours to accomplish some outside landscape projects and Fall plantings, semi-annual maintenance chores, some cleaning and some small repairs. It is our desire and goal to take good care of the building and grounds of our church so that it will always be a pleasant, welcoming place of fellowship and worship for all who come to Covenant.

Please bring wheel barrows, steel rakes, shovels for the landscape work. For inside cleaning, please bring canister vacuums with attachments. Be sure to put your name on your items.

Here are a few great reasons to come to our work morning: many hands make for light work, you will enjoy working alongside your fellow church friends, you can actively contribute towards the upkeep of the church building and “God loves a cheerful giver” 2 Cor. 9:7. We will serve lunch to our hungry workers at noon. We hope to see you there!

Your Covenant Administration Ministry Team†



Treasurer's Report August 2011

	MTD	YTD
<u>General Fund</u>		
Revenue	\$19,399	\$216,138
Expense	\$25,826	\$236,396
Net	-\$6,427	-\$20,258
Interest Income	\$1	\$154
Net	-\$6,426	-\$20,104
<u>Building Fund</u>		
Revenue	\$689	\$44,968
Expense	\$0	\$1,300
Net	\$689	\$43,668
<u>Parking Lot Loans Paid</u>		
	\$0	\$26,000



Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us.

—John Stott

The Covenant Chimes is a publication of:

Covenant Presbyterian Church

6695 Mae Anne Avenue
Reno, Nevada 89523
www.covenant-reno.org

Sunday Services

8:30 am

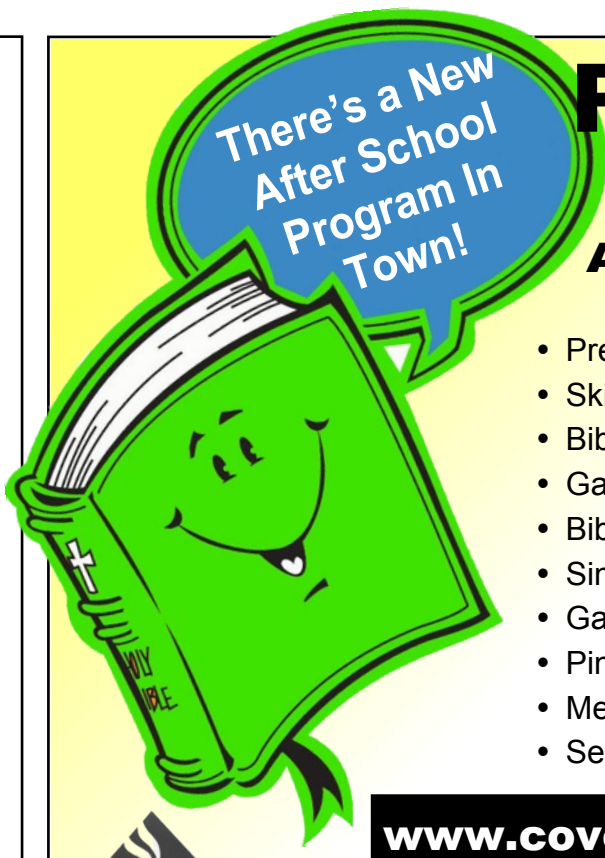
Contemporary Worship Service

10:00 am

Sunday School

11:00 am

Traditional Worship Service



Pioneer Clubs

At Covenant

- Pre K - 5th Grade
- Skill Building Activities
- Bible Exploration
- Games
- Bible Memory
- Singing
- Games
- Pinewood Derby
- Merit Award patches
- Service Award Patches

www.covenant-reno.org

For More Information

Reaching out with the message and love of Christ

Covenant Chimes



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RENO, NEVADA 89523
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm HS Youth Group	Sunday Schedule					1 7:45 am Men's Bible Study 8:00 am All Church Work Morning
2 Courageous Movie Night	3 	4	5 3:00 pm Pioneer Club 5:45 pm LLW 6:15 pm JH Youth Group 7:00 pm Praise Team	6 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8 7:45 am Men's Bible Study 5:30 pm Couples Date Night
9 6:00 pm Open Prayer Night	10	11 9:30 am Florence Circle 5:30 pm Deacons 6:30 pm Fellowship MT 7:00 pm Admin MT & Mission MT	12 3:00 pm Pioneer Club 5:45 pm LLW 6:15 pm JH Youth Group 7:00 pm Praise Team	13 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 	15 7:45 am Men's Bible Study
16 Chimes Deadline Congregational Meeting	17 	18 1:00 pm Martha Circle 7:00 pm Christian Education Meeting	19 3:00 pm Pioneer Club 5:45 pm LLW 6:15 pm JH Youth Group 7:00 pm Praise Team	20 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 Men's Retreat	22 Men's Retreat 7:45 am Men's Bible Study
23	24	25 10:00 am Chimes Folding	26 3:00 pm Pioneer Club 5:45 pm LLW 6:15 pm JH Youth Group 7:00 pm Praise Team	27 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29 7:45 am Men's Bible Study
30	31			<p><i>I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.</i> <i>-George Washington Carver</i></p>		

Celebrate October!

Birthdays

- 2 Caelen McIntyre
Gus Peters
- 3 James Dunlap
Vanessa Libbon
- 4 Phyllis Wilks
- 6 Peggy Thomson
- 7 Barbara Landis
- 8 Ginny Bauter
Olivia Christie
- 10 Gina Bonar
- 11 John Masquelier
- 12 Paulette Flikkema
Jordyn Jackson
- 14 Shannon Christie
- 15 Travis Jackson
- 17 Naomi DeVore
- 18 Norma Exter
- 19 Chloe Audet
- 21 Roby Monson
Nathan Minedew
- 22 Sabrina Hodel
- 23 John Kanuch
Madelyn Pratt
- 24 Ceci Wade
- 25 Martha Aiyuk
- 27 Kenneth Sturtz
- 28 George Turner
- 29 Laverne Evans
- 30 Julie Minedew
- 31 Sue McAdams
Steve Laden

Anniversaries

- 10 Becky & Bob Christian
- 11 Colleen & Dustin Crist
- 12 Liz & Tim Ball
- 13 Linda & George Turner
- 14 Bev & Dan Carne
- 15 Patti & Jim Hemsley

Harvest Loaf

Cake:

- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 3/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp ground cloves
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup Canned pumpkin
- 3/4 cup butterscotch Chips
- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts

Glaze:

- 1/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 Tbs heavy cream or milk

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour a 9x5 inch loaf pan. In a medium bowl, mix flour, soda, salt, 3/4 teaspoon nutmeg, ginger and cloves. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs. Add flour mixture alternately with pumpkin. Stir in butterscotch chips and 1/2 cup of the walnuts. Pour batter into loaf pan. Sprinkle remaining nuts on top.
3. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 65 to 70 minutes or until toothpick inserted into center of cake comes out clean. Cool for 6 hours before serving. Drizzle with glaze.
4. To make the glaze: In a medium bowl, combine confectioners sugar, nutmeg and cinnamon. Mix and add 1 to 2 teaspoons cream until drizzling consistency

