

## A PERSPECTIVE ON COVENANT CHURCH, HATBORO

Covenant is a small church congregation of about 27 souls. 16 are adults from 18 - 60; 7 are seniors from 70 - 81; and 4 children from 12 - 16. We currently have a few more teenagers visiting through our Kids Club on Wednesday evenings. All but 1 of these people are active in almost everything we do as a congregation, with very few exceptions. Our current budget for 2024 is approximately \$142,000.00. Our buildings and property are debt free.

Our ministry includes a wide range of activities in which almost everyone participates.

Sunday School is at 10:00 and taught by myself to the adults, about 8 attend and 1 youth teacher and 1 helper with 4 - 8 children. Worship is attended by 20 - 24 most weeks.

Summer Bounce House and Youth Activity is every Wednesday evening from 6:30 - 8:30 from May through August. We have a 22' square bounce house, 18' tall that we set out along with basketball, corn hole, chalking, toys, games, refreshments and plenty of chairs for adults to relax in. Our people are encouraged to mingle and establish relationships with the families that come. As the Summer wears on many people just stop in after seeing the 4' x 8' sign and the bounce house and stay. SOME even drop children off and go shop for groceries or whatever. We have Bible story time at 7:00 followed by putting out the refreshments (made by our people).

This year we started having a church game / fun night on a Friday evenings once a month through the Winter months in the home of Elder Bob. We have snacks and play everything from Taboo to card games, etc.,. It is well attended and many people bring friends from 6 P.M. until @ 10:30

We have a Women's Bible Study breakfast one Saturday morning at 9:00 each month in Elder Bob's home. There is a Men's dinner (hoagies and steak sandwiches, drinks) on one Tuesday evening a month at 7:00 in the Church House (former parsonage).

We participate in packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child each November. We are also both a Drop Off Location for Operation Christmas Child and the Central Drop Off Location for Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Last year our drop off collected @ 4,600 shoe boxes and the Central Location packed up 30,600 shoe boxes. In addition, a wealthy man from the area has asked us to pack several thousand shoe boxes for "closed countries."

The anniversary of the founding of the congregation was on Thanksgiving day in 1978 so we meet every Thanksgiving at 10:00 for a service of praise with a limited liturgy (only time of the year we use one), no preaching, but people share what they are grateful for.

We have had Christmas Eve musical programs for many years from 6:00 - 7:00 P.M. that include a candle lighting service at the end.

Whenever we receive new members we normally have a luncheon following the morning worship service to welcome them.

Around Easter we hold a communion service on the Thursday before in connection with a covered dish supper in the fellowship hall. We have Easter breakfast from 10:00 to 11:00 with Danish, cinnamon buns, bagels, spreads, fruit cup, juices, coffee, tea and chocolate milk.

There is a dinner on the grounds once a month in June (strawberries and ice cream), July (watermelon), August (watermelon again), and September (corn roast). Weather permitting we eat outside. The men cook everything on the grill. People bring either a dessert or a side dish of some kind if they want to.

We own our church building and the church house (it was a parsonage with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms). Both have no debt on them. The house has office space, nursery, kitchen and a church parlor (living room for groups to meet). The church sits on @ 1 1/4 acres with ample parking. It is on a major East - West artery (County Line Road) and is about 32 miles North of Center City Philadelphia. There is an OPC church and a Baptist Church, a Roman Catholic church and a Greek Orthodox Church all within a mile or so of Covenant. The area may best be described overall as generally hedonistic with a historically Roman Catholic influence. There are some Indian Muslims now in the area and a growing Indian Hindu population.

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