

# The Covenanter

## Silverhill Covenant Church

"To work for God, God's people, and to win souls for His Kingdom"

16094 State Highway 104

Post Office Box 125

251-945-5143 (Office)

251-979-4794 (Pastor's Cell)

Check us out on the web at: [silverhillcovenant.org](http://silverhillcovenant.org)



Advent is the season beginning four weeks before Christmas. It is the time we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth and anticipated coming again. Advent reminds us that the question is not whether Jesus will return to judge the earth, but when. (Originally Advent was the six Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means coming.)

We use a wreath to hold the candles that are lit during Advent. Like so many of our Christian traditions, the history of the Advent wreath can be traced back to pre-Christian Northern Europe and the winter worship practices of the Scandinavians.

Prior to their conversion to Christianity, the Scandinavian people of Northern Europe practiced the lighting of winter-solstice candles as a form of worshipping the deity of light; in their prayers they called for the return of the warm sun and for the coming of spring. They placed these candles on a greenery-covered wheel to symbolize the rotating wheel of the earth and the change of seasons. This practice was popular and very hard to stop even after they came to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. And, so, rather than attempting to eradicate the practice the Church did the next best thing: it Christianized these wreaths into instruments for Christmas preparation. This wasn't difficult to do, since Christ is proclaimed

to be "the Light that came into the world" to drive away the darkness of sin and death and to shine forth truth and love. With each candle lit, the wreath helped to move the Church, Sunday by Sunday, toward the celebration of the nativity of the Christ Child, the true Light of the world. (When we were in Sweden in 2004, it was interesting to see these old, old churches with the combination of pagan and Christian symbols carved into the old stone buildings.)

The sequence and/or names of the candles vary greatly (as do the colors of the candles) from one denomination to another but they all have the basic message of the Savior's birth and the promise of his coming again. The candles - Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy - are used by our denomination, one for each of the four Sundays before Christmas. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas morning in our Church at the 5:30 AM Julotta Service.

### **Peace -**

Peace, peace, peace - the gift of Christ is peace.  
We walk with God, our past forgiven.

All in Him is life and heaven.

Peace, peace, peace - the gift of Christ is peace.

### **Hope -**

Hope, hope, hope - the light of Christ is hope.  
In all our darkness Christ is shining.

Leading upward, faith refining.

Hope, hope, hope - the light of Christ is hope.

### **Love -**

Love, love, love - the heart of Christ is love.  
On all who come He pours His presence -  
Life and love in holy essence.

Love, love, love - the heart of Christ is love.

### **Joy -**

Joy, joy, joy - We praise You, Christ, with joy!  
Our peace, our hope, our love and treasure,  
Highest calling, deepest pleasure!

Joy, joy, joy - We praise You, Christ, with joy!

### **The Christ Candle -**

The people who walked in darkness have seen  
a great light;  
those who live in a land of deep darkness, on  
them light has shined.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.



- Nov 28** – Christmas Decorating Party – 3:00 until – Come join the fun!
- Nov 30** - 1st Sunday of Advent
- Dec 5** - Silverhill Christmas in the Park
- Dec 6** - Down Home Christmas - Arts and Crafts - Soup and Sandwich lunch
- Dec 7** - 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Dec 9** - SWAP meeting
- Dec 10** - Youth Christmas Party
- Dec 14** - 3rd Sunday of Advent
- Dec 14** - Sunday School Christmas Program
- Dec 15** - Women Ministries Christmas Party
- Dec 17** - Hayride & Weiner Roast at Pope Farm
- Dec 21** - 4th Sunday of Advent
- Dec 21** - Choir presents Sunday Morning program
- Dec 25** - Julotta
- Dec 31** – Undecorating Party  
(Did I help you any?)



**KINGDOM EXPANSION, GOING BEYOND THE WALLS** .....is the theme of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference. Rev Dr Robert Owens, our superintendent, was here last week to give us an outline of what will happen April 22 - 25. The meeting will be at our church this year and we have much planning and work ahead of us. Please be willing to help and offer your assistance where you see the need. It will take all of us to make this a success as we host visitors from the other churches in our conference.

**REACHING THE LOST  
NUTURING THE FAITHFUL  
TRANSFORMING LIVES  
REFLECTING THE KINGDOM**



## Praying For Gifts

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began

praying at the top of his lungs.

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE..."

"I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO..."

"I PRAY FOR A NEW VCR..."

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf."

To which the little brother replied, "No, but Grandma is!"



A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible.

Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking,

"Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"



**What do you call a group of chess fanatics bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?  
Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer**



**Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian.....not any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.**