

# THE BAGPIPE



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## New Hire: Alumni Engagement

BY KRISTIE JAYA

“As an alumna myself, I wasn’t connected to Covenant enough,” said Kim Collins, the new Director of Alumni Engagement at Covenant College. Collins’ job description, in “broad strokes,” as she puts it, is to get to know alumni, to find ways for them to stay connected and be involved, and to help them connect with other alumni. Collins, who began work for the college in late January, also works alongside faculty members and other departments such as the Admissions office and the Center for Calling and Career in order to facilitate alumni.

Collins graduated from Covenant College in 1999, with a degree in English and a Minor in Education. Collins then worked in a law firm for a year before going back to her hometown in Mississippi to teach at a middle school. Her father, who was still in college when he had her, had always stressed the importance of education to Collins. Collins grew up in the vicinity of Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, where her dad would sit her on his desk while he was studying.

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## Covenant Welcomes Herman



Bruce Herman, speaking in Chapel on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2015. Photo credit: Abby Whistler

BY GARRETT SISSON

Bruce Herman spoke in chapel to deliver this semester’s Academic Lecture Series on Mar. 2-3. On Tuesday night, from 7:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m., Herman will also host a reception to close his art exhibition, which is currently on display in the library gallery.

Bruce Herman, age 61, is the Distinguished Chair of the art department at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts. According to his website, Herman works out of Gloucester, Mass. His artwork has been presented

in more than 125 group exhibitions and more than 25 solo shows across the country. He has received international recognition, and his work is featured in the Vatican Museum of Modern Religious Art.

Herman specializes in figurative painting and has depicted a wide range of subjects throughout his career. Much of his work has religious influences, including portraits of Old Testament figures, early Christian saints, and series featuring Golgotha and the Virgin

Mary. Herman is also inspired by works of literature, such as T.S. Eliot’s “Four Quartets” or Frances Brabizon’s “Dream of Wet Pavements,” as well as the city of Cape Ann and the geography and architecture of Italy. Herman has painted the likenesses of close family and friends, and has even created work painted on a canvas made partially of 23 karat gold and silver leaves.

Regardless of what he is depicting, a distinctive trademark of Herman’s art is intentional

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## Advising Responsibilities

BY MOLLY HULSEY

Since the beginning of the semester, the Academic Standards Committee has taken the next step to delineate guidelines for students and faculty advisors in the registration process and their interaction with the Center for Student Success, stressing that faculty advisors will continue to be the primary consultants concerning class scheduling, credit requirements, and major-specific planning.

Overall, Covenant’s registration process has been highly successful, with statistics from the 2014 Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) and the 2013 National Survey of Student Engagement reporting that Covenant Students are generally more satisfied with their advisory experience than students of similar private colleges. However, Dr. Richard Follett, chairman of the Academic Standards Committee hopes that these guidelines will continue to clarify what is expected for those involved in what he calls “an evolving relationship” between students, faculty advisors, and the Center for Student Success.

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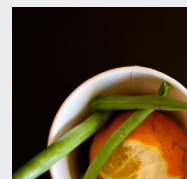
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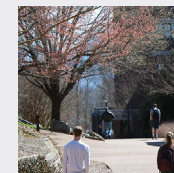
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# Music with a Mission

BY MELANIE WHITE

The International Justice Mission club's Coffee House on Wednesday, Feb. 25 raised \$212 for anti-human trafficking justice work. This event took place from 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. and provided a platform for Covenant musicians to share their talent.

About 150 people came to watch Morgan Barney, Laura Radar, Andy Soto, Caylin Walsingham, Annie DeLuca, Mark Erickson, Ann Marie Granberry, Alex Cullen, Nikki Ellis and David Vilches perform. Melanie White talked about her experience working with Rahab's Rope, an anti-human trafficking organization, in Bangalore, India.

"More people showed up and more money was raised than I

expected," Mollie Dreisbach, leader of Covenant's chapter of IJM, commented after the close of the coffee house. "The musicians were fantastic and it was awesome to hear about the work Rahab's Rope is doing. God was faithful in every part of the event."

Victoria Yang, co-leader of Covenant's IJM club, and Mollie Dreisbach spent about a month planning for the event. They spent over two hours transforming Mills 270/280 into a coffee shop complete with white lights creating a cozy ambiance, a free hot chocolate bar, and homemade baked goods sold two-for-\$1. Despite the snow, Dreisbach and Yang had all the help they needed.

"When it looked like the event wouldn't happen due to snow, God provided volunteers and work study students," Dreisbach said. "When Starbucks couldn't make the coffee we had planned to have, we were able to get down the mountain and get hot chocolate before it started snowing hard. It was incredible to see all the work people put into the night that was so above and beyond!"

Covenant's chapter of IJM started about five years ago and was led by Joy Schmidt and Kenneth Burke. This is Dreisbach's third semester leading the club and she is currently planning an event called Stand for Freedom, a nationwide college campus event where students stand for 24 hours

praying and signing petitions to raise awareness about modern day slavery. This event will take place sometime after Spring Break. Covenant's IJM club meets every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in Brock 114. Dreisbach said, "On Covenant's campus we want to raise awareness about justice issues, specifically human trafficking. We want our campus to be part of the movement to end slavery worldwide. It is exciting that our campus club will be playing a little part of this early wave of the movement."

The International Justice Mission is "a global organization that protects the poor from violence in the developing world." Its global team includes hundreds

of lawyers, investigators, social workers, community activists and other professionals at work in nearly 20 communities. The International Justice Mission specifically fights against slavery, sex trafficking, sexual violence, police brutality, property grabbing, and citizens' rights abuse. So far, IJM has rescued more than 18,000 people from violence and oppression and has helped to protect 21 million people globally from violence. "We hope that the Covenant IJM club will help the global organization through prayer and fundraising," Dreisbach said.

## New Hire: Alumni Engagement

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Thinking about pursuing a career in journalism, Collins moved to North Carolina three years later to take a class with the World Journalism Institute (WJI). During her time at Covenant, Collins has written for the Bagpipe and has even held the positions of News Editor and Copy Editor for the campus newspaper. However, she ended up working for the Institute as the Deputy Director instead of pursuing writing. Collins planned classes and conferences for aspiring journalists, and even worked with WJI's alumni.

Collins explained, "One of my jobs was to keep in touch with [WJI's alumni], and to help them with internships, connections, jobs, and just encouraged them.

And I loved it."

Collins worked in the Institute for nine years, which included moving to New York to open WJI's new office. After her time in WJI, Collins then worked in The Bowery Mission in New York as Campaign Manager. Moving to New York was a turn in Collins' life that took her by surprise. However, Collins enjoyed the metropolitan life. While she couldn't continue mountain-biking, a hobby she picked up during her time in North Carolina, Collins enjoyed cycling from her home in Queens to her office in Manhattan.

Finally making her way back to the South after several years of settling in The Big Apple, Collins returns to Covenant College as the

Director of Alumni Engagement, where she and her team are working on future projects such as planning new things to do at homecoming, in order to make the event appealing to even more people. They are also researching the best way for alumni to stay in touch, whether it's through Facebook, LinkedIn, or an alumni directory. Collins believes that it's important for alumni to stay connected with each other because of the valuable friendships among Covenant College alumni. As for staying connected to the college, alumni who have entered the work field have valuable experiences and connections to offer current Covenant students.

Collins' current plan is to get to know other alumni through

visiting the local ones in person, meeting those who are visiting the college, and talking to alumni on the phone. "I've already gotten to meet quite a few in the last few weeks and I really enjoyed it," said Collins.

"It's not just relationships with alumni," Collins added, "but also relationships with others on campus. So, that would be spending time with faculties and staff and also current students."

After all, Collins said, "Current students are future alumni."

Having been graduated for sixteen years, her advice for these "future alumni" are "take advantage of your time at Covenant, because it goes by so quickly. Work on building those relationships with faculty and

staff, and other students." Collins also added, "When you leave, be intentional about staying in touch. Because it's so easy to get really busy and it takes intentionality to stay in touch." She mentioned that one thing she looks forward to is getting to know current students, and that the larger community should feel free to shoot her an email for a meal appointment in the Great Hall.

As for those who have graduated, Collins says that she is "looking forward to meeting them, to getting to know them, and listening to their ideas about how alumni relations might improve or how we can serve them better."

## Faculty Quote of the Week

"Ask your Congressman. I'd ask mine but I'm pretty sure he's illiterate."

- Dr. Morton in Studies in US Constitutional History

## The Verdict

Yes, to Spring Break.

No, to spending time off debating dress colors.

## THE BAGPIPE



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# Advising Responsibilities

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"Faculty members do not want to lose track of what's going on with their advisees," explains Follett, adding that, "students are still expected to meet with their faculty advisors to discuss pre-registration and course choices."

A student's failure to communicate with their advisors could potentially leave in holes in their major's requirements. Follett says that, "even one course short of 126 can disrupt graduation plans, or having 126 total but lacking a key course in a major or in the Core, especially if it is a necessary course that is only offered less than once a year" can put a student in a bind.

According to the Center for Student Success's page on the Covenant website, the office was created to "provide tutoring, personal advising, and tailored resources aimed at helping students succeed during their time at Covenant." When it comes to personal advising, Ocando says her area of expertise is helping students pinpoint a major that best fits their ability and desires, but not selecting individual classes. "With a student who

is unsure of their major, my goal is to get to know them. I want to know what they are passionate about, what gifts they think they have, and what they would like to pursue," she explains.

While the Center for Student Success is beneficial for helping students select a major, the 2014 SSI survey states that 84% of Covenant students were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the faculty advisor's knowledge of major requirements. Covenant students also left their advisory meetings 17% more satisfied than students at similar colleges.

An advisor's expertise on a major's requirements must be quite specific, stemming from experience in the department. "Each department has distinct requirements for their majors, some with greater structure and specialization for advising," Follett says, "some have multiple track options, and others, like the Education Department, have fairly inflexible scheduling requirements for all four years."

Thus far, only a few students have brought questions to The Center that only faculty advisors could answer. In response to these circumstances, Ocando said, "I usually send the student

to meet with their faculty member or work with them on questions to ask their advisor when they meet... it is always helpful to slow down and ask questions before a meeting starts." A consultation with Ocando functions as precursory discussion for advisory meetings. "I am always glad to see students seeking help and thinking ahead whether it is on resumes or registration. Us taking a moment to re-direct someone if we aren't the best people to help, doesn't seem like a waste of time to me," she says.

Consequently, it is the student's responsibility to keep tabs on their schedule and initiate follow-up conversations with their

advisor if changes are made after registration, but Follett states that both students and faculty members should be better informed about the registration process, the purpose of faculty advisors, and scheduling tools provided on Bannerweb, such as the Degree Evaluation tab. Ocando also agrees that "confusion about the Center's role will continue to decrease as we become more established and students have more exposure to us."

Additions to the faculty handbook outlining this issue should be in their initial stages by the week after Spring Break and hopefully completed in time for pre-registration.



Dr. Follett advising a student in his office, photo by Abby Whisler

## Herman at Covenant

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interaction with culture and philosophical and religious thought. Herman's online gallery includes an artist's introduction to each series, which places the artist's work in the context of his personal journey in life.

Herman is a mutual friend of both Professor Jeff Morton, Chair of the art department at Covenant, and Chaplain Lowe. Though this is the first time in recent years the Academic Lecture Series has invited an artist, Herman follows the tradition of speakers confidently able to relate their discipline

to Christian academic inquiry. Morton explains that Herman's gift lies in being able to "understand community" and talk about art in the context of academia, while presenting himself more as an artist than a theorist.

In a 2007 interview for Comment magazine, Herman said, "I'm not interested in making a cultural change. I'm interested in doing my work." He later expounded that, "I see my work as a vehicle for relationships. A great painting isn't great until viewers come and engage with it."

Professor Morton shares this opinion, describing Her-

man's work as provocative and demanding of active, personal engagement. Morton compares this relationship between a viewer and fine art to that between two human beings.

"Sometimes they are your friends, and sometimes, they bite back at us," says Morton.

Of particular impact to Morton is how Herman synthesizes the material and the symbolic. Morton explains that by painting earthly works that have a deep "about-ness" of something spiritual, Herman affirms the artist as a co-creator in the image of God. Herman thus lives out the

Creation mandate in our present time, and as Morton describes it, "bridges" Genesis and John 1:1-14, where "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

It may seem like a contradiction for Herman to personally answer questions about his art when it depends so much on an individual "dialogue," but Herman's artwork cannot be summarized into one "message."

Herman's work can be viewed on the second floor of the Kresge Memorial Library until Tues. Mar. 3, and also online at [www.bruceherman.com](http://www.bruceherman.com).

## SIX WORD STORY

My crush.  
Suddenly  
my knees  
disappear.

- Joseph  
Klingman

Submit your own six-word story to Jamison Shimmel and check out [bagpipeonline.com](http://bagpipeonline.com) for more stories!



# Spotlight on Senior SIP's

BY MOLLY HULSEY

### Bekah Meyer

For a kid or college student on a museum field trip, what could be more tantalizing than reaching out and caressing the decoupage behind the sign: DO NOT TOUCH? It was instilled in us from kindergarten that with one stroke, we could send the David crashing to a sudden

death. However, for senior visual art major Bekah Meyer, both the artist and the onlooker should be able to utilize their sense of touch when interacting with art.

Meyer says that while creating an artifact for her SIP, she simply fell in love with materials as “sharing a way of understanding through heptic epistemology,” the knowledge relayed through tactile experiences.

On March 6, Meyer will suspend her 10-foot-tall mixed media installation—formed completely from hundreds of cotton-twine knots—between the rungs of the library stairwell. The sculpture, which upon its completion could be up to 4 feet thick, will be supported by a taut web of the same white twine.

Meyer says she wants her piece to invite stair climbers to pause in their busy schedules and indulge their sense of touch, as it can allow for “tapping into memory,” such as recalling the weave of your childhood blanket.

The inspiration for the project began with a string Meyer

would fiddle with between classes as well as with a passion for textiles and 3D design. “String is what I had,” Meyer said, explaining how her initial appreciation for its texture allowed her to “play within the process” and produce the quirky character of her piece organically.

Debunking another stereotype about artwork, Meyer intends her sculpture to be anything but timeless and static. She knows that the sags or tangles made by time and passing participants will allow it to “keep evolving,” because she admits, like most things, “these knots won’t last forever.”

### Alicia Zanoni

For English and Art major Alicia Zanoni, compiling a picture book entails putting a child’s most puzzling emotions into words and images for them. Her SIP, a watercolor picture book with the tentative title *Samantha Sarah Marie Adjusts*, portrays the integration of a 6-year-old foster child into a new family and is based off of the story of Zanoni’s sister, Samantha Sarah Marie.

As Zanoni explains, “This book was written for her, but also for a larger audience—particularly foster kids and their families.” She hopes that it will provide means for foster children to identify with the fear, distrust, anger, and, finally, acceptance that Samantha feels throughout the storyline and allow for foster families to have “an awareness of how much is going on inside.”

“The storylines come together like a puzzle,” says Zanoni. Now, the scenes are mere sketches on her storyboard, but Zanoni knows they will flesh out as she carefully draws from her sister’s reality to present in a playful style. Her watercolor illustrations of the characters will also be stylized portraits of their inspirations, but, lacking a harsh ink outline, will be more whimsical than cartoonish. The Samantha of the book will also share the same personality as the author’s sister: “spunky, strong, and emotionally distant, but with a little glimpse of the times when I’ve seen her trust.”



Bekah Meyer's Senior Studio with a working version of her string installation. Photo courtesy of the artist.

# Comic Relief

BY GARRETT SISSON

Jamison Shimmel is restarting Covenant College’s semi-annual Comic Relief sketch show. The event is expected to be about an hour long, and will showcase a series of new skits and comedic short films.

Unlike most of the college’s theatre department shows, Comic Relief has always been student organized. Many students will remember the most recent Comic Relief, which was produced by English major Jacob Davis for his SIP in 2013. Before Davis, the show was run by Matt Trexler, who coordinated it in 2011. Shimmel is a Senior, majoring in Spanish and leads Covenant’s Laugh Track improv team.

According to Shimmel, he became interested in reviving the project because he had a great experience acting in the last show and didn’t want the idea to die out.

“The goal was to take something that I love doing, recreate it, and give other people the opportunity to do something fun this spring,” says Shimmel.

Shimmel’s philosophy is that Comic Relief provides a unique opportunity for people who are not in the theatre department to showcase their comedic talent. Due to the show’s flexible and laid-back environment, it is easy for funny people who are not normally “theatre people” to get

involved and have an audience.

As Shimmel says, “It’s the time for the non-performer to perform.” Shimmel also hopes that this year’s show will pave the way for the campus community to continue hosting Comic Relief for years to come.

“My vision as of right now...is to replicate SNL,” Shimmel says. Shimmel handpicked the writers of the sketches himself. Their first brainstorming meeting was in January, at Shimmel’s house. Since then, the sketch writers have been working in teams to polish their ideas into full scripts. After writing is completed, Shimmel will select the best scripts, create an order for the show,

and then find actors, a host, and potentially a musical guest to suit the event as a whole. Shimmel consulted with Davis as well, who Shimmel calls “a huge resource” for inspiration and logistical and organizational advice. Comic Relief is being sponsored and funded by CAB for at least some of the costumes and props.

Shimmel will direct the skits himself, beginning after Spring Break. Shimmel intentionally wants to practice each skit only 2-3 times in order to leave room for comedic inspiration on stage. This is another tactic used by Saturday Night Live, where performers regularly rely on cue cards to remember the new skits

written and filmed live each week.

“With improv it’s a blast, and it’s very similar to Whose Line, but this is a totally different ball game...” says Shimmel. “I know people that are writing who have had ideas for years, and now they’re coming to light, and it’s working; it’s just something different and exciting.” While some of the sketches already have performers cast, interested performers are encouraged to email Shimmel at [jamison.shimmel@covenant.edu](mailto:jamison.shimmel@covenant.edu). Comic Relief will be performed for one night only on Saturday, Apr. 11.

# Gordon Parks: Selling Segregation

BY LIZ SIMAKOFF

As an African American documentary photographer working for Life magazine in the 1950's Deep South, Gordon Parks forged a new path for civil rights photography. Atlanta's High Museum of Art's exhibition, Gordon Parks: Segregation Story, features over forty color photographs the artist made of the Thornton family in Mobile, Alabama.

Parks's photo-essay was originally featured in Life magazine following several segregation-themed issues. The Thornton family is described as "one Negro family," ordinary in every way, with the exception of skin color. In the essay, Parks

attempts to show both the implicit and explicit limits placed on the Thorntons because of their blackness. The potency of Parks's essay is in his use of color photography which, combined with well-written text, creates a window into the troubles the Thorntons' face.

The decision to use color photography sets Parks apart compared with other civil rights photographers who chose to use black and white images to draw attention to the dichotomy of the situations the photos represent. Parks's choice of color, therefore, resembles commercial photography more than the fine art black and white prints. These images

read along the lines of advertisements for the Thorntons' outsider status within their Alabama town. From bright neon signs reading "COLORED ENTRANCE" to shiny, white mannequins staring in the opposite direction of the Thorntons' black granddaughter, viewers are struck by the familiarity of the images without recognizing a specific source. For contemporary viewers, Parks's coloration and the images' lack of contrast are reminiscent of trends in film and photography that capitalize on faded images to give a sense of time-withstood importance.

The style allows the content

to flow seamlessly to viewers, as they begin to examine the sad details of the Thorntons' lives. The discrimination displayed is problematized further as viewers make connections between Parks's images of everyday life and other civil rights photography. Boys playing in trees become reminders of the men who have died and will die hanging in lynchings, leaving viewers to wonder what could possibly be the answer to such hatred. The exhibit explains that after the story was published, Life magazine provided the Thorntons with funds to relocate outside of Alabama, as the article made life

more dangerous for their family.

While relocating may have provided a temporary answer for the Thorntons, I could not help but wonder if their descendants in the North became the victims of police brutality and systemic injustice. I wonder if the prayers Parks captured in the Thorntons' home church are still being prayed today, and I wonder when they will be answered. The exhibit will be on display until June 21. Tickets to the High Museum are \$16.50 for students, and are half price after 4:00 p.m.



# On Eating

BY ADRIENNE SIEGENTHALER

One of my dad's most meaningful compliments to me is that I am my family's most enthusiastic eater. This doesn't conjure up the loveliest of images; in fact, I think he said it to me when I was inhaling some fried chicken around age 10. His words delighted me, however, because they showed that my dad really knew me. He saw something that always has been and will be fundamental to my personality: a love for food.

We eat to live, of course, so everybody has to love food on some level. But food is fraught with complex intrapersonal and interpersonal dynamics. The way we view food is central to the way we view life and the way we relate to other people. Food habits cause family strife, complicate friendships, and are a factor in romantic attraction. One time I cried in elementary school because we didn't have any "cool snacks" for me to give my friends (fruit gushers, capri-suns, you know what I'm talking about). An otherwise pleasant guy I knew once spurned some homemade scones for his myriad dietary reasons. I wrote him off as pompous.

Over the course of my three and a half years at Covenant, I've done a lot of thinking about food. From my freshman year "Let Them Eat Cake" philosophy to my senior year following a restrictive eating plan, I've been all over the dietary map. My freshman year I tried to basically eat my way through Taco Bell's menu every night, while senior year I started following the Whole30 eating plan, cutting out all sugar, dairy, grains, legumes, and pretty much everything you can't pronounce on a nutrition label. Both of these ways of living were choices I made based on my view of food. Which way was better, more pleasing to God? Neither.

My years of Taco Bell gluttony and Whole30 denial were the same at the core: searching. Because food matters so much to me, I initially thought that joy could be found in unfettered indulgence: food is good; don't give me rules! But my body told me differently in lethargy and nausea (and the freshman fifteen of course). On the opposite end, I tried denial: only the purest of the pure, the healthiest of the

healthy. My skin glowed, my energy soared, but I longed for something more than mere utility in the crispness of apples, the creaminess of avocados.

Do you think I'm going to say, "Eat in moderation" or something like that? Well I'm not. That sounds a little hollow, and the problem's still the same. We're still searching, trying to harness food into our narrow view of the world, stripping it of its holiness. Robert Farrar Capon's extraordinary book *The Supper of the Lamb* helped me make sense of my searching for what to do with all this food. Capon expresses the essential holiness of food as God's creation. After a full chapter on onions, he says of God:

"He likes onions, therefore they are. The fit, the color, the smell, the tensions, the tastes, the textures, the lines, the shapes are a response, not to some forgotten decree that there may as well be onions and turnips, but to his present delight—his intimate and immediate joy in all you have seen, and in the thousand other wonders you do not even suspect. With Peter, the onion says, Lord,

it is good for us to be here. Yes, says God. Tov. Very good."

The answer I've found is not necessarily to find a middle ground between gluttony and deprivation (though that may be the result), but to look even deeper than that, to a place where food is not a tool for sensual indulgence or bodily use but a gift redolent of God's character. The onion sings along with the rest of creation of the goodness of the Lord. Scripture tells us so many things about food. Of course, I think of 1 Corinthians 10:31: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." But ultimately, I think of a Savior who ate, who drank, who fasted, who left us a meal as a sacrament until he returns.

I don't have enough spiritual wisdom to tell you how to eat practically, whether turning down a casserole because you want to be gluten free is right or wrong. Whether calorie-counting is God-glorifying; or if you should or should not shop at Whole Foods. But years of learning to eat well have taught me two things. First,

that food is broken, and that I will always be in error. I will overindulge and I will deprive myself. Even the best baguette will not satisfy. I will wake up tomorrow, hungry. Second, that food is holy. Think about our extraordinary incarnational faith. Humanity fell because of a meal that dishonored God, and when all is restored we will sit down together to a wedding feast. Credits to Pastor Novenson for that insight. I close with another passage from *The Supper of The Lamb*:

"Above all, give us grace to live as true men - to fast till we come to a refreshed sense of what we have and then to dine gratefully on all that comes to hand. Drive far from us, O Most Bountiful, all creatures of air and darkness; cast out the demons that possess us; deliver us from the fear of calories and the bondage of nutrition; and set us free once more in our own land, where we shall serve Thee as Thou hast blessed us - with the dew of heaven, the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine. Amen."



photo by Abby Whisler

# Community at Covenant

BY MARY HOLLIDGE

Maybe community isn't what brought you to Covenant, but everyone at one point or another has heard about the community here. It's something that everyone loves, the tight-knit family we have on this mountain. As fellow believers we have an amazing opportunity to cultivate a godly, sincere, honest, and loving community, but this is not going to happen all by itself.

I know of many brothers and sisters that were discouraged by finding a less welcoming community than they had expected. Treating others the way we want to be treated is something that is thrown around a lot, especially in a Christian community, but it is not always a reality. If we are not actively seeking Christ and his peace, then the community we have here will fall apart.

There is no denying that there are different personalities between buildings and areas of study. It's not very hard to strike

up an argument, friendly or otherwise, about which building is the best and why. For fear of offending, I will not list the different stereotypes of the buildings, but you either know what they are or what you think they are. The same goes for the different majors. Students at Covenant are artists, musicians, scientists, mathematicians, community developers, and this list contains some very different types of people. Besides these different divisions, different personalities are composed of different home lives, talents, family situations, passions, tastes, etc. This makes it much easier for us to simply find those we are similar to and stick with them for the four years we spend on this mountain. However, as a community who has claimed Christ as their savior and king, there is one thing that unites all of us together; it is stronger than any personal preference or opinion. It is the love of Christ that unites us travelers through

this earthly pilgrimage.

Therefore the choice is ours: we can base our relationships on similar likes and dislikes, similar opinions, or other earthly things, or we can found our relationships the way that our Father has founded his relationship with us: on our relationship with his son. As those who have accepted the gospel in all its glory, we reside at the cross on our knees together only by his mercy and grace, not because we are at all entitled to it.

We can only create proper relationships with others once we understand God's relationship with us. Our Father in heaven sees us as precious, worthy, and desirable. He loves us unconditionally. This is the mindset we should have toward all others, especially those in the household of faith.

So, brothers and sisters, understanding that we all kneel together at the cross, overwhelmed by his love, can we not see each other

with the eyes of Christ and treat each other with the love of our savior? Is our first instinct not to love, and encourage, and honestly pursue each other with the love of the Lord as a result of our understanding of the gospel? It is so easy to make a joke at another's expense or to speak rudely under the veil of sass. We could just as easily smile, encourage, and sincerely ask someone how they are doing, whether they live in your building, have your major, your interests, or not, because they share your savior and the image of our Lord. On the flipside, it is easy to misinterpret a snarky remark, an unhappy look, or a less-than-positive comment, and take it as a personal affront. We must have the same attitude of respect and love in these situations as well. The effort to cultivate community at Covenant must be taken up by each of us, and must come from the desire to exemplify the love of

our Lord. We are busy students with different struggles, who experience suffering and hard days that knock us out. However, our united efforts to glorify our Father can simply mean talking to the kid you don't know that sits next to you in class, writing a good friend an encouraging note, or just smiling while making awkward eye contact.

Though the sentiment is cliched, these little actions can seriously change a rough Monday into a bearable one. They remind us of our worth when we're struggling to believe that our worth is in Christ alone. They remind us of God's love when we're struggling to accept its existence. They remind us—in one moment—of the gospel's truth when we lose sight of its beauty. Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us care for, inquire after, and listen to each other, creating a community into which we can welcome any lover of the Lord with open arms.

# Holiness for a Laugh?

BY JACKIE ROBEL

I love to laugh. The students in Mac often tease me by saying that hearing me shout "girl on the hall" is rather superfluous as you can usually hear my laughter from a few floors away. Thus it comes as no surprise that attending and advocating for Covenant's improv shows is one of my greatest joys. However, this past Tuesday night I found myself uncharacteristically quiet. Instead of laughing, I sat there in my comfy yellow seat (quite the luxury as I normally stand in the back peaking over the shoulder of Jimmy Barnett or some other incredibly tall person), pondering what constitutes good humor, the nature of a Christian's responsibility in an audience, and most importantly, the issue of holiness.

Before elaborating upon these thoughts, I first want to state that I believe Christians should extend

grace to each other. I also firmly believe in the concept of Christian liberty and recognize that there are varying beliefs and convictions regarding God's Word and call on our lives. Nevertheless, I would still pose a few of these questions to both the Improv team as well as to those of us sitting in the audience (for I think both have a responsibility).

To the Improv team, I would like to say a sincere thanks for the incredible skills and gifts for humor that you have so often exhibited in your performances. I am blown away by the quickness of your minds, your comedic timing, your cultural references, and your willingness to serve our campus by giving so generously of your time and talents. However, it is in part because of these gifts that I am particularly saddened to have witnessed the types of

jokes being made on stage this past Tuesday. The inappropriate nature of these jokes ranged from belittling disabilities to numerous sexual references. As an audience member, I am never shocked to find myself disagreeing at some level with various aspects of a performance. But Tuesday was different, quickly moving me into a far more significant state of discomfort. I also watched as many (certainly not all) members of the audience floundered, wondering how to respond to what was unfolding before them. Despite this hesitancy, the audience continually pushed the performers to continue in their often off-color jokes. Thus the issue was not just what was happening on stage, but also the reaction by the audience members. It left me wondering what a faithful response should be. Can we still demonstrate

Christian charity without clapping and endorsing questionable joking? How did our response affect future decisions by the Improv team? And what did it communicate about our goal of imaging a holy God?

As I mentioned in the beginning, I recognize we all hold different positions regarding holiness and what is considered "good humor." Many of you will disagree, maybe even strongly disagree, with my words. However, I encourage you to consider my thoughts and to trust that I am wrestling right alongside of you. God calls us to be faithful to His Word and to examine our hearts, but ultimately each of us is responsible to follow our convictions with grace and civility toward others. My goal is not to vilify the Improv team or audience, but simply to ask questions

regarding what our response should be in the future when performers either intentionally or unintentionally (very possible in an improvisational setting) cross lines. What would it mean to truly live out the renewing of our minds, even in our humor? What would it mean for an audience to not encourage or laugh at brokenness, but, with love and sincerity, to withhold applause and instead spur each other on to holiness that is still full of laughter and delight? Humor is one of the greatest blessings God has provided, thus it is my hope to attend Improv again, but to do so fully able to laugh and join the hilarity, reveling in the gifts God has so generously bestowed on this talented group of performers.

# MLB Power Rankings

BY SCOTT MCKNIGHT

It's been a whirlwind of an offseason in the MLB and we've only got a few more weeks to wrap our minds around it. Thanks to the transaction-happy owners, we need to sit down and simplify (like, down to 5 words) the consequences of all of these deals. So whether you're a new fan of the MLB, an old fan trying to figure out what happened over the last few months, or a significant other trying to act like you know what you're talking about, this article should meet your needs. There's also a chance that citing any of my opinions on these teams will just make you sound ignorant around your MLB-savvy friends, but that's a risk I've come to terms with.

## 1. Washington Nationals

Ok, THIS is the year. For the third year in a row the Nats are favorites to get it done with the best rotation in the league now that Max Scherzer is in town. The Nats are the only team in the league that can actually say that they have five (and a half) aces in their rotation. Health is wealth for

the Nats. If they can stay healthy they will be the team to beat come October.

## 2. Los Angeles Dodgers

How much for a trophy? With a payroll \$50 million higher than the Yankees, it's no surprise the Dodgers are expected to make a run at the title again. They strengthened their infield with Kendrick and Rollins but shipped out Kemp and Ethier in favor of Yasiel Puig and Joc Pederson, both products of the Chattanooga Lookouts

## 3. St. Louis Cardinals

Different team, probably same results. Once again the Cardinals aren't afraid to tweak the formula that's kept them at the top. One of the best clubhouses in baseball has added another bat to the lineup in Jason Heyward, and still has the most consistent starter in all of baseball in Wainwright. These guys are always a threat in the postseason.

## 4. Los Angeles Angels

The other Los Angeles team. Can the Angels repeat the success they had last year? As long as the pitching staff comes through for

the Angels, this team is always a contender.

## 5. Seattle Mariners

Maybe one more free agent. I want to talk bad about paying a power hitting free agent, Nelson Cruz, \$57 million over four years to play at Safeco Field, but he's still an upgrade and they were just a game away in 2014. It's tough to say that a bat like Cruz doesn't bridge that gap.

## 6. Pittsburgh Pirates

We lost to the champions. The Pirates lost out to the would-be-champion Giants in the Wild Card game and it's obvious that the front office believes the formula is still right. McCutchen is back, but the rotation is full of question marks.

## 7. Detroit Tigers

We lost to our bullpen. The Tigers' bullpen pulled off two of the most epic collapses in postseason history in the ALDS last year and they didn't address the problem, plus lost their Scherzer to the Nationals. On the plus side, they still have Miggy and Cespedes has brought his power bat to town.

## 8. San Francisco Giants

Have you seen our Panda?

Sandoval out; McGehee in. That's all that happened in San Fran this offseason, but who's to blame them after winning the 2014 title?

## 9. Boston Red Sox

Cue the nobody knows song. A projected winner finishing 25 games back last year. They've bolstered the pitching staff and added Sandoval and Hanley but once again, no idea.

## 10. Cleveland Indians

You make my heart sing. You can't deny it. It's kind of satisfying to see good baseball back in Cleveland. These guys aren't loaded with star power, but they get it done. Pedro Cerrano approves.

## 11. Baltimore Orioles

Hello, 96 wins; goodbye, players. It was a long winter in Baltimore after losing Cruz, Miller, and Markakis to free agency, but some major pitching prospects are a year older; Wieters, Machado, and Davis are healthy; and Buck Showalter is still at the helm. No worries, Charm City.

## 12. Toronto Blue Jays

This is the year, eh? The Blue

Jays showed their potential at times last year. The addition of Josh Donaldson was a great pickup for Toronto and could be just what the doctor ordered.

## 13. San Diego Padres

Baseball arrives in San Diego. The Padres had one of the best offseasons in the league. They've still got to compete in one of the most top-heavy divisions in the league, but these guys could snag a wild card spot and surprise some folks when it counts.

## 14. Chicago White Sox

Finally, some help for Sale. With Samardzija in town and Jose Abreu putting up video game numbers, this group is not to be overlooked.

## 15. Oakland Athletics

Oakland, do you recognize us? Billy Beane's A's basically had 7 All Stars last year and two of them are on this year's roster. Here's to you, Jonah Hill.

For Scott's full MLB rankings, check out [bagpipeonline.com](http://bagpipeonline.com) under the sports tab

Tigers, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Nationals all place well in rankings. photo from [sportsnearth.com](http://sportsnearth.com)

