

COVENANT *News*

A monthly publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church

Charlotte, North Carolina



onecommunitymanyfaiths

Perspectives on Salvation | 2019 Lenten Sermon Series

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Message from Bob



Dear Covenant family,

A friend recently said to me about our capital campaign, "The reason it worked is because we all had an oar in the water and pulled in the same direction." It's a great image, and he was absolutely correct. Or, at least mostly correct.

Truth be told, though we have the *promise of the campaign working*, it has not yet *worked*, and we have considerable work left to do. For instance, we're thrilled with the progress of the affordable housing development "Mezzanine on Freedom" and it gives me great joy to drive by it on a regular basis. But we have much more work to do. We have streets to pave (if it would ever stop raining!) neighbors to know, relationships to develop and residents to select.

In addition, I love watching our Welcome Center/CDC make progress every day, but we also have much more work to do there as well. I also look forward to the enhancements to be done this summer to our Education Wing and Fellowship Hall. However, we have much planning to do about where to put the nurseries for the summer, where to place temporary offices for staff, and, most difficult, how to stair-step the installation of the new playgrounds so that children will always have some place to play outside.

Here's how you can help:

- 1). Keep the extraordinary number of logistics and details in your prayers. We have many volunteers, staff and outside employees working on these matters. It's a huge challenge;
- 2). Pray for CDC Director search. This is a national search. Our team is working hard. Pray for clarity, wisdom and direction;
- 3). Contribute early! The good news is that our building schedules are all earlier than first envisioned. Our CDC will open more quickly than anticipated, as will our affordable housing complex. We're extremely pleased about this. It also means (of course!) our costs are all ahead of schedule. I invite you to join me in fulfilling (or making) your pledge ahead of schedule. Our tightest time will be this summer, and we would love to avoid the cost and hassle of gap financing. Every accelerated or increased gift will make a difference.
- 4). Be flexible. Playgrounds will be in transition. Summer programs will be changed. Sunday School rooms will be shifted. For a few months (mostly in June and July) our campus will resemble every airport in America that says, "Please pardon our progress."
- 5). Be thankful. This is all an extraordinary blessing, and we will do well to keep sight of that.

With gratitude for you all,

Bob

Financial Update

Pledge Receipts (Year to date through Jan. 31, 2019)

2019 Budgeted:..... \$548,000
 2019 Actual:..... \$551,989
 100.7% of Goal

Session Digest

- A total of 71 people joined the church in 2018. Nearly half are between ages 26-35. An estimated 87 percent are involved beyond worship in education, small groups, mission and/or music. Membership has increased by 37 percent from 2008 to 2018 and now stands at 2,318.
- Ministry Architects will work with youth leaders over the next 12 months to develop a sustainable ministry. Please see the article on page 10 of this newsletter.
- Randy Ripple gave an update on the child development center. The search for a director is underway.

College Scholarships

For many years, Covenant has awarded scholarships to deserving college students for undergraduate and graduate studies through the Douglas E. Matthias Scholarship Program.

The undergraduate fund provides need-based support for graduating high school seniors and current college freshmen. Scholarships are also available for study at Union Presbyterian Seminary and any graduate study that leads to a life of Christian service. Applications are due April 15.

The Susan F. & Stephen J. Talley Music Scholarship was established to honor the skill and spirit that Susan and Steve Talley brought to Covenant's music ministry. The scholarship provides funds for the study of traditional church music at a seminary or college, organ study at an intermediate or higher level and/or church music conference participation by Covenant high school youth interested in traditional church music.

Visit CovenantPresby.org/scholarships for application forms.

Giving Information

- If you are over the age of 70.5, the government requires you to take annual distributions (withdrawals) from your retirement account. Up to a certain amount, these distributions may be made tax-free as long as they are directed to a qualified organization such as Covenant.
- Up to \$100,000 of your annual withdrawal from IRAs may be distributed directly to Covenant, enabling you to avoid paying income taxes on that amount.
- To learn more, contact Virginia Rumbley, accounting manager, at Virginia.Rumbley@covenantpresby.org or 704-804-7576.

'Obligation and opportunity to do for others'

How new building connects to vision of charter members

Exactly 70 years ago, Covenant Presbyterian Church began the construction process for its new campus. The surrounding area was still developing as architects proposed building plans, ground was broken and bricks and mortar took shape.

Last month, our contemporary Covenant community ceremoniously signed the beam that will connect the archway on the new building under construction now that will complete the founding members' original plan for our campus. Importantly, this new welcome center building will house a child development center, providing high-quality child care and education for families at all income levels.

In 70 years, the city has changed dramatically. The Covenant campus now sits in a densely populated neighborhood on the edge of a booming uptown. But the mission driving the church's charter members' lofty fundraising endeavor to build the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and Education Wing remains at the core of the projects supported by our campaign *For a Whole Community* today.

The Charlotte Observer quoted church officers at the time of our founding as insisting that "these structures are simply the means toward an end and not a substitute for greater Christian living and giving and serving. Our obligation and opportunity to do for others is great and it is upon us now."

That was as true then as it is today, in the face of staggering challenges to upward mobility in Charlotte. As we signed the "topping off" beam and offered blessings and prayers for all the activities the new building will support, Carl Powell, chair of the campus construction implementation team, reminded the congregation that, first and foremost, this space "enables us to better welcome members and visitors alike into a transformational experience of faith."

Fun fact from the archives

Daniel Boone VI, descendant of the eponymous American pioneer, beat the wrought iron hardware for Covenant's original buildings.

Fulfilling your pledge

A giving statement was mailed in January. This includes an update on stewardship and capital campaign pledge fulfillments. Please contact Virginia Rumbley at Virginia.Rumbley@covenantpresby.org or 704-804-7576 if you did not receive a statement. Also, see giving information at left.

Statements are sent quarterly, with the next one coming in May. The May, September and December statements are e-mailed to members with e-mail addresses and mailed to those without e-mail addresses. In May, the e-mailed statements will go out to both spouses of joint member accounts. To learn how to track your giving, visit CovenantPresby.org/trackyourgiving.

Questions about our plans? Contact CovenantCapitalCampaign@gmail.com.



Campaign Contributions Update

(as of Feb. 10)

Total Campaign Giving: \$6,929,845
53.7 percent toward our goal

Give online at CovenantPresby.org/give

Ed Wing renovations to begin in June

Covenant will begin Education Wing renovations in June to classrooms, corridors and bathrooms that will create more welcoming and accessible spaces.

After discussions with the general contractor, it became clear the disruption in the building would make it too difficult to maintain a safe environment for children. As a result, Covenant will not hold Vacation Bible School, Preschool Summer Fun Days, youth music and some other summer activities.

Church staff will identify locations for Sunday School and child care to minimize disruption while ensuring the safety of our members and guests.

The Rec Wing will continue to offer sports and arts camps, workouts and group fitness classes, group outings (Knights games, Whitewater Center, etc.) and sports leagues (softball, kickball, etc.). For more information on specific programs, contact Kevin Harper at kevin.harper@covenantpresby.org.

Fellowship Hall renovations, including installation of an elevator in the front of the building and family restrooms on the first and second floors, will occur concurrently with the Ed Wing work.

Boosting health, fitness at our partner school

How we're helping Highland empower the 'whole child'



Every school morning, a dozen high energy fourth grade boys gather in Highland Renaissance Academy's new Sensory/Fit Lab for a guided workout before reporting to class.

Called "Zero Period," this intentional time affords the students a chance

to calm their bodies and engage their minds for a productive day at school.

The Sensory/FitLab is a new feature at Covenant's CMS partner school, funded through a generous special gift from within the congregation.

Covenant has committed \$22,000 over three years to support health and wellness programs for some of the city's most vulnerable children at Highland.

'Significant progress toward our goal'

With the grant, Highland has created soccer, cheer-leading, rugby and basketball teams that practice after school and will compete against other CMS schools.

The school has added soccer fields on campus and will soon install outdoor basketball goals. Families often use the play space after school hours and on the weekends, helping build community for the school.

"With Covenant's help, we've been able to make significant progress toward our goal of addressing the 'whole child' at Highland," said principal Chuck Fortuna. "Without your support, none of these programs would be possible."

Not only do the fitness programs help keep kids healthier, Mr. Fortuna notes they seem to increase student attendance and engagement.

"It is difficult to find the right words to convey how meaningful your continued investment in the school has been," said Central Learning Community Superintendent Denise Watts.

"The impact has made a significant difference in many children's lives and the school/church partnership truly exemplifies how a community can come together to create the conditions in which children thrive."

Ways to serve at Highland

There are many ways to get involved with Highland, our CMS partner school located just north of uptown at 125 W. Craighead Road. Visit CovenantPresby.org/Highland.

Reading buddies: Read with a kindergartner on Tuesday or Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. through mid-April.

Read, Roar, Soar: Read in third grade classrooms on the third Thursday of every month from 2 to 3 p.m.

Highland Heroes Appreciation Brunches: Contribute food, drinks, flowers or notes. Drop off in Fellowship Hall bin and volunteers will deliver and set up at the school on third Mondays every month.

Summer camp buddies: Support a Highland student who will spend a week at YMCA's Camp Harrison. There are two sessions (June 16-22 and June 23-29).



serve God and our neighbors
in the season of Lent

Habitat build set to begin

Children will build shed for our partner family while parents build house

The missions team plans a busy Lenten season. To get connected, contact Lucy.Crain@covenantpresby.org or 704-804-7574.



Lucy Crain
Director of
Mission and
Outreach

Church-wide Habitat build 13 dates in March and April

Build with us! Our congregation was one of seven founding churches of Habitat Charlotte 35 years ago. This month, we will begin a full house build over a six-week period.

Visit CovenantPresby.org/Habitat2019 for all the details.

We are looking for people or groups to provide lunches at the work site as well as help with child care so parents can participate. Please email christy.auburn@gmail.com for details.

The dates are Thursday, March 7; Friday, March 8; Saturday, March 9; Thursday, March 14; Friday, March 15; Saturday, March 16; Thursday, April 4; Friday, April 5; Saturday, April 6; Saturday, April 13; Thursday, April 25; Friday, April 26; and Saturday, April 27.



Julia Watkins
Pastoral Resident

Camp Habitat, an experience for children

Children are invited to two Saturdays of play and learning with Anne Lowrance at the church. The dates are March 16 and April 6 from 8 a.m. to noon and noon to 4 p.m. while parents volunteer at the job site. We still need adult and youth camp counselors!

Campers will build the shed for our Habitat family and enjoy other construction and creative projects.



Young Adults Upcoming Events

Join us at any time. Get connected: Ian.Clark@covenantpresby.org

First Sunday Brunch

Sunday, March 1 at 12:30 p.m. at Suffolk Punch in South End
Join us for an unprogrammed time of fellowship - and some great food!

Young Adults Parents Social

Sunday, April 14 at 3 p.m. at Covenant
Bring the whole family! There will be space for children to play along with great food, music and fellowship.

Know Your Craft 5K

Saturday, April 6 at 9 a.m.
Join Young Adults for a 5K run benefiting Urban Ministry Center – one of our mission partners. We will run together and then enjoy social time at the post-race party hosted by Triple C Brewing.



Open Table @ Covenant **Wednesday nights in March**

Dinner in Fellowship Hall 5 to 6:30 p.m. ■ Programs for all ages at 6:30 p.m. ■ Child care available



As longer days offer the grace of growing light, join Covenant friends on a Lenten journey to wake up with wonder and enjoy God's mercies anew each morning.

There will be ample opportunities in worship, service, fellowship and shared study. The Covenant pastoral staff also offers a simple weekday devotional as one way to anchor your days. You can sign up on the Covenant website or pick up a printed copy at church beginning Ash Wednesday, March 6.

Each weekday, you'll find a brief prayer with which you can begin and end your devotional time. On Mondays, you'll find an overview to the week's theme. From Tuesday through Friday, you'll find passages from scripture that explore this theme.

Each Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., the member of the pastoral staff writing for the week will serve as a guide for a Bible study and spiritual reflection. You can drop in without RSVP. The details are below.

We hope you enjoy a beautiful Lent filled with new mercies each morning.

Ash Wednesday, March 6 **Noon in Chapel, 7 p.m. in Sanctuary**

To truly experience the Good News of Easter, we first need to understand our human need for God's forgiving and redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

During the season of Lent, we consider this need and prepare our hearts to receive the risen Christ anew.

Enter the Lenten season through Ash Wednesday with opportunities for prayerful reflection, preaching, beautiful music and the imposition of ashes.



Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., March 13-April 10 **Fellowship Hall 207**

March 13 – Jessica Patchett – Recovering Reverence

March 20 – Grady Moseley – Living the Dream

March 27 – Bob Henderson – The Generativity of Gratitude

April 3 – Ian Clark – A Wondrous Calling

April 10 – Julia Watkins – Attending to the Impossible

Uptown Bible study offers **six-week Lenten series**



Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 1 p.m. **Foundation for the Carolinas, 220 N. Tryon**

Jump in for six weeks with Jessica Patchett, Ben Mallicote, Ian Clark and a host of curious Covenant friends for a Lenten study on Short Stories by Jesus, or the parables.

We meet from noon to 1 p.m. at the Foundation for the Carolinas and offer the same study on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There's a desk at the main entrance with helpful people who will point you to the right room. Please feel free to bring lunch. We have water and coffee available.

For details or to get connected, contact Sally Jackson at sally.jackson@covenantpresby.org. We'll kick things off March 6 but newcomers are welcome at any point.



New group! Hike **with Covenant** **First hike is** **Saturday, March 2**

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to the body and soul." ~John Muir

Join Covenant friends and families for quarterly hikes beginning with Kings Mountain State Park. Led by Lauren Sawyers and Grady Moseley, the hikes are for all ages and skill levels. Meet at the church at 8 a.m. to carpool, or at the park at 9 a.m. See the schedule at CovenantPresby.org/hikewithcovenant.





Interfaith sermon series to begin

Series welcomes Muslim, Buddhist and Jewish leaders

For Lent, we will engage in all the standard Lenten practices, but this year we'll also have a unique sermon series across faith traditions, exploring both our commonalities as well as our particularities.

These sermons will explore sacred texts across faith traditions, as we host Imam Atif Chaudhry, Buddhist minister Rev. Grace Burford and Rabbi Dusty Klass in conversations on the subject of salvation.

Navigating across difference is an essential Christian trait, one Jesus embraced fully in his life and ministry. You're invited to spend the Lenten season in worship.

March 10: Christianity: Interfaith from the Beginning

March 17: "Islam: God, Isaac and Ishmael" with Imam Atif Chaudhry
Imam Atif is Muslim Life Coordinator at Queens University of Charlotte and Imam, Religious Director at Islamic Society of Greater Charlotte.

March 24: "Buddhism: Suffering, Pain and Faith" with Rev. Grace Burford

An ordained Buddhist minister, Grace is Davidson College's Associate Chaplain for Buddhist Programs, Director of the Davidson Meditation Initiative and Coordinator of Interfaith Programs.

April 7: "Judaism: Promises, Promises" with Rabbi Dusty Klass

Rabbi Klass, Assistant Rabbi at Temple Beth El, grew up in Seattle. She completed her undergraduate work at University of California, Santa Barbara and spent her junior year abroad in Dublin, Ireland. Rabbi Klass is passionate about youth work and social justice.

April 14: Palm Sunday: Christianity: Reformer or Revolutionary?



Deep Dive Questions

A series led by rotating speakers explores questions submitted by people in our congregation. Discussions are at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall 203. Afterward, we head to Dilworth Neighborhood Grille for more conversation. All are welcome!

Presbyterians and predestination
Sunday, March 3

Many of us know that predestination is part of our historical and theological identity as Presbyterians. But do we still believe it? And what does it actually mean? Join Covenant pastors Jessica Patchett and Ian Clark as they seek to untangle this theological question.

What is the Bible?
Sunday, April 7

We all know the Bible is central to our life of faith. But what actually is it? What makes it "holy"? How did this particular collection of 66 books become the ones that we see as sacred? You'll leave better informed about what the Bible is and how you can better situate it in your life.





Peek Memorial Concert Weekend

Covenant and the Charlotte AGO present Jonathan Ryan, organist. A master class is Saturday, March 16 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Recital is Sunday, March 17 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Considered one of the brightest younger artists in the field today, Jonathan Ryan elicits acclaim for his considerable depth of musicianship, sense of architecture and great sensitivity within the composer's spirit.



Nurse's Note

Contact me at Mary.mattiacci@covenantpresby.org.

I want to encourage you to be proactive to prevent falls, especially if you have osteopenia or osteoporosis. Check these items at home and see if you can make improvements:

Turn on the lights! It's easier to see in bright light. Be sure you have a well lit path from your bed to the bathroom. Make sure your stairways are brightly lit and install handrails.



Mary Mattiacci
Parish Nurse

Be sure your bed is at a height that suits you. It's much easier to stumble if your bed is too high or too low.

Install grab bars in your bathroom. Use non-skid strips or a non-skid bathmat in the shower. Call me if you need help.

Keep clutter to a minimum. Be especially vigilant about loose cords and stacks of books. Use non-skid tape on throw rugs, or better yet, get rid of them.

Participate in regular exercise. Suzi Rosen's class, Functional Fitness is conveniently taught in our own gym by a physical therapist who knows how to help.

If you need help making any of these changes, please contact your parish nurse at 704-804-7561.

Mary

TLC Upcoming Events



Travel, Learn, Connect – Covenant's active adults group enjoys learning and travel (and good food).
RSVP: Mary.Mattiacci@covenantpresby.org

Hear from two Observer journalists Taylor Batten and Peter St. Onge

Two opinion editors (and Covenant members) will talk to us about the future of journalism in the digital age.

Wednesday, March 13. Join us in Room 201 of the Ed Wing at 10:30 a.m. for refreshments and 11 a.m. for the talk. No reservation needed.

Tour of Bank of America Stadium With lunch at House of Prayer

Take a guided tour of the stadium where the Carolina Panthers play and then enjoy a delicious lunch.

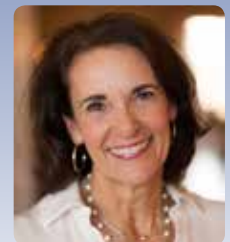
Wednesday, March 27. We will leave from Covenant at 11 a.m. and return by 2:30 p.m. Cost of tour is \$5 and payment to Mary reserves your spot.

Sisters in Spirit Breakfasts

Women of Covenant are invited every month for breakfast and an inspiring faith story. Bring a friend!

When: Tuesday, March 12 at 7 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

DeeDee Dalrymple of Effortless Entertaining will join us to share ideas on opening our home, opening our hearts and giving the gift of hospitality.



RSVP to reservations@covenantpresby.org to have breakfast.

First Sunday Talk

In our year-long First Sunday series, *Walk a Mile of Faith in My Shoes*, we're hearing from folks on a quest to better care for our neighbors and those we love.

A conversation with interfaith families

Sunday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall 207



An increasing percentage of American families are comprised of people with differing religious views and traditions. This is evident within Covenant's congregation, too. For interfaith families, there are both opportunities and challenges.

Join us to hear from interfaith families and learn how we, as a congregation, can better learn from and support them.

Covenant Kids Education



Children will build a shed as part of Camp Habitat, an opportunity to learn about the importance of affordable housing.

Camp Habitat, a time for children

Children are invited to Camp Habitat, two Saturdays of play and learning with Anne Lowrance at the church. The dates are March 16 and April 6 from 8 a.m. to noon and noon to 4 p.m. while parents volunteer at the job site. We still have a need for adult and youth camp counselors. Please RSVP to Anne. Lowrance@covenantpresby.org.

Open Table Wednesday nights

Young Scholars is a beginner Bible study for grades 1-5 led by Anne Lowrance and Mollie Lee.

Children learn to navigate the Bible through activities such as scavenger hunts. Drop off and pick up in the Rec Wing kitchen area, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Music & Movement: Ages 4-5 enjoy a high-energy Bible story with music. Drop off in Rec Wing kitchen area, pick up in Nursery, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Children's choirs rehearse Wednesdays, too

Join directors Rob Dicks and Heather Potter for rehearsals from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, including Angelus Choir (grades K-2) and Choristers Choir (grades 3-5). Contact Heather.Potter@covenantpresby.org for details.

Sacred Spaces - tour of Sanctuary

Sunday, March 31 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Fourth graders will tour the Sanctuary and bell tower as we learn from Anne Lowrance and Rob Dicks. A pizza lunch is included. Parents are welcome.

Child of the Covenant - Sunday, April 28

This tradition celebrates babies born or adopted in the previous year (2018). Parents may attend either Sanctuary service then join others in a reception and group photo in the Parlor between 9:45-10:45 a.m. Please RSVP to Anne. Lowrance@covenantpresby.org.

Spring Sunday Mornings

Early Childhood First Floor, EW

Child Care 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Crib Nursery (infants-walkers)
Toddler Nursery (walkers to 2 years)

9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday School
(2 years - Kindergarten)
10:30-11 a.m. Play Time
11-11:30 a.m. Music & Bible Story
11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Snack & Playground or Gym

Elementary Education

Grades 1-5, Second Floor, EW

9:30-9:45 a.m. Small Groups
9:45-10:10 a.m. Large Group
10:10-10:30 a.m. Small Groups
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Elementary kids attend worship or childcare

Youth (Grades 6-12)

Education Wing, 9:30 a.m.

Base/6th & 7th Grades EW318
Quest/8th Grade EW312
PEAK/9th-12th Grades EW307

Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. unless noted

Men's Bible Study,

8:30 a.m. FH205
Open to all men, studying scripture and reflections.

Foundations, 10:45 a.m. FH205

A supportive network for parents nurturing families in faith.

Open Door FH201

A diverse gathering of adults of all ages and a great first class for people new to Covenant.

People Class FH Library

Adults ages 50s-70s enjoy discussing a wide variety of topics.

Fellowship Class FH203

Adults 60+, but open to adults of all ages.

Sunday Evening Women, 6 p.m.

Women in late 20s and 30s meet for fellowship in various locations.

Investing in our youth with help from Ministry Architects

Renovation team wants to hear your insights, frustrations and dreams



Dear Friends,

I am filled with deep gratitude that Covenant continues to invest in our youth, their faith formation and the future of the church.

By now, you may have read that Ministry Architects will work with Covenant for the next 12 months to develop a blueprint for a sustainable youth ministry.

I would like to invite you to be part of this building process by attending a listening session in March. We need your thoughts, concerns and vision for our youth ministry. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity.

Joyfully in Christ,

Allyson Easterling – Chair, Education Ministry

Renovation Team members

Megan Baer, Philip James, Alex Bacon, Sarah Wilson, Katherine Roehrig, Stephanie Kluttz, Allyson Easterling, Steph Guffin, Walt St. Onge

Middle School Youth

Reach Director Perrin Tribble at Perrin.Tribble@covenantpresby.org or 704-804-7569.



Join us for a new discussion group for parents called *Making Sense of Middle School*. We meet at the same time as youth fellowship. Next up, join us Sunday, March 17 from 5 to 6 p.m. for dinner and a listening session with Ministry Architects. Stay from 6 to 7 to hear guest speaker Shawnda Drummond of the FBI talk about online safety for our children and youth.

Sunday School, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

6th and 7th graders, Ed Wing 318. 8th grade Quest, Ed Wing 312

Sundays - Youth Fellowship starts at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner in the Fellowship Hall is followed by activities.

Wednesdays – Open Table, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Youth can decide between Open Gym hosted by Perrin Tribble and Faith and Fellowship with Levi Bannerman.

Upcoming retreats and mission trips

- Mission experience to Heifer International Ranch, June 22-29
- Massanetta Middle School Youth Conference, July 11-14

Upcoming Listening Sessions

High school youth and Quest youth

Sunday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m. in High School Youth Room (Ed Wing 3rd floor)

Parents of high school youth

Sunday, March 3 from 6 to 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall 207

Former youth and parents of former youth

Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall 207

Middle school youth

Sunday, March 17 at 9:30 a.m. in High School Youth Room

Parents of fourth and fifth grade students/Sunday School teachers

Sunday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall 105

Parents of middle school youth

Sunday, March 17 from 5 to 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall 203

Staff who intersect with youth ministry

Monday, March 18 at 10 a.m. in Conference Room

Youth Councils/Advisers/Volunteers

Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall 205



Youth will lead us in worship on Youth Sunday, March 31.

High School Youth

Reach Director Levi Bannerman at Levi.Bannerman@covenantpresby.org or 704-804-7563.

Sunday School, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

9th - 12th graders, Ed Wing 307

Sundays - Youth Fellowship starts at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner in the Fellowship Hall is followed by activities.

Wednesdays - Open Table Night 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Youth can decide between Open Gym hosted by Perrin Tribble and Faith and Fellowship hosted by Levi Bannerman. We'll have art projects, basketball or just a quiet place to study.

Upcoming retreats and mission trips

- Senior trip to Yucatan: June 16-22
- Mission trip to Washington D.C.: June 23-29
- Montreat Youth Conference: July 7-13

Welcome New Members

through Feb. 22



Courtney and Gavin Phillips



Kristin and Stuart Darnell with Walker



Kimberly Diedrich



Blaire Jenkins and Thomas Langa

Interested in joining Covenant?

We welcome new members every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor, located downstairs in the Sanctuary building.

We also welcome new members on the 4th Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall Library at noon.

Get connected: Contact Lora Borrelli, membership and engagement director, at Lora.Borrelli@covenantpresby.org or 704-804-7562.

Starting Point BBQ Dinner

Learn about Covenant and our mission on Sunday, March 31 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Join us for a catered dinner and Q&A with Senior Minister Bob Henderson. Child care is available. Feel free to bring children. Get connected: Lora.Borrelli@covenantpresby.org.



Congregational Notes

Do you have announcements? Let Covenant know by contacting: Michelle.Williamson@covenantpresby.org.

Births

Congratulations to Martha and Courtney Williams and big sisters, Watts and Haines, on the birth of Evelyn James "Evie" Williams on Jan. 15; and to

Katie and Lee Cornwell and big sister Molly on the birth of Marilyn Anne Cornwell on Feb. 7; and to

Anna and Taylor Leaf and big brother Merrick on the birth of Vincent Patrick "Vinny" Leaf on Feb. 9.

Marriage

Congratulations to Anna Mistretta and Jason Fishel who celebrated their wedding in the Chapel on Saturday, Feb. 23.

Baptisms

Congratulations to Ryan Edward Collins who received the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, Feb. 10; and to

Meg and Jace Hunter (and big sister Evelyn) who presented their daughter, Nora June Hunter, on Sunday, Feb. 17; and to

Jaryn and Chris Phelps who presented their son, Shipley Andrew Phelps, on Sunday, Feb. 24.

Deaths in the Church

The congregation extends its sincere sympathy and love to the family of Kim and Hugh Robertson on the death of her father, Dewey "Dicky" Little Raymer III, on Jan. 21; and to

the family of Barbara Ann and John Zizzi on the death of her father, Jim Wilson, on Jan. 29; and to

Christy Morehead and her family on the death of her husband, Arthur Morehead, on Feb. 8;

and rejoices with them in the assurance of the resurrection.

Spotlight: Stephen Ministry

Culture of care at Covenant



Did you know that Covenant has a team of men and women trained as Stephen Ministers to offer confidential, one-on-one support if you are facing grief, illness, transition or a time of challenge.

A Stephen Minister is a companion on your journey, whether that means meeting for coffee once a week or just talking on the phone after a tough day.

"We are here to walk with you," says Nancy Haggart, a Stephen Minister who connected with the group when she joined Covenant.

Parish Nurse Mary Mattiacci can pair you with a Stephen Minister. Contact Mary at 704-804-7561 or visit covenantpresby.org/connect/care.

Centering Prayer Group

Open to all twice a week



Centering Prayer is a form of meditation rooted in self-emptying love that forms the heart of Jesus' life and teachings.

Covenant offers two times each week: Tuesdays at noon and Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. in the Parlor. A special class is March 9 at First Presbyterian Church at 10 a.m. To get connected, contact Martha Isaacs at marthaisaacs51@gmail.com.

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2019 SPRING CLEANING WEEK

March 25-29

Clean, Polish, Refresh & Repair
CovenantPresby.org/springcleaning