

# COVENANT *News*

A monthly publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church

Charlotte, North Carolina

A photograph of several young children walking on a green lawn. In the foreground, a girl with curly blonde hair and a large pink flower in her hair is looking down at a small pink flower she is holding. Next to her, a boy with brown hair is looking forward, also holding a small pink flower. He is wearing a white shirt, a yellow vest with a blue diamond pattern, and a blue lanyard around his neck. In the background, other children and adults are visible, some holding flowers. The scene is outdoors with green bushes and a building in the distance.

# Holy Week at Covenant

**Schedule, highlights inside**

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# Message from Bob



Dear friends:

During the last year, I have used this space to update you about long range planning processes and potential capital campaign plans. Though the wheels of progress are turning more slowly than some might hope, let me assure you

that it's only a sign of our commitment to inclusion, thoroughness, and clarity. This month, I am glad to report that several task groups of the Planning and Evaluation Board (our strategic planning arm) are hard at work and making substantial progress. Here is a brief update of some of their work.

**Child Development Center:** One of the most pressing needs of our city is high quality and affordable early childhood education. Nearby Childhood Development Centers have long waitlists and little, if any, financial assistance for those who struggle to afford quality care for their children. Our task group has done copious research, developed financial models, worked with architects, and is getting close to being able to recommend a wise course forward. As this endeavor has potential for high long-term impact, I ask that you keep them in your prayers, that they would have both wisdom and vision.

**Affordable Housing:** This group, too, has been working quite hard, exploring models for the highest impact in this area of much need. We have explored the possibility of collaborating with various mission partners, developers, and the city. In addition, we would like to coordinate our affordable housing efforts and other mission endeavors, such as our work with Freedom Schools, Charlotte Family Housing, Habitat for Humanity, and Highland Renaissance Academy. This has taken considerable patience, diligence, and care. Early indications suggest it will probably involve taking measured risks as we seek to address this pressing problem in our city.

**Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and Education Wing Enhancements:** All of these buildings are of high use and dated design. We are exploring modest but important updates such as updated plumbing through the preschool and the Education Wing, restrooms on the second floor of the Fellowship Hall, and a hearing loop, maybe a bathroom or two, and an elevator (as recommended in the original blueprints) for the

Sanctuary. These simple enhancements along with a few other cosmetic changes (in the Education Wing and Fellowship Hall) would go a long way to making these buildings fully functional in a 21st century world. These ideas are still very much in the exploration stage.

Let me repeat that once these proposals have been refined and presented to Session, they will be fully presented to the congregation. I do invite your prayers for the many people devoting hours of work to these endeavors. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

With gratitude for you all,

*Bob*

Bob Henderson, Senior Minister

## Session Digest

- Due to the generosity of the congregation, Covenant ended 2016 with a positive income over expenditures. The Session approved the distribution of \$28,574 to support long-range vision objectives overseen by the Planning and Evaluation Board.
- Education Ministry provided a recap of the recently completed Charlotte's Wake-Up Call series, which had an average attendance of 350 over five sessions.
- Mission and Outreach presented a new 5-year planning spreadsheet to plan and track total available mission dollars, including restricted funds and operating budget.
- Engagement Ministry reported that since 2008 (when the rolls were purged), membership has grown 23% to a total of 2,221. Members 26-45 years old represented the largest growth segment by age group.
- Worship Ministry presented plans for 2017 to address logistical, practical and aesthetic issues to improve and enhance the worship experience across all services.

## Financial Update

**Pledge Receipts** (Year to date through Feb. 28, 2017)

2017 Budgeted: ..... \$623,800

2017 Actual: ..... \$587,060

94% of Budget

**Give Online** at [www.covenantpresby.org/give](http://www.covenantpresby.org/give)



## Mission & Outreach

# Be a camp buddy - and lift up a child



Carla Leaf  
Director of Mission  
and Outreach

You can help provide a powerful summer experience for a child. Be a camp buddy in support of youngsters at Highland Renaissance Academy, our CMS partner school.

Each buddy will assist in getting a child to Covenant to take the bus to camp for Week 1 (June 18-24) or Week 2 (June 25-July 1).

You can also volunteer to drive the bus and/or provide sack lunches for children. On Tuesday, April 25 at 5:30 p.m., Covenant buddies will gather at Highland to meet students and parents with whom we will partner. To get involved, contact [Evan.amo@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Evan.amo@covenantpresby.org).

**Mission festival on hiatus:** Covenant groups are once again traveling near and far to serve our neighbors in need. Thanks to your generous support through our Mission Festival over the years, we have made an impact on thousands of people.

Because of the success of previous festivals, we will be able to take time to re-calibrate this amazing day. Our next festival auction will be in February 2018 and we know it will continue to be a fun event that lets our congregation show its support for our mission partners.

If you have items to donate, we can accommodate your needs. Please contact me at [Carla.leaf@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Carla.leaf@covenantpresby.org) for ways you can donate or be part of the festival team.



A mission team from Covenant traveled to Reynosa last week to help build a home for the Rodriguez Ramirez family (above). Hugo Sr. works as a foreman's helper, making about \$60 a week. Please pray for travelers Carla Leaf, LeAnne Stipp, Kay Wheeler, Elna Falls, Cathy Kendrick, Scott Roehrig, Jerry Jernigan and Phil Koonce.

## Covenant Staff Updates

### Daniel Heath will begin seminary Director of contemporary worship and arts



Daniel Heath is again saying 'yes' to God's call in his life, only this call will take him to Princeton, where he will enroll in the Master of Divinity program.

Though we will miss Daniel, we are pleased to support him in this decision and trust God will continue to refine his considerable gifts.

Daniel's last Sunday with us will be June 4.

Our worship life has "been enriched through Daniel's disciplined artistry, his optimistic sense of the possible and his creative energy," Bob Henderson wrote of Daniel's tenure.

### Martha Isaacs announces retirement A valuable contributor for nearly 20 years



Martha Isaacs, coordinator of Presbyterian Women's ministries and programs, has announced plans to retire in May, at the conclusion of the program year.

Martha has filled many roles at Covenant since joining the staff in 1998 and is responsible for bringing many new members into the congregation.

"After nearly 20 remarkable years, I am filled with gratitude and deep joy," Martha says. "As I enter retirement, I can anticipate discovering new and creative ways of being engaged in the life of the church I love."

# When I was asked, "So, what do you do?"

*The timing of a question got me thinking*



*The always fun-loving Kerry Hamilton helps lead Covenant's College Ministry, a team that visits and supports college students.*

I grabbed a drink from the cooler on the patio and headed back inside, where most of the guests were laughing and talking in the kitchen.

My wife's boss had a nice big house, yet like most company parties, all the employees tend to congregate in the kitchen, forcing the spouses to mingle with total strangers in other parts of the home.

I replied, "Well, currently I'm unemployed." The remark stymied the interrogator.

I made my way to the dining room where several other husbands were talking while hovering around a table of cheeses, veggie dips and sausage balls.

Forced by the fear of awkward silence, one of the guys asked me: "So Kerry, what do you do?" It's an important question because your answer can either inspire the course of the current conversation or relegate you to another room of the house.

At the time I was between jobs, so I replied: "Well, currently I'm unemployed." The remark stymied the interrogator and within seconds the subject changed to sports, the next logical topic for men.

The practice of making small talk when meeting someone new follows a common set of principles with the intent of understanding the other person and grading them against your own interests and talents.

Breaking the ice with a comment about the weather is always a safe approach. However, this is only a prelude to the main question most people inherently want to ask, especially men, which is "So, what do you do for a living?"

It's unfortunate that our identity and social value are predominantly determined by what we do as a career or where we work. It's this type of evaluation that hastily labels who we are in the community or where we stand demographically as a class of people. Yes, it sounds a bit devious. But hey, we're human and that's how we are wired.

During the season of Lent, we are called to discard those things in our life that make us stumble or lose focus toward the good news of Jesus Christ.

This year, I'm going to try and eliminate judging people based on what they do professionally. I'll be more open to understanding people based on who they are as individuals.

## *Thank you* White and Nisbet families

After more than 30 years of decorating the entire Covenant campus for Advent and Christmas, the White and Nisbet families are stepping aside from this labor of love.



Please thank Genie White, Mary Purvis, Becky Rencher, Lucy Butler and Anne White for their contributions of elegance and beauty to our worship experience these many years.

Taking up the tradition in 2017 will be Adrienne Davis, a member of Worship Arts, and her family. We look forward with anticipation to this gift.

# CROP Walk recognizes Covenant member

*D.A. Bradley has walked for 38 years*



Doris Anne (D.A.) Bradley is the recipient of the 2016 Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk Sam Ryburn Award. This award was presented at a recent Charlotte CROP Walk Recognition Dinner.

The Sam Ryburn Walker Award was started in 1994 to honor Charlottean Sam Ryburn, a Covenant member who, for many years until his death in 2000, was the nation's highest CROP WALKER fundraiser.

Doris Anne (on right in photo) has been a faithful participant in the CROP Walk since it began in Charlotte 38 years ago. She strongly believes in the principles of Church World Service and has even traveled to many countries, some of which host projects supported by Church World Service.

D.A. was a personal friend of Sam and Fran Ryburn and since they were members of Covenant, CROP Walk leaders said they were especially excited about her connection to this award.

*It Feels Good to Give*



**American  
Red Cross**



## **BLOOD DRIVE**

Sunday, May 7

8 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Recreation Wing - Gym

*Appointments encouraged. Contact  
Mary.mattiacci@covenantpresby.org.*

## *Nurse's* Note

Contact me at [Mary.mattiacci@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Mary.mattiacci@covenantpresby.org).



Dear Ones,

Now that the days are longer and you may be sleeping less, I want to talk to you a little about some potential benefits of moderate coffee consumption. I'm talking about black coffee which has less than 5 calories

per serving, not a Starbucks Venti White Chocolate Mocha which has 580 calories and 22 grams of fat and 79 grams of carbohydrates. Sorry.

A 2014 meta-analysis of studies looking at longterm consumption of three to five cups of coffee a day showed a significant reduction in cardiovascular disease and stroke. Some pretty reliable studies suggest a reduced risk of cognitive decline and Alzheimers. A systematic review published in 2005 demonstrated a reduced risk of Type 2 diabetes in coffee drinkers. The reduction was about a third in folks who consumed at least six cups a day. These findings were upheld by another study published in 2014.

There has been a lot of media attention to anti-oxidants and their benefit in stabilizing free radicals. This supposedly helps prevent cancer. As far as I can tell, the jury is still out on this as a causal relationship. However, I have not found any confirmation of negative effects of moderate coffee consumption other than it interferes with sleep for some people. So, enjoy a cup of your favorite coffee guilt free!

Take care,

*Mary*

## *Young Adults* Upcoming Events

*Join us at any time. Get connected: [jen.christianson@covenantpresby.org](mailto:jen.christianson@covenantpresby.org)*

### **First Sunday Brunch**

*Join us after church for breakfast, sandwiches or salads.*

Sunday, April 2 at noon at Earl's Grocery, 1609 Elizabeth Avenue

### **YA Rec Night at Covenant**

*Come at 5:30 p.m. to share dinner and then play games from 6 to 7 p.m.*

Sunday, April 9 in the Fellowship Hall and outdoors





# Holy Week Services



## Holy Week Schedule of Worship

**Palm Sunday, April 9 – Traditional: 8:45 a.m. Chapel and 11 a.m. Sanctuary**  
**Contemporary: 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary and 11 a.m. Fellowship Hall (Sanctuary streamed live)**

We'll mark the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with an organ and brass quintet, followed by the hymn, *All Glory, Laud and Honor*. The children's Angelus and Chorister's Choirs will sing a lovely setting of the text of *Into Jerusalem*, accompanied by percussion and piano. The Covenant Choir will sing Handel's setting of *Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs* from the *Messiah*, accompanied by organ, timpani and brass.

**Easter Sunday, April 16 – Traditional: Chapel, 8:45 a.m. Chapel and 11 a.m. Sanctuary**  
**Contemporary: Sanctuary, 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Fellowship Hall (Sanctuary streamed live)**

After a beautiful organ voluntary, the peals of the Covenant Ringers, accompanied by organ and brass ensemble, will ring out, and a bagpiper will play the traditional Highland Cathedral.

The Covenant Choir leads traditional hymns with organ and brass, as well as a glorious arrangement of Beethoven's Hymn to Joy from his Ninth Symphony, among other selections.

Contemporary worship will feature Zeb Harrison and the Sounds of Praise brass band.

**Maundy Thursday Contemporary Service – April 13, Sanctuary, 7 p.m. (streamed live)**

Remember Jesus' last hours with his disciples through song, prayer and communion. Our own Ron Boozer will create an original art piece during worship.

**Good Friday Service – April 14, Sanctuary, 7 p.m. (streamed live)**

Music for this Tenebrae service will span from the 16th century to more modern works, including Sir John Stainer's setting of John 3:16, *God So Loved the World*, and a gripping African American spiritual to the simple lamenting text, *He Never Said A Mumblyin' Word*. We will mark the occasion with an early German passion chorale by Johann Sebastian Bach and a more contemporary chorus by Twila Paris.

**Children's Easter Saturday Service, April 15, Sanctuary, 10 a.m. (streamed live)**

Children will present the Easter story and sing. Following the service, there will be a "new life" baby animal petting zoo on the Circle and Easter Egg hunts for preschoolers-kindergarten.

# 'They see the sky as the limit'

## Faith as Resistance: Living out hope in hostile places



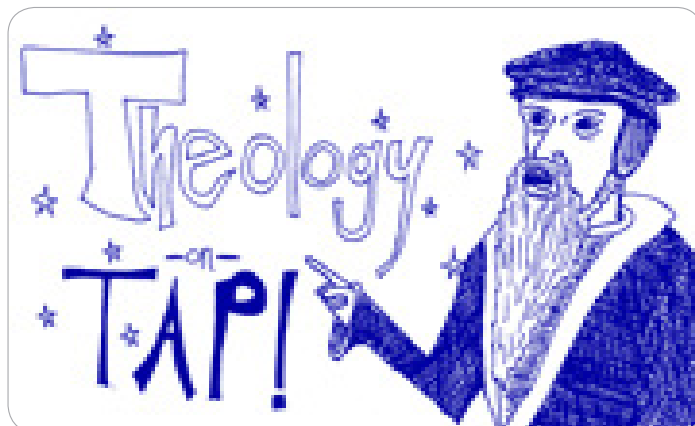
Young adults and Covenant friends concerned about the future of the Middle East gathered last week to hear from a Bethlehem pastor working for peace.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb leads a Christian congregation in the West Bank. He spoke about creating a brighter future for people in the Palestinian territories.

It is an exceedingly difficult place to live. Palestinians contend with checkpoints and security walls as part of their daily existence.

Mitri founded a university in Bethlehem that trains students in visual and performing arts as a way to build democracy, critical thinking and free expression.

"Instead of seeing the wall as the limit, they see the sky as the limit," Mitri told more than 40 people in a room at Tyber Creek pub.



Palestinians have experienced occupation for thousands of years. Instilling hope, and mobilizing creative forms of resistance, is a way to work toward the New Testament's promise of liberation, Mitri said.

Theology on Tap events are designed to engage young people on matters of faith and current events.

"The whole night really underscored how very connected we are" to young Palestinians pursuing their hopes and dreams, said Pastoral Resident Jen Christianson. "That's despite all the lines we can - and often do - draw between one another."



### Sisters in Spirit Breakfasts Second Tuesdays every month at 7 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, April 4** – Debbie George (top) will introduce us to the power of meditation. Debbie teaches many forms of yoga and meditation, and loves to help bring forth her students' inherent wisdom and inner guidance.

**Tuesday, May 9** – Jen Christianson, Pastoral Resident at Covenant, will share her faith journey and touch on universal themes of identity, vocation and self-understanding.

**When:** Breakfast and programs from 7 to 8 a.m. **RSVP:** [Michelle.williamson@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Michelle.williamson@covenantpresby.org)





# Healthy in 2017

## New this spring! Pilates classes with Nicole Love

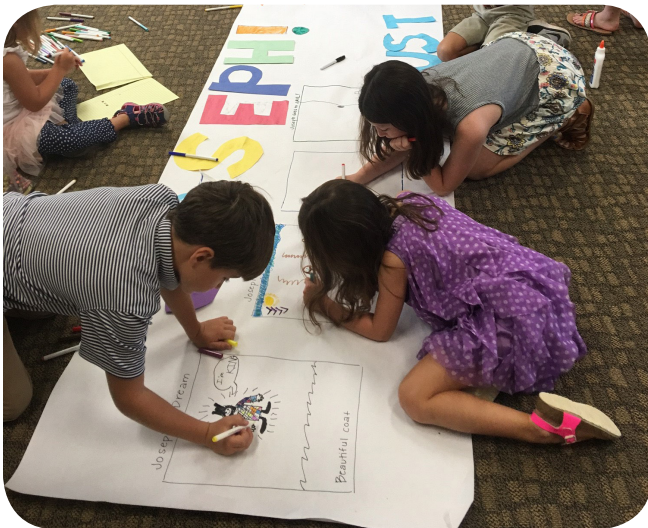
Visit the Rec Wing for Pilates classes with instructor Nicole Love. Class meets Fridays at 9 a.m. to develop core strength, flexibility, balance and stamina. Cost is \$8 per session.



Nicole Love  
Pilates Instructor

**Summer camps for kids:** Join Covenant Recreation for summer camps for ages 3-14. Offerings include PlaySpanish, Small Hands Big Art, Yes I Can Basketball, Discovery Summer, Liz Holly & the Jolly Lollies music, and GameReady Basketball.

For full class schedules, visit [covenantpresby.org/connect/recreation-ministry](http://covenantpresby.org/connect/recreation-ministry). Contact [James.huffman@covenantpresby.org](mailto:James.huffman@covenantpresby.org) to get connected.



## Coming in May A retreat for widows

A one-day retreat at Covenant on Sunday, May 7 will bring together widows of all life stages to listen, reflect and grow. Our facilitator is Donna Marie Todd (left), who designed the program after becoming a widow in 2011.

**Get connected:** Contact Susan Ferone, coordinator of care teams/support groups, at [Susan.ferone@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Susan.ferone@covenantpresby.org).

# TLC Upcoming Events

*Travel, Learn, Connect is an active group of adults who enjoy learning and travel (and good food). RSVP: [Mary.mattiacci@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Mary.mattiacci@covenantpresby.org)*

## A conversation with Suzi Rosen Don't fall off your balance



Suzi will share simple chair exercises to promote core strength and balance. Our goal is to promote health and reduce the risk of falls. *Wednesday, April 12. Snacks at 10:30 a.m. with program at 11 in Ed Wing Room 201*

## Road trip to Hillsborough Stained glass windows and tour

Join us for a road trip to Hillsborough, NC for an early lunch at Saratoga Grill and a visit to the stained glass windows at St. Matthews Episcopal Church. We'll also tour Ayr Mount, a federal style plantation house. *Wednesday, April 19. We'll leave Covenant on buses at 8:30 a.m. and return around 6 p.m. Check for \$12 reserves your spot. Due April 12 to Mary Mattiacci.*

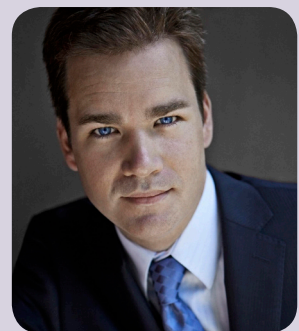
# Music Notebook

## Peek Memorial Concert and Masterclass

Join Covenant for our Annual Peek Memorial Concert and Masterclass featuring Ken Cowan, considered one of North America's finest concert organists.

Ken will play a concert in the Sanctuary on Friday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. followed by a reception at 8:30 p.m. On Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to noon, students from Carolinas colleges will play for Ken in a masterclass, also open to the public.

Attendees will learn how difficult it is to manage playing five keyboards while mesmerizing with the feet.





# First Sunday Talk

**Sunday, April 2 at 9:30 a.m.: Suzanne Henderson in FH207**

Dr. Suzanne Henderson is a professor of religion at Queens University and Director of the Center for Ethics and Religion.

She is also co-author of a forthcoming book, "Reflections on The Cross in Contexts: Suffering and Redemption in Palestine."

We'll explore Jesus' death on a cross against the backdrop of Roman-occupied Palestine. We'll consider the New Testament's claim that, rather than a tragedy, Jesus' death brought salvation to the world. Finally, we'll consider what it means to follow in the "way of the cross" in our own place and time.



## Covenant Kids Education



Wednesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. Details: [Kathleen.grabert@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Kathleen.grabert@covenantpresby.org)

**Get connected:** Contact Anne Lowrance, director of children's ministry, at Anne. [lowrance@covenantpresby.org](mailto:lowrance@covenantpresby.org) or reach Anne at 704-804-7593.

### Register for Vacation Bible School

VBS is Aug. 7-11 from 9 a.m. to noon. Get ready for an adventure with Noah's Ark for ages 4 to rising fifth graders. We hope to raise \$5,000 to purchase a gift ark for Heifer International.

### First Friday - Preschool Play Date

April 7, 12:30 to 1:30 in the Gym. Preschoolers and parents are invited to play and visit. All are welcome.

### Strawberry Saturday at Wise Acre Farms

Saturday, April 29 at 10 a.m. in Indian Land, SC. Families with young children are invited for strawberry picking and fun. We've reserved a party shelter from 10 a.m. to noon. The farm has hayrides, a barrel train and playgrounds.

### Summer Fun Days

Covenant Preschool hosts camp sessions for preschoolers up to rising Kindergartners and currently enrolled toddlers. Dates are June 5-9, 19-23 and July 10-14. Registration is March 6-10.

Join us for play with music, art, My Gym and outdoor activities each day from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact [kathleen.grabert@covenantpresby.org](mailto:kathleen.grabert@covenantpresby.org).

## Sunday Mornings

### Early Childhood First Floor, EW

Child Care 8:30 a.m.- noon  
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. - noon 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. - noon Elementary kids attend worship

### Youth (Grades 6-12)

#### Third Floor, EW, 9:30 a.m.

Middle School Youth EW301/303  
High School Youth 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.

#### Millennials FH105

A class for young adults and young parents! We'll spend the spring exploring spiritual practices

#### 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 50's-70's enjoy discussing a wide variety of topics.

#### The Fellowship Class FH203

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



# Middle School Youth

Reach Director Perrin Tribble at [perrin.tribble@covenantpresby.org](mailto:perrin.tribble@covenantpresby.org) or call 704-804-7569.

## Weekly Schedule of Activities

### Sundays

Sunday School

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

6th and 7th EW318

8th/Confirmation (Quest) – EW301

### Sunday Evening Fellowship

Bells – 4 to 4:45 p.m. Choir – 4:45 to 5:30 p.m.

Dinner & Fellowship – 5:30 to 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall

### Wednesdays – Open Table Dinner at Covenant

Middle School Film + Theology

6 to 7 p.m. EW318

Join us for popular movies with Christian themes.

### Week-by-Week Calendar

- Sunday, April 2 – BASE (6/7)AM Sunday School, Quest (8th) Worship at CN Jenkins, PM Sunday evening Fellowship, Evening Music Rehearsals
- Wednesday, April 5 – Open Table, Film + Theology
- Sunday, April 9 – AM Sunday School, PM Sunday Evening Fellowship
- Saturday, April 15 – Assist with Children's Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunday, April 16 – AM Sunday School, NO PM Sunday

evening fellowship

- Sunday, April 23 – YOUTH SUNDAY, NO PM Sunday evening fellowship
- Sunday, April 30 – AM Sunday School, PM Sunday Evening Fellowship, Evening Music Rehearsals

### Sunday, April 2

8 a.m. to noon: Quest class and mentors will worship off-campus at CN Jenkins Presbyterian Church.

### Saturday, April 15

9:30 to 11:15 a.m.: Middle school youth are invited to volunteer with the Children's Easter Egg Hunt.

### Sunday, April 23

Youth Sunday: Youth will lead all four services. Mandatory rehearsal is Saturday, April 22 from 1:30 to 4:15 p.m.

### A call for chaperones

Adult volunteers are needed as chaperones. Please let Perrin know your availability at [Perrin.tribble@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Perrin.tribble@covenantpresby.org)

### Save the Date

Confirmation Sunday: Sunday, May 21

# High School Youth

Reach Perrin Tribble at [perrin.tribble@covenantpresby.org](mailto:perrin.tribble@covenantpresby.org) or call 704-804-7569.

### High school youth Sunday School

- Engaging, interactive discussions to live into God's word.
- Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Education Wing 307

### Sunday evening fellowship

- Bells – 4 to 4:45 p.m. Choir – 4:45 to 5:30 p.m.
- Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. with breakout sessions 6 to 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and EW 307

### Film + Theology

- We'll watch movies and try to understand the Christian themes
- Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Ed Wing Theater

### Week-by-Week Calendar

- Sunday, April 2 – AM Sunday School, PM Sunday evening Fellowship, Evening Music Rehearsals
- Wednesday, April 5 – Open Table, Film + Theology
- Sunday, April 9 – AM Sunday School, PM Sunday Evening Fellowship

- Sunday, April 16 – AM Sunday School, NO PM Sunday evening fellowship

- Sunday, April 23 – YOUTH SUNDAY, NO PM Sunday evening fellowship

- Sunday, April 30 – AM Sunday School, PM Sunday Evening Fellowship, Evening Music Rehearsals

### Save the Dates

Youth Sunday: Sunday, April 23 (Rehearsal April 22)

Confirmation Sunday: Sunday, May 21

Senior Recognition Sunday: June 4

### 2017 Retreats/Mission Trips

June 25–July 2—9th, 10th, 11th grades to Chicago

July 9–16—Montreat Youth Conference Retreat



## Welcome New Members



Mike Anderson (with wife and Covenant member Ashlee Anderson)



Rye and Tracy Barcott with Sage and Charlotte



Jack Hunter

### 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 12 p.m.



The Wilson sisters (Marisa and Cristina)



Brooke and Steven Sztas

## Congregational Notes

*Do you have announcements? Let Covenant know. Contact [Lucy.crain@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Lucy.crain@covenantpresby.org).*

### Births

Congratulations to Kara and Keith Hernandez (and big sister Amelia) on the birth of their son, Liam Noé Hernandez, on Feb. 26; and to Julianna and Taylor French (and big sister Huntley) on the birth of their daughter, Margaret Elizabeth French, on Feb. 27.

### Baptisms

Congratulations to two families who presented children for baptism at the 11 a.m. Sanctuary service on Feb. 26:

Carrie and Chris Allen presented their daughter, Madison Elizabeth Allen; and Katie and Lee Cornwell presented their daughter, Molly Brooke Bracket Cornwell.

Congratulations also to two families who presented children for baptism at the 11 a.m. Sanctuary service on March 12:

Alison and Adam Mills presented their daughter, Presley June Mills; and Sarah and Brent Young presented their son, Smith Whitney Young.

### Wedding

Congratulations to Hillary Jones and John Ash, who celebrated marriage on March 18.

### In Memoriam

Louise Cress Grubbs, Elder Emerita  
December 13, 1919 – February 26, 2017

Michael Steven Hewat  
August 25, 1950 – February 27, 2017

Marjorie (Margie) L. Arnold  
April 28, 1926 – March 14, 2017

Joseph E. Franzle  
March 20, 2017

Susan B. Pearce  
Elder  
August 16, 1938 – March 23, 2017

### Deaths in the Church

The congregation extends its sincere sympathy and love to Susan and Alan Hickok on the death of her mother, and to Emily and Melissa Hickok on the death of their grandmother, Louise Cress Grubbs; and to Carolyn Hewat on the death of her husband, and to Andrew, Robert and Elizabeth Hewat on the death of their father, Michael Steven Hewat; and to

The families and friends of Margie Arnold and Joseph Franzle; and to

Libby and Robert Kotseos on the death of her mother, Dorothy Rucker of Aiken, SC; and to Sheila and Alec Neisler on the death of her brother, and to Julie Neisler on the death of her uncle, Robert Wade Hooper of Crystal Beach, Fla.;

and rejoices with them in the assurance of the resurrection.

## Spotlight: Stephen Ministry

### Part of the culture of care at Covenant



In January 1995, a group from Covenant spent two weeks in Orlando, Fla., with Christians from across the country to learn about Stephen Ministry.

More than 20 years later, the lessons they brought home are still guiding the way Covenant responds to the needs of the congregation.

The church 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 four years ago.

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

As Susan Hickok, part of the original group, explains: "It puts a face on the church for people."



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## Covenant Contacts

Main Office ..... 704-333-9071  
News/Announcements ..... 704-804-7565  
Recreation Wing ..... 704-334-7491  
Preschool ..... 704-333-8658

**Covenant Email Addresses**  
[firstname.lastname@covenantpresby.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@covenantpresby.org)

**Covenant Web Site**  
[www.covenantpresby.org](http://www.covenantpresby.org)

**Social Media**  
[@covenantpresby](https://www.instagram.com/covenantpresby) [#covenantpresby](https://www.facebook.com/covenantpresby)

SUN, APRIL 30

# FOOD TRUCKS

AND LIVE MUSIC

5-7 P.M.

## CORNHOLE & LAWN GAMES

ON THE CIRCLE

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