



MEET JESSICA PATCHETT

Temporary Associate Minister for Christian Education

You'll probably run into Jessica Patchett on campus in the new year, but you might also find her in the 24/7 Prayer Room in NoDa, or on a hike in the woods.

Jessica joins Covenant as temporary associate minister for education and will guide adult, youth, and children's education ministries in the coming year. It's a role she's well suited for.

Before coming to Covenant, she served as temporary supply pastor to Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Concord, and also as child and family outreach coordinator at First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

While in seminary, she served as an intern at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, taking roles such as leading in worship, facilitating small groups for young adults and youth, and teaching adults.

"I'm really excited to be in a community of faith that seems alive and energized," she said, "and to work with people who are hungry to encounter God in a new way, people who have eyes open, looking for God around them."

A graduate of Elon University and Princeton Theological Seminary, she has worked to connect children and adults to

God's work and to guide them in closer fellowship with God and with one another.

Her previous work also has incorporated her love for the outdoors. For the past three years, she has served on the joint outdoor ministries committee of the Salem, Charlotte and Western Carolina presbyteries.



"I love to be outdoors, walking and hiking and seeing God's creation," she said, "That and time in centering prayer or in the practice of yoga lets me let go and remember who God is. It's a great grounding for the rest of work and life."

Whether indoors or out, in small groups or large, Jessica aims to be part of a fellowship of faith, drawing people toward one another and to God.

"My hope is that people gathering together, sharing honestly about joys and concerns and their relationships with God, will be opportunities through which we will grow together and draw families into the community of faith at Covenant."

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Office Ed Wing 215

IN THIS ISSUE

New chapel organ
page 2

Mission auction
page 3

2011 By the numbers
page 7

Congregational Meeting

January 22, 12:00 noon, sanctuary

A meeting of the Covenant congregation and corporation is called for Sunday, January 22, immediately following the 11:00 worship service, for the purposes of receiving as information the budget for 2011 as adopted by the Session, and approval for any changes to the terms of call for ordained staff. The congregation also will elect a Pastor Nominating Committee for the associate pastor for Christian education.

January, 2012
Vol. XXIV
No. 1

Dear Friends:

The New Year brings new possibilities, and I'm pleased to call some exciting initiatives to your attention. It's a particular pleasure to welcome Jessica Patchett to our pastoral staff and I know you will take delight in welcoming her to Covenant. Jessica will focus her attention on adult education and worship, but she will also engage in hospital visitation, pastoral care, weddings, baptisms, and all the other privileges of ministry. I hope you will take the time to get to know her, to welcome her, and support her in her work among us. I'm confident Jessica brings a lot to our congregation, and I look forward to the way God puts her skills to work among us.

The New Year also brings renewed focus on spiritual growth and care, and I encourage you to consider the expanded opportunities on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings/evenings. New classes, support groups, and small groups are

all underway, and it's a great time to strengthen our connection with one another and with God. Please prayerfully consider how you might grow by participating with others on the spiritual journey and take the next step. Now is the time.

Finally, let me solicit your prayers for our newly constituted Session. You will remember your contributions to our "Dream Board" in November -- the Session will consider their themes, inspiration, and direction, and ask God what next steps might lead Covenant to our highest and best mission in this world. It's exciting to consider how God might build on our considerable history while continuing to do a 'new thing' in our midst.

I continue to be profoundly grateful for the life and mission of this congregation and trust God, through you, will continue to expand and enliven our role in this world.

Warmly,

Bob Henderson

NEW CHAPEL ORGAN NEARS COMPLETION



Susan and Steve Talley recently paid a visit to the A.E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company in Lithonia, Georgia, where the new organ for Covenant's Morrison Chapel is now under construction. The organ will be delivered in early February; approximately another month of installation will be required before it is ready for use.

READ, ROAR AND SOAR



Highland Academy third graders and their teacher display some of the books they've received through the Read, Roar and Soar program sponsored by Covenant Church.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Tuesday, January 24

7:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Guest speaker: Eric Davis, current member and immediate past chair of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education. Cost: \$5; [reservations](#) needed by Monday, January 23.

TLC

(Travel Learn Connect)

Wednesday, January 25

12:00 noon, EW 212

Lunch and a movie. Share lunch and fellowship, then see the recent hit movie *The Help*. Cost is \$2 per person. No reservation needed.

COVENANT CONNECTION

Weekly Wednesday night dinner and programming for all ages has resumed. Adult programming choices in January include the following

- *Finding Simplicity through Organization.* Anne Steppe leads this series guiding people toward the "power of less" by helping cast a vision of order, freeing space from clutter and paper (through January 25)
- *Adult Bible Study.* Education ministry staff lead a study of the Lectionary readings in Epiphany. (through February 15) FH 205
- *Young Adults.* Inger Manchester leads a study of Christian denominations. FH 201.
- *Speaking of Faith* meets in the library. The group discusses Krista Tippett's book each week.
- *Pathfinders:* Single or married adults, mostly in their 30s and 40s, enjoy mission trips, hiking or biking, movies and Bible and book studies (FH, lower level)

New:

Grief and Loss Support Group
Wednesdays through February 15
6:30 pm; church parlor

One of life's greatest challenges is letting go. Whether it is the death of a family member or friend, a painful transition, or significant changes to one's health, letting go is hard. To support those who are grieving a loss or significant change we are offering a grief support group to provide encouraging presence and to affirm God's care and love for those who are hurting. Led by Rev. David Lytle, a chaplain at Presbyterian Hospital for the past fifteen years, the focus will be on experiencing God's healing love and power in the presence of painful loss.

WHAT KIND OF WORLD DO YOU WANT?

Sometimes we hear people say things or we read things that we remember. They become mantras ... sort of like a "home base" to which we return in order to recalibrate when we get off track. One of my mantras was written by Stephen Covey,



author of [Seven Habits of Highly Effective People](#). He writes that we should BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND. Picture your life. Our world. If you were to begin with the end in mind, what would you do? What steps would you take? What would your masterpiece look like?

I get a glimpse of what I would like my masterpiece to look like each time I participate in a mission trip. A world where bridges are built, relationships are nurtured, chances are taken, and God's love has no boundaries. None. Homes are repaired in Appalachia so that families are able to stay together and live with dignity. Children and their families in the Yucatan learn how to take care of their bodies by learning how to garden and prepare healthy foods. Classrooms are built at the Renguti School so that children are able to continue their education and have a better chance of overcoming the devastation of poverty in Kenya. Children attending St. Phillip's

School in the Mathare slum continue their education as well, and are also able to avoid hunger because of the feeding program at the school.

Covenant will provide you with a wonderful opportunity to begin building your masterpiece by donating to and attending the MISSION AUCTION on Sunday, February 26.

Over the past several years, Richard and Barbara Balentine have been building their masterpiece. They both love to cook and decided to "donate" a gourmet dinner for 12, which they will prepare and serve in their home. Each year their "Greek Feast" attracts higher and higher bids as word about this delicious opportunity has spread throughout the church.

The Balentines, like many others, have responded to the call for donations. Our success depends on donations of services (pet sitting, house sitting, yard work, dinners), tangible items (furniture, artwork, golf clubs), restaurant certificates, and vacation homes.

As Covenant mission teams are forming and planning, you have a chance to help. Think about your life, your talents, our world. Consider making a donation to the Mission Auction. And please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 26.

by LeAnne Stipp

Mission Auction



Sunday, February 26

The Basics

- Meal cost: \$6 (children under 6 free)
- [Reservations needed](#) for meals and/or child care
- Donated items may be brought to the Rec. Wing lobby, Carla Leaf's office (SB 149), or the area under the stage in Fellowship Hall (preferred choice)
- Questions? Contact Carla Leaf (704-804-7578, carla.leaf@covenantpresby.org) or LeAnne Stipp (704-904-4102, lmstipp@gmail.com)

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY MORNINGS

- **The Academy: Sunday mornings at 9:30**

How the Bible Came to Be

Through January 29

Taught by Merwyn Johnson

Visiting Professor of Theology

Union Presbyterian Seminary at Charlotte

Fellowship Hall 205

The fascinating story of the Bible, from the origins of particular books and traditions to their acceptance as Scripture. The class will also discuss how the books were written, edited, and collected; why particular books were included or excluded, and how the Bible initiates us into covenant with God.

- *God Talk: A Primer for Presbyterians*

February 5

Fellowship Hall 203

Taught by Sarah Kromer

Discuss the core concepts of the Presbyterian tradition and common points of confusion.

• Electives

Library Drop-In (9:30 am): For those looking for coffee and conversation around faith issues and current events shaped by Biblical insights (FH 103).

Around the Table (10:45 am): Elementary age children, youth, and adults join members of the Education Ministry each Sunday morning, Fellowship Hall 105, to engage in conversation about the morning's scripture and sermon theme.

• Ages and Stages: Year-round adult church school classes

PEOPLE (ages 50s-60s): Look at grace through the works of Frederick Buechner, Philip Yancey, Anne Lamott, and others (FH 201)

Fellowship (ages 60+): Rev. Will Terry is guest teacher in January. On February 5 & 12, Paul Pedigo talks about Covenant's stained glass windows; FH 107.

Foundations Class for young couples (20s & 30s). Led by Andrea and Troy King, FH lower level. Leaders: January 22: Lucy Bush Carter; January 29: Mary Nell McPherson

• **New: Sunday evening support group**

For those experiencing separation and/or divorce

January 22 - February 19

5:00-6:00 pm, church parlor

Jesus compared his relationship to the church to that of a bride and bridegroom, affirming the covenant of marriage. When the bonds of marriage are breached or broken, the consequences can be devastating and challenging to both life and faith.

Rev. David Lytle, an ordained Presbyterian minister serving as chaplain at Presbyterian Hospital, leads this group to support those who are separated or divorced.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Bi-weekly

January 22 through February 19

For Everyone

A Faith of Your Own: Using the book by the same name, learn to articulate beliefs about God, the Trinity, church, and more. Men and women, 6:00 – 7:00 pm, EW 212.

For Engaged Couples

10 Great Dates Before You Say "I Do" combines the best of marriage preparation research with a fun, easy to follow format. 4:00 – 5:00 pm, EW 212. Contact Inger Manchester, young adult ministries director, to express your interest (704-804-7573; inger.manchester@covenantpresby.org).

For Parents

The Price of Privilege: Parents consider the effects of parental pressure and affluence on a generation of children. To purchase the book (\$10) and participate in every-other-Sunday evening discussions, contact Michelle Williamson (michelle.williamson@covenantpresby.org; 704-804-7560). 6:00 – 7:00 pm, EW 207.

20 Something; 20 Everything

A small group for young women who may wonder why the "best years of my life" don't always seem so, and who wrestle with choices of the past and future. 7:00 – 8:00 pm, EW 212.

Class listings continue
at right

Treasurer's Report

As of December 31, 2011

Pledge receipts

Budgeted: \$2,465,075

Actual: \$2,438,436

-1.1% to budget

SUNDAY EVENINGS

New: For Couples
The Five Love Languages
 5:00-6:00 pm; EW 212

Leaders:

Mary Sue and Chris Moore

In 34 years of marriage, Mary Sue and Chris Moore have learned much about communication.

Like many couples, they spent their early days in trial-and-error patterns, figuring out how to communicate their love for each other. Years later, in a parenting class, they and their two elementary-age children took a quick "love language" quiz based on the ideas in Gary Chapman's book, [The Five Love Languages](#). The book explores five ways that we give and receive love:

- acts of service
- words of affirmation
- quality time
- gifts
- physical touch

These lessons are helpful for couples and families, and also in friendships and working relationships. "Knowing what reaches others has helped me, not only in our marriage, but with our kids, my co-workers, and other family members. It's powerful stuff," says Mary Sue.

Join Mary Sue and Chris on Sundays (with your partner) to learn how to say and how to hear "I love you" from others in your life.



photo by Kathy Weyler Pickard

IN THE REC. WING

Time for Teens: Teen Yoga
 Saturdays, 3:00-4:15 pm; RW 3A; \$10/class

Covenant's Hannah Blanton has enjoyed the physical and spiritual benefits of yoga since her recovery from Guillain-Barré Syndrome several years ago. A certified pediatric nurse, Hannah found the practice helped her with balance, focus and spiritual well being.

She became certified as an instructor and wants to bring the physical and spiritual benefits of the practice to teens.

"I plan on making it fun with great, current, and clean music," she said. "We'll begin each class with a scripture reading and intention

and incorporate yoga poses to complement our intentions.

"It will be challenging yet helpful with relaxation, body confidence, posture, balance, and incorporate deep stretching. So many of our



teens are constantly on the go and involved in a million different activities. This will provide an hour to focus on

themselves while learning valuable breathing skills, stretching, and techniques to help them quiet their minds when feeling stressed."

Teens are welcome to join the group each Saturday in the Recreation Wing.

A SABBATH FOR GOD'S CREATION

And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. Genesis 2:2-3 (NRSV)

A sabbath is a day of rest. God took one, and hallowed the seventh day, so that we may honor it too by resting. According to author and Christian environmentalist Dr. Matthew Sleeth, to rest you must "figure out what work is for you and don't do it." (<http://www.qideas.org/video/observing-the-sabbath.aspx>) Taking a sabbath is a way to renew our spirit and energy, allowing us to work again with better focus and intention.

However, the benefits of this rest go beyond our own spiritual growth. When we take a sabbath we allow the

earth to rest. For example, not turning on a computer for a day saves energy. Refraining from doing errands one day means less gasoline used and less waste (such as packaging, bags, etc.)

What does sabbath mean for you and your family? Even a simple gesture such as one light bulb staying off can be a powerful reminder to each family member to pause.

The length of time or specific day is not necessarily important, as long as sometime during the week we rest and acknowledge all of the work that God has done for all of creation.



2012 ELDER ASSIGNMENTS

Clerk of Session: Jerry Jernigan
 Assistant Clerk: Kay Tawney
 Treasurer: Helen Richards
 Assistant Treasurer: Amy Hunter
 Session Agenda Committee
 Chair: Jerry Jernigan

Planning & Evaluation Board
 Chair: Laura Belcher
 Vice-Chair: John McAlister

Personnel Committee
 Chair: Tom Barnhardt
 Vice-Chair: Wilson Cooper

Finance Committee
 Chair: Amy Hunter
 Vice-Chair: Ali Summerville

Committee on Assignments 2013
 Chair: Kay Tawney

• **Ministry of Administration** •
 Chair: Kerr Collins
 Vice-Chair: Phil Koonce
Budget Advisory Board
 Chair: Kerr Collins
Property
 Chair: Jeff McEwen
Stewardship
 Co-Chairs: Cecelia and Mike Ramsey

• **Ministry of Congregational
 Care and Fellowship** •
 Chair: Katherine Lawson
 Vice Chair: Janet Delery

**Congregational Care
 Committee Chairs**
Bereavement: Elna Falls
Covenant Visitors: Dandy Peterson
Covenant Crew: Norva Pickett
Health & Wellness
 Lynn Coleman, Barbara Forester
Prime Timers/90+ Club: Peggy Currie
 TLC: Pat Viser
Stephen Ministry: Irene Carroll

Fellowship Committee Chairs
Christmas Crafts: Susan Ferone
Covenant Connection
 (concluding spring 2012)
 Susie Jernigan, Nancy Brachey

• **Ministry of Engagement** •
 Chair: Barbara Ann Zizzi
 Vice Chair: Robin Garcia
Membership: Katherine Ball

• **Ministry of Education** •
 Chair: Caroline Vaughn
 Vice Chair: Anne White
Committee Chairs
Adult Ed: Bruce Bacon
High School
 Mike Ferone (until May)
 Lee Bush Perry (beginning May)
Elementary Education
 (through May)
 Leah Bailey and Troy McCormick
Early Childhood
 Chair: Emily Blair
Preschool Advisory Board: Bob Gindra
Young Adults: Katie Spearman

• **Ministry of Mission and Outreach** •
 Chair: LeAnne Stipp; Vice Chair: Sarah Crowder
Committee Chairs
Advocacy Design: Ariel McBryde (Middle East); Nik Van Nort (community)
Global Missions: Amy L. Cathey
Grants: Kathryn Van Nort

• **Ministry of Worship** •
 Chair: Kelli McAlister
 Vice Chair: Richard Balentine
Committee Chairs
Baptism: Happy Rogers
Children's Celebration of the Word
 Michelle Richards
Communion: Nora Kuester
Extended Communion: Mary Utting
Music: Cathy Kendrick
Wednesday Service: Mary Ann Tilley
Worship Assistance: Kelly Vecchio
Weddings: Marilyn Mickle
Youth in Worship: Anne White
Local Outreach: Amy Capitano
College Student Council: Mark McAlister

2012 SESSION

Class of 2012
 Bruce Bacon Diane Powell
 Kerr Collins Emily Reinicker
 Peggy Currie Helen Richards
 Bob Gindra Louise Rogers
 Phil Koonce Ann Sanders
 Nora Kuester Kim Spivey
 Katherine Lawson Nik Van Nort
 Mary Nell
 McPherson Kristi Walters
 Paul Pedigo LeeAnne Whitley
 Joe Pool Barbara Ann Zizzi

Class of 2013
 Doug Bacon Jerry Jernigan
 Richard Balentine LeAnne Stipp
 Tom Barnhardt Ali Summerville
 Laura Belcher Kay Tawney
 Elna Falls Caroline Vaughn

Class of 2014
 Wilson Cooper Amy Hunter
 Sarah Crowder Cathy Kendrick
 Janet Delery John McAlister
 Robin Garcia Terry Wayne
 Terry Horne Anne White

Youth Elders
 Will Henderson McLean Robinson

2011: BY THE NUMBERS

Division of Mission

17 college students served as interns through the Stapleton/Davidson internship, People In Mission internship, Education Ministry internship, and Covenant/Queens Scholars program
 22 grants given to local non-profit agencies
 34 children from Highland Academy sent to summer camp
 50 children served by the summer Freedom School at Highland
 56 adults and college students participated in mission trips
 75 adults served as Secret Saints
 180+ necklaces made to benefit babies at New Life Homes in Kenya
 187 children in Renguti were served with new bookbags and a new classroom
 231 men, women, and children served by Covenant through Room In the Inn
 360 books given to 3rd graders at Highland Academy (Read, Roar, Soar program)
 450 pillowcase dresses delivered to New Life Homes and Renguti School in Kenya
 573 pounds of peanut butter collected for Loaves & Fishes
 750+ participants in Covenant Impacts Charlotte community projects
 864 muffins served by the Crisis Assistance Muffin Ministry
 1,484 meals served at the North Tryon Street Men's Shelter
 More than 1,700 sandwiches made for St. Peter's soup kitchen at Urban Ministry
 More than 2,886 pounds of food donated to Loaves & Fishes
 More than \$21,000 raised through the Alternative Gift Market to benefit local and international agencies

Congregational Life

1,884 meals served at Covenant Connection since September 7

Parish Nurse

3 blood drives, yielding 111 pints of blood donated
 230 flu shots given
 More than 2,100 snack bags packed for a Child's Place

Preschool and Early Childhood

65 children attended Summer Fun Days
 \$2,000+ - profit from spring consignment sale, divided between scholarships for Preschool families, A Child's Place, and Preschool staff development
 Approximately \$2,600 net proceeds from the sale of 280 door wreaths and 40 table wreaths

Recreation Wing

300 youth registered for league basketball
 432 people are Rec Wing members

Financial

\$648 collected through the Souper Bowl of Caring offering; donated to the Urban Ministries Soup Kitchen
 \$4,130 - One Great Hour of Sharing (Easter) offering
 \$7,427 collected at the Lessons & Carols services in support of Crisis Assistance Ministry

COMING

IN FEBRUARY

- [Preschool Registration](#)

For the 2012-2013 school year
 February 1 - 10

- **Let's Dance**

Line dancing and the shag in Fellowship Hall
 Saturday, February 4
 7:00-9:00 pm

All ages welcome; light refreshments
 No cost, but RSVP to [Judy White](#) (704-804-7561) or [James Huffman](#) (704-804-7566)

- **Amen & Then**

Sunday, February 5

- **Youth Sunday**

February 5
 Includes [Souper Bowl](#) offering

- **Just For Men**

Monday, February 6
 Dinner at 5:30
 Program on men's health, presented by Dr. Russ Greenfield of Greenfield Integrative Healthcare, begins at 6:15. Cost: \$6; RSVP to Judy White by Monday, January 30 (704-804-7561; judy.white@covenantpresby.org)

- **BloodMobile**

Sunday, February 19
 Fellowship Hall; 8:00 am - 12:15 pm
 Appointments: Contact Nora Kuester 704-365-1172
thekuesters@bellsouth.net
 Walk-ins welcome; bring photo ID

- **Ash Wednesday**

February 22
 12:00 N, in the chapel: Healing & Wholeness service with imposition of ashes
 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary: Worship service with imposition of ashes



Covenant Staff and
direct dial phone numbers
704-804-****

Libby Bierbaum 7570
Steve Carriker 7592
Cindy Friday 704-333-9071
Kathleen Grabert 7568
Sally Graves 7564
Daniel Heath 7584
Bob Henderson 704-333-9071
Martha Isaacs 7577
Bill Keith 7575
Neeley Lane 7563
Carla Leaf 7578
Anne Lowrance 7593
Inger Manchester 7573
Henry Owen 7574
Jessica Patchett 7572
Virginia Rumbley 7576
Courtney St. Onge..... 7565
Stephen Talley 7581
Susan Talley 7582
Claire Tomkinson 7569
Debbie Tyson 704-333-9071
Kelly Vass 7590
Joan Watson 7580
Judy White, RN..... 7561
Michelle Williamson 7560
All numbers are (704)
Front desk 333-9071
Preschool 333-8658
Recreation Center 334-7491
Fax Numbers
Main office 333-0386
Education Wing 334-7496
firstname.lastname@
covenantpresby.org



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Congregational Notes

The congregation expresses its sincere sympathy and love to Grace Johnson and her family on the death of her father, Glenn Johnson of Wilkesboro, North Carolina on December 12; and to Suzanne and Shade Mecum and their family on the death of her mother, Florence Chapman of Charlotte, on December 15; and to Ken and Pat Taft and their family on the death of his father, William Carlisle (Bill) Taft, on December 15; and to Mike and Mary Lou Daly on the death of his mother, Judy Daly, on December 19; and to Linda Barnett and her family on the death of her brother, Earl Bert (EB) Lycan, of Fort Gay, West Virginia on January 6; and to Martha and Bert Osterhout and their family on the death of her brother, Robert Junior Cook of Mocksville, North Carolina on January 9; and rejoices with them in the assurance of the resurrection.

In Memoriam

Eleanor Macomber (Ellie) Sinnicks <i>Elder Emerita</i> December 10, 2011	William Carlisle (Bill) Taft <i>Elder Emeritus</i> December 15, 2011
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Celebrations

Births

Haylee Annaliese Farmer, daughter of Erin and Brad Farmer, on December 28
William Makoto Powell, son of Diane and Ben Powell, on December 29

90+ Club Birthday

Miss Margaret Allison, 5100 Sharon Road, #152-W, Charlotte 28210-4799
January 21

COVENANT NEWS

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