

COVENANT *News*

A monthly publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church

Charlotte, North Carolina



WAYS TO ENGAGE IN 2017

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Special message from Bob



Dear Friends:

I remain deeply grateful for your strong commitment to the life and mission of Covenant. From the dynamic Christmas music to the generous Christmas Eve offering and everything in between, signs of life abound across our congregation. It's a joy to behold.

During the last 12 months, I've invited you to watch this space for updates about long-range plans for our congregation, including a potential capital campaign. After holding 22 listening sessions and hearing from nearly 500 people in the most recent survey, the way forward is becoming clearer. Let me outline it for you here:

- 1). The congregation is largely favorably disposed (81 percent stating either 'very favorable' or 'favorable') toward the proposed projects, with another 10 to 15 percent saying they would need more information before stating an opinion. A small minority (less than 5 percent) were opposed to our proposed endeavors;
- 2). We clearly have some refining and communicating to do around several of the proposals. This is natural, as we did not want to get too far ahead before soliciting the congregation's input. The Session will read every comment and consider each one carefully in order to help us refine;
- 3). There is an extremely strong impulse toward mission and a relatively strong impulse to enhance/update the campus. Further clarification will be needed to highlight how *these two endeavors can and will need to work together*;
- 4). Though we did not propose updating the Fellowship Hall, there is substantial interest in doing so;
- 5). Finally, there seems to be divergent impressions about the priorities of past capital campaigns. Upon investigation, we discovered that previous campaigns did not submit to simple formulas.

In fact, the Elders (as Elders should) decided to address the needs of the time as best they could. At right is a brief summary of the campaigns as proposed to the congregation at the time.

Survey gives us a solid foundation for moving ahead wisely.

Some other things from our consultant's report are worthy of note as well:

- 1). Nearly all responses were carefully considered, constructive and thoughtful. For that, I'm most grateful;
- 2). We have now heard from a large swath of the congregation and a very large percentage of active members. This provides a solid foundation for moving ahead wisely;
- 3). Any path we choose will require both financial sacrifice and flexibility when it comes to particular preference and priority. As you might imagine, with more than 2,000 members, we have quite a variety of opinion regarding priorities! We will have to maintain some flexibility;
- 4). Our consultant, John Hewitt, was unabashedly positive about the health and vitality of our congregation. He vigorously complimented the membership and suggested we give thanks for each other and the extraordinary state of blessing we enjoy. I agree whole-heartedly.

The Session will spend time at our January retreat doing the hard work of clarifying and prioritizing. When we have cogent information that can be communicated clearly, we will do so, though it may take a month or two to get there.

In the meantime, I remain grateful for your strong participation and support. I look to taking this year's journey with you and know it will be a good one.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Henderson, senior minister

	Original Dollars Campaign	2016 Dollars Campaign
1949 - Cost/Commitments		
FH & Education Building	\$885,235	\$8,684,155
Sanctuary	\$1,501,630	\$14,730,990
Dilworth Property	\$187,737	\$1,841,700
Landscaping/Paving	\$21,180	\$207,776
Insurance, taxes, expenses	\$68,393	\$670,935
Stained Glass Windows	\$40,000	\$392,400
Pledge Shrinkage	\$61,861	\$606,856
Total	\$2,766,036	\$27,134,813
1952 - More Stately Mansions		
Complete Sanctuary & Chapel	\$840,000	\$7,501,200
1961 - Covenant for Christ "Mission to All the World - An Answer to Communism"		
Hospital in Korea, Africa Mission	\$112,500	\$893,250
Future Pres. Church in Charlotte	\$20,000	\$158,800
Rebuild Chapel Hill PC	\$13,000	\$103,220
St. Andrews College	\$112,500	\$893,250
Retire Covenant Debt	\$142,000	\$1,127,480
Total	\$400,000	\$3,176,000
1966 - Covenant for Christ - Partnership Campaign - no details.		
1976 - Covenant Cares - Our Congregation's Answer to Hunger, World Missions, Church Growth		
Hunger in Haiti	\$110,000	\$468,600
Missions - Asia, Africa, S. America	\$100,000	\$426,000
Church Growth	\$40,000	\$170,400
Total	\$250,000	\$1,065,428
1982/83 - The Heritage Pledge		
Immediate Maintenance Needs	\$200,000	\$504,000
Queens College Needs	\$100,000	\$252,000
Cornerstone Fund Establishment	\$1,000,000	\$2,520,000
Total	\$1,300,000	\$3,276,000
1988 - Covenant Cares Campaign		
Seversville Partners, Inc.	\$250,000	\$512,500
WL Hall Chair at St. Andrews	\$65,000	\$133,250
Foreign Missions	\$45,000	\$92,250
Total	\$360,000	\$738,000
1992 - Excel Campaign		
Recreation Wing	\$2,575,000	\$4,429,000
Benevolences	\$150,000	\$258,000
Campaign Expenses	\$250,000	\$430,000
Total	\$2,975,000	\$5,117,000
1998 - Jubilee Campaign		
Community Outreach and Mission	\$3,000,000	\$4,410,000
FH Expansion/Renovation	\$2,500,000	\$3,675,000
Financing & Campaign Expenses	\$500,000	\$735,000
Total	\$6,000,000	\$8,820,000
Total Campaigns - 1949 -1999	\$14,891,036	\$56,828,441

Healthy in 2017

Sign up for one-year fitness membership and get January free

Hoping to step up your physical fitness in the new year? The Rec Wing is here to help.

For full class schedules, visit covenantpresby.org/connect/recreation-ministry.

Total Body Training: Work out your entire body utilizing weights, bars, bands, balls, your body and the environment. First class free.

Hip-Hop Fitness: A great class to get your cardio workout, and have fun while doing it.

Functional Fitness for Adults 60+: Exercise under the guidance of a licensed physical therapist. First class free.

Boxing Fitness with Kika: Challenge yourself with a complete fitness class that incorporates boxing techniques, plyometrics and calisthenics.

Nurse's Note

Contact me at Mary.mattiacci@covenantpresby.org.



Dear Ones,

As we embark on a new year, many are trying to embrace more healthy lifestyle choices. I invite you to cheer on our church staff in a friendly competition to see who can make the most health conscious decisions in January.

James Huffman and I will divide the staff randomly into teams. Each staff person can earn a point for eating a meal that contains lean protein, vegetables and nothing fried. They can earn a point for 30 minutes of exercise, housework or yard work. They can earn a point for 30 minutes of spiritual growth or volunteer work.

We will monitor progress on bulletin boards in the Sanctuary Building and Education Wing. Check in on your church staff members and encourage them to help their team win! And while you're at it, make a few healthy decisions yourself.

Grace and peace,

Mary

Advice for reaching your goals in new year

Mary, James and Jen on resolutions and how to make them work

Communications Director Matt Garfield recently asked a trio of Covenant experts to share insights on New Year's resolutions. What are the most common misconceptions? What can people do to be more successful?

Here are nuggets of wisdom from Rec Wing Director James Huffman, Parish Nurse Mary Mattiacci and Pastoral Resident Jen Christianson.

Q. What sentiments do you hear from people at the start of a new year?

James: I call them 'the Resolutionists.' At every fitness center in America, there's always that big bounce. Usually halfway through February, the numbers go down.

Jen: A lot of what I hear is oriented toward things people don't like about themselves. The end of the year is a guilt-ridden period. And January becomes like the great reset button.

Q. What are the biggest misconceptions or mistakes that you see?



James: I always tell people, don't look at the scale. Judge yourself based on how you feel. Are you sleeping better? Are you more confident?

Another mistake is jumping in too hard. A lot of people will hit the ground sprinting.

"People will hit the ground sprinting. The next day, they can't get out of bed!"

The next day, they can't get out of bed because they're too sore.

Jen: A trap we fall into is making too many resolutions. Then January becomes a stressful time instead of a gift. I've made like 10 resolutions some years. By March, I'm disenchanted.

Mary: People think once they fail, it's all over. They need to get back up and start again. One of the phrases in AA is 'relapse is part of recovery.'



It's part of New Year's Resolutions as well. Just because you fall off the wagon in February doesn't mean you can't climb back on.

Q. What advice do you share this time of year?

James: Look at this as a holistic experience. It's not just working out. There is also spiritual and social well-being. That's why we do writing and art classes.

Don't be afraid to ask for help. We've all started somewhere.

Mary: Take baby steps. It's important to make resolutions that are realistic, and not self-defeating. It's better to say, "I'm only going to eat French fries once a week," rather than "I'm never going to eat French fries again."

Jen: This past year, I made all the standard resolutions – but I also decided to cook something different every month that I wouldn't normally make. I made banh mi with pork. I made my own veggie burgers.



Because so much of the work I do is spiritual and emotional, it gave me something physical to do that gave the other parts a rest.

Missions Claim your spot on 2017 Trips

Serve with teams in Reynosa, Kenya and Avery County

The missions team will host info sessions on Sunday, January 8 at 10:30 a.m. and noon. For questions, contact Carla.leaf@covenantpresby.org or call 704-804-7578. Look for application forms online at covenantpresby.org.

Reynosa, Mexico

Trip Leader: LeAnne Stipp Dates: March 26 – April 1
Cost: \$675 Application Deadline: Feb. 1
Group: 15 participants

We'll work on two homes; build raised garden beds in El Naranjito; teach nutrition and cooking; and sponsor a woodworking project involving tables and benches.

LeAnne says: My first mission trip was to Reynosa. I worked in a garden and served nutritious breakfasts to children at the medical clinic. But the week was really about building friendships and living in communion. It was about oneness in God, who so carefully choreographed a powerful and transformative experience.

Kenya, Africa

Trip Leaders: Tricia Smith and Nancy Greene
Dates: June 15 - 25 Cost: \$1,900
Application Deadline: Feb. 1

Group: 8 participants; first come with waiting list
Serve at Renguti School, a small, rural school outside Nairobi, to support teachers and work with children. Because of our Christmas Eve offering, we'll take the Renguti children on a field trip to experience life outside the village.

Nancy says: After a successful trip to the animal orphanage last year, we are thrilled to take another trip this year. Many of these children have never left their community. Our focus will continue to be on education and working with the teachers at Renguti to help expand their curriculum.



Covenant has a partnership with Renguti School to support children.

Avery County, North Carolina

Trip Leader: Kim Barnhardt Dates: Sept. 5 – 9 Cost: \$350
Application Deadline: April 1 Group: 20 participants

This trip has become an eye-opening experience as we discover the needs of people living in our own state.

Kim says: It feels a world away from the big city. You experience the feel of people in a small community caring for each other. Unlike a global experience, there is little language barrier. Volunteering close to home can be just as impactful and rewarding as traveling far.

"God... choreographed a powerful and transformative experience!"

Young Adults Upcoming Events

Join us at any time. Get connected: jen.christianson@covenantpresby.org

YA Winter Retreat

Join us over MLK Weekend for winter fun near Banner Elk, NC. We'll ski, snowboard, go ice skating, do yoga and more.
Friday, Jan. 13 to Monday, Jan. 16
Connect: Visit YA on Facebook to learn more about the trip

YA Women - PATH

Will meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays starting Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. Location TBA.
(Note the location and date change; this group is no longer weekly).
Connect: Melanie Coor at mcoor1@vt.edu





Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 11 - Feb. 22 Fellowship Hall 207

Discover the power of storytelling - and how it can help you to know yourself and others more deeply.



We will listen to gifted storytellers, participate in interactive explorations of our stories and seek to understand the meaning of narrative. Drop-ins are welcome.

Kicking off our series is Dr. David Jordan, Teaching Pastor at Providence Baptist Church. Using personal illustrations as well as examples of storytelling in the Bible, David

will equip us with insights from scripture and leave us inspired to share our experiences by telling stories.

Next up on Jan. 18 is Maureen Ryan Griffin (photo at right), who has taught the art and craft of writing at the John C. Campbell Folk School and the Chautauqua Institute.

Maureen will teach us engaging tools and techniques to retrieve and record our adventures, love, loss, successes and more with ease and enjoyment, no matter where we are in the process.

Other topics include:



- a facilitated discussion on Telling Your Faith Story, using prompts borrowed from the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina (Evan Amo, facilitator);

- a presentation by Donna Marie Todd, storyteller from Black Mountain, on how she used storytelling to rebuild her life after the death of husband and how her mother used her life story to reclaim her life after breast cancer,

- to close the series on February 22, an interactive session on the Book of Questions.



Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 11 - Feb. 8 Fellowship Hall (Main)

Gain a deeper understanding of implicit bias and systemic racism in our community and the broader culture.

Co-sponsored by Covenant, CN Jenkins Presbyterian and the Women's Intercultural Exchange, this series will welcome well-known speakers:



- Toussaint Romain (left), a lawyer in the Mecklenburg County public defender's office who sought to keep the peace following the fatal shooting of a black man;

- Brenda Tindal, a Charlotte native and new historian at Levine Museum of the New South, succeeding Tom Hanchett;

- Hugh McColl, Covenant member and former chairman and CEO of Bank of America;

- and Terry Shook, founding partner at Shook Kelley, a Charlotte urban design firm that seeks to bring people together around physical places, ideas and experiences.

Session 1: Who are We? Hearing the voices of diverse Charlotteans: Speakers will represent American Indian, Asian, Black, Caucasian, Latino/Hispanic and mixed race individuals.

Session 2: Who Am I? Understanding implicit bias: Dr. Vernon Gettone will facilitate an interactive session to explore and understand personal bias.

Session 3: Charlotte's Wake-Up Call: What we found when we dug deeper: Speakers Toussaint Romain and Brenda Tindal will give historical and contemporary views on racial inequality and white privilege in Charlotte.

Session 4: Investing in a Better Future: Affordable Housing in Charlotte: Speakers Terry Shook, Hugh McColl and Rev. Dr. Robert Scott will share their own commitments to and models for investing in affordable housing as an avenue for addressing racial inequality and economic opportunity.

Session 5: What Have I Learned? What do I do now? Spiritual and moral leaders of diverse backgrounds will offer ways for participants to make their own commitments to building trust and opportunity across race and culture.

Cancer, grief support groups to convene

Gain insights and plan a path forward

Two groups forming in January reflect Covenant's elevated focus on providing care for those facing life challenges.

Susan Ferone joined the staff in December as care team/support group coordinator. In this new role, she will help the church family respond to needs in a proactive way.

To reserve your spot, contact Susan.ferone@covenantpresby.org or call 704-333-9071.

Grief and Healing - Taking the Journey Together



Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor

An eight-week support group for men and women who are suffering from the loss of a spouse, parent or sibling. The group will be

small and will help integrate an understanding of grief, assist in the healing process and find a path forward with guidance from scripture.

Teaming with Susan is Dan Busch, a retired marital and family therapist and former clinician with Hospice and Kindermourn. Dan has worked in the field of grief care for over 25 years.

Dan noted that men and women tend to handle grief in different ways. "Men often want to do a task or get

something accomplished," Dan said. "And they're more likely to suppress their grief." The group will seek to find common ground as men and women experience loss.

Dan and Susan say they plan to spend much of their time listening and allowing participants to support each other through the power of shared experience.

Fighting Cancer with Hope

Beginning Sunday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. in the Parlor



A cancer diagnosis can turn your life upside down. This is not a journey that you have to go through alone. What you feel and how you engage this struggle is important.

Join Petra Wahnefried, Chaplain at Levine Cancer Institute and former Covenant

Pastoral Resident, for a six-week class for cancer patients who attend Covenant.

Conversations will provide a space for you to share your experiences with peers who are fighting a similar battle, explore exercises that have been helpful for other cancer patients and come up with coping tactics that fit your experiences.

"Each person's journey through cancer is different and personal to them," Petra says. "You will leave with a better understanding of the pathway you want to take as a person and as a cancer patient."



Affordable housing in CLT: A closer look Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., March 8-April 5

Learn about the issue of affordable housing in Charlotte from nonprofit leaders, elected officials and experts in the field. What are barriers to economic stability? What do we know about access to schools, transportation and healthy food?

As part of the experience, we'll hear personal stories from members of our community who have struggled to get by.

Get connected: Contact Carla.leaf@covenantpresby.org.

Workshops for parents of adolescents



Mary Moore is a therapist at Southeast Psych who counsels children under 13. She founded Epiphany School, which is based at Covenant. Stay tuned for times and locations.

Purposeful Parenting: How to Raise Resilient Children Wednesday, February 15

Rooted in the latest research in parenting, resiliency, positive psychology, behavioral science, and mindfulness, this session distills expert knowledge into simple, effective, and practical skills to help parents and children flourish.

Purposeful Parenting: Strengthening Children's Social & Emotional Skills Wednesday, February 22

Develop a deeper understanding of your child's strengths (what is working) and needs (what areas need developing) and practical strategies to enhance both areas.

A message of thanks from Crossnore principal

'One of the best experiences I have ever seen as an educator'

Covenant supports Crossnore Elementary School, located in a high-poverty area in western NC. With help from our Christmas Eve offering, children took a ride on the Polar Express. We'll take a group next year, too. Principal Ruth Shirley wrote to us:

Dear Church Family:

I have thought about the trip to Polar Express all weekend.

I wish each of you could have experienced the children's reactions when they first saw the train and then when we pulled out of the station. It truly was one of the best experiences I have ever seen as an educator. The kids are still talking about it.



All too often, we forget that experiences like this last longer than anything we can do in the classroom. You have given these children something that will last a lifetime.

It was and will forever remain my favorite given to my children. God

bless you for your generosity and kindness.

Sincerely,

Ms. Ruth
Principal, Crossnore Elementary

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



Genghis Khan and the modern world A talk by our own Janet Gleeson

Janet Gleeson speaks on the book "Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World." Janet is a lawyer and ardent bibliophile with a longstanding interest in Genghis Khan. Did you

know Khan abolished torture, granted religious freedom and changed culture in many ways? *Wednesday, Jan. 11. Snacks at 10:30 a.m. with program at 11 in Ed Wing Room 201.*

A trip to Discovery Place IMAX film and Khan exhibit

We'll watch the IMAX film "Mysteries of China" and then view the Genghis Khan exhibit, which includes gold jewelry and ornaments, musical instruments, pottery and more. *Wednesday, Jan. 18. Buses will leave from Covenant at 9 a.m. We will have lunch at Midwood Smokehouse and return by 3 p.m. A check for \$18 reserves your spot by Jan. 11.*

Coming up February 8: A sing-along in the Music Room with Rob Dicks, assistant director of traditional music.

Sisters in Spirit fellowship breakfast Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7 a.m., Fellowship Hall



Join us for guest speaker Juliet Kuehnle on "Being happy in the skin you are in." Juliet is a counselor who specializes in body image and self-esteem. All women are invited on the second Tuesdays of every month. RSVP to Michelle.williamson@covenantpresby.org.

Join Bible study with Bob and Jessica

Jump in mid-year to this high-commitment, in-depth study on Wednesday evenings, Feb. 15 to April 5 from 6:15 to 8 p.m. We'll have a session to help you get caught up. Then we'll launch back into our year-long study of Jesus in the Gospels.

Have questions or want to register? Contact Erin.williams@covenantpresby.org.

Covenant Community Dialogues Part of The Gathering Sunday School class



Led by Covenant member Diane Powell, our class will delve into economic mobility, race and faith through videos and conversations Sundays, Jan. 15 to Feb. 12 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in FH105. This is a companion to Wednesday night programming. Contact Jen.christianson@covenantpresby.org.

Convocation *Sunday Talk*

Sunday, January 8: Rev. Will Willimon on "Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love."

Rev. Willimon, one of America's best known preachers, served as dean of Duke Chapel and professor at Duke for 20 years.

In his new book, Dr. Willimon invites readers to an on-the-ground faith that remembers the God who comes to us through so-called outsiders, strangers, immigrants and those without status. Christians must become "other" to the world, shaking off the dominant culture's identity and privilege through listening and understanding.

He will speak at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and also preach in the 11 a.m. sanctuary service.



Covenant Kids Education



Kids Yoga (K-5)

Sundays 4 to 4:45 p.m. in EW204

Open Table Wednesday nights

Resumes Jan. 11. Childcare for infants-K is available from 6 to 8 p.m. in EW102. Young Scholars, a children's Bible study, meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in EW218.

NEW! Faith & Sexuality Workshop:

Tweens and parents are invited Saturday, Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$20 per family. RSVP by Jan. 15 to Erin. williams@covenantpresby.org.

Visit from Camp Grier staff

Our friends from Camp Grier in Old Fort, NC will visit Sunday, Jan. 29 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in EW207 to share a video and exciting news about camping. Parents and youth are invited to drop in.

Youth in Worship

Fourth and fifth graders are invited to

take a turn lighting the Christ candle and filling the baptismal font with water for the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

Volunteers needed!

Don't forget to sign up to volunteer on the 1st or 2nd floor this semester. Your involvement keeps us safe and successful!

Preschool Open Houses

Prospective parents are invited Thursday, Jan. 19 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the art studio on the Preschool floor.

Director Kathie Grabert will lead an info session and tour. You can schedule a tour by calling 704-333-8658. Registration is Jan. 25-Feb. 7.

Sunday Mornings

Early Childhood First Floor, EW

Child Care 8:30 a.m.- noon 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

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.

The Gathering FH105

A class for (self-defined!) Young Adults

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.

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 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 – 5:30 to 6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Fellowship – 6 to 7 p.m. EW 301

Wednesdays - Open Table at Covenant

Middle School Guys and Girls Groups

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. EW318

Resumes Jan. 11

Week-by-Week Calendar

- Sunday, January 8 – AM Sunday School, PM Sunday Evening Fellowship/Spring Kickoff
- Wednesday, January 11 – Small groups
- Sunday, January 15 – AM Sunday School, PM Sunday evening fellowship

- Wednesday, January 18 – Small groups
- Sunday, January 22 – AM Sunday School, PM Sunday evening fellowship
- Wednesday, January 25 – Small Groups
- Sunday, January 29 – AM Sunday School, PM Sunday evening fellowship

Middle School Winter Retreat

February 4-5 at Camp Thunderbird; \$100

Quest/Confirmation Beach Retreat

March 24-26; Edisto Beach, SC; \$150



Kickoff of new season for middle, high school families

Sunday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by a program featuring Perry Dixon and Perrin Tribble previewing the spring season of youth ministries at Covenant.

High School Youth

Reach Director Perry Dixon at Perry.dixon@covenantpresby.org or call 704-804-7563.

High school youth Sunday School

- Perry Dixon and adult volunteers lead engaging, interactive discussions to help us live into God's word.
- Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Education Wing 307

High school youth Sunday night 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 and Theology

- We'll watch movies and try to understand the Christian themes, including Finding Nemo, Inside Out, The Theory of Everything and other films.
- Wednesdays resuming Jan. 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Ed Wing Theater

Week-by-Week Calendar

- January 8—AM Sunday School, PM Sunday Evening Fellowship / Spring Kickoff
- January 15—Regular Sunday School AM, Sunday Evening Fellowship PM
- January 22—Regular Sunday School AM, Sunday Evening Fellowship PM
- January 29—Regular Sunday School AM, Sunday Evening Fellowship PM

High School Beach Retreat

March 24-26; Edisto Beach, SC; \$150

Welcome New Members



Charles Langston



Sarah and Brent Young with baby Smith



Josh Essman and Amanda Pierson

Session Digest

Highlights from recent Session meetings

- Received a report from Planning and Evaluation Board and consultant John Hewett on the results of a recent feasibility survey for a capital campaign.
- Examined and approved for ordination and/or installation 10 elders for the class of 2019 and two youth elders for the class of 2017
- During four called session meetings in November, received 7 new members, bringing the total year-to-date to 122.

Congregational Notes

Do you have announcements? Let Covenant know by contacting: Lucy.crain@covenantpresby.org.

Births

Congratulations to Sarah and John Gaither on the birth of their daughter, Hannah Nicole Gaither, on November 26; and to Kristen and Chris Mitchell (and older siblings Neland, Teague and Kenan) on the birth of daughter Katherine Elizabeth on December 7; and to Evelyn and Richard Hagood (and to older brother James) on the birth of son Patrick Russell Hagood on December 16.

Baptisms

Congratulations to Michelle and Locke Beatty who presented their son, George Friend Beatty, on December 4; and to Abby and Hollis Fitch who presented their son, Henry McNeill Fitch, on December 4; and to Audra and Brad Dellinger who presented their daughter, Josephine Clare Dellinger, on December 11.

In Memoriam

Victor M. Fucci, Jr.

April 25, 1961 – December 1, 2016

Sarah Simiril

June 4, 1930 – December 3, 2016

Carl Rost Williamson

February 11, 1928 – December 10, 2016

Betty C. Craemer

October 7, 1930 – December 15, 2016

Deaths

The congregation extends its sincere sympathy and love to Wade and Angie Pridgen on the death of his mother, and to Emily and Stuart Pratt on the death of her grandmother, and to Libby, Georgia, and Claire Pratt on the death of their great-grandmother, Georgia Blake Pridgen of Troy, NC on December 2; and to

Anne and Jimmy White on the death of her sister and Will, Lucy and Christopher White on the death of their aunt, Lucy Ferran Harris of Edgewater, FL, on December 8; and to

Anne and Jimmy Davis on the death of her father, Beth Young on the death of her father, and Gray Davis, Zachary Davis and Laurel Young on their grandfather, Carl Williamson, on December 10; and to

Ian and Alison Hawkins on the death of his father, Kevin Amaker Hawkins of Greenwood, SC on December 12; and to the family of Betty Craemer; and to

Mary Lou and Michael Daly on the death of his father and to Michael and Tyler Daly on the death of their grandfather, Michael Joseph Daly, Sr. of Massachusetts, on December 18;

and rejoices with them all in the assurance of the resurrection.

New principal at Highland

Chuck Fortuna will lead our CMS partner school



Chuck Fortuna starts this month as principal of Highland Renaissance Academy, our CMS partner school off Tryon Street just north of uptown.

Mr. Fortuna was principal at Elon Park Elementary in Ballantyne for the past five years.

"We will miss him dearly at Elon Park," said Tori Collins, a parent at the school. "I think Highland will be blessed to have someone with his leadership skills and dedication as the principal."

Covenant's mission team is excited to continue our partnership. We support children and teachers at Highland in these ways:

- Volunteers read with third-graders every month as part of the Read, Roar, Soar program.
- Through North Star, adults serve as mentors to third-graders and work on reading and character skills.
- A team delivers appreciation brunches to teachers on third Mondays.

Our work with Read, Roar, Soar "has brought out the best in students who struggle to connect with others or manage their own behavior," Ms. Logan, a teacher, told us. "Thank you for the light you bring to our school!"

That's what a partnership can do, says Mr. Fortuna: "Kids need to feel loved to be ready to learn. Likewise, a school and its staff need to feel they have someone cheering for them."

To get involved: Visit covenantpresby.org/ serve or contact Evan Amo at Evan.amo@covenantpresby.org



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Make music with Covenant in 2017

Opportunities for all ages to sing

John Richardson, director of traditional music, invites you to sing in 2017. Contact John.richardson@covenantpresby.org or 704-804-7581.

Angelus Choir (Grades K-2) - Sundays 4:45-5:30 p.m.

Chorister Choir (3-5) - Sundays 4:45-5:30 p.m.

Youth Bell Choir (6-12) - Sundays 4-4:45 p.m.

Youth Chorale (6-12) - Sundays 4:45-5:30 p.m.

Covenant Ringers (Adult) - Mondays 6-7 p.m.

Covenant Choir (Adult) - Thursdays 7-9 p.m.



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

Covenant Web Site

www.covenantpresby.org

Social Media

@covenantpresby #covenantpresby

