

# COVENANT *News*

A monthly publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church Charlotte, North Carolina



# HAPPY new year

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## Message from Bob



Dear friends,

As we turn the page on a new year, we do so with much excitement and anticipation for the good things happening at Covenant. I invite your prayers for our annual elder retreat, which will occur next weekend. It will

be followed by the ordination and installation of elders at all of our services on January 7. In addition, we'll start a sermon series entitled "Seven Words for Living" in which we'll explore Christian thinking around the ideas of Yes, No, Thanks, Wow, Help, Sorry, and Enough. I hope we'll find it helpful and challenging.

Let me invite you to keep a few other items in your thoughts and prayers. We always start January hoping to bridge the gap between our aspirational budget for the year and the reality of pledges. If you have not yet pledged for 2018, I hope you will take the time to do so. We count on your pledges to live into our calling as a congregation and we will operate according to your support.

Secondly, I invite you to remember in your prayers our search committee for the Director of Music position. We're thrilled at the number and quality of applicants and trust God has life and vitality in store for the traditional music program. Pray for the committee's wisdom and discernment, please, and that the next chapter will fulfill God's highest hopes for our congregation.

Thirdly, plans are in place for our capital campaign coming in Spring 2018. Campaign leaders have been enlisted, our projects finalized, and calendar dates reserved. Will and Ali Summerville have agreed to chair the effort, Hugh and Jane McColl have agreed to serve as honorary chairs, and around them has been assembled a core leadership team of some of Covenant's finest. Early financial commitments from key leaders have been a great encouragement to me. I believe we can do this.

Please mark your calendar for PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25. That's the date we'll be asked to make three-year pledges to this effort, over and above our regular giving. And begin praying now for an outpouring of prayer, faith and generosity among the Covenant family of faith.

Finally, I invite you to take extra care in these winter months – where nights can get long and relationships heavy – to invest in your spiritual vitality. Join a study, attend worship, find a way to serve, give to someone or some cause that needs it, and let God shape your inner landscape with grace and light.

With prayers for you all,

*Bob*

## Our commitment: A safe place for members, staff

National leaders of the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) recently called on congregations to do more to address sexual harassment and abuse in the broader culture.

Covenant echoes this call and, in doing so, reaffirms our commitment to maintaining a safe environment.

As our PCUSA General Assembly co-moderators wrote in a Dec. 6 open letter, "we must come to terms with the all ways we victimize and objectify people, including actions that are often less noticeable."

They continued: "We have to be willing to examine and confess implicit gender biases that show themselves, among other ways, in pay disparities and comments about personal appearance."

Covenant continues to strive to be a safe place for congregation members, staff and guests on our campus. This means no harassment in the form of suggestive or derogatory remarks, verbal or physical abuse, intimidation or coercion.

It is important to remember that behavior considered innocent or harmless by one individual may be regarded as harassment by another person.

In a sermon on Oct. 15, Senior Minister Bob Henderson said Covenant stands ready to support victims of sexual harassment and abuse.

"This is a safe place for you to talk, share and ask for help. Nobody is going to shame or blame you, or indicate in any way that you 'had it coming.' You did not."

## Financial Update

**Pledge Receipts** (Year to date through Nov. 30, 2017)

2017 Budgeted:.....\$2,181,500  
2017 Actual:.....\$2,235,614

100.2% of Budget

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

## Session *Digest*

### Highlights from recent Session meetings

- Called a congregational meeting for Sunday, Jan. 28 at 10:30 a.m. to present the 2018 budget and to vote on proposed changes in the terms of call for installed pastors.
- Endorsed Covenant member Henry Trexler as a candidate for ministry after hearing about Henry's journey of discernment.
- Learned about plans for a NEXT Church Elder Symposium at Covenant on Saturday, Jan. 20 at 9 a.m. to equip elders from across the Charlotte Presbytery for leadership in the Church.

# Ways to engage in the new year

## From a study of MLK's legacy to a re-examination of human suffering

*It's a new year. Join a new group!*

*Sunday School classes and Small Group Bible Studies begin studies and welcome new members in January and February.*

*Find a list on Page 7 of this newsletter or visit us online at [Covenantpresby.org/smallgroups](http://Covenantpresby.org/smallgroups). For help in getting connected, contact [Jessica.patchett@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Jessica.patchett@covenantpresby.org).*



Here's an invitation from Uptown Bible Study members Justin Hicks and Ben Mallicote to pique your interest:

### **Weekday Uptown Bible Study**

*Tuesdays noon to 1 p.m. at Foundation for the Carolinas*

One of the best investments we've made in the past year is prioritizing Tuesday Bible study at lunch in Uptown.

It's a chance to learn about the Bible, its history and context, and what meaning it has for our lives today.

We've found it to be a community of people who genuinely like one another, and who can discuss and even disagree in a spirit of camaraderie and good will. The format is open and inviting for people with any level of familiarity with scripture and convenient for those of us who work or live nearby.

Perhaps unexpected is just how much it reinvigorates our spirits mid-week, when many can use it the most. We hope you'll consider joining us or another small group this year. Better still, invite a friend and join a group together!

### **Reviving the Dream: Reading Scripture through the Life and Preaching of Dr. King**

*Series begins Monday, Jan. 15*

Join churches across Charlotte, New York, Dallas, and Philadelphia in a 10-week journey reading scripture through the lens of the life and preaching of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A daily written devotional and weekly video will be available for individual and small group use online at [AmericanBible.org](http://AmericanBible.org).

On April 14, churches across Charlotte will gather at Little Rock AME Church for a half-day exploration and celebration of King's

life and legacy. Following the gathering, individuals and small groups will be invited to participate in cross-racial, multi-church Bible studies across the city.

If you'd like to join a group to discuss the material in the upcoming online devotional, please drop in the Open Door Sunday School Class any Sunday beginning March 25 (excluding Easter) at 9:30 a.m. in FH201.

If you'd like to sign up for or get more information about a late-spring cross-racial, multi-church Bible study, please contact Sally Jackson at [Sally.jackson@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Sally.jackson@covenantpresby.org).



### **The Cross in Contexts: Re-examining Suffering and Redemption with Mitri Raheb, Suzanne Henderson**

*Series begins Feb. 1*

Why did Jesus die? And in what ways did his crucifixion offer redemption to the world? Those questions lie at the heart of the Christian faith and linger for many contemporary people of faith.



Join the South Park Bible Study group to read and explore *The Cross in Contexts* Thursdays, Feb. 1 – March 29 from noon to 1 p.m. at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Room 201.

Contact group facilitators Robin Goodson and

Jerry Jernigan for more information at [mrmigoo@aol.com](mailto:mrmigoo@aol.com).

Then, hear authors Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb and Rev. Dr. Suzanne Henderson at Covenant for a church-wide convocation on Sunday, March 18 in the Fellowship Hall.



### **Where to Find God, Grace & Goodness, a Bible study with Bob Henderson, Jessica Patchett**

*Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 21 to March 21*

Join us for Open Table dinner followed by a five-week Bible study led by Bob Henderson and Jessica Patchett at the Movement Center, adjacent to the future affordable housing development co-funded by Covenant. Our theme is *Parables: Stories by Jesus on Where to Find God, Grace & Goodness*.

# Stephen Ministers: Calmers in the storm

## Congregational Life Spotlight

*Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

By Leigh Hutchinson  
Covenant member and Stephen Leader



October 30, 1990: My father died at age 64. In November, construction on our house was completed and my much older mother and father-in-law moved in. We also had two nurses' aides and a dog. I prepared a salt-free dinner every evening.

March 1992: My father-in-law passed away.

June 1992: My mother died at age 62 of peritonitis and a broken heart. I was executor of the estate and president of the Charlotte Dental Society. During this time, I was involved in a bad car wreck that nearly totaled my car.

I survived those times with the help of a loving husband and family. But, boy, could I have used a Stephen Minister! In that stormy period, when my head was barely above water, it would have been so nice to have one of those life jackets with the little thing around the back of the neck to just lean on and rest my head against every so often, so I could stay afloat.

Stephen Ministers are a lot like life jackets: trained, confidential listeners to support you during challenging times. We were not a Stephen Ministry congregation in



1992. But we had Frank Mayes, and Frank was called to start Stephen Ministry at Covenant.

Paul says we are to carry one another's burdens. As Christians, we are to love as Christ loves us. Helping one another builds community and strengthens us.

If you, or someone you know, encounters one of those stormy periods of life, I invite you to reach out and ask for a Stephen Minister. Or maybe you want to be a life preserver and become a Stephen Minister. We want to hear from you, too.

*To get connected, contact Parish Nurse Mary Mattiacci at [Mary.mattiacci@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Mary.mattiacci@covenantpresby.org) or 704-804-7561.*

## Care and Support

Contact Susan Ferone, Covenant's care coordinator, at Susan. [ferone@covenantpresby.org](mailto:ferone@covenantpresby.org) or call her at 704-804-7585 to get connected with care.

### Grief and Healing - Taking the Journey Together

Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor



A discussion and support group invites adults who are experiencing loss from the death of a spouse, parent, sibling or friend.

The group will be small and help integrate an understanding of grief, assist in the healing process and find a path forward. If you or someone you know is grieving, please join us in healing together.

### Bringing Baby Home: Parenting & Relationship Workshops

Sessions available in February and June

Are you expecting? Did you recently welcome a new baby? Come to a two-day workshop developed by the Gottman Institute to prepare for the normal challenges of becoming a family.



Two options are available: Feb. 10-11 or June 2-3. 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch is provided. Cost is \$50 per couple (scholarships available).

### Being a Caregiver to a Loved One

Beginning Thursday, Jan. 11 at 11 a.m. in the Parlor

Are you in charge of providing care for a spouse or loved one? Talk with peers about shared challenges in this supportive space. We'll gather on second Thursdays every month in the Parlor.

# Connect with mission in 2018

## Be part of Kinship Project, Mission Festival Auction

The missions team will host a drop-in coffee info session in the FH Library on Sunday, Jan. 14 from 10:40 to 11:30 a.m. You can contact Carla at [Carla.leaf@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Carla.leaf@covenantpresby.org) or 704-804-7578.



Carla Leaf  
Co-director of  
Mission and  
Outreach

### Yucatan, Mexico

Trip Leader: Stephanie Guffin, Nik Van Nort  
Dates: June 24-30 \$790 Applications due  
Feb. 10

*Building both churches and relationships, we will work with Accion Ministries to support their work to strengthen Mayan communities. Join us for a week of living in another culture and learning in this beautiful land.*

### Kenya, Africa

Trip Leader: Mary Parrish Coley  
Dates: September 2018  
Est. \$1,900 Applications due March 1  
*As our presence in Kenya broadens relationally, join participants in learning about both deep poverty and deep joy. We will serve children at the Renguti School, a small, rural school outside Nairobi, as well as New Life Home orphanage and Mathare slum.*



Lucy Crain  
Co-director of  
Mission and  
Outreach

### The Kinship Project With Room in the Inn

Join staff and volunteers in a time of reflection and service, where faith and poverty come together for Room in the Inn.

Learn to listen to how God calls us to build stronger community with those who are marginalized.

Dates: Opening retreat Sunday, March 4 and three of four Tuesday nights in March serving Room in the Inn guests.



### Save The Date

**Mission Festival Auction:** A fun event on Sunday, Feb. 25 (shown above) to support mission trips with our national and international partners. We sell anything from a week at a mountain house to gift baskets full of goodies.

We are currently accepting donations to be auctioned off and we'd love to have your contributions:

*Do you own a vacation home that you'd be willing to lend for a week or long weekend?*

*How about tickets to a game or concert?*

*A beautiful piece of artwork?*

*Or furniture and household items (in good condition)?*

Contact Carla or Lucy in the church offices to get connected with this opportunity.

## Young Adults Upcoming Events

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

### PW Circle - Ruth

Liza Quinn is the leader, and we meet once a month on Tuesday evenings in members' homes. First meeting of the new year is Jan. 9.

### YA Couples - New group!

Get in touch with Jen to learn more. We'll start this month (evenings TBA).

### YA Men's and Women's Small Groups

Resume Jan. 14  
*Men:* Devotions & Drafts at Dilworth Grille on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m.  
*Women:* 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at church & in members' homes at 7 p.m.

### Millennials Sunday School Class

Resumes Sunday, Jan. 21

### First Sunday Brunches

Resume Sunday, Feb. 4 at noon. TBA.



# Open Table @ Covenant January Wednesday programs

## Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 Fellowship Hall (Main)

Join us for a fun, lively and innovative series designed to help youngsters learn to love books.

This workshop is geared toward preschool-age children. Parents are encouraged - but not required - to bring their little ones. Childcare and elementary-age activities are available for kids not attending the program.

Experts from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library and Read Charlotte will reveal the art and science behind "active reading" - i.e. reading a book *with* a child rather than to a child.

**RSVP:** Reserve a spot via email at [reservations@covenantpresby.org](mailto:reservations@covenantpresby.org). We can accommodate up to 20 participants. Families will receive a new book each week.

**Session One, Jan. 10:** Join Amrita Patel and Jasmine McNeil, from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, as they introduce active reading, with a focus on Picture Walks and Print Knowledge.



**Session Two, Jan. 17:** Discover effective ways to read storybooks with your child. Storybook reading builds kids' language and vocabulary, and fuels later reading success.

**Session Three, Jan. 24:** Gain practical tools to boost your child's vocabulary - a proven way to have great success in reading.

**Session Four, Jan. 31:** Learn the importance of Open-Ended Questions and Connection Literature to a Child's World, and how you can improve your child's ability to comprehend literature through a variety of techniques and strategies.



## Wednesdays, Jan. 10 to Feb. 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**An illuminating hour celebrating the sacred Epiphany story and how it's unfolding in us today.**

Sandra Boozer is committed to helping people explore matters of the soul, faith and God.



Sandra completed a three-year preparatory program at the Charlotte Spirituality Center; she is also a Healing Touch Practitioner, a credential she recently received while also serving as an apprentice at Levine Cancer Institute. In addition, Sandra teaches yoga to further nurture her rounded approach to understanding the connection between mind, body and spirit.

**Get connected:** Contact Sandra at [sandramboozer@me.com](mailto:sandramboozer@me.com).

## TLC Upcoming Events

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

### Learn about Qigong from Karen Rubin An ancient wellness practice

Qigong instructor Karen Rubin will tell us about this ancient way to reduce tension, improve balance and increase bone density. Wear comfortable clothes as we'll learn a few moves. *Wednesday, Jan. 10. Join us in Room 201 of the Ed Wing at 10:30 a.m. for refreshments and 11 a.m. for the talk.*



### A trip to Johnson & Wales University Campus tour and lunch

Join us for a trip to Johnson & Wales University in uptown Charlotte, where we'll take a campus tour, visit the baking and culinary labs and enjoy lunch in the cafeteria. *Wednesday, Jan. 31. We'll leave Covenant at 10 a.m. and return by 3 p.m. RSVP by Jan. 24 with a check for \$12.*

# Advice for reaching your goals in new year

## James and Jen on resolutions and how to make them work

Communications Director Matt Garfield recently asked Covenant staff members to share insights on New Year's resolutions.

Here are nuggets of wisdom from Rec Wing Director James Huffman and Pastoral Resident Jen Christianson.

### Q. In what ways can people think about new year's resolutions differently?



James: From my standpoint, it's what can you take away that's making you unhealthy? Maybe it's the weekly trip for fast food or staying up until 1 a.m. when you should've gone to bed at 10:30. What bad habits can you take away to open up room for health? And replacing it with an hour walking in your neighborhood or on the track.

Jen: Once you make it through holiday commitments and expectations, then you load up your plate again in January with resolutions. Which, generally, means adding more things. Another approach that I've found is to ask: What's not helping me become the person I want to be? Maybe it's less social media time. So we create space in our lives for God to work.

### Q. Tell us about your own goals for 2018.

James: I had an eye-opening experience when I went to the doctor and they said, how have you gained so much weight since last time? I said eating poorly and stress. I'd fallen into a bad rut of eating junk for lunch and then a giant meal before



bed. So I quit doing that. I eat much smaller portions. I added strength training. My goal now is to avoid falling back into the rut.



Jen: This year, I'm aiming for less comparing and more creating. Brene Brown talks about how everyone is a creative person, it's just whether you've decided if it is acceptable to other people.

I'm not a great scrapbooker, but I really love writing. I'm going to do that more and worry less about whether to put it on Pinterest.

## The new year - A great time to join Adult Small Groups!

Here's a look at small groups welcoming you to join. Contact Lora Borrelli at [Lora.borrelli@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Lora.borrelli@covenantpresby.org) to get connected.

### During the Week

#### Uptown Bible Study

Tuesdays at noon  
A diverse group led by Jessica Patchett meets for lunch at Foundation for the Carolinas.

#### Tuesday Lunch Group

Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. in FH Library  
All-ages group with diverse opinions. Currently studying biblical wisdom literature.

#### Women's Bible Study

Thursdays 9:30 to 11 a.m. in Parlor  
Newcomers from diverse faith journeys are welcome. Led by Lucy Crain.

#### South Park Bible Study -

Thursdays at noon, Union Seminary Room 201

### On Sundays

#### Men's Bible Study

8:30 a.m. in FH205  
Men interested in faith and conversation. Led by Andy Ball, Drew Quartapella and Paul Steffens

#### Fellowship Class

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in FH203  
Adults 60+ with weekly conversation topics

#### Open Door

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in FH201  
A diverse gathering of adults; great for newcomers

#### People Class

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in FH Library  
Adults who enjoy vigorous dialogue on many topics

#### Foundations

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. in FH205  
A small group for parents of young children

#### Sunday Evening Young Adult Women's Small Group

6 p.m. Women in late 20s and 30s who gather for friendship in members' homes. Led by Jessica Patchett.

Sign up for Sunday morning classes & weekday small groups: [covenantpresby.org/smallgroups](http://covenantpresby.org/smallgroups)

# Healthy in 2018

## 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](http://covenantpresby.org/connect/recreation-ministry).

### NEW Group Exercise Class – POUND

Starts Monday Jan. 8 at 6 p.m.

Pound is a cardio jam session inspired by the playing of drums.

Instead of listening to music, you become the music in this exhilarating full-body workout that combines cardio, conditioning, and strength training with yoga and pilates-inspired movements.

Designed for all fitness levels, POUND provides the perfect atmosphere for letting loose, getting energized, toning up and rockin' out!

### NEW Habit-Based Health Coaching

Starts Monday, Jan. 8

Covenant Recreation is offering a web-based program to help you achieve your health goals!

The program consists of habits that are practiced for up to two weeks at a time, each habit building on the prior weeks. Habits include self-care and exercise.

Pricing varies with time commitment- commit for a year, three months or six months.

Contact Alice Watson at [trainwithalice@yahoo.com](mailto:trainwithalice@yahoo.com) or 704-241-0744 for more information or to get started.

**Personal Training at Covenant:** Need the extra incentive to exercise? Want to maximize your workout? We have qualified trainers to meet any style or need you may have. Contact James Huffman at [james.huffman@covenantpresby.org](mailto:james.huffman@covenantpresby.org).



## Nurse's Note

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



Mary Mattiacci  
Parish Nurse

Dear Ones,

Happy New Year! I hope the newsletter finds you rested and healthy after the holidays. However, I know the reality is that many of you have been really busy since Thanksgiving and you are probably heading into the new year exhausted. Combine being tired with being cooped up inside breathing everyone else's germs and you have a perfect recipe for illness. Here are a few easy ways to boost

your immune system and try to stay well.

Stay well hydrated- drinking green tea is especially helpful because it's full of special anti-oxidants called catechins which are anti-viral agents. Drinking anything that hydrates you will help flush toxins through your systems.

Exercise- Staying strong helps your immune system also be strong. Also, exercise will help you sleep and being well rested is critical for your immune system to function properly. One study at Appalachian showed that folks who exercise five days a week saw a 43 percent reduction in sick days!

Eat orange and red veggies- Tomatoes, peppers, sweet potatoes and squash are all full of Vitamin A. Vitamin A is an important part of keeping immunity high in your digestive tract which is where the battle with viruses and bacteria often begins. Vitamin A also helps keep your skin healthy and your skin is your first line of defense against germs. Mushrooms and asparagus are also good immunity boosters.

It's not too late to get your flu shot if you haven't yet. As always, wash your hands before meals, in the bathroom, and when you come inside. Stay away from sick people. Sneeze into your elbow. And if you end up sick anyway, call the parish nurse and she will bring you some soup.

Take care!

Mary

## Sisters in Spirit Breakfast Tuesday, Jan. 9 in Fellowship Hall

Our speaker is Covenant member Doug Bacon

**When:** Breakfast and program from 7 to 8 a.m.

**RSVP:** Send an email to [reservations@covenantpresby.org](mailto:reservations@covenantpresby.org).



# First *Sunday Speaker*

## Sunday, Jan. 7: What I Love Most About...Being Mormon

Hear from Ameer Roomer (at right) and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Our guests will speak at 9:30 a.m. in Room 207 of the Fellowship Hall.

### A special invitation on Jan. 21

Covenant members are invited to worship on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 1 p.m. with the Charlotte South Stake of the LDS Church. We will meet at the meetinghouse at 5815 Carmel Road. Fellowship and Q&A will follow.

Coming in February: "What I Love Most About... Being Baha'i" on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 9:30 a.m. Hear a presentation from the Baha'i Community of Charlotte.



# *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

## Youth (Grades 6-12)

### Education Wing, 9:30 a.m.

Base/6th & 7th Grades EW318  
Quest/8th Grade EW312  
PEAK/9th-12th Grades EW207

## 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 (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.

### Sun. PM Women (6 p.m.) Various

Women in our late 20s and 30s meet for fellowship.

# *Covenant Kids* Education



*Welcome to Sunday School in 2018!*

## Ready, Set, Worship II (Baptism) for 2nd graders and parents

For two Sundays, Jan. 21 and 28, 2nd graders and parents will meet in EW203, then walk to the Chapel at 9:45 a.m. for a lesson with one of our pastors. No reservations needed.

## Room in the Inn service opportunity

Families with elementary age children will serve on two Tuesdays, Jan. 9 and 23. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to help our neighbors. We would love a volunteer to help lead each night.

## Preschool Play Date

Got a case of cabin fever? Preschoolers and parents can come jump, play and connect on Thursday, Jan. 18, Feb. 22 and March 22 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Gym. These events are co-sponsored by Covenant Preschool and the Early Childhood Education Committee.

## 5th Grade Faith & Sexuality Workshop

Saturday, Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (open to 4th graders also). A program called "She, He, We and God" will be led by Dr. Keith Anderson, Dr. Louise Rogers, Juliet Kuehnle and Mary Mattiacci.

## Children of the Covenant

We'll celebrate babies born or adopted in 2017. Join us Sunday, March 18 in worship at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

## VBS 2018: Monday to Friday, Aug. 6-10

## Preschool Open Houses

Prospective parents are invited Jan. 18 at 10 a.m. or 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. 29-Feb. 9.



# 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

### Sunday School - resumes Jan. 7

Explore bold new ways to live out Scripture in our daily lives.

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

6th and 7th graders, EW318

8th grade Quest, EW312

### Sunday Nights - resumes Jan. 7

We play fun games, learn about spiritual disciplines and pursue service opportunities.

Dinner is 5:30 to 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall Program to follow; locations vary; pick up in Circle at 7 p.m.

### Wednesday Nights - Open Table - resumes Jan. 10

Dinner, games and recreation in the Gym.

5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Dinner in FH

6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Gym Night in Rec Wing

## Upcoming Highlights

### Spring Semester Kickoff, Sunday, Jan. 7-

Gather in the Fellowship Hall for dinner at 5:30 p.m. and stay from 6 to 7 p.m. to learn about our retreats and summer mission experiences!

**MSY Retreat in Flat Rock, Feb. 3-4** - Join us for the MSY Retreat at Bonclarken Conference Center in Flat Rock, NC.

### Room in the Inn, Tuesday, Feb. 6 -

Middle school students will serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

**Confirmation Celebration Dinner, Saturday, May 19** - 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Confirmation Sunday** - Sunday, May 20 in 11 a.m. traditional service

## Looking Ahead

CROSS (6th-8th grades) June 17-22. Cost is \$295/youth; \$150/chaperones Heifer (Quest only) July 8-14. More information to come in the new year.

To register for summer trips, e-mail [Perrin.tribble@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Perrin.tribble@covenantpresby.org) and pay a non-refundable deposit of \$100 to Covenant. Please let Perrin know if you are interested in serving as a chaperone!



# High School Youth

Reach director Levi Bannerman at [Levi.bannerman@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Levi.bannerman@covenantpresby.org) or call 704-804-7563.

## Weekly Schedule of Activities

### Sunday School - resumes Jan. 7

Explore bold new ways to live out Scripture in our daily lives.

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

9th to 12th graders, EW307

### Sunday Nights - resumes Jan. 7

We gather for dinner with MSY and then separate for an hour of programming, ranging from service to recreation.

Dinner is 5:30 to 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Program to follow; locations vary; pick up in Circle at 7 p.m.

### Wednesday Nights - Open Table - resumes Jan. 10

Join us for Film + Theology to explore Christian themes in popular movies

5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Dinner in Fellowship Hall

6:30 to 7:30 p.m., EW Theatre

## Upcoming Highlights

**Spring Semester Kickoff, Sunday, Jan. 7-** Gather in the Fellowship Hall for dinner at 5:30 p.m. and stay from 6 to 7 p.m. to learn about our retreats and summer mission experiences!

**Spring Beach Retreat** - March 16-18

**Youth Sunday** - Sunday, April 22

**End-of-Year Party** - Sunday, May 20

**Senior Sunday** - Sunday, June 3

**Senior Trip to Yucatan** - June 17-23

**Montreat Youth Conference** - July 8-14

**HSY Appalachia Service Project** - July 22-28

# Welcome New Members

through December 10



Deloris Davis



Mark Williams and Dana Kern



Sarah Linquist



Melissa and Sean Virkler  
with Andrew and Yls (pronounced Elise)

## 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.

Contact Lora Borrelli, membership and engagement director, at [Lora.borrelli@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Lora.borrelli@covenantpresby.org) or 704-804-7562.

## Starting Point BBQ Dinner

Learn about Covenant and our mission on Sunday, Jan. 28  
from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

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](mailto:Lora.borrelli@covenantpresby.org).

## Congregational Notes

*Do you have announcements? Let Covenant know by contacting: [Cindy.friday@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Cindy.friday@covenantpresby.org).*

### Births

Congratulations to Bradley and Allie Utz on the birth of their son, and to Ellerbie on having a brother, Gaines Pender Utz, born on November 21; and to April Baldwin and Gary Walker, Jr. on the birth of their daughter, Aria Grace Walker, born on August 27; and to Jordan and John Gaffney on the birth of their son John Robert Gaffney, Jr., born on December 8.

### Deaths In The Church

The congregation extends its sincere sympathy and love to:

Lucy and Randy Minter on the death of his mother, and to Ran and Claire on the death of their grandmother, Marcella Winn Minter, on November 21; and to

Allyson and Chris Jones on the death of her mother, and to Abigail and Charlie on the death of their grandmother, Martha Newton, on December 4; and to

Linda and Bill Newbold on the death of his mother, Betty Newbold, on December 8; and to

Beth and Drew Quartapella on the death of her brother, and to Michael and Nicholas on the death of their uncle, Mark Allen, on December 11;

and rejoices with them in the assurance of the resurrection.

## Church safety seminar

**Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**

Led by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, this free seminar will equip us to make the congregation a safer place for all. RSVP to [reservations@covenantpresby.org](mailto:reservations@covenantpresby.org).



## Stewardship update Help Covenant make goal

As of this printing, we are at 83 percent of our pledge goal for 2018.

Please consider returning a pledge card available in pews, narthex and the church office.

You can also visit [Covenantpresby.org/pledge](http://Covenantpresby.org/pledge).

Your financial commitment enables Covenant to position our ministries for the broadest impact.

If you have not pledged before, we hope you'll be inspired to take action. Thank you for your commitment to Covenant. It is a blessing to be on this journey with you.

– Sarah and Will Gaston, 2018 Stewardship Campaign Chairs

### 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](http://www.covenantpresby.org)

Worship Online: [media.covenantpresby.org](http://media.covenantpresby.org)

#### Social Media

@covenantpresby

#covenantpresby



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## Make music with Covenant in 2018

### Opportunities for all ages to sing, play

Covenant's traditional music ministry invites you to sing. Contact [Rob.dicks@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Rob.dicks@covenantpresby.org) or 704-804-7582.

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

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



The contemporary worship team is always looking for vocalists and instrumentalists. Contact [Jason.Graffis@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Jason.Graffis@covenantpresby.org) or 704-804-7584.

9:30 a.m. Sanctuary service - Wednesdays 6:30 to 9 p.m.

11 a.m. Fellowship Hall service - Thursdays 6 to 8:30 p.m.

## Join Covenant men's, women's retreats

Reserve your spot online at [covenantpresby.org](http://covenantpresby.org)

