

# COVENANT *News*

A monthly publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church Charlotte, North Carolina



Ways to serve this summer

# Discovering the joy of reading

## IN THIS ISSUE

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11 Welcome Covenant's newest members

# Message from Bob



Dear friends:

I love long summer days, sunlight lingering well into evening hours, children's voices echoing across the yards during after-dinner play, and, honestly, the slower pace of church life. It's life-giving to enjoy a little space for conversation, for friendship and recreation.

As is our custom at Covenant, we'll embrace summer interns in worship, mission, and education. With Jessica Patchett on sabbatical and Daniel Heath heading to Princeton Seminary, we'll see new faces in worship. We'll also embrace our own college students to work in local agencies as People in Mission interns, and, of course, we'll continue the fine tradition of the Stapleton/Davidson internships. I hope you'll pause to welcome all these folks to our community. Invite them to lunch, to the pool, to a game or whatever opportunity you have to develop friendships.

On a different topic, for longer than twelve months I have used this column to update you regarding potential plans around capital endeavors at Covenant. Last month, the Session spent more than four hours hearing from the Planning and Evaluation Board (P&E) -- the representative strategic planning arm of Covenant -- about possibilities for a Child Development Center, campus improvements, and affordable housing options.

The Session asked great questions and P&E has a bit more work to do before returning to the Session and then to you. One of the rewards for your patience will be excellence, as this group has put literally hundreds of hours into extensive research and refined recommendations. I expect final recommendations will come in the next few months and am confident you'll find them visionary and compelling.

In the meantime, I hope you'll remember the Session in your prayers, that God would guide us all to faithful and wise decisions. I also hope you'll strengthen the ties that bind us in faith by worshiping regularly this summer and connecting to a small study or prayer group.

With gratitude for you all,

*Bob*

# Session Digest

## Highlights from recent Session meetings

- Held examinations of the 2017 Quest class and accepted 18 confirmands into full membership in the church.
- Heard a report from the Planning and Evaluation Board (P&E) on possibilities for a capital campaign. Please see Bob Henderson's column at left.

## Financial Update

### Pledge Receipts (Year to date through April 30, 2017)

2017 Budgeted:..... \$984,800  
2017 Actual:.....\$1,056,223

107.3% of Budget

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

## Mark McAlister

### Earns Honor

Covenant's own Mark McAlister was awarded a yearlong Watson Fellowship for independent study outside the U.S.

Mark, a biology major at Sewanee, will research the impact of emergency medical service on urban and rural environments. He'll try to understand how it establishes trust and well-being among neighbors.



Mark has been accepted to medical school and plans to resume his studies, but first his Watson year will take him to Chile, Denmark, Tanzania and Thailand. Congratulations to Mark and the McAlister family.

# People in Mission

## Meet our 2017 interns

Get to know these young people as they explore their gifts for ministry

### Davidson/Stapleton Interns

*For 27 years, Covenant has partnered with Davidson College and First Presbyterian in this powerful internship created by the late Anne and Don Davidson. Students encounter poverty, meet diverse groups of people, and struggle with issues of faith and social justice.*

*These young people live with Covenant and First Presbyterian families while working with partner nonprofits.*

**Liam Barr** will serve at Urban Ministry Center. His host parents are Kevin and Tricia Smith. A rising sophomore from Greenville, SC, Liam has worked with the Episcopal diocese in Costa Rica to help lead short term mission trips. Awarded the Will Grist Scholarship in High School, he continues to demonstrate a zest for life and respect for the dignity of others.

**Julie Bennett** will serve at The Dove's Nest. Her host parents are Bill and Donna McNairy. She is a rising junior from Middletown, Delaware and currently involved in the Gamut Dance Company at Davidson. She has also spent two summers working with organic gardening, acquiring skills pertaining to farming sustainability and food safety.

**Breanna Davidson** will serve at Moore Place. Her host parents are Drew and Sally Harriss. A rising senior from Palmer, Alaska, she is a participant in the Leadership, Equity and Justice Intergroup Dialogue program. She is a First Scholar and works in research in both the Sociology and Biology departments.

**Saidah Rahman** will serve at Crisis Assistance Ministry. She is hosted by First Presbyterian. A rising sophomore, Saidah is part of the Track and Field team and school ambassador to the SEED (Students Educating Each Other on Diversity) Dialogue Group.

**Evan Bile** will serve at Men's Shelter of Charlotte. He is hosted by First Presbyterian. A rising sophomore from Skaneateles, NY, Evan volunteers at the Ada Jenkins Center in Davidson and is active in Ukirk Presbyterian campus ministry.



*From left to right: Saidah Rahman, Evan Bile, Julie Bennett, Liam Barr, Breanna Davidson*



*Aubrey*



*Harrison*



*Ian*



*Virginia*



*Wheels*

### Mission & Outreach

*This year marks the 20th anniversary of People in Mission, a program to help Covenant college students do social justice work during summer break. Five years ago, we shifted to a local focus and added a weekly reflection component to the program.*

**Aubrey Bader** is a rising sophomore at the University of Tennessee. She will serve at Friendship Trays.

**Harrison Ferone** is a rising sophomore at UNC. He will serve at Urban Ministry Center.

**Ian Goodson** is a rising sophomore at UNC. He will serve at Housing Works.

**Virginia Koonce** is a rising junior at Davidson College. She will serve at Crisis Assistance Ministry.

**Wheels Moyer** is a rising sophomore at UNC. She will serve at Center for Community Transitions.

# Many ways to do good in the summer

*Covenant supports our neighbors at home and beyond*



Carla Leaf  
Director of Mission  
and Outreach

## **Volunteers needed for Freedom School**

Consider taking part in this high-impact summer ministry, which welcomes 80 children in K-5 to Highland, our CMS partner school. We need reading buddies, snack makers and more. Details are on the home page under 'News & Announcements.'

## **Needed: Book bags for children**

Help support children at Highland in Charlotte and Crossnore Elementary in Avery County with pencils, erasers, wide rule composition notebooks, Crayola markers, crayons and glue sticks. Please bring to church office or Rec Wing.

## **Secret Saints seeks recruits**

Join the amazing team of people who support our college students while they are away at school. We send baked treats, encouraging notes and care packages.

## **Save the date: Covenant Impacts Charlotte**

Sunday, Nov. 12

On this annual day of service, Covenant members and friends fan out to do good works for our city.

## **Covenant will welcome women in need of shelter**

Evenings the week of Sept. 17-23

With the Salvation Army's Center of Hope filled to capacity, single women are finding themselves without safe shelter at night. Covenant will join others in the faith community to offer a week of shelter and friendship. You can help prepare meals, bring snacks and spend time with the women.

To get connected with these opportunities, contact me at [Carla.leaf@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Carla.leaf@covenantpresby.org) or call me at 704-804-7578.



Covenant volunteers serve as reading buddies for children at Highland, our CMS partner school.



Highland students traveled to Atlanta on a field trip provided through Covenant's Christmas Eve offering.

# PW grants will lift up refugees, children

Refugees will find homes and children from at-risk neighborhoods will gain academic skills thanks to support from a mission fund managed by Covenant's Presbyterian Women.

## **Refugee Support Services of the Carolinas:**

A grant will support a women's program that provides hope, help and dignity for women, children and the elderly. Located on Central Avenue, this agency assists arriving refugees in integrating into the life of our city.

**Safe Alliance:** Children served by Safe Alliance will take part in field trips and education as part of an extended Freedom School experience this summer. This agency helps women and families who are victims of domestic violence.

**Classroom Central:** Families will be able to shop for school supplies thanks to the work of Classroom Central, a nonprofit that equips students with the resources they need to succeed in the classroom.



From left: Sue Dickson (Anna Circle) and Brandy Stephens from Safe Alliance; Karen Calder from Classroom Central and Leigh Hutchinson (Joanna Circle); Theresa Matheny and Ann Ayers (Lydia Circle); Rosie Elrahal from Bilingual Preschool (not an award recipient but receives support from PW)

# Congratulations *Martha*



*Covenant friends and family hosted a celebration for Martha Isaacs (center), who retired at the end of May after nearly 20 years on the staff, most recently as director of Presbyterian Women.*

## Care & Support

Contact Mary Mattiacci, Covenant's Parish Nurse, at [Mary.mattiacci@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Mary.mattiacci@covenantpresby.org) or call her at 704-804-7561.

### Covenant Crew Work Day Saturday, June 3

*If you have a minor home repair or maintenance need, volunteers from Covenant can lend a hand. Typical jobs are changing light bulbs, replacing smoke detector batteries and flipping mattresses.*



### Stephen Ministers Companions on your journey

*If you are facing grief, illness, transition or a time of challenge, the church has a team of men and women trained as Stephen Ministers to offer confidential, one-on-one support.*

## Young Adults Upcoming Events

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

### First Sunday Brunch

Hosted by Allison Platte. Join us after church for sandwiches, salads and more. Sunday, June 4 at Mayobird, 1531 East Boulevard

### YA Night at the Knights

We'll hang out in the rooftop party zone, which includes a buffet dinner. Thursday, June 29 at 7 p.m. Tickets: RSVP to Andrew Boyd at [ajboyd30@gmail.com](mailto:ajboyd30@gmail.com). Space is limited!



## Nurse's Note

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

Dear Ones,



Recently a dear church member came by my office to tell me he had treated his poison ivy by rubbing whitening toothpaste on it with amazing results. I've never tried it but he says it cleared up in a couple of days. I plan to give it a go next time I

come down with poison ivy.

It made me think about other "home remedies" that are not necessarily based in science but which seem to work. For nausea, you can steep fresh ginger slices in hot water to make a tea and then freeze the tea. Those ice cubes of ginger water will stay down when almost nothing else will. They are especially helpful for morning sickness of pregnancy or post surgical nausea. Ginger ale or ginger snaps can also be helpful.

A square of very dark chocolate is a good remedy for a cough. Supposedly, the compound theobromine in dark chocolate suppresses the coughing. Plus everyone feels better after a piece of chocolate.

Cherries contain melatonin and may be helpful for insomnia. Just eat a handful before bed.

That makes me wonder if dark chocolate covered cherries might not be the perfect cure for a sleepless night due to a cold. I think it might be worth a try. Let me know if it works for you.

Take care,

*Mary*

# Remembering Earle Roberts

November 10, 1922 – July 21, 2016



Earle Roberts not only supervised the staff at Covenant, but also taught classes, preached on some Sundays, and officiated at weddings and funerals.

Earle passed away last year. The Men's Bible

Study Group has been working on ways to honor his service to Covenant, where he was church administrator from 1973 to 1984.

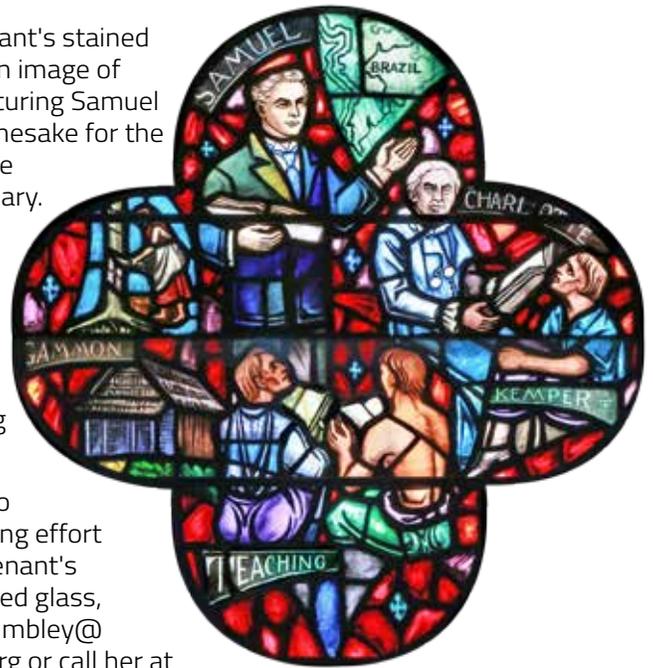
Earle had a colorful career, including five years as a missionary in Brazil, where he taught Old Testament at Campinas Seminary. Earle later worked for six years at the Board of World Missions in Nashville.

A plaque on display at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall recognizes Earle's contributions to Covenant and the Presbyterian Church.

Earle loved Covenant's stained glass. At right is an image of the medallion featuring Samuel Gammon, the namesake for the school where Earle served as missionary.

Thanks to the generous funding of the Men's Fellowship, we were able to photograph the entire lancet using a special lens.

If you would like to support the ongoing effort to document Covenant's story-telling stained glass, contact Virginia.rumbley@covenantpresby.org or call her at 704-804-7576.



## Women's Weekend at *Montreat*



Friday, August 11 – Sunday, August 13

Covenant women and friends are hitting the road for Women's Connection 2017, a weekend in beautiful Montreat.

Guest speaker Rachel Held Evans will encourage participants to find grace through reflection, rest and community.

Covenant's own Mollie James will help lead music. The Covenant group will stay in our own house and share meals throughout the weekend. A welcome dinner is 5:30 p.m. on Friday. We'll depart following 9 a.m. worship on Sunday.

To learn more, visit the Covenant website or contact trip co-host Joan at Joan.watson@covenantpresby.org.

# Covenant staff goes to Sharon Towers

## Bob Henderson speaks on responding to needs of the city

Covenant ministers and staff recently visited Sharon Towers to introduce new folks and share happenings in the life of the church.

Rev. Bob Henderson spoke about Covenant's history of responding to the needs of our city, particularly in the areas of affordable housing and child care for working families.

Many attendees were part of Covenant's early years in the 1950s and 60s when the church supported residents along McDowell Street with tutoring, reading buddies, an after-school program and nursery. The high-poverty neighborhood was called Brooklyn.

Today church leaders are weighing a capital campaign to empower a new generation of Charlotte neighbors. Covenant would invest in affordable housing and add a new building along Morehead Street with a child care center to serve families of diverse economic backgrounds. Plans are still under consideration.



*Bob Henderson spoke to Sharon Towers residents during an annual staff luncheon at the Charlotte retirement community.*

Covenant's emphasis on lifting up vulnerable children and families, Bob told the group, "seems consistent with who we've been - and what we want to be about for the next 50 years."

# Hail, Gale: Covenant member earns service award

Gale Pendergraph had to spend a few minutes in the spotlight on a recent morning to accept a Governor's Award for community service. When the ceremony ended, Gale was happy to return to his preferred role -- just a grateful Charlottean trying to do some good.

Gale, a Covenant member for 40+ years, does a whole lot of good. He's a hospitality ambassador at the airport, where he greets passengers from all over the world (more than 92,000 travelers over the last 10 years). He also serves on the board at Second Harvest Food Bank, an organization he helped to establish in the 1980s.

Among his many duties at Covenant, Gale sings tenor in the choir and has chaired many committees over the years.

Gale has a simple explanation for his service. He grew up poor in Norfolk, Va. The generosity of family friends and neighbors made a lasting impact.

"When I was a kid, I got to go to church summer camp for free," Gale said. "People let us have food when we needed it. My philosophy has always been, I didn't have money to give back, but I can give time and caring."



*Gale Pendergraph (center) received a Governor's Award for his lengthy record of community service.*

# Healthy in 2017

## Rec Wing will host summer camps



James Huffman  
Rec Wing Director

**Summer camps for kids:** Join Covenant Recreation for summer camps for ages 3-14. With offerings from PlaySpanish, Small Hands Big Art, Yes I Can Basketball, Natural Wonders, Discovery Summer, Liz Holly & the Jolly Lollies music, and GameReady Basketball, we have something for everyone.

For schedules, visit [covenantpresby.org](http://covenantpresby.org). Contact [James.huffman@covenantpresby.org](mailto:James.huffman@covenantpresby.org) to get connected.

## TLC Upcoming Events

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

### Film screening

#### Learn about Saint John's Bible Project

We'll watch the video "From Inspiration to Illumination" on the Saint John's Bible Project and view its accompanying artwork. *Wednesday, June 21, Snacks at 10:30 a.m. with program at 11 in EW201.*

### A day in Montreat

#### Visit to Presbyterian Heritage Center



We'll take a road trip to Montreat to visit the Presbyterian Heritage Center, including lunch in the newly renovated Assembly Inn. Dr. Ann Laird Jones, director of arts ministry at Montreat Conference Center, will teach us about the Saint John's Bible.

*Wednesday, June 28. We'll leave from Covenant at 8:30 a.m. and return by 6:30 p.m. A check for \$20 reserves your spot and covers lunch.*



*A celebration on Sunday, June 4 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall will celebrate Daniel Heath, departing director of contemporary worship and arts. Daniel will pursue a divinity degree at Princeton.*

## Music Notes

### What's it like to sing in the choir?

Summer Choir begins on Sunday, June 11 at 10 a.m. and continues through Sept. 3.

Do you love to sing? Summer choir is a great opportunity, with no commitment. Come once, or as often as you like. Simply show up in the Choir Room on Sunday mornings before worship to rehearse an easy anthem. No experience or music-reading ability is required.



### Welcome, Shanka and Brian Pettis

Covenant is pleased to announce that Shanka and Brian Pettis will join the staff on a part-time interim basis during the search for a successor for Daniel Heath.



Brian is director of music and worship at The Park, and Shanka, his wife, is a lead vocalist. Both will help lead our rehearsals. Shanka will be with us Sunday mornings to lead the worship team. She will also hold office hours at Covenant.

### Join Covenant musicians on tour

*You are warmly invited to enjoy music that our choirs have prepared throughout the church year.*

Southminster: The Covenant Ringers will play a program of handbell music on Monday, June 5 at 7 p.m.

Plantation Estates: The Covenant Choir will sing for the residents on Thursday, June 8 at 7 p.m.

### Rob, John perform joint organ concert

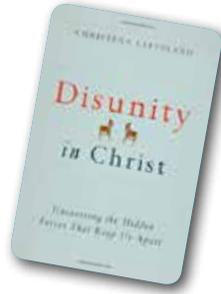
On Sunday, July 9 at 7 p.m., Rob Dicks and John Richardson will perform a joint pipe organ concert as part of the Summer Recital Series hosted by the Charlotte Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Admission is free and all are welcome.

# Adult Sunday School

**Sundays through Sept. 3, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in FH203**

Why do Christians with a heart for unity have such a hard time actually uniting? Despite Jesus' prayer that all Christians "be one," divisions have existed in the body of Christ from the beginning to today.

The good news is that we can overcome the hidden forces that pull us apart. Join us to find out how. Details: Contact [Jen.christianson@covenantpresby.org](mailto:Jen.christianson@covenantpresby.org).



# Covenant Kids Education



*Open Picnic Table welcomes families and friends this summer.*

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

## Sunday School this summer

Unlike many churches, Covenant does not cancel Sunday School during the summer months, but combines classes and shifts leadership to volunteers in order to give regular teachers a well-deserved break. Enjoy your summertime and please consider serving one Sunday in one of the ways listed below:

**FIRST FLOOR** – Early Childhood (combined ages 2-K)

Bible story & singing at 10 to 10:15 a.m. or 11:15-11:30 a.m.

**SECOND FLOOR** – Elementary (combined rising 1st-5th grades)

9:30 a.m. Children attend worship with their families. Following the children's message, a volunteer shepherd escorts kids to EW207 for a lesson. Parents pick up from EW207.

11 a.m. – K-5 child care provided on 1st floor in EW120. Elementary kids may serve as junior shepherds, assisting with lesson and activities.

## Summer Fun Days

A few openings are left. Covenant Preschool hosts camp sessions for preschoolers up to rising Kindergartners and currently enrolled toddlers. Dates are June 5-9, 19-23 and July 10-14.

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

## Open Picnic Table

Bring your own picnic and join friends and families on the Circle. Early Childhood Committee provides ice cream and popsicles. Dates are June 7, July 12 and Aug. 2 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

## Coffee & Chaos

Preschoolers and parents up to 2nd grade are invited to meet in the Gym for play and chat throughout the summer. Dates are June 1, July 27, Aug 24, 10-11:30 a.m.

# Sunday Mornings Summer

*Beginning July 2, Covenant will operate on a modified schedule through September 4*

## Worship Services

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Sanctuary

11 a.m. Traditional Sanctuary

## Re-connect coffee and chat time for parents

Join us every Sunday from 10:30 to 11 a.m. in EW207 and 212.

## Covenant Kids

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, Sunday morning Christian education for elementary students will begin in worship at 9:30 a.m. (only) and move to the education wing following the Time for Young Disciples.

A shepherd will be in the narthex at 9:20, with shepherd's crook and clipboard. Parents may sign in their child and speak to the shepherd for details. That same shepherd will escort children to EW207 following the children's message. Please pick up your elementary age children from EW207 after the service.

Early childhood age children (infants-kindergarten) can be taken to child care on the first floor of the education wing and signed in from 9:15 a.m. to noon.

# Middle & High School Youth

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



## Weekly Schedule of Activities

### Summer Sundays

Combined Youth Sunday School Class

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in EW307

*No Sunday evening fellowship during summer.*

### Week-by-Week Calendar

#### JUNE

Sunday, June 4 – Senior Sunday; AM Combined MSY/HSY Sunday School, No PM Programming

Wednesday, June 7 – Open Picnic Table

Sunday, June 11 – AM Combined MSY/HSY Sunday School, No PM Programming

Sunday, June 18 – AM Combined MSY/HSY Sunday School, No PM Programming

Sunday, June 25 – AM Combined MSY/HSY Sunday School, No PM Programming

Tuesday, June 27 – Freedom School Bowling 12:45-2:15 p.m.

#### JULY

Sunday, July 2 – No AM Combined MSY/HSY Sunday School, No PM Programming

Sunday, July 9 – AM Combined MSY/HSY Sunday School, No PM Programming

Wednesday, July 12 – Open Picnic Table

Sunday, July 16 – AM Combined MSY/HSY Sunday School, No PM Programming

Tuesday, July 18 – Ray's Splash Planet with Freedom School 12:45-2:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 23 – AM Combined MSY/HSY Sunday School, No PM Programming

Sunday, July 30 – AM Combined MSY/HSY Sunday School, No PM Programming

## Covenant Staff News

Levi Bannerman will join the staff on June 19 as director of high school youth ministries.



A 2017 graduate of Presbyterian College, Levi brings a range of experiences in working with young people. He was a counselor and supervisor for three summers at Montreat Conference Center, where he managed scheduling, served as a point of contact for other counselors and helped produce meaningful programs for high school students.

### Base Mission Trip, CROSS City Serve

**June 18-23; Charlotte, NC; \$295**

You don't have to travel far to do mission work. Serve the hungry, homeless, elderly and/or disabled here in Charlotte. Register: Erin Williams at [erin.williams@covenantpresby.org](mailto:erin.williams@covenantpresby.org).

### Quest 8th Grade Mission Trip to Heifer International Ranch

**July 8-July 15; Perryville, Arkansas; \$450**

Join a unique and memorable trip to a ranch in Arkansas for a new understanding of poverty. Register: Erin Williams at [erin.williams@covenantpresby.org](mailto:erin.williams@covenantpresby.org)

### June 17-23; Seniors visit the Yucatan; Closed

This annual trip is a bonding experience for Covenant youth who have grown up together.

### June 25-July 2; High school students visit Chicago; Closed

From our home base at the historic Fourth Presbyterian Church on Michigan Avenue, we will explore neighborhoods, learn about contemporary urban life and engage in hands-on service.

### Volunteer Opportunities - Freedom School

- Bowling Adventure Day - Levels 1 & 3

Tuesday, June 27, 12:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Come bowl with our scholars at AMF University Lanes on North Tryon Street. Bring \$5 to pay for your bowling session. Remember to wear socks and bring your smile and enthusiasm!

- Ray's Splash Planet - Level 1

Tuesday, July 18, 12:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Come cool off at Ray's Splash Planet, a one-of-a-kind indoor waterpark located in uptown Charlotte. Contact Perrin if you're interested in serving.

### Save the Date

Welcome Parties are Sunday, August 27

Levi is well versed in the customs of the Presbyterian Church, having served as youth elder on the session at Black Mountain Presbyterian. He also held a leadership position with the Presbyterian Youth Council, a role in which he created small group curriculum and led engagement and worship from the stage for 2,000 youth conference attendees. As a resident advisor at Presbyterian College, Levi responded to the needs of students on his hall and organized activities to build community.

Please join us in welcoming Levi and supporting his work with the Covenant high school youth program.

# Welcome New Members



Bobby Sullivan and Meredith McKee  
Dex, Cade and Charlie



Evelyn Henson



Mike and Amanda de Boer



Jeff and Janet Harris



Holly Crawford



Brian Yates and Kirby Robbins

## 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.

## Congregational Notes

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

### Births

Congratulations to Liz & Jen Godwin, and big sister Harlowe, on the birth of their twin boys, Heath Everett & Cohen Lee Godwin, on May 5.

### Baptisms

Congratulations to Daniel David Barchi, son of Cindy and Brian Graybeal, on the occasion of his baptism on April 30 in the Chapel service; and to

Martha and Matt Allen who presented their son, Elliott Richardson Allen on May 21; and to Katie and Matthew Snipes who presented their son, Walter Ridgley Snipes on May 21.

### Deaths

The congregation extends its sincere sympathy and love to Becca Hill and Cary Hill Degan on the death of their father, Carlyle Hill; and to Mark & Lib and John & Kelli on the death of their mother and Mark, Rob, Mary Kate, Lacy & Annie on the death of their grandmother, Cornelia McAlister, on May 9; and to Debbie and Rich Hodde on the death of his brother, Brian Patrick Hodde, of Bismarck, ND on May 11; and to Velda Dugger Gallegra on the death of her husband, Pasquale Gallegra of Henderson NV on May 11; and to Helen M. Collins on the death of her sister, Carolyn M. Croft of Anderson, S.C.,

and rejoices with them in the assurance of the resurrection.

### In Memoriam

Robert J. Covington  
March 20, 1927 – January 20, 2017  
Carlyle H. Hill, Elder  
September 3, 1946 – April 29, 2017  
Cornelia D. McAlister  
May 12, 1930 – May 9, 2017

## Spotlight: People in Mission Celebrating 20 years of changing lives



*We asked alums to look back on their mission experiences. Visit the Covenant website for these powerful testimonies. Below is from Tripp Mickle, a reporter for The Wall Street Journal. Tripp traveled to Reynosa, Mexico in 2001.*

Temperatures were already reaching 100 degrees when I arrived in late May. As we made our way across the lazy, green Rio Grande and onto the bumpy highway south of the border, I stared out the window of a pickup truck and questioned my decision.

I was a calamity on the construction site. I hammered my thumb. I dropped a cinderblock on my foot. I left cement on my skin, burning it.

The foreman, Ezequiel, looked past the mishaps and mentored me. My language skills improved and I began talking in my sleep in Spanish. A woman adopted me as her gringo son.

Eventually, the groups came. We built house after house and entertained high schoolers and adults from churches ranging from Alabama to North Carolina.

Years later, one of the high school students from outside Charlotte, Claire Tomkinson, became the director of middle school youth at Covenant. Giving and receiving can be circular like that, spinning forward over decades in unexpected ways.



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## Covenant, The Park team up for series

You're invited to a six-week summer small group on race, class, privilege and culture - topics that too often divide us.

We'll focus on the book *Same Kind of Different As Me*, the story of an unlikely friendship. No experience or expertise is needed - just a willing heart and an open mind.

**Where and when:** Thursdays at 6:45 p.m.; The Park, Independence Campus – June 1, 8 and 15; Covenant Fellowship Hall June 22, 29, July 6 or 13

**To learn more:** Contact Ariel Gritter, Covenant member and co-facilitator of the group, at [ariel.mcbryde-gritter@wellsfargo.com](mailto:ariel.mcbryde-gritter@wellsfargo.com).



Church Office: 704-333-9071 • News/Announcements: 704-804-7565 • Recreation Wing: 704-334-7491 • Preschool: 704-333-8658

Covenant Email Addresses : [firstname.lastname@covenantpresby.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@covenantpresby.org) • Web Site: [www.covenantpresby.org](http://www.covenantpresby.org) • Social Media: @covenantpresby and #covenantpresby