



Covenant Connection

November 27, 2017 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

12-3

Peanut Butter Sunday
Presbyterian Coffee Project
Advent Wreath Making
YOUth Group

12-4

Monday Morning Bible Study

12-6

TOW-Together on Wednesday

12-8

Novels & Needles

12-9

Hanging of the Greens
The Joy of Sharing Christmas

12-10

The Joy of Sharing Christmas

12-11

Monday Morning Bible Study

12-12

Presbyterian Women Circle

12-13

TOW-Together on Wednesday
Gingerbread House Making

Connect with the Pastor . . .



Last spring we as a congregation agreed to look deeply into a significant societal need, *the impact of poverty on children*, and to assess appropriate responses. Many of you have been involved in the opportunities offered this fall to study this issue. In September we heard three presentations during the Sunday School hour exploring the research, facts and myths surrounding poverty and children. In October we spent four Wednesday evenings studying Scripture to hear what God had to say about issues of poverty through the voices of prophets, the psalmist, proverbs, the Law, and Jesus. In November we heard from three panels of local service providers with regard to what they saw and heard in meeting the medical, food, housing, and social service needs of children in poverty. Throughout the fall the *Current Events with a Christian Perspective* Sunday School class has been discussing issues of poverty in a book study. It has been an enriching experience, but now what?

What have we learned? Where do we go from here? These are questions the Session would like you to consider as we look toward 2018. The presentations and discussions debunked

(Continued on page 3)

Let us come before God with thanksgiving and extol God with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. – Psalm 95:2-3



Connect with God

Periodically the Connection newsletter will be high-lighting how our members have “connected” with God. We need your stories!

You don’t need to wait until the newsletter deadline to submit an article.

Submissions can be made to covenantpcusastauton@gmail.com.

Please indicate if we can use your name. Thanks!

Let Us Know

You’re Coming to TOW!

In order to prepare the correct quantity of food, we are asking that you **RSVP by noon on the Monday** before the TOW you will be attending. You may do this by:

- Signing the Friendship Register in the pew on Sunday
- Calling the church office at 885-2138

December 6
“Kline’s Night BBQ & Ice Cream”

December 13
“Pizza Night”

Vegetarian options available at all meals.

TOGETHER ON
TOW
WEDNESDAY

Session Highlights

At its stated meeting on November 19, the Session took the following actions:

- ◆ Approved a format for color in print editions of the newsletter
- ◆ Approved a gift to Laura Lawson with gratitude for her leadership in Christian Education for children last summer
- ◆ Approved a policy with regard to beverages in the sanctuary
- ◆ Approved a process for moving ahead with action on the identified societal need: the impact of poverty on children
- ◆ Affirmed the church’s existing policy as a “gun-free zone”

Connect with the Pastor . . . *continued*

some myths and opened our eyes to some startling realities. ***What did you learn that was significant to your understanding of this issue and the needs of children in poverty? What might we do as a church to address these needs?*** Take a moment (perhaps during your Advent devotions) to jot down your thoughtful responses to these questions, then mail them to the church office, drop them in the offering plate, or email them to Martha Pierce at covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com. Session will be considering our next steps at their Session retreat in January and will appreciate your insights and thoughts. As we enter this Advent season and prepare to celebrate the birth of a holy child in a lowly manger long ago, consider these children in our midst today, for it is in serving them that we serve him who is the Savior, Christ the Lord!



The Outreach Team reminds you
"PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY"
is the first Sunday of
every month!

Nursing Nook with Kathy Henderson, RN



Sometimes, the phrase "healthy holiday" seems to present a contradiction in terms. Just trying to follow even some of the "healthy holiday" advice offered by magazine writers, TV personalities, and well-meaning

friends or family members can be overwhelming.

We all "know" we should: eat carefully; exercise regularly; avoid stress (as well as caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, arguments with relatives we don't much like; and count the many blessings we are too stressed out to remember at the moment.

Feeling a bit overwhelmed at the idea of adding to this information overload, I asked (randomly selected) fellow Covenant members for holiday health hints.

- ◆ "Save the guilt for next year, and enjoy this moment."
- ◆ "Remember to drink water" is good for holiday feasts and daily life.
- ◆ "Wash your hands (or use alcohol-based cleaner)." Keep the cleaner handy for visitors: they are bringing new germs into your space.
- ◆ "Walk the buffet line twice before serving yourself."

And about that exercise: Get to church a few minutes early and walk or stroll the halls of Covenant. Drop by my office for a pedometer or companion. A bonus: You'll undoubtedly encounter a few smiling faces, which can enhance mental health.

Gun-Free Zone Policy

In response to concerns arising out of the recent shootings in Texas, the Session reaffirmed Covenant's existing policy with regard to weapons on church grounds: *"No gun, pistol, bowie knife, dagger or other dangerous weapon shall be carried or brought on to church property."* This policy, adopted by Session on May 22, 2011 at the recommendation of the Executive Team and Nursery School Team, establishes Covenant as a "gun-free zone" and was recommended by state organizations for protection of children in preschool programs. It empowers law enforcement personnel to remove from the property anyone bringing weapons on to church grounds in violation of the policy. Thankfully, no issues have arisen under the policy since its adoption.

Advent Sunday School Study

Our Advent study this year is: *The Redemption of Scrooge* by Matt Rawles. Join us in the chapel at 9:30 each Sunday in December for reflection and discussion on the theological themes of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. A book by the same title (*The Redemption of Scrooge*) is available but is not indispensable for the class.

Journey Through Advent

For your journey through Advent this year, three resources are available to you:

- ♦ *Moving Toward the Manger* joins Scripture readings with reflections from the writings of Frederick Buechner for your Advent devotions.
- ♦ *Oh Holy Night!* offers daily devotions (Bible passage, prayer and reflection) and activities for families to share in Advent.
- ♦ *These Days* continues its daily readings, reflecting on our preparation for the coming of the Christ child to Bethlehem.

These resources can be picked up in the narthex. We hope that you will pick up the devotional that best meets your needs and use it through this Advent season.

Help Us Keep the Sanctuary Clean

Recognizing that many folks are now taking beverages (water, coffee, tea) with them into the sanctuary during worship, Session is asking for your help in saving the carpet from stains and keeping our sanctuary clean. Please use a container with a lid to protect against spills (lids for paper coffee cups are now available in the breezeway) and remember to take your container with you after worship (along with any tissues, candy wrappers, or other miscellaneous items that may have been stuffed in a pew rack). The Facilities Team and church mice who so generously give of their time to tidy up the sanctuary each week will be most grateful!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to
Beth and Brad Bohannon
on the birth of a son,
Elliott Grayson Witt Bohannon,
born on Friday, November 24
at 10:58 p.m.

Gregory is the proud big brother,
Dan and Terri Summers-Minette
the happy grandparents,
and Dave and Amy Fetterman
the elated uncle and aunt with
Elliott's excited cousin Eleanor.



Support the Food Bank

Come support the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and prepare for the holiday season on Monday, December 4th at 7:00pm! Local musicians will spread holiday cheer at the 21st Annual Christmas at Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church, 28 Old Stone Church Lane in Fort Defiance. A freewill offering will go directly to the Food Bank. \$1.00 = 4 meals.

Hanging of the Greens



A tradition at Covenant is the "Hanging of the Greens" as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. On Saturday, December 2nd at 9:30am, we will need willing hands to help decorate. Come, join us and enjoy the fellowship AND Christmas cookies and hot chocolate!

Words of Thanks

A sincere thank you to our church family. Your cards, notes, texts, e-mails, visits and gifts have meant so much during this time of healing. I hope this surgery will give me more of an opportunity to share my gifts with you. Thank you so much for your love and support. It makes healing a bit brighter.
Sincerely, Becky, Chris, Juliana and Susan

SERVING THE FOOD PANTRY

At Together On
Wednesday (TOW), an
enthusiastic group of



church members formed an assembly line to bag the ingredients for a bean soup. Each bag contained 2 cans of tomatoes along with the recipe for preparing the soup. Over 100 lbs. of the dry soup was delivered to the local food pantry to be placed on their shelves. The pantry was pleased to receive this gift and noted that it would provide a nutritional meal for about 400 people.

In addition to the soup over 90 lbs. of canned goods including peanut butter, was also provided. Thanks to all of you who provided these gifts.

Connect With Other Christians

CareGivers Support Group

CareGivers Support Group will meet at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 3rd in Kathy Henderson's Community Nursing Office. Anyone caring for a loved one is welcome to come to share feelings and experiences with others who are also caring for loved ones. Linda Owen and Joan Sayers will lead the discussion. If you have questions, call Linda or Joan.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will gather for their study on Tuesday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m. in the breezeway. Lesson four and a time for our Christmas luncheon party hosted by Dee Norris and Jerry Lynn Shipplett tops the agenda. Join us! Christmas baskets will be assembled by the Presbyterian Women on Thursday, December 14th at 9:30a.m. in the church fellowship hall. Please bring clippers and any fresh greenery you have!



Save the Date for Upcoming Events

December is a busy month! The Fellowship Team has some fun activities planned for us. All family friendly! So please, mark you calendars and plan to join us.



Wednesday, December 13 —
Gingerbread House Making after
TOW dinner (6:00p.m.)

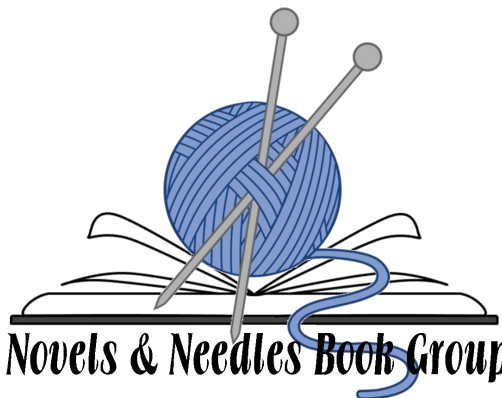
Sunday, December 17th —
Pizza Lunch & Caroling after 10:30
service




Sunday, December
31st — Fifth Sunday Activity —
Pizza & Bowling from 1:00-3:00
p.m. at Staunton Lanes

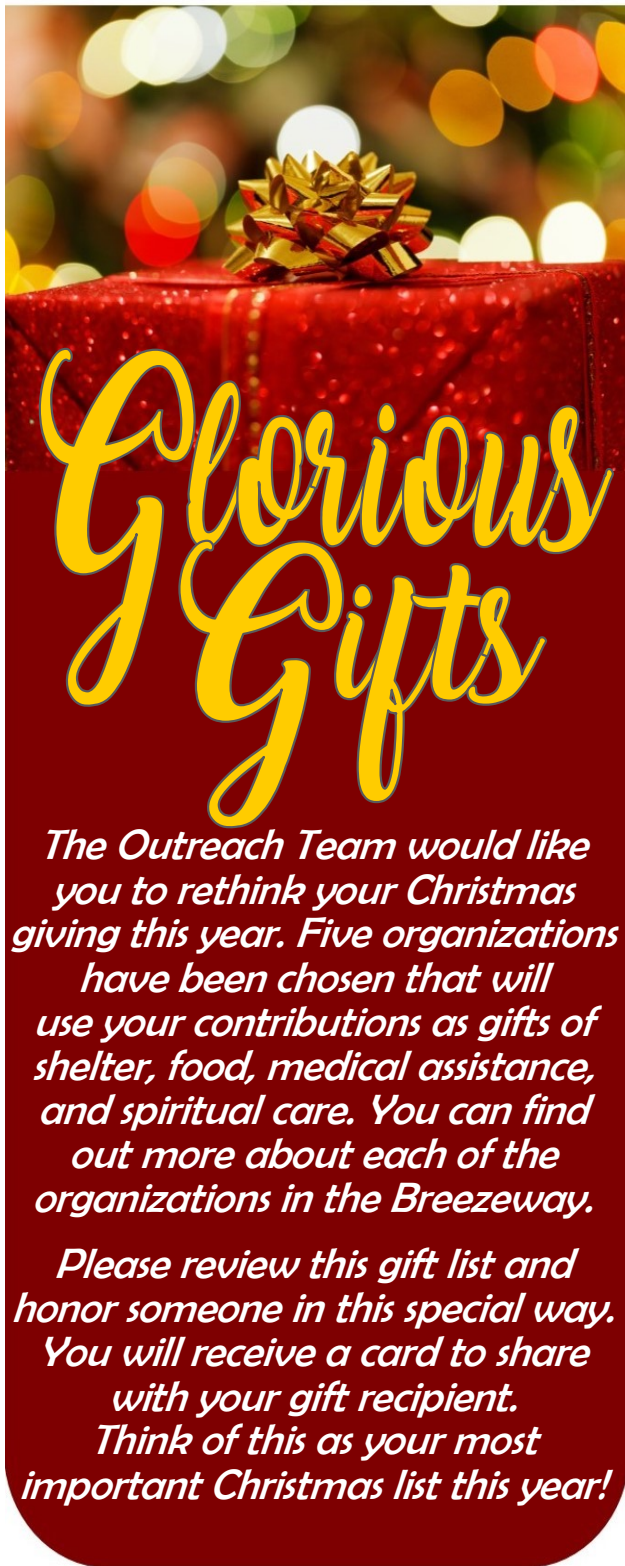
Novels & Needles Book Club

Novels & Needles Book Club will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the breezeway on Friday, December 8th. ***The Book That Matters*** by Ann Hood will be discussed. Members are encouraged to bring their knitting or crocheting which could benefit the Covenant Prayer Shawl Ministry. Please join us!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 COMMUNION SUNDAY PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship followed by Fellowship 11:30am Youth Christmas Present Wrap 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 12:00pm Christian Education Team 12:00pm Fellowship Team 2:30pm Advent Wreath Making 6:30pm Elder Training 6:30pm Youth Group	4 10:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Congregational Care Team 7:00pm Facilities Team 7:15pm Worship Team	5	6 6:00pm TOW	7 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	8 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:00am Novels & Needles Book Group	9 9:00am Hanging of the Greens 6:00pm The Joy of Shaming Christmas
10 8:30AM Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship followed by Fellowship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 12:00pm Outreach Team 3:00pm The Joy of Shaming Christmas	11 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Elder Training Covenant Connection Published	12 9:30am PW Executive Board 10:00am PW Circle Meeting 7:15pm Stewardship & Finance Team	13 6:00pm TOW 7:00 Gingerbread House Making	14 8:30am Executive Team 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 9:30am PW Assemble Christmas Baskets 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	15	16
17 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship followed by Fellowship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 11:30am Caroling & Pizza 6:00pm STATED SESSION MEETING	18 10:30am Bible Study	19	20	21 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Covenant Connection Published	23
24 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship followed by Fellowship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 4:00pm Family Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	26	27	28 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	29	30
31 4 CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION Worship & Sunday School as above 1:00pm Fifth Sunday Event—Pizza & Bowling						

DECEMBER 2017



Illubabor Children Agape REsponse

iCARE ~

The iCARE program supports the Gore Home for Children. This hostel, administered by the Illubabor Bethel Synod, Ethiopia provides 85 orphaned and destitute children with a safe place to live, spiritual nurturing, three meals a day, clothes and school uniforms, and educational opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have.

Three meals a day for one child	\$1. ³⁰ x ____ = ____
Feeds one child for a week	\$9 x ____ = ____
One pair of shoes	\$12 x ____ = ____
One child's school supplies	\$20 x ____ = ____
Water/electricity for one month for Gore Home for Children	\$40 x ____ = ____
Clothes/school uniform for one child	\$50 x ____ = ____
Monthly salary for Hostel house mother, Aster Tesew	\$100 x ____ = ____
Monthly salary/ Rev. Ayana Hedu, Gore Home director	\$200 x ____ = ____
Yearly support for one child	\$950 x ____ = ____



Verona Community Food Pantry ~

Your support will help feed young and old hungry neighbors in Staunton and Augusta County.

Provide food for a household	
for a month	\$5 x ____ = ____
Buy 250 pounds of food	\$10 x ____ = ____
Provide food for five house-	
holds for a month	\$25 x ____ = ____
Provide food for a household	
for one year	\$50 x ____ = ____
Buy 2,500 pounds of food	\$100 x ____ = ____
Provide food for 50 house-	
holds for a month	\$250 x ____ = ____
Purchase 10,000 pounds	
of food	\$500 x ____ = ____

Please indicate the number of gifts and total contribution amount under the organization(s) you've selected. Complete this information:

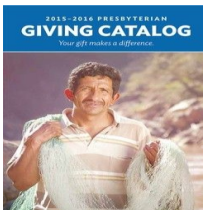
The total amount given is: \$ _____

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Please make checks out to "Covenant."



Presbyterian Giving Catalog ~

Each gift in the catalog exemplifies the work prayerfully carried out by ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People are two of the ministries that utilize gifts toward strengthening alternatives to produce and share healthy food and alleviating poverty, oppression and injustice while addressing issues directly impacting families.

Farming Tools	\$10 x ____ = ____
Tilapia Fingerlings	\$15 x ____ = ____
Family of Chickens	\$25 x ____ = ____
Kitchen Kit	\$25 x ____ = ____
Bag of Moringa Tree Seeds	\$30 x ____ = ____
Piglet	\$40 x ____ = ____
Garden Well (share)	\$50 x ____ = ____
One mule (share)	\$50 x ____ = ____
Rabbit Hutch & 2 Rabbits	\$50 x ____ = ____
Treadle Pump	\$65 x ____ = ____
Pair of Goats	\$178 x ____ = ____
Beekeeping Kit	\$240 x ____ = ____
One mule	\$500 x ____ = ____
Garden Well	\$1250 x ____ = ____



EVACE International, Inc. ~

Started by Covenant members and run by local volunteers, the goal of EVACE is to help impoverished communities pull themselves out of poverty through better health and education. EVACE works to teach computing, math and English in their Technology Education Center on Ponson Island, Philippines, and runs a free clinic with nutritional and agricultural programs that improve the residents' health and income potential.

Pre-natal & Maternal Support (free clinic)

Pre-natal vitamins reduce birth defect
(1 month supply) \$7 x ____ = ____

Pre-natal Ultrasound \$15 x ____ = ____

Visit w/ Obstetrician (includes ferry fare and
doctor fees) \$20 x ____ = ____

Job & Life Skills Training (Technology Education Center)

1 month computer & English language
curriculum per child \$10 x ____ = ____

1 month internet access for the
classroom \$50 x ____ = ____

1 Solar panel for new facility \$200 x ____ = ____

1 instructor computer \$500 x ____ = ____

Increase Farmers' Income & Prevent Malnutrition and "Stunting"

1 week healthy food for
undernourished child \$20 x ____ = ____

1/8 acre Soybean Seeds \$25 x ____ = ____

Starter Mushroom Kit \$100 x ____ = ____



Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta ~

Do you live in a home that is cold in the winter and leaks during summer rains? Do you struggle to safely access your home? Do you "tread carefully" in areas of your home where the floor is falling through? Many of us are fortunate to live in homes that are safe, warm, dry, and accessible. Yet, there are those in our community who are low-income and elderly or living with a disability who cannot take on the cost of critical home repairs and feel as if they have nowhere to turn.

Fortunately, RHGA works year-round to provide these homeowners with no-cost, critical home repairs. In order to help your neighbors in need, please consider a Glorious Gift donation to RHGA in honor of a loved one. Gift ideas include:

Repair a broken window to prevent cold
drafts \$50 x ____ = ____

Coat a trailer roof to prevent
leaking \$100 x ____ = ____

Replace a deteriorating floor to prevent falling
through the floor \$250 x ____ = ____

15' Wheelchair Ramp to enable a disabled home
owner to enter and exit
their home \$500 x ____ = ____

As many of us are blessed with an abundance of wealth, we can choose instead to give a gift to a homeowner in need. Merry Christmas to you and yours from the board and clients of Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta!

What's Happening In the Community

A BACH FESTIVAL CHRISTMAS

The Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival will celebrate the holidays with ***A Bach Festival Christmas*** on Friday, December 1 at 7:00pm. The performance will take place in the newly completed concert hall in the Whitesel Music showroom at 1592 CF Pours Drive, Harrisonburg. This festival concert will feature Cuban tenor Dian Rene and JMU faculty pianist Paulo Steinberg in a mix of classical, holiday, and popular tunes sure to delight music lovers of all ages. The Bach Festival String Quartet will also perform, featuring violinists David McCormick and Susan Black, violist Diane Phoenix-Neal, and cellist Lisa Wright. The concert is free and open to the public; donations will be gratefully accepted to benefit the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival.



CONCERT WITH ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

The Season of Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for the coming Christ. Enjoy an evening from 5:00-6:00 pm on Sunday, December 3rd at Trinity Episcopal Church, Staunton. An interweaving of Holy Scripture, carols and choral music by the Trinity Choirs will be presented to celebrate the coming of our Savior. Music by Palestrina, William McKie, Peter Warlock, and many more. A festive reception will follow in McCracken Hall.

DOVETALE...A FAMILY-FRIENDLY SHOW

All ages are invited to ***DoveTale***, a family-friendly show that brings a humorous and poignant look into the hearts and minds of Joseph, Mary, and the Angel Gabriel as they confront the gritty realities of the birth of Christ. December 10 at 7:30 pm in Eastern Mennonite University's Lehman Auditorium. Pay-what-you-will (\$15 per adult/\$5 per student suggested). Tickets will be available at 6:00pm in the Campus Center Greeting Hall (just up the hill from Lehman Auditorium). A showtime freewill offering will benefit student scholarships.



CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

Eastern Mennonite University invites you to ***Christmas Lessons & Carols***, December 11 at 7:00pm in the Lehman Auditorium. This classic service features scriptures, university choirs, congregational singing and the premier of a choral piece from composer, Gwyneth Walker. A free-will offering for the EMU Compassion Fund will be received. Everyone is welcome.

*Please keep in your prayers
Betty, Terry and Cody
Huffman and their family
on the death of
Maxine (Smiley) Nutty
on November 13. Maxine was
the sister of Betty and aunt to
Terry and Cody.*

Condolences

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11-10-2014

SOMETIMES I FORGOT TO WITNESS TO
PEOPLE ... NOW I'M COVERED

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401

www.covenantpresstaunton.org

Office 540-885-2138 • Fax 540-885-4399



MINISTERIAL & PROGRAM STAFF

John C. Peterson

Pastor

Kate Rascoe

Parish Associate

Laura Lawson

Director of Youth Ministries

Betty Richmond

Interim Director of Children's Ministries

Jeffrey Ryman

Minister of Music

Christopher Wszalek

Organist

Lou Dolive

Handbell Director

Joan Swift

Director of Children's Music

Mitzi White

Developmental Preschool Director

Martha Pierce

Administrative Assistant

Paul Sorrell

Treasurer

Kathy Henderson

Covenant Nurse

Cleo Holly

Custodian

The Mission of Covenant Presbyterian Church is Striving to be Faithful Disciples of Christ: Worshiping with Joy, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love.

Covenant Connection is a publication of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401. The newsletter is published bi-weekly, to inform members and friends of church programs, news and events. The Connection newsletter is online at www.covenantpresstaunton.org.



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*Striving to be Faithful Disciples of Christ:
Worshipping with Joy, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love*

We're on the web!
covenantpresstaunton.org



The Joy of Sharing Christmas

*Saturday, December 9 —
come anytime between 6-8pm
Sunday, December 10 —
come anytime between 3-5pm*

This theatrical production
sponsored and coordinated
by the Christian Education Team
is a re-telling of the story of the birth of Jesus.
Created to hold the attention of all ages,
this re-telling is depicted in bite-size stories.
People will journey through the church to see
the different scenes of stories leading up to
and following Jesus' birth.
There will be music, skits and cookies!
We will share the story of Jesus' birth
and learn why we celebrate so much
at Christmastime.

***Be sure to share Christmas
by inviting your friends and family
to join you!***