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

BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Thoughts from the Pastor's Desk
- Covenant Preschool Happenings!
- Hiking with Charlie
- Fellowship Dinner Groups
- New Part-time Staff Member

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From the Pastor's Desk . . .



God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. – Psalm 46

Over the past few tumultuous weeks it seems as if the psalmist's words have come to life all too vividly. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, raging fires in

the West, and an earthquake in Mexico caused waters to roar and foam, the mountains to tremble, and the earth and lives of many who live in their path to change! Lives were lost; homes were destroyed leaving thousands homeless; treasures and treasured mementoes were swept away. Lives were changed, few for the better. The focus of the psalmist is not, however, upon the change, but upon our response to the changes. WE WILL NOT FEAR! The opposite of fear is not just COURAGE but also HOPE. We face those traumatic changes with the courage of first responders who waded into flood waters to rescue strand-

ed strangers and with the hope of resilient residents who aided their neighbors and could look ahead to a day when the waters would recede and the winds die down and homes would be rebuilt. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is actively involved in meeting the needs of those whose lives have been so drastically changed, offering hope in tangible form and in the intangible love of Christ at work through their hands. We can share in their work; within this newsletter you can find a couple of ways to do so.

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VBS Leadership Needed for 2018

Did your children or grandchildren miss the fun of Vacation Bible School at Covenant this summer? Did you miss the catchy songs running through your head? Did you miss the interesting activities, the service project, or the entertaining games? If so, you have VBS in your heart! Your help is needed to bring the fun of VBS back to Covenant in the summer of 2018. We are searching for an individual or perhaps a small group of individuals who would be willing to coordinate VBS next summer. As

the Christian Education team prepares its budget for 2018, it would be helpful to know by November 1st if anyone from our congregation feels called to serve in this role. If you are interested or would like more information on what this would entail, please contact Debbie Melvin at 4melvins@gmail.com or 886-3797.



There is no one who is insignificant in the purpose of God."

—Alistair Begg

Search for Associate Pastor Continues

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee continues to work diligently to discern who might be called to serve Covenant as Associate Pastor for Christian Education and Nurture in the coming years. Over the past eight months we have considered almost a hundred PIFs (Personal Information Forms), interviewed several candidates, and hosted one candidate on site. However, we have not yet discerned that person whom God is calling here to serve. Please pass along any suggestions that you might have and continue to keep us in your prayers as we continue our work on your behalf. — The APNC: Savannah Faith Clark, Melissa Hostetter, Mike Riddell [chair], John Sayers, Louise Scott, and Janey Terry.



Fellowship Dinner Groups Begin Soon

How do dinner groups work?

- ♦ Groups are made up of eight people (singles or couples)
- ♦ Either may host by rotating homes or meeting at a restaurant, park, etc.
- ♦ Meet as the group decides, 3 to 4 times
- ♦ The group divides up the work by each bringing a dish, host provides the main course.

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

Please sign up by completing the form below and placing it in the offering plate or by contacting Bruce at brucehemp@gmail.com or by phone 540-294-2406. Deadline for registration is Sunday, October 1st.

COVENANT FALL DINNER GROUP SIGN-UP

Name of participants _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- ☐ Check if you would like to be the first in your group to host.
- ☐ Check if you would like to be a substitute.

If you have any food allergies or types of food you do not eat, please list:

We want your suggestions or comments:



Sunday, October 1, is World Communion Sunday

when we recall the bonds which unite us at the Lord's Table with sisters and brothers in Christ around the world. This year we are blessed to have with us on that Sunday Crystal Gosnell for whom we pray each week as she continues her work in the orphanage and school in Nigeria. Crystal will be preaching in worship and sharing some of her experiences in conversation between services. As we continue our focus on *the impact of poverty on children*, come and hear what God is doing in the lives of children halfway around the world through the hands and heart of Crystal.

Many hands make for LIGHT WORK!

The Fellowship Team would LOVE for you to prayerfully consider volunteering to help. Look for small but MEANINGFUL volunteer opportunities on our sign up sheet on the kiosk in the breezeway. From baking desserts for TOW to helping with set up for potlucks, there are many ways that you can help with activities that share fellowship with our Covenant friends and family. Thanks in advance for any and all help!



Covenant Preschool Happenings!



WOW! We have had a fantastic start to a new school year! We are moving along in September "Up in the tree" and will focus on a directional concept each month, while incorporating seasonal fun and holidays along the way.

The children are hanging like monkeys in the tree and gobbling up apples as they learn about apples growing on trees and are harvested this time of year. "All Around Town" is up next for October. This will include a trip to the fire station and



learning about other fun and important people we will see around our community. As we look to November, we will have fun going "Over the river and through the woods" as we gear up for the spe-

cial feast of Thanksgiving. There will also be great fun had in learning to move over and through during movement with Ms. Windsor from the YMCA.



We are also going to explore a year long chapel theme with a focus on a different "Fruit of the Spirit" each month. September we are focusing on "Kindness" and we will turn to "Self Control" for October. Mr. John is going to also tell us stories from the Bible related to kindness and self control each Wednesday when the children visit him. November we will concentrate on "Goodness." That will be plentiful in our chapel time as we also begin to turn to rehearsing for our Christmas Program.

Keep an eye out for our creative artwork in the halls and classrooms during the months ahead!

Blessings!

Mitzi White, Preschool Director

In response to a plea from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Church World Service the Presbytery Disaster Response Team is coordinating a collection of Cleanup Buckets and Hygiene kits for the survivors of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. We have set a goal of a 1000 cleanup buckets to be collected by the Presbytery by October 3! This is a very needed activity that we can do now in response to these immense disasters. Buckets can be dropped off at the church office or at Staunton First Presbyterian Church, 100 East Frederick Street. Questions? - Contact Tom Compton at 540-529-5082 or tcc054@comcast.net.

Cleanup Bucket Value \$75 (Processing fee \$3)


- 1 — 5-gallon bucket with re-sealable lid*
- 5 — scouring pads
- 7 — sponges, assorted sizes
- 1 — scrub brush
- 1 — pkg. cleaning towels (18 reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- 1 — box dry laundry detergent, 50-78 oz.
- 1 — liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®), 12 oz. (This is difficult to find. Amazon.com may be the best place to find it.)
- 1 — bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®), 24-28 oz.
- 1 — 1 pkg. clothespins, 48-50 Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- 5 — dust masks 2 pair — latex gloves (like Playtex®)
- 1 pair — work gloves
- 1 — 24 to 28 count roll heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon, remove from carton)
- 1 — bottle insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion; not aerosol), 6-9 oz.

Please purchase all liquids in plastic bottles. Send only new, unopened materials. **Put all items in the plastic bucket, packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape. DO NOT PUT CASH OR MESSAGES IN THE KIT.**

Hygiene Kit Value \$15 (Processing fee \$2)

- 1 — hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
- 1 — washcloth
- 1 — wide-tooth comb (remove from package)
- 1 — nail clipper (UPDATE: nail clippers with metal files or emery boards attached are now accepted; remove from package)
- 1 — bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1 — toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 10 — Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste which has an extended expiration date will be added to international Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment. **Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure. DO NOT PUT CASH OR MESSAGES IN THE KIT.**



HURRICANE DISASTER RESPONSE

The Fellowship Team is excited to re-launch the sale of Covenant shirts, caps, and totes! Items have the embroidered Covenant logo; colors and sizes* available are listed below. All is offered AT COST!

Long Sleeve T-Shirt: 100% soft spun pre-shrunk cotton
Sizes Adult S-XL; available colors Black, Navy Blue, Orange, Purple, Red, and White – **\$13 each**

Short Sleeve T-Shirt: 100% soft spun pre-shrunk cotton
Sizes Adult or Child S-XL; available colors Black, Navy Blue, Orange, Purple, Red, and White – **\$10 each**

Men’s Polo Shirt: 65/35 poly cotton blend, flat knit collar
Sizes Adult S-XL; available colors Black, Navy Blue, Orange, Red, and White – **\$20 each**

Hats: Low-Profile Adjustable 100% brushed cotton twill caps – **\$10 each**
One size fits most; available colors Black, Navy Blue, Purple, Red, and White

Totes: garment washed 100% cotton canvas, measures 15.75x13.25x3.5
Available colors Black, Navy Blue, Orange, Purple, Tropical Pink, and Turquoise – **\$18 each**

Checks payable to “Covenant Presbyterian Church”; please write “Embroidery Order” on the memo line.
Orders to be submitted to Robyn Sommerfield or the Church Office.
Questions? Email Robyn at robynsommerfield@gmail.com

ORDERS DUE NOVEMBER 6TH



* Larger and tall sizes are available upon request.

ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

ITEM	COLOR	SIZE	AMOUNT

TOTAL: _____

From the Pastor's Desk . . . *continued*

You need not be in the path of such storms to experience such change. The death of a spouse or parent or child or friend, a dire diagnosis, the loss of a job or dream may also cause trauma far from the eye of any storm. The psalmist's words speak to those times as well. In the face of any and all changes

we find courage and hope in the assurance that God is with us – to sustain us, to guide us, to comfort us, to offer us courage and hope. Our world may change, but God's presence and promises do not! When it all seems overwhelming, and even fearful, recall these words of the psalmist: *God is our ref-*

uge and strength, a very present help in trouble; we will not fear! And so may God grant you comfort and courage and hope – for this day and for the changes in days to come!



Please keep in your prayers Melanie Knox and her family on the death of Melanie's father in Pennsylvania on September 11.

Nancy Houseknecht, a member of our Covenant Choir, died on September 13 after a brief battle with lymphoma.

Please keep in your prayers her daughter Emma and their family.

Condolences



Kathy Henderson, RN

Covenant Nurse Office Hours

Beginning September 18th, our Covenant Community Nurse Kathy Henderson will be holding office hours from 10:30am to 12:30pm each Monday. Her office is located at Covenant Presbyterian Church across from the church library. Kathy is charged with enhancing health and wellness promotion within our spiritual community. This includes health education and research; acting as patient advocate or liaison between congregants and medical professionals; and setting up informative presentations. Please feel free to let her know how she may be most helpful to you!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING 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 Omega Choir Practice 11:30am Crawford Brothers Dinner 12:00pm Christian Education Team 12:00pm Fellowship Team 4:00pm Crawford Brothers Quartet	2 Covenant Connection Published 10:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Congregational Care Team 7:00pm Facilities Team 7:15pm Worship Team	3	4 3:45pm High School Coffeehouse 6:00pm TOW	5 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 10:00am Trinity Noon Luncheon Program 5:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	6	7
8 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 2:00pm Open Gym 5:00pm YOUTH Group	9 10:30am Bible Study	10 10:00am PW Circle Meeting 7:15pm Stewardship & Finance Team	11 3:45pm High School Coffeehouse 6:00pm TOW	12 8:30am Executive Team 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	13 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:00am Novels & Needles Book Group	14
15 8:30AM Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship followed by Fellowship 11:30am Hiking with Charlie 11:30am Omega Choir Practice	16 10:30am Bible Study Covenant Connection Published	17	18 3:45pm High School Coffeehouse 6:00pm TOW	19 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 10:00am Trinity Noon Luncheon Program 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant	20	21
22 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 2:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm STATED SESSION MEETING	23 10:30am Bible Study	24	25 3:45pm High School Coffeehouse 6:00pm TOW	26 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	28
29 4 CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION 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 Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017	30 10:30am Bible Study Covenant Connection Published	31				

OCTOBER 2017

Session Highlights

At its stated meeting on September 17, the Session took the following actions:

- ♦ Welcomed Betty Richmond as Interim Director of Children's Ministries
- ♦ Approved pictures for the preschool
- ♦ Approved distributions from Outreach to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for hurricane relief and to EVACE for its work on Ponson Island in the Philippines
- ♦ Received budget requests from teams for 2018
- ♦ Elected Ruth Arnold and Lee Clark as committee members to the November meeting of the Presbytery



Join McCormick Farm's head of Forestry Management, our very own Charlie Huppuch, for a picnic lunch and hike! Charlie has selected a date in October for this family friendly opportunity for fellowship. Enjoy the fresh air and view the autumn hues. Charlie will walk us through the trails and the on-site mill; or you can opt to explore on your own.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND!

WHEN: Oct 15* - we will head out after the 10:30 service

WHAT TO BRING: Bag lunch, water bottle, good walking shoes

WHERE: McCormick Farms in Raphine, VA

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

*Rain date October 22 (will announce at the 8:30 and 10:30 service and send an opt-in email if we move the event to alternate date)

OPEN GYM

is back for the fall. Starting September 24, come out on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 2:00-4:00pm.

Contact Brandon Cline-Taskey or Bill Terry with questions.



Are You Connected?

Are you connected to the church in all the ways you want to be? Contact Martha Pierce to be added to Covenant Opt-In emails and the church directory. If you have changed any of your contact information in the past year (email, phone, address), please double check with Martha that she has your new information. She can be reached at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com.

Monday Morning Bible Study

Please join us for the Bible study on Monday mornings at 10:30am in the Conference Room (near the church offices). This study is led by John Peterson and looks at the text for the next Sunday's sermon. Come and dive a little deeper into the text, share your insights, and get a head start on the next sermon. All are welcome!



Children's Ministry News



While the APNC continues to do its work in seeking the candidate whom God is calling as our Associate Pastor for Christian Education and Nurture, Session has determined that it would be helpful to have someone fulfill the responsibilities with regard to our children's programming in the interim. We are please to report that Betty Richmond, who retired a year ago as Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church, Staunton, has agreed to serve as our Interim Director of Children's Ministries. Betty has over 30 years experience in Christian Education and is excited to step out of retirement on a part-time basis to work with us. We are blessed to have Betty serving in this vital role in our congregation and hope that you will welcome her warmly.