

# Covenant Connection

January 8, 2018 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**1-9**

PW Executive Board  
PW Circle Meeting

**1-13**

Session Retreat

**1-14**

Confirmation Class  
High School Coffeehouse

**1-15**

Monday Morning Bible Study

**1-16**

Preschool Team  
Stewardship & Finance Team

**1-17**

TOW-Together on Wednesday  
Yankee Gift Swap

**1-21**

Confirmation Class  
Stated Session Meeting

**1-22**

Monday Morning Bible Study

**1-24**

TOW-Together on Wednesday

## Connect with the Pastor . . .



**D**o you have more memories than dreams or more dreams than memories? That question posed by Thomas Friedman in his book *The World is Flat* is worth pondering in this new year beneath the blanket of an Arctic chill. What memories are you holding on to? What dreams do you have for 2018 and beyond? For myself I offer three memories of 2017 and three dreams for 2018.

I remember:

- ◆ The last days of my dad's long and good life and the loving care offered to me by so many of you at and around the time of his death last February. He was a great example for me and a wonderful father!
- ◆ The outpouring of love, support, and ridicule that helped me celebrate my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in December. Thank you for all the cards, well-wishes, and condolences!
- ◆ Charlottesville which forced us as a nation and community to confront the reality of racism in our midst, a reality we have too long denied. We can stand silent no longer if we are to be Jesus' disciples!

*What dreams  
do you have  
for 2018 and  
beyond?*

*(Continued on page 3)*

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. —Jeremiah 29:11*



## 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](mailto:covenantpcusastauton@gmail.com).*

*Please indicate if we can use your name. Thanks!*

## Meet Our New Members

### The Brodfuehrer Family

Russell and Kristine Brodfuehrer are new to Covenant and new to Staunton. They moved here from San Diego over the summer with their two



kids Sienna (age 8) and Scott (age 5) to be closer to family. Russell is an MRI Technologist at UVA and Kristine is currently a stay-at-home parent. As a family they enjoy hiking, going to the beach and exploring the Shenandoah Valley. Sienna likes ballet, riding bikes and drawing. Scott likes to ride his bike and build with legos. The Brodfuehrer's joined the Covenant family on December 10th.

## Return to Sender

Help us be good stewards of the church's money! Let us know of an address change when you move; the church pays a "return to sender postage due"



on returned newsletters. Send change to [covenantpcusastauton@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpcusastauton@gmail.com) Thanks!

*Please keep in your prayers,  
Rebecca Allison and her family  
on the death of her aunt,  
Josephine F. Speck of Greenville, VA  
on December 15.*

# Candolences

# Connect with the Pastor . . . *continued*

I dream of:

- ◆ Civil discourse in our nation that seeks to build bridges instead of burning them down. What unites us should be greater than what divides us, but some leaders seem more intent on division!
- ◆ Renewed commitment to meeting the needs of the poor, the homeless, immigrants, and refugees in our community and world. When they suffer, God suffers; in serving them we serve the Lord.
- ◆ Justice and joy, which should coexist for all of us and which should, in some form, find expression in our lives each and every day.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, nor even a top three for me. But it is a start at the start of this new year. On Saturday, Session will meet in retreat to do some of this work in reflecting on our life as a church – looking back and looking ahead. What memories do you hold, what dreams do you have, for yourself and for Covenant, in 2018?



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

## Session Highlights

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

- ◆ Heard the statements of faith from all 8 elders-elect and confirmed their examinations
- ◆ Received a report on the November 28 meeting of Presbytery
- ◆ Elected Jane Wimmer as Clerk of Session, Paul Sorrell as Treasurer, and Terry Westhafer as Chairman of Stewardship & Finance for 2018; by virtue of their respective offices they will serve as trustees
- ◆ Approved Team Assignments for 2018
- ◆ Received a favorable audit report from Didawick & Co.
- ◆ Approved communion dates for 2018 and a supply pastor for Feb. 4
- ◆ Approved PW Blanket Sunday for February 18
- ◆ Approved the purchase of gravity lights for Crystal Gosnell for her work in Nigeria
- ◆ Approved a revised Child & Youth Protection Policy and a revised Sexual Misconduct Policy
- ◆ Approved a budget for 2018 in the amount of \$559,854
- ◆ Called a congregational meeting for January 7 for the purpose of approving changes to John's terms of call and electing two members to the Nominating Committee for 2018

Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by **9:00am on Friday, January 19th.**

Please email her at:  
[covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com)

# What's Happening In the Community

**January 12**—James Madison University's Forbes Center presents the **13-Story Treehouse**. Who wouldn't want to live in a treehouse that has a bowling alley, a secret underground laboratory, self-making beds and more. There is live action, puppetry, music and animation in a humorous production featuring magical moments of theatrical wizardry. Admission fee. 540-568-7000

**January 12, 19 and 26**—Join us at Clark's Lumber Co., 1288 Ridge Road, Raphine, for their longtime tradition of old-time mountain/bluegrass music and two-step, flatfoot and waltz dancing. The music is live and the dancing is contagious. Wheelchair accessible. Admission fee. 540-462-7211

**January 14**—Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have **The 39 Steps**, a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre! This 2-time Tony® and Drama Desk Award-winning treat is packed with nonstop laughs, over 150 zany characters (played by a small cast), an on-stage plane crash, handcuffs, missing fingers and some good old-fashioned romance! Come see EMU Theater's production of **The 39 Steps**, a hilarious, fast-paced play for all ages, in the Mainstage Theater at 7:30pm. Suggested ticket price for this special benefit performance is \$10. All proceeds from the event will help EMU students take the show to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. 540-432-4582

**January 15, 22 and 29**—Join fellow film fans for classics at the beautifully restored Wayne Theatre up on the big screen the way they were meant to be. Featuring on the 15th **What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?**; on the 22nd **Goodbye Mr. Chips**; on the 29th **Howard's End**. Doors open every Monday at 6pm, all films roll at 7pm. Also offering a 2pm Monday matinee. All 7pm screenings will include a brief introduction, short intermission, and optional film discussion afterwards. Admission is pay what you will. 521 W. Main Street, 540-943-9999

**January 16-23**—Awakening Arcadia exhibits at James Madison University's Gladys Kemp Lisanby Museum. Take in beautiful visions of Arcadia, an ancient utopia where people lived simply and in harmony with the land. These idyllic scenes have long been the subject of artists who have provided their patrons with a refreshing pause from everyday life.

**January 22**—Experience the sights and sounds of Ireland in this dance and music extravaganza! Featuring world champion step dancers, a traditional Irish band and vocalists, the all-star cast of performers have appeared worldwide with Riverdance, Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance*, and Celtic Woman. Dublin Irish Dance members bring their sensational stepping skills and musical prowess to *Stepping Out*, a high-energy production that celebrates the evolution of traditional Irish dance and music from rural Ireland in the 1800s to present day America. Like the Irish immigrants to the New World who "stepped out" in search of a better life, "step out" for an evening of Celtic culture you won't soon forget! 8:00pm, Forbes Center, Mainstage Theatre, Tickets — Regular \$41; Subscriber \$36; JMU Fac/Staff \$38; Senior (62+) \$38, 540-568-7000.



**ANNUAL EVENT**

# CHILI COOK-OFF & DESSERT BAKE-OFF

Those not wishing to  
compete are encouraged to  
bring cornbread to share!

**FEBRUARY  
2018**  
Begins at  
**11:30 AM**

**4<sup>TH</sup>**

**#1  
Best  
Award**



Beverages, cheese, oyster crackers, & sour cream will be provided.  
Peanut butter & jelly sandwiches will be available for children.  
Entries can be brought to the Great Hall between services.  
If you have questions, please contact Dave Melvin



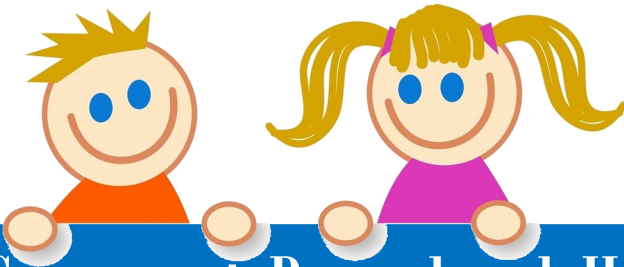
Our help is needed by the folks at Middle River Regional Jail this winter. Many of the inmates who are being released this time of year were originally brought in during warmer weather. The personal belongings they leave with only include what was on their person when they were brought in.

The jail maintains a free coat closet to provide individuals with proper outerwear upon their release. But that closet is empty. If we think it's cold when we go out in our coats, hats, and gloves, imagine doing so in only a tee shirt at 8:00 am. And for some of these folks, the coat they receive may be the only one they'll have for the winter.

The jail is asking for our help in refilling that coat closet. Please help those who need it most by bringing in coats, hats, and gloves for both men and women, all sizes. Donations will be collected through January 28th, and can be placed in the box outside the church library.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Stahl at [goshengirl1960@yahoo.com](mailto:goshengirl1960@yahoo.com).





# Covenant Preschool Happenings!

Happy New Year from your Covenant Preschool friends!

We had a very nice Christmas program in the sanctuary before Christmas. We had a full crowd and enjoyed food and fellowship afterwards in the Great Hall.

As we start 2018 we are learning about hibernation and "Outside In the Snow". Penguins, snowmen, and other cold fun will be explored and created. February brings us "Inside My Home" as we celebrate Valentine's Day. We will also learn about our pets and other fun things we have at home. March will allow us to explore "Under the Water" and who knows, we may even swim with the dolphins!



We continue to learn about the "Fruits of the Spirit" and focus on *Gentleness* this month and *Love* in February. March will bring us lessons on *Patience*.

The Preschool has been very busy juggling staff since October. We want to welcome Andrea McCormick to our staff, as she works with Diana Bohart! Diana has become our lead teacher for Preschool 2 (3 year olds) and Dana Tacy has taken the lead position for our Preschool 1 (two year olds) friends. The children and parents were very flexible and supportive during these transitions. The staff is as strong as ever and I am looking forward to seeing all the "tricks up their sleeves" for spring. I am blessed to be able to work daily with such nurturing, compassionate and caring women. The Preschool Team will have a few changes as well. We add a new session member and Sally Griffith will be the team chair for the year. The team has been such a wonderful support group for me and the preschool. They allow me to ask silly questions and put our some crazy ideas to help enhance our program.

We hope you all enjoy 2018, stay warm, and keep an eye out for our budding artists on the bulletin boards in the preschool wing!

Blessings!

Mitzi White, Preschool Director

*Do you have a gift from Christmas  
that's not quite 'you'... an extra whatever ...  
that odd thing from your Aunt Agnes?  
Each participant should bring a  
wrapped, unmarked gift.  
The gift you bring should be something you  
would be happy to receive.*



# *Yankee Gift Swap*

**Wednesday, January 17th immediately following TOW—Together on Wednesday.**

## **Word of Thanks**

The Staunton Rotary Club heartily thanks Covenant Presbyterian Church for allowing us to have our Rotary Christmas Children's Party in your wonderful facility. With your assistance and cooperation our party was a great success. We presented gifts for 230 kids in 106 families in the Staunton-Waynesboro-Augusta County area. We also appreciate the efforts of several church members who shopped for children, especially the youth who shopped and wrapped for a family of eight. These children will have a merry Christmas indeed! Our best wishes to all the Covenant family for a blessed holiday season. — Lyle Moffett, Staunton Rotary Club President

\*\*\*\*\*

We would like to thank the Presbyterian Women's group for the basket of greens and berries fixed for us for Christmas. We will enjoy it through the holidays. Also, we would like to thank the individual who is sending the beautiful cards again. They are truly welcomed. And thank you to the carolers for sharing their beautiful voices with us. — Connie & Jo Ann Kurtz

\*\*\*\*\*

We want to thank our carolers for visiting us today (December 17). They brought us beautiful music, smiling faces and adorable children. We are grateful for them. What they didn't know is this: Our morning devotional reading concluded by saying, "The perfect end to such a day is a doxology of gratitude. I am He from whom all blessings flow." (from Sarah Young's **Jesus Calling**) He blessed us through each of you. Love, Pattie & Bill Seaton



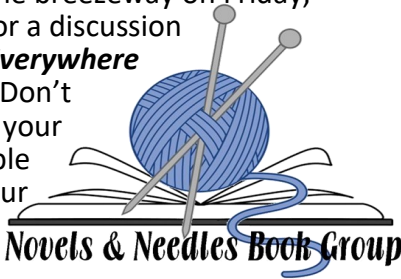
# Connect with Others

## Presbyterian Women

Tuesday, January 9th the Presbyterian Women will meet at 10:00am in the Breezeway. Peggy Roberson will be leading the 5th lesson entitled "In Community with the Tradition of the Past." Brave the cold and join us! Executive meeting at 9:30am before the Circle. Coffee will be on. Hostesses are Debbie Smith and Emma Jordan.

## Novels & Needles Book Club

Novels & Needles Book Club will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the breezeway on Friday, January 12th for a discussion of *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. Don't forget to bring your most memorable book title for our 10-minute discussion at the beginning of the meeting. Everyone invited! 'Tis the season — curl up by the fire and READ!



## 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, led by John Peterson, 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!

## Nursing Nook with Kathy Henderson, RN



Save this date – **February 17** -- and maybe save a life! Come to "Family & Friends CPR" in our Fellowship Hall.

Almost 80 percent of sudden cardiac arrests happen at home – and time matters: As

many as 95 percent of cardiac victims die before reaching a hospital, American Heart Association statistics show. Significant brain damage begins within seven minutes.

Scary statistics for those of us who fear we are not strong enough or nimble enough to perform those chest compressions needed to keep oxygen flowing until help arrives! The good news: "Family & Friends CPR" is a class designed for us. Led by a certified CPR instructor from August Health, the 2 ½-hour class is "user friendly," teaching adult hands-only CPR, child CPR with compression and breaths, infant CPR and how to help a choking infant, child or adult.

This class is ideal for older folks, teens and others who work with children but don't have time to complete an "official" CPR class. Please consider spending that Saturday morning (9:00am to 12:00pm) with us learning to save a life. We'll even have snacks!

Reservations are required. A sign-up sheet will be posted on my office door, or feel free to email me: [covenantnurse@gmail.com](mailto:covenantnurse@gmail.com).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	5 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	6
7 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 Called Congregational Meeting 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 12:00pm Fellowship Team / CE Team 6:30pm Youth Group	8 10:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Congregation- al Care Team 7:00pm Facilities Team  Covenant Connection Published	9 9:30am PW Executive Board 10:00am PW Circle Meeting	10	11 8:30am Executive Team 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	12 10:00am Novels & Needles Book Group 7:00pm Confir- mation Retreat	13 8:30am SESSION RETREAT
14 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 Confirmation Class 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse	15 10:30am Bible Study	16 5:30pm Preschool Team 7:15pm Stewardship & Finance Team	17 6:00pm TOW & Yankee Swap	18 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20
21 8:30am Confirmation Class @ St. Nicholas Orthodox Churh 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 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse	22 10:30am Bible Study  Covenant Connection Published	23	24 6:00pm TOW	25 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	26	27
28 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	29 10:30am Bible Study	30	31 6:00pm TOW			

# JANUARY 2018

# UPDATE



It has been about 13 years since Covenant sponsored Serena and her boys. Oscar, Stephan, Abenico & Shadrach are no longer boys - they are all young men now! They are living in North Dakota. Serena is working for West Fargo Public Schools. Oscar is working. Stephan is studying to be an auto mechanic and currently working for John Deere (shipping department).

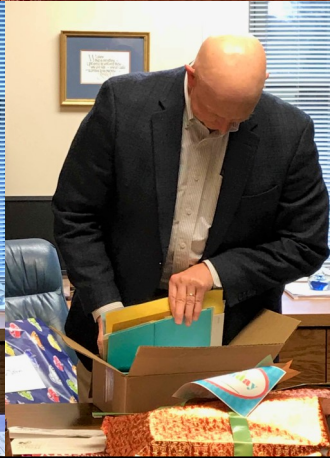


Abenico graduated in June. He is currently working to save money so that he can visit his father in Liberia. Once he has met that goal, he plans to go to college and major in business. Shadrach is a senior in high school. That cute little guy in the photo, is Serena's youngest child, Ephram.

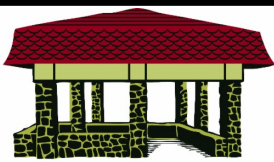
*left to right:  
Stephan, Oscar, Abenico,  
Shadrach & Ephram (in front)*

## **SURPRISE JOHN! WE GOT HIM!**

OVER 100 CARDS  
WERE "SHOWEROED"  
UPON JOHN TO HELP  
HIM CELEBRATE HIS  
60th BIRTHDAY!







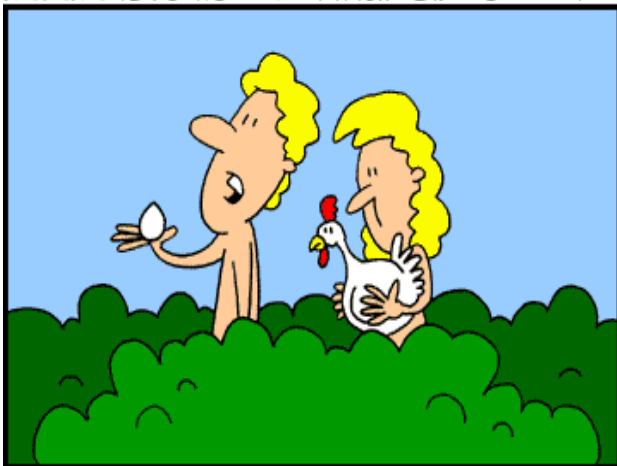
## Massanetta Springs

The Massanetta Springs  
Board of Trustees  
cordially invites you to a

### Service of Installation for Rev. Clayton Rascoe as Executive Director at 4:30 pm, January 28, 2018 Dinner to Follow

The service will take place in Stewart Hall. There will be an offering collected to support playground improvements at Massanetta Springs. Dinner will be served immediately after the service of installation to celebrate this occasion. There is no charge for the dinner, but please RSVP to Nola Avey at [nolaa@massanettasprings.org](mailto:nolaa@massanettasprings.org) or 540-434-3829. We request all RSVP's be received by January 21, 2018. (If you let us know of dietary requests at the time of your RSVP, we will be happy to accommodate.)

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HEY GOD ... WHICH CAME FIRST?

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## COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401

[www.covenantpresstaunton.org](http://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](http://www.covenantpresstaunton.org).



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Worshipping with Joy, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love*

We're on the web!  
[covenantpresstaunton.org](http://covenantpresstaunton.org)

# Let Us Know

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## You're Coming to TOW!

In order to prepare the correct quantity of food, we are asking that you **RSVP by noon on 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

### January 17

*Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, baked fruit, lima beans, salad, rolls, and dessert*

### January 24

*"Taco Night"*

*Vegetarian options will be available at all meals.*

TOGETHER ON  
**TOW**  
WEDNESDAY