



Covenant Connection

May 14, 2018 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

5-15

Stewardship & Finance Team

5-18

Fired Up Friday (2nd-8th graders)

5-20

Caregivers Group
Poverty Task Force Meetings
STATED SESSION MEETING

5-21

Monday Morning Bible Study

5-23

Visitation Training

5-27

Open Gym

5-28

MEMORIAL DAY
(Church Office Closed)

Connect with the Pastor ...



This Sunday is Pentecost, the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in Jerusalem. It is often remembered as the birthday of the church as the Spirit inspired those frightened disciples to venture out from behind closed

doors to share the good news of the Gospel. Among all our

Christian holidays Pentecost is perhaps the most neglected. There is no season of Pentecost – just a day. Unlike Lent which has forty days of liturgical purple and Eastertide which has seven weeks of holy white, the fiery red of

Pentecost has just a single day on the church calendar. Yet it is as important a day in the life of the church as any, for without Pentecost there is no church, nothing to stir those disciples to go out and share the good news. In some ways the season of Pentecost has continued unabated across two thousand years, a season of sharing the good news of Jesus' life, death and resurrection with men, women and children around the world. So here at Covenant red will linger in our sanctuary a few weeks longer as we recall our call to continue that good work of proclaiming the good news of Jesus in word and deed.

... for without Pentecost there is no church, nothing to stir those disciples to go out and share the good news.

(Continued on page 3)

Thank You, Presbyterian Women

It was such an honor to receive the Honorary Life Membership certificate and pin Tuesday evening at our Birthday Dinner. I don't know how you kept it a secret, but it was certainly a surprise to me! I am humbled when I think of the group of women I am joining and all they have contributed and STILL contribute to this church and community. Thank you so much for this honor. There are so many ways women involve themselves at Covenant. I think that's why I love this church! I cherish all the relationships represented by this pin, and I will wear it with great pleasure.

With a full heart,
Mary Ann Stripling



Can you smile? Can you say "Welcome?" Can you shake hands? Can you get to church 20 minutes early? If your answer is yes, yes, yes, and yes, then you can be a Covenant Greeter! This summer Thom and Peggy Jennings are helping Bobbye D'Orsi with the planning for greeters at the 10:30 AM worship services. They would love to hear from you if you are willing to be one of those first smiling faces at either the Library or Narthex doors prior to the service. You don't even have to be a church member to volunteer. So, put on your smiley face and send Thom and Peggy an email at jenningsthom@gmail.com or text them at 540-290-3791 to let them know you're ready to be a Covenant Greeter.

*Never let loyalty and
kindness leave you!
Tie them around your neck
as a reminder.
Write them deep within
your heart.*

Proverbs 3:3 (NLT)

Monday Morning Bible Study

Please join us for the Bible study on Monday mornings at 10:30 AM 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!

Poverty Task Forces to Meet

The next step on our journey to try to meet the needs of children impacted by poverty will be a gathering of those who have indicated a willingness to serve on a task force to develop a plan to identify and specifically address those needs. The Task Force on Education and Mentoring and the Task Force on Food, Nutrition and Health will meet on Sunday, May 20th at 5:00 PM in the Great Hall. Perhaps the Spirit of Pentecost will inspire you to join them!

Connect with the Pastor... *Cont'd*

This Sunday we will also celebrate Pentecost with four members of our confirmation class who have spent the last four months wrestling with questions of faith, learning about the church, and trying to discern what they believe. On May 6 they each presented a statement of faith to the Session and clearly articulated a Christian faith that did not shy away from the swirling doubts and questions with which we all wrestle across a lifetime. This Sunday we welcome them into membership with open arms as brothers in Christ, like all of us – Pentecost people!



Ervin Hamme, a former Covenant member who was active in the music ministry here for many years, passed away on Thursday, April 26th in North Carolina where he and Eleanor had relocated. Please keep Eleanor and their family in your prayers as they remember and celebrate Erv's life.

Please keep in your prayers Ruth Arnold and her family on the death of Ruth's mother, Harriet "Hap" Arnold, on May 5th in Cincinnati at age 90.

David Henderson's sister, Kay Henderson Fine, passed away the morning of May 8th. Please keep David, Kathy and the entire family in your prayers.

Condolences



Helping Hands Day Camp 2018,

is for children who have completed grades K through 5 and **youth who completed grades 6 to 12** during the 2017 - 2018 school year.

Camp Dates are:

Monday, **July 30** to Thursday, **August 2**
from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM and
Friday, **August 3** from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: Covenant Presbyterian Church

The **cost** is **\$15.00** which pays for lunch, snacks & all other costs as well as a T-shirt. Scholarships are available and contributions to sponsor a camper in need of financial assistance are welcome.

**Registration deadline is
Friday, June 29, 2018**

**For more information,
email helpinghandsstaunton@gmail.com**

Tutors Needed at LEARN

LEARN (Learn English and Reading Now) is an adult literacy, volunteer organization that provides free tutoring in reading and English in the Augusta County area. LEARN is in need of tutors. Please consider becoming a tutor through LEARN; it will change your life for the better. The time commitment is minimal but the impact is maximum. LEARN is offering a no obligation tutor training session on Saturday, July 21st from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at United Way, 24 Idlewood Boulevard, Staunton. You can preregister anytime between now and July 11th or get more information by calling Vicki King at 540-886-0569.

Nursing Nook

with Kathy Henderson, RN



Spring seems finally to have arrived in the Valley. It's time for gardening, soccer and T-Ball games, picnics in the grass and vigorous spring house-cleaning. *And* the itchy eyes, runny noses and those annoying, hacking coughs that signal the onset of the "airborne allergy" season.

Or could it be just a spring cold?

A glance at the chart to the right (compiled from information posted by the National Institutes of Health and WebMD) shows that the two maladies share a lot of symptoms. Recent studies have indicated that we don't "outgrow" allergies, so don't assume you are afflicted with a long-running cold: More than 20 million adults – and 6 million children – have been diagnosed with hay fever (colloquial for "allergic rhinitis") in the past few years, so if your symptoms last more than a couple of weeks, please call your family doctor for advice.

Signs & Symptoms	Cold	Allergy
Symptom Onset	A few days after infection with virus	Usually, immediately after contact with allergy triggers
Fever , Headache	Rarely	Never
Aches	Sometimes	Never
Cough	Often	Sometimes
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes
Sneezing	Often	Often
Stuffy, runny nose	Common	Common
Itchy, watery eyes	Sometimes	Often
Sore throat	Often	Sometimes
How long	3-14 days	As long as you're in contact with allergy triggers – and a short time after
When	Usually winter, but possible anytime	Any time you come in contact with triggers
Complications	Sinus, middle ear infections; asthma	Sinus, middle ear infections; asthma

Thank You to Covenant Members

Dear Covenant Members:

My family and I thank all of you for the prayers and support during and after Richard's fall and passing.

Thank you for the meals, calls, and visits. I especially thank John (*Peterson*) for being there and Chris (*Wszalek*) for the beautiful music.

I feel blessed to be a part of this caring congregation!

Most sincerely,
Judy Gardner



Dear Covenant:

We would like to thank you for all your prayers, calls and cards during Raymond's illness and passing.

A special thanks to John (*Peterson*), Kate (*Rascoe*) and Becky (*Earhart*) for the many visits at the hospital and home.

The services were beautiful and just what Raymond would have wanted. John's message at the service was uplifting and fitting for Raymond's journey.

God Bless,
The Raymond Lotts family

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:30pm Visitation Training	3 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	4	5
6 Presbyterian Coffee Project Peanut Butter Sunday 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir (K-3rd) 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am Omega Choir (4th-7th) 12:00pm Confirmation Class / SESSION 12:00pm Fellowship Team 6:30pm YOUTH Group	7 10:30am Morning Bible Study 5:30pm Congregational Care Team 7:00pm Facilities Team 7:15pm Worship Team	8 9:30am PW Executive Board 5:30pm PW Birthday Dinner 5:30pm Preschool Team	9	10 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir	11 9:00am Newsletter Items Due 10:00am Novels & Needles	12
13 Mother's Day 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir (K-3rd) 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Covenant Choir Practice 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am Omega Choir (4th-7th) 12:00pm Outreach Team 3:00pm Open Gym	14 Covenant Connection Published 10:30am Morning Bible Study 5:30pm Christian Education Team	15 7:15pm Stewardship & Finance Team	16	17 8:30am Executive Team 9:00am Verona Food Pantry	18 5:45pm Fired Up Friday (2nd-8th graders)	19
20 Confirmation Sunday 8:30am Blended Worship 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Covenant Choir Practice 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am Omega Choir (4th-7th) 11:45am Caregivers Group 5:00pm Poverty Task Force Meetings 7:00pm STATED SESSION MEETING	21 10:30am Morning Bible Study	22 9:30am Stated Presbytery Meeting @ Lexington Presbyterian Church	23 6:30pm Visitation Training	24 9:00am Verona Food Pantry	25 9:00am Newsletter Items Due	26
27 4 Cents a Meal 8:30am Blended Worship 9:45am Covenant Choir Practice 10:30am Traditional Worship 3:00pm Open Gym	28 MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed Covenant Connection Published	29	30	31 9:00am Verona Food Pantry		

MAY 2018

Connect *with* Others

Presbyterian Women

Oh, the things that we cherish: a "pigtail" cut when I was twelve, a Bible storybook read to me by my father, jeweled insect pins which were my Mom's, a "Piglet" stuffed animal which traveled with me to London, a 50th wedding anniversary family photo, and numerous championship golf awards won. These are only a few of the "Show and Tell" items we shared at the recent Birthday Dinner. What a fun fellowship time we had as we enjoyed a delicious meal and birthday carrot cake!

We imagined ourselves handing a check to the recipients of our mission birthday offering. This year locations are in the USA and Honduras.



Before the benediction was given by Kate Rascoe, a surprise Honorary Life Membership award was presented to Mary Ann Stripling.

If you weren't able to attend, we missed you and hope you'll join us at our next meeting on Tuesday,

June 12th at 10:00 AM in the breezeway. Mary Ann Stripling will be leading our Bible Study, "In Community with All the Saints." We'll go out to lunch at a favorite restaurant afterward. Come join us!

Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by **9:00 AM on Friday, May 25th.**

Please email her at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



Caregivers Group

The Caregivers Group will meet on Sunday, May 20 at 11:45 AM (after the 10:30 AM service) in Room 5. Anyone caring for a loved one who would like to talk with others in similar situations is invited to come. Linda Owen is the group facilitator. If you would like additional information, contact Joan Sayers.



WHO: 2nd-8th Grade (w/ High School Leadership) **bring friends**

WHAT: Games, Bible Lesson & Service Project

WHEN: Friday, May 20th, 6:00-8:00 PM
(check-in starts at 5:45)

WHERE: At the Church

COST: \$5 per family

Let us know you plan to come!

This ministry, occurring on the third Fridays of the month, is for our children to get a chance to bring some friends to church, have some fun, and serve together! The Middle School students will be separate from the Elementary School students, so it won't feel like the older kids are too old or the younger kids are too young. It's like youth group fun, for all ages (well, for 2nd-8th graders). We also need High School students to help lead the groups. Email Laura Lawson with questions or to RSVP at lauramayfieldlawson@gmail.com

Meet Our Nursery Workers

Elizabeth Robinette

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

— Proverbs 22:6



Elizabeth is our new Lead Caregiver for the Nursery Ministry. She was born and raised in Augusta County where she attended Blue Ridge Community College. She is a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant who works through UVA on the Shenandoah Valley

side of the mountain. She also has past licensure as an EMT (emergency medical technician) and ran with a local rescue squad to help serve her community.

In her free time, she enjoys reading, napping, and relaxing in the sunshine. She spends a lot of time at her fiancé's family farm in Middlebrook where they have cattle, goats, pigs, chickens, donkeys, and a very lovable black lab, Jax. Elizabeth is 'fur mama' and is obsessed with her cuddly boxer, Shia, and her cocker spaniel, Lucy, who is always ready to play and give sweet doggy kisses!

Susie Oberg

Susie graduated from JMU with a degree in Social Work and could not leave the valley to go back to Northern Virginia. She has worked all of her professional years in various mental health positions; the last and most rewarding was a 14-year term at the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adults.



Susie has been a mother, foster mother, step-mother, mother-in-law, exchange student mother, grandmother, adoptive grandmother, "other mother" — all roles that she has loved. She enjoys many craft activities and sharing that joy with children.

Children's happiness brings her great delight and sharing a morning with them sets her heart right for the week. She appreciates the privilege to spend time with such precious young people.

Glasses Collection

*Now through
the end of May.*

Thank you in advance for your help!

The Shenandoah Presbytery's Baja Mission Trip Team is collecting glasses - reading, sun, prescription - all of them are needed. Children's glasses are desperately needed. Do you have a spare set that you or your child no longer use? Please bring them to Covenant and drop them in a donation box located in the Narthex or by the church office. The Baja Mission Trip Team will take them to Mexico this summer.

What's Happening In the Community

May 18 - 20 — Shenandoah Antiques Expo at Expoland in Fishersville. Friday and Saturday from 9 AM to 5 PM and Sunday from 11 AM to 4 PM. One of the premier Antique Shows on the East Coast. This major Mid-Atlantic antiques show draws 300+ dealers who offer first-rate prices: 18th- and 19th-century American and English furniture, vintage Americana, mid-century modern, jewelry, silver, rugs, art and collectibles of all kinds. **3 day pass, \$10; 2 or 1 day pass, \$5.**

May 19 — Rotary Strawberry Festival is a FREE community event and fundraiser to be held at the Harrisonburg City Hall from 11 AM to 4 PM. We raise funds by selling strawberry shortcakes, chocolate covered strawberries, and strawberry sundaes. There will be live music, food trucks, kids activities, and more! Funds raised go toward local park initiatives in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. **Free admission. Desserts cost \$5 each.**

May 26 - 27 — Art in the Park at Gypsy Hill Park is a two-day festival of quality fine art and fine craft. The beautiful municipal park provides a tree-lined, intimate setting to admire quality artwork, chat with artists, listen to live music, and enjoy the food provided by a variety of vendors. Young aspiring artists are welcome to participate in a children's art activity area. **Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, noon to 5 PM. Free admission!**

Beyond Thoughts and Prayers

Beyond Thoughts and Prayers (BTP) is a new program offering from Massanetta Springs designed to educate and empower participants to faithfully engage some of the most relevant issues facing church and society. Our first BTP gathering will be focused on:

“Faithful Responses to Gun Violence In America”

June 1 & 2, 2018

Friday evening will provide a Screening and Facilitated Conversation of the documentary film, “Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence.”

Saturday will include a Keynote Address from Christian Losso, Coordinator, Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Church (USA) with response and panel discussion to follow.

Also on Saturday, two workshop sessions will also be offered. Workshops include:

1. *Speaking, Teaching, and Preaching about Gun Violence*
2. *Getting Involved: Advocacy and Justice*
3. *Crafting a Gun Policy for Your Congregation: One Church’s Story*
4. *Preparing Your Congregation for an Active Shooter Situation*
5. *How to Balance Openness and Safety in Churches*

Cost: Friday Night Only – Free; Saturday – \$25 (includes lunch)

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, GO TO:

<http://www.massanettasprings.org/conferences/btp/>

Read the Bible in a Year

May 14 <i>Reflect on God as Shepherd</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	2 Sam. 19-20	Ps. 62	Acts 23
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	2 Sam. 21-22	Job 3	Acts 24
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	1 Sam. 23-24	Ps. 63	Acts 25
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	1 Kings 1-2	Job 4	Acts 26
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	1 Kings 3-4	Ps. 64	Acts 27
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	1 Kings 5-6	Job 5	Acts 28
May 21 <i>Reflect on God as Hope</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	1 Kings 7-8	Ps. 65	Rom. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	1 Kings 9-10	Job 6	Rom. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	1 Kings 11-12	Ps. 66	Rom. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	1 Kings 13-14	Job 7	Rom. 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	1 Kings 15-16	Ps. 67	Rom. 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	1 Kings 17-18	Job 8	Rom. 6
May 28 <i>Reflect on God as Rest</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	1 Kings 19-20	Ps. 68	Rom. 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	1 Kings 21-22	Job 9	Rom. 8
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	2 Kings 1-3	Ps. 69	Rom. 9
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	2 Kings 4-5	Job 10	Rom. 10
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	2 Kings 6-8	Ps. 70	Rom. 11
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	2 Kings 9-10	Job 11	Rom. 12



PROVIDING CHRISTIAN CARE 101

WHEN:

May 23 — Grief: Yours, Mine, Ours

TIME: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

WHERE: Breezeway

FOR: Anyone who desires to be better at being there for others - better at listening, better at praying, better at caring.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401

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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:
Worshiping with Joy, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love*



The Outreach Team
reminds you
"PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY"
is the first Sunday of
every month!
Please bring a jar of
peanut butter.

Fill the  bucket

FOR THOSE IN NEED