



Covenant Connection

September 17, 2018 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

9-20

Bell Choir Rehearsal
Covenant Choir Rehearsal

9-21

Fired-Up Friday (2nd-8th graders)

9-23

Wrestling Through Faith (Youth)

9-24

Monday Morning Bible Study

9-27

Bell Choir Rehearsal
Covenant Choir Rehearsal

9-30

Fifth Sunday Event - Potluck
Lunch and Trivia

10-1

Monday Morning Bible Study
Covenant Community Nursing
Steering Committee
Facilities Team
Worship Team

10-3

TOW-Together on Wednesday
Bible Study: Storied Women of
the OT

Connect with the Pastor ...



With Hurricane Florence very much on people's minds this week, the words of the psalmist offer a comforting perspective: *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. (Ps. 46)*

We might add: *though the winds blow in all their fury, though the rivers and streams overflow their banks, though the waves surge beyond the beaches – WE WILL NOT BE AFRAID!* We respect storms, but we should not fear natural disasters – or human disasters either – for our God is greater than any disaster Mother Nature or any human agent can throw at us. There may be challenges created by the storm – damage or danger that requires finding a safe place; there will be challenges in rebuilding in the storm's aftermath, but those are challenges we can deal with. We need not be afraid! That is an important message for children to hear this week; they hear discussions going on around them about the hurricane, and they should be included in those discussions. They should know what a hurricane is and why people take precautions, but they also should know that God is bigger and better than any storm

Continued on Page 3

A Bible Verse to Think About - Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,



Monday Morning Bible Study



Please join us for Bible study on Monday, September 10th at 10:30am in the Conference Room (near the church offices). We will look at the text for the next Sunday's sermon. Come and dive a little deeper into God's word, share your insights, and get a head start on the next sermon. All are welcome!

Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by **9:00 AM on Friday, September 28th.**

Please email her at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



Session Highlights

At its stated meeting on September 16 the Session took the following actions:

- ◆ Approved designation of the offering from Sarah's installation for hurricane relief
- ◆ Elected Janie Ballurio as commissioner to the November meeting of Presbytery
- ◆ Approved a program for pictures for the preschool
- ◆ Approved changes to the terms of the contract for electronic giving
- ◆ Approved purchase of children's Bibles for pew racks
- ◆ Approved task force recommendations for service opportunities with the Boys & Girls Club
- ◆ Approved purchase of a refrigerator for the Fellowship Hall kitchen
- ◆ Approved hosting a Dave Ramsey financial education class
- ◆ Approved monthly communion to be served at Baldwin Park
- ◆ Approved a preliminary budget for stewardship season

"MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH"
A PEACE POLE FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY
IN 8 LANGUAGES

PEACE POLE DEDICATION

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE
SEPTEMBER 23
1:30 P.M.
STAUNTON CHURCH OF THE BROTHERN
FRONT GARDEN

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

that may come, so we – and they – need not be afraid. Ahead of the storm we pray and make appropriate preparations and take appropriate precautions; after the storm we pray and look for ways to help those who have suffered losses. Those are our roles as agents of God's grace and mercy – men, women, and children alike – all part of God's plan for weathering the storms that come, including Florence!



Rev. Herbert T. "Lew" Lewis, long-time parish associate here at Covenant, died Friday, September 7th, at his home in Hamilton, OH following a period of declining health. We are grateful for his ministry with us and pastoral care for us all. Please keep his wife, Margaret and their family in your prayers.

Candolences

Help Needed at the Valley Mission

The Valley Mission is looking for volunteers to lead children's activities during worship services on Thursday nights for an hour (6:30 -7:30). This would involve planning activities in an entertaining way for a group of children in a wide age range. If you are interested in helping (or leading), please contact Peggy Roberson for more information.



Recap of the PW Thank Offering Luncheon

Our Thank Offering Luncheon was a fun time for thirty-two of our Presbyterian Women. We enjoyed delicious salads and desserts, installed new officers, received our new PW Booklets, learned details concerning our Thank Offering, and were introduced to our new study book.

New officers for the 2018-2019 term are:

Co-Moderators: Janet Guynn and
Carolyn Hensley

Treasurer: Mary Ann Stripling

Secretary: Jean Rexrode

Co-Circle Leaders: Frances Craig and
Carol Poulson

Charlotte Downing bestowed two honors during our meeting. Jean Rexrode, who has been a Covenant member since 1973, received an Honorary Life Membership award. Jean will receive her pin and certificate in October. Janie Ballurio, a member of numerous Covenant committees and a choir member, received a PW Recognition Award for her constant support of Covenant.

While she gave an overview of our Thank Offering, Mary Ann Stripling had ladies at each table read the names of our eighteen grant recipients and the amounts they will receive. All of the Thank Offering goes directly to Presbytery for these mission programs, most in the USA.

Frances Craig made us laugh and learn as she changed shoes and jackets to match her outfit, emphasizing all throughout her lesson how GOD is always with us in every situation. Our new study book is entitled God's Promise: I Am With You. We have several more copies available at \$10.00 each, and you may purchase one at our October 9th meeting scheduled for 10:00 AM in the Breezeway. We'll see you there!



WHO: 2nd-8th Grade (w/ High School Leadership) **bring friends**
WHAT: Games, Bible Lesson & Service Project
WHEN: Friday, September 21st, 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

Martha's Meals on Wheels ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Join us for a Spaghetti Dinner complete with salad and dessert!



Sunday, October 14, 2018

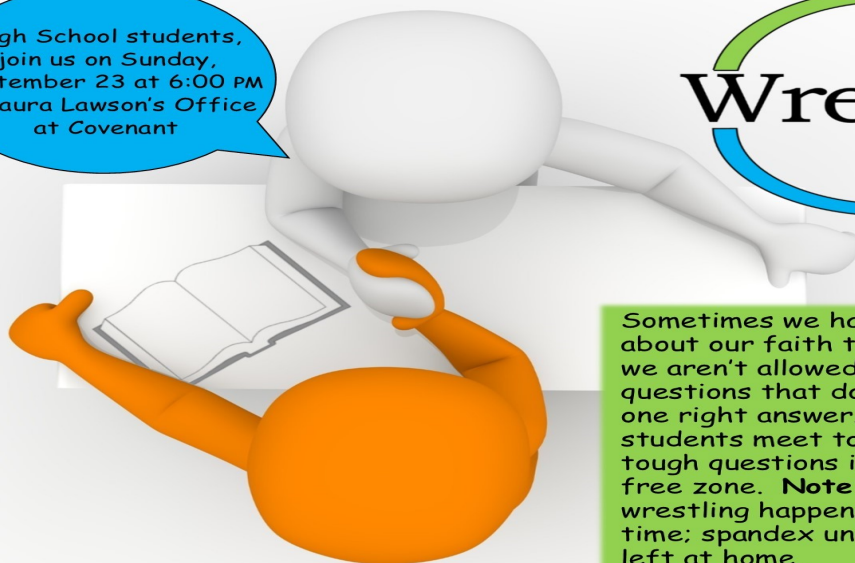
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Verona Moose Lodge
1510 Commerce Road (Rt. 11),
Verona/Staunton
On the hill behind Eye One

Tickets: \$10 for ages 12 and up | \$5 for ages 5 to 12 | Free for those under age 5

Tickets can be purchased by contacting Sue Morley at 540-887-0085 or scmorley@comcast.net

High School students,
join us on Sunday,
September 23 at 6:00 PM
in Laura Lawson's Office
at Covenant



Sometimes we have questions about our faith that we feel like we aren't allowed to ask — questions that don't always have one right answer. High School students meet to discuss these tough questions in a judgment-free zone. **Note:** no physical wrestling happens during this time; spandex unitards are best left at home.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 8:30 AM Blended Worship 9:10 AM Alpha Choir (K-3rd) 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 11:30 AM Omega Choir (4th-7th) 11:45 AM Caregivers Group 5:00 PM Food Insecurity Task Force 6:00 PM Wrestling Through Faith (Youth) 7:00 PM STATED SESSION	17 10:30 AM Bible Study Covenant Connection Published	18	19	20 9:00 AM Verona Food Pantry 5:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Covenant Choir	21 5:45 PM Fired-Up Friday (2nd-8th Graders)	22
23 8:30 AM Blended Worship 9:10 AM Alpha Choir (K-3rd) 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 11:30 AM Omega Choir (4th-7th) 6:00 PM Wrestling Through Faith (Youth)	24 10:30 AM Bible Study	25	26	27 9:00 AM Verona Food Pantry 5:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Covenant Choir	28 9:00 AM Items for Newsletter Due	29
30 4 CENTS A MEAL 8:30 AM Blended Worship 9:10 AM Alpha Choir (K-3rd) 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 11:30 AM Omega Choir (4th-7th) 11:30 AM 5th Sunday Event - Trivia & Potluck	Oct 1 10:30 AM Bible Study 4:30 PM Covenant Community Nursing Steering Committee 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team 7:00 PM Facilities Team 7:15 PM Worship Team Covenant Connection Published	2	3 6:00 PM TOW - Together on Wednesday 7:00 PM Bible Study	4 9:00 AM Verona Food Pantry 5:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Covenant Choir	5	6

SEPT - OCT 2018



**Test your knowledge
with friends & family!**

**Join us on Sunday, September 30th
in the Great Hall immediately after
the 10:30 AM service for a potluck
lunch and a lively game of Trivia.
Please bring a side dish or dessert
(and your thinking cap!)
Fried chicken will be provided by
the Fellowship Team.
Please RSVP to the church office
(885-2138) by noon on
Monday, September 24th.
Many hands make light work . . .
Volunteers needed in the kitchen
during the potluck. If you can help,
please contact Laura Stahl
or Brandon Cline-Taskey.**



**Open Gym is back for the fall.
Starting October 14th,
come out on the 2nd
and 4th Sundays from
3:00-5:00 PM.
Contact Brandon Cline-Taskey
or Bill Terry with questions.**

**ETHIOPIAN
PARTNERSHIP
BANQUET**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church
4517 Rockfish Rd, Grottoes, VA 24441

Speakers: Michael and Rachel Weller
Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Co-workers in Ethiopia

Registration 5:30 Covered-dish meal 6:00 Program 7:00

Bring a covered dish to share. Foods offered will include traditional Ethiopian fare, plus whatever else people bring. Ethiopian coffee available during registration.

No charge. Free-will donations will be accepted to cover the cost of sponsoring the banquet.

Please register by Monday, September 24.

Call, email, or snail mail SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY
with the number you expect to attend.
Phone: 540-433-2556 Email: bookkeeper@shenpres.org
Mail: 1111 North Main St. Harrisonburg, VA 22802

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Can you answer a telephone and take messages? Can you type and use a computer? Can you operate a printer/copy machine?

The Covenant Church Office is looking for additional volunteers to help when the administrative assistant is out. We have several ladies on our call list but we would like to have a few more available. Training will be provided. Please contact Martha Pierce at the church office to volunteer or for more information.



BAJA MISSION TRIP RECAP

By Robyn Sommerfield

When someone asks if you would like cracked pepper on your salad or onions on your burger, you're free to decline politely. But when God says you're going to Baja Mexico to build houses for the Oaxacan Indians who reside in absolute poverty, I felt compelled to say yes. I'm not keen on being the Judas in a future addendum to the Bible. And so begins my tale of the 2018 Baja Mission Trip.

The Baja Mission Trip is an annual Shenandoah Presbytery Outreach adventure, allowing members from various congregations to come together for one week with a common purpose: to build houses and school building in Colonia Vicente Guerrero on the Baja California peninsula in Mexico. Volunteers run the gamut of ages, backgrounds, and skill levels. It takes 12-15 people four days to build a house. It really does!

I first ventured to Baja in 2016 with B.C. (then 10) and Danni (then 11). I packed myself in a white van with veritable strangers in life, but friends in Christ, and took a leap of faith in God's plan for us. When we first arrived I thought, although God does not make mistakes, maybe I heard him wrong — the task of building a house for a family in need in four days with individuals of different skill levels is daunting. And the conditions are challenging. But, in the end, what I experienced was the greatest ability to pay it forward for all the blessings that I had received in my life.

This year, Danni, B.C., Brandon (somewhat of his own free will), and I joined a team of 42 individuals from the Shenandoah Presbytery. Together, we built three houses and a school cafeteria. Our family focused on the cafeteria, which will allow 280 children to receive a meal every day when school is in session. It was very meaningful for Danni and B.C. to be able to help children who are very much like themselves, just born into different circumstances.

I feel that I have built lifelong friendships with those who have gone on this trip — even if we did not go together, there is a common thread that we all share because of the experiences we have had in Baja. We never take for granted the support system that exists in the Shenandoah Valley that makes the mission trip possible. From fundraising to friendly neighbors volunteering to watch a Baja Trip goer's dog, everyone comes together on both sides of the border to make the trip a reality.

In closing, I would encourage anyone who feels God pulling them to venture to Baja Mexico in 2019 (slated for July 7-13) to give it serious thought. And if it's just a cracked pepper on your salad kinda thing, then pray for us when the Sommerfields venture there again. But if it's a Judas thing, there's plenty of room on the white van for you!

From B.C. — Going on the mission trip really is amazing. It is a life-changing experience. Seeing how the children have so little, but they want to give you so much is special. While I was working hard on the roof of the house, where it is really hot, the neighborhood kids noticed that we were scorching and a little dehydrated. The kids bought us a few popsicles for my friends and me, and it made me feel guilty about how I have so much and give so little when for the people in Baja it is vice versa.

From Danni — The mission trip is where you give to those who have less. When you go, everyone has one goal — to change lives in a good way and to make the world a better place.



Message Presented at the Memorial Service for Lew Lewis by John Peterson

Just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. – 1 Thessalonians 2:4-8

Those words from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians came to mind in thinking of Lew and this day as we remember him, give thanks for his life, and commend him to God's eternal care. For in sharing the Gospel as pastor and preacher and person, Lew tenderly cared for others and shared himself; in loving, caring, humorous, thoughtful ways, he shared himself.

In the fall of 1996, Homer Phifer who was the Executive Presbyter for Shenandoah Presbytery corralled Lew and me at a presbytery gathering at Massanutten Presbyterian Church, introduced us, and said, "I think you two should get to know one another." Thus was a great friendship born! Homer knew that at Covenant we were looking for a parish associate and Lew, who had recently retired from Springhill Church, might be open to such a possibility; Homer's introduction was a great gift to Covenant – and to me – as Lew became the church's much-loved parish associate and my much-loved colleague for almost 20 years. As Parish Associate Lew faithfully visited folks in the hospital and in their homes, participated in worship and in funerals, gathered with the Covenant men for their monthly luncheons and pronounced the benediction at a host of PW dinners. He offered wise counsel and told great stories, but even more importantly he listened – patiently and well, he listened. Lew had great integrity – he was genuine, and that genuine person was humble, cared about others, and was more interested in what they had to say than in telling them about himself.

Now Margaret could tell the stories for both of them – and wonderful stories they were and are – for Margaret shared in ministry with Lew. Across the years together they welcomed about half our congregation into their home for meals and parties, building great friendships and sharing their lives with great love and hospitality. They shared in the whole ministry of the church, but more importantly Lew and Margaret shared themselves, for it was clear from the beginning that they were in this ministry thing together!

While Lew had many great gifts that he shared, the use of technology was not at the top of the list. I remember a day when Lew arrived at the church office and Martha, the church secretary, said to him, "I've been trying to reach you all afternoon. Did you have your cell phone with you?" Lew paused a moment, then reached into his pocket and pulled out his cell phone, saying with a smile, "Yes. I have it right here. It's not turned on, but I have it right here." We have missed and will now miss with all of you his gentle good humor! We played golf together on many occasions, including the afternoon of a particularly boring presbytery meeting when we decided that we had need for some pastor-parish associate consultation – and the golf course seemed just the right place to do it – so away we went! As Lew's eyesight began to fail, he continued to play, suggesting that it was a gift since he couldn't really see where his bad shots went. His declining vision limited somewhat what he could do at the church, but he still did all he could – and then some! He made phone calls to folks when it became difficult to drive to visit them, and drove to visit far longer than his eyesight should have allowed, though some of us speculated that he thought he was safer driving with his poor vision than riding with Margaret behind the wheel! Lew had a pastor's heart, a pastor's gifts, and a pastor's call, and we were blessed!

This day we remember Lew with great love and affection, and offer to Margaret and the whole family our continuing love and prayers. He will be deeply missed by all of us here in the Shenandoah Valley, but we trust God's promises for him that offer an even more spectacular heavenly view! May God bless Lew and may God bless all of you with sweet memories of Lew and his life well-lived, with strength in the present with friends and family well-loved, and with hope for the future in the resurrection promises for Lew and for each of us in Jesus the Christ. Alleluia! Amen

Read the Bible in a Year

Sep 17	Reflect on God as Eternal		
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Isaiah 52	Ps. 110	James 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Isaiah 53	Song 8:1-7	James 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Isaiah 54	Ps. 111	James 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Isaiah 55	Song 8:8-14	1 Peter 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Isaiah 56	Ps. 112	1 Peter 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Isaiah 57	Ps. 113	1 Peter 3
Sep 24	Reflect on God's Kindness		
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Isaiah 58	Ps. 114	1 Peter 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Isaiah 59	Ps. 115	1 Peter 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Isaiah 60	Ps. 116	2 Peter 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Isaiah 61	Ps. 117	2 Peter 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Isaiah 62	Ps. 118	2 Peter 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Isaiah 63	Ps. 119:1-8	1 John 1
Oct 1	Reflect on God's Goodness		
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Isaiah 64	Ps. 119:9-16	1 John 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Isaiah 65	Ps. 119:17-24	1 John 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Isaiah 66	Ps. 119:25-32	1 John 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Jer. 1-2	Ps. 119:33-40	1 John 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Jer. 3-4	Ps. 119:41-48	2 John
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Jer. 5-6	Ps. 119:49-56	3 John

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Thanks to Daniel Goodman (See Exodus 14) 03-07-2011

MOSES PARTS HIS HAIR

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Friday 8:15AM-12:15PM



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Minister of Music

Christopher Wszalek

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Joan Swift

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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.

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.

COVENANT



Presbyterian
Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

We're on the web!
covenantpresstaunton.org

Middle and High School youth
come together the first Sunday
of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 PM
in the YOUTH Room for
games, snacks, and
some Bible studying.

Our next
meeting is
Sunday,
October 7

YOUTH
Group