

THE COVENANTER
May 19, 2019

Member NE GEORGIA Presbytery, Synod
of the South Atlantic, General
Assembly of the Presbyterian Church
(U S A)

PRESBYTERIAN HOMES
OF GEORGIA**Caring Hands Offering**

The *Caring Hands Fund* benefits our most vulnerable residents. Money is used largely to bridge the \$3 million gap between Medicaid reimbursement and the actual cost of the high-quality care we provide for our health services residents. Almost 85 percent of our charitable expenditures are used to cover this cost. *Caring Hands* donations also allow in-home services to help residents in independent apartment homes maintain their independence.

More than 200 Presbyterian churches along with hundreds of individual donors statewide participate in the annual *Caring Hands* Offering, which benefits the *Caring Hands Fund*. One of life's great blessings is the opportunity to honor those who touched our lives by giving back to God's senior adults. Your support enables Presbyterian Homes to provide exceptional care for our aging residents. We can provide materials to help every church make the *Caring Hands* offering a success. You will find an envelope in your mailbox.



It's time to start planning for Kickin' It at Covenant. This is our third year of this family program, and we've generally done Wednesdays from 6:30-8, three in June (6/12, 6/19, and 6/26) and three in July (7/10, 7/17, and 7/24). That includes a short lesson, some ice cream, and some kind of structured activity time--indoor or outdoor depending on the weather. There's no set age range, though we've generally had parents stick around especially with younger kids. Who will be around and planning to participate this year? I will set up a SignUp Genius, but it'd be good to

know if details need to be changed (days/times/etc.). Check it out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/covpresathens/permalink/2119366584847973/>

Thanks, Jerry Shannon

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Georgia 30605
706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344
www.covpresathens.org
covenantp@covpresathens.org

It is time to sign up to bring **Punch & Cookies** for after 9:45am worship service beginning June 2. You will find the sign up sheet on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes. *(Please no red punch)*



Remember in Prayer: Marie Ballard-Myer and family in the passing of her mother Mary Ruth Ballard, May 16; Colleen Cook, graduating from Columbia Theological Seminary May 18; The McMinns' son Greg, hospitalized at Piedmont Athens this past week for blood clots in his lungs, with no surgery expected; Frances Oglesby, an Eastside neighbor & hospice caregiver with St. Mary's, recovering from a stroke; Susan Harper's mother Pat in Chattanooga, following a stroke; Dianne Simpson's sister-in-law Christy, in chemo/radiation treatment for breast cancer in Acworth; Brian Striggow's sister-in-law Jan, in the death of her husband from esophageal cancer; Dianne Ralph and Elsie Bothwell, at home; Coffee Worth (and her caregiver Sara Boggs), now in Florida to live with her daughter Evelyn (& husband Cary) McMullen, 1323 Timberidge Drive, Lakeland, FL 33809-0806; and Ben Bruner, in continued healing from a motorcycle accident – please send cheer & blessings to this address 86 Sleepy Hollow Road, Dahlonega, GA 30533. How wonderful to hear that NEGA Medical Ctr in Gainesville has forgiven all of Ben's \$270,000 expense!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	May 20	Genesis 2: 1-3b
Tuesday	May 21	Matthew 11: 29-30
Wednesday	May 22	Exodus 20: 8-11
Thursday	May 23	Luke 10: 38-42
Friday	May 24	Psalms 62:1
Saturday	May 25	Deuteronomy 5: 12-14
Sunday	May 26	Luke 5: 15-16

The bible verses are relatively short this week--their theme is that of rest and stillness. Consider engaging these passages in the style of *lectio divina*, in which you linger over the words three, four times, or more, in order to allow a word or phrase to become a living word of God within you.

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Upcoming Events!

Sun. May 26	8:30am, FINAL early worship
	9:30am, FINAL Adult Church School
	10:45am FINAL worship
Sun. June 2	9:45am, Summer Worship begins
Sat., June 29	6pm Covenant's Coffee House

2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

Fiscal Year to Date: Week #46

Anticipated Pledges: \$411,746.88

Received Pledges: \$392,459.11

Now is the time to catch up on your giving. The end of the fiscal year is soon!

Dear Covenant Friends – On behalf of our entire family, I want to express our gratitude to you and all the staff and members of Covenant Presbyterian Church. For more than 20 years, the church has been the spiritual home for my mother, Coffee Worth, and it has meant so much to her during that time to have a place where she can worship and study with fellow Presbyterians. Coffee has devoted her life to the causes of social justice in the name of the gospel, and it has been encouraging to her in her twilight years to see that a younger generation at Covenant is carrying on that work.

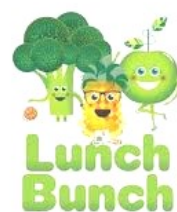
It has meant much as well to us, Coffee's family, to know that there are Christian brothers and sisters who have cherished her while she has been separated by the miles from her relatives. We simply wish to thank you for the spiritual and pastoral care you have shown to her.

Although Coffee will now be separated from you by distance, we know that she will always be united with you in spirit. Even during her stay with us in January, she eagerly waited for the arrival of the church's newsletter by email, and we fully expect that will be the case once she is living here. She will continue to feel surrounded by your love and prayers, even as she will continue to pray for you. And – who knows – perhaps it will be possible for her to return to you for a visit when she turns 100 in October. May God continue to bless your ministry and your fellowship with one another. In affection and peace, *Evelyn W. McMullen*

A Special Happy 90th Birthday
to **Pauline Marshall**, May 23rd.



Congratulations to
Wes Bowden, grandson of
Jere & Jim and son of Mike
and Sandra, upon his
graduation from UGA with a
degree in Religion and
Philosophy. Many blessings
for a bright future.



Covenant's **Lunch Bunch** meets
every final Tues-
day at 11:30am at
DePalma's
Eastside, for great
food & fellowship.

Come and see on Tuesday, May
28th! Lots of laughter & good sto-
ries. Separate checks.

If you know of a "fun fact"
about a Covenant member
or friend or yourself (!), then
please give it to
Beecher for the **Who's Who**
column in the newsletter.
Thanks!

ATHENS AREA EMERGENCY FOOD BANK! The month of



MAY Covenant is collecting these items for
the AAEFB: (they are in desperate need of)
canned pork and beans and saltine crackers.

Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!

Chuck and Chandler Rosenberger would like
to share a video for the **JDRF Ride to Cure
Diabetes**. It stars our precious granddaughter
Laurel (Clair's daughter), who was diagnosed
with Type 1 Diabetes in December. Her father,
Ryan Bertram, is hoping to participate in this
100 mile ride to help raise funds to cure diabe-
tes. He and Clair live in Suwanee and he is a
middle school band teacher in Gwinnett Coun-
ty. He produced the video, and also composed
the music for it. Thanks for watching. Here is
the link: [https://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR?
fr_id=7733&pg=personal&px=12590804](https://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR?fr_id=7733&pg=personal&px=12590804)

Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study at
10:00am will continue through June.
All are welcome!



WHEN: every Tuesday 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Beginning June 18th

WHERE: Athens Nurses Clinic, 240 North Av.
Call ANC to sign up today 706-613-6976.

*This is a year long program proven to help participants
lose weight, lower their A1C, and feel great! We help you
modify your lifestyle by eating healthier, getting active,
and reducing stress. Don't miss out on this free program.*

Our next monthly **Restaurant Roadtrip** will take
us to **Big City Bread** downtown, 393 North
Finley Street, on Tuesday, May 21 at 11:30am.
Come with us! Just **SIGNUP** on the bulletin
board either to meet us there or join the carpool
from the church parking lot, leaving at 11:15am.
Separate checks.

WHO'S WHO at Covenant? Who at Covenant
once bought a car that used to belong to Al Capone?



Who's Who:
Ed Ralph's father

Learn more about the Bible!

B.A.S.I.C. on Sunday mornings from 9:40 - 10:30.

Lead by Abby Horvath

Youth Group Happenings!

Middler Fundraiser for Montreat: Middlers are earning some money for Montreat! They're helping out with projects around the church, led by Building and Grounds Chair, Richard Reaves. May 18, June 8 and June 15 from 10am - noon. Also, the Cov Pres community is being asked to "hire a Middler!" Do you have a project you could use a Middler or two to help with? Those who "hire" the Middlers are asked to pay \$10/hr, and provide a minimum of 2 hours of work. The work is to be supervised and there must be two adults present at the place of work. All jobs will be approved by an adult youth leader and a parent/caregiver of the youth. Get your "Hiring" on!



Sunday evening programming - School's out for summer!

Programming will resume in the fall!



Middlers—Tubing in Helen: June 1 is the proposed date for a water filled trip to Helen. Please let Craig or Jeremy know if you would like to join in floating the river that day!

Montreat High School Conference, June 2-8. We are a few short weeks away from this fun filled, faith forming event. Ten youth (one of the largest groups in recent years) from Covenant, Athens, will share lodging at the GA Lodge with youth from Covenant, Augusta who together will join youth from across the region for week 1 programming. This year's theme is "Let Love Lead" (read more on the Montreat website). Thanks to the church's generosity, and the Lasagna Lunch fundraiser, youth and their parents are only responsible for paying approximately 25% of the cost. What a gift. We will commission the youth on Sunday, June 2, after which they will head to the hills!



Our beloved choir director Cliff Brock is going to get his Masters in horticulture in Oregon and ALAS cannot take his cat Humphrey with him, nor is his family able to care for him – so might you take Humphrey in for 2 years? unless you fall totally in love and then Cliff would understand, of course!!! Humphrey is a very gentle soul, 4 years old, 18 lbs, British short-hair, is an indoor cat, and is social but not clingy. If you can give him a foster home, then please contact Cliff.

The Building & Grounds Ministry Team now has its own bulletin board, which is located in the bulletin board hallway opposite the Gathering Room restrooms. Check there to see about projects pending before the B&G MT, as well as whom to query about campus maintenance or improvement projects of greatest interest to you.

A sign-up form seeking flower bed stewards is now posted on the Building & Grounds Ministry Team bulletin board. If you have any questions about this opportunity, please contact Alice Rose, 678-886-8680.



CHILD LITURGIST

(10:45 Service) *Instructions:* As the school year concludes, instead of a rotation, child liturgists will be on a volunteer basis. If your child would like to lead a particular Sunday during break please contact the church office, at the latest, midweek of the Sunday before your child would lead. The bulletin will be emailed to you by the end of the week so your child can practice. During the “Voluntary” of the worship service, the liturgist may join the pastors in the chancel. To begin, your child can invite the congregation, “Please join me in the Call to Worship.”

Covenant Connection has concluded for the school year!

Covenant Connection will start up again on Wednesday, September 11, 2019. If you are willing to help with Covenant Connection in the 2019-2020 school year please let Sarah Shannon know: sarah@shannons.us

Going underground with WoRM! “let the little children come unto me.” - Jesus

Easter Scripture: John 21:1-19

Memory Verse: Jesus said...”Do you love me?” John 21:17c

WoRM Rotation for upcoming Sundays:

Date	Teacher/Shepherd	Teacher/Shepherd	Music	Story Teller
5/19/19	Jere/Wanda	Combined	Betsy	

Parents Corner: From the Presbyterian Mission Website, a reflection and appreciation for all of our teachers/shepherds: “We Presbyterians take educational mission seriously. We value *informational* education, learning about the world and how it functions. We value *vocational* education, developing God-given talents in order to fulfill the vocation to which we have been called. And fundamentally we value *transformational* education, as the *Brief Statement of Faith* says: “The Spirit gives us courage . . . to witness to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.” Education is one of the hallmarks of the Reformed tradition. From Calvin’s Geneva, to John Knox’s dictum for all of Scotland, “a school in every parish,” to America and all parts of the world, education has been and continues to be a central feature of Presbyterian ministry. Presbyterian churches have always looked to the Bible as the foundation for all matters of faith and practice. Therefore it is to the Bible that these churches have turned for guidance in shaping the spirit, strategy and content of ministry in education.”

Kickin’ It at Covenant coming June 12, 19, 26 and July 10, 17, 24, 6:30pm—8pm. Many thanks to Jerry Shannon and Valerie Frey Stone for helping organize these summer gatherings! If you have ideas and/or are willing to help, let Jerry know. More info to follow!

Vacation Bible School - First Pres will once again be hosting VBS May 28 - 31st, and CovPres Children are invited to sign up through [their website: https://firstpresathens.org/z_extra_pages/vacation-bible-school-form/](https://firstpresathens.org/z_extra_pages/vacation-bible-school-form/). Any youth or adults who want to volunteer are welcome to do so.



Covenant
Breakfast Club
Monday, May 20th
at 8am. Cracker

Barrel on Epps Bridge Road. Join us for a good time of conversation and food.

You are invited to Colleen Cooks
Ordination Service on June 9th at 4pm.
Kim Long (coeditor of the new
Presbyterian Book of Common Worship
and formerly my professor) will be
preaching. Pastors Mark and Beecher will
be giving charges.

Dear Sister and Brothers in Christ,

I recently heard someone say that the best questions a church should be asking are not, "What should we do?" and "How can we do it?" but "What is God already doing in our lives?" and "How can we faithfully respond?" Your session and pastoral leaders deeply believe that God is up to something wonderful and energizing and almost totally unexpected in our life together. It's as if we woke up one day and heard a fresh word that originally had been spoken to our ancestors in exile: "I am about to do a new thing," says the Lord; "now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19).

On April 28th, we received a formal proposal from the session of Central Presbyterian Church that their congregation join with ours and begin a new chapter in the story of Christ's life-giving, reconciling love. In a specially called meeting on Wednesday, May 1st, the Covenant session joyfully and unanimously accepted this proposal. On June 2, 2019 our congregations will worship together as one for the first time, and then begin to live into the new life God's Spirit is weaving together.

Obviously, all this is happening very quickly and is a lot to drink in. Perhaps it would be helpful to bring us up to speed on Central's immediate history and what brought us to this new moment. As many of you already know, the Central congregation has been on a traumatic journey involving a congregational schism, lawsuit, and eventual displacement from a cherished home campus. For the last two years, Central has gathered for worship and healing at the Presbyterian Student Center at UGA. While the welcome afforded by the PSC is genuine, it cannot be long-term since they are planning major building renovations beginning in the fall. During their time there, Central has discerned that its most hopeful way forward is not to build or buy a new building but to incorporate their strong faith and many gifts into the life of an existing partner congregation. Over time, the vision that emerged for them was joining with you, a community with whom they share not only some common history and friendships but a strong commitment for compassionate service in Athens.

So, what might this joining of our two congregations look like? And what are some of the concrete implications? In all honesty, I cannot provide a completely satisfying answer to those questions.

But here's what we know so far:

- We will not remain two autonomous congregations worshiping under one roof. Instead, and as I've heard some leaders from both congregations say, we will be entering into a kind of marriage covenant, becoming a blended family that intends to worship together, study together, and serve our neighbors together. In other words, we intend to bring together two existing congregations, and not simply welcome individuals into membership from a church that has ceased to exist. At present, Central's congregation is made up of between 25 and 40 members.
- For the time being, Central's five session members will join with ours to offer guidance and leadership; eventually we plan to include former Central members in the nominating process for one twelve member session.
- Central's current pastor, the Rev. Rindy Trouteaud, will accompany Central in this period of transition and be paid through existing Central financial resources through the end of 2019.
- Central's current handbell director, David Boardman, will explore the creation of a handbell choir and will also be paid by Central funds through the end of 2019. Our hope is that over time possible roles in our life together for both Rindy and David will emerge.

(continued on Page 7)

- Central will continue its current local mission commitments like Our Daily Bread and IHNA, thus providing additional opportunities for Covenant members to serve in Christ's name.
- For the time being, and for legal reasons, Central will maintain its tax ID, PIN for the PCUSA, and a separate investment account with the Presbyterian Foundation for the funds they received from the lawsuit settlement. Their desire is that this money might be used to create a lasting missional legacy in the Athens community.
- All other financial issues will be resolved through meetings of the finance teams of both congregations, with all members eventually pledging to one common purse.
- An existing agreement with two UGA music students to participate in the choir and be supported financially by the Dolvin Foundation will be renegotiated for the fall semester of 2019.

Perhaps I am stating the obvious when I say that none of us can know exactly how all of this is going to play out over time. However, I hope that you can feel the joy that comes when receiving an unexpected gift. Because it is my belief that this is what the presence of Central in our life together is: an incredible gift from God. It also feels like a wonderful opportunity to model the possibility of new life in a presbytery filled with congregations that would very likely be stronger together than they are apart. And, after enduring a long and very public fight over inclusivity within the church, the coming together of our two congregations can be a much-needed witness that God's resurrecting love always gets the last word.

I'm aware that this letter will not answer all your questions, but feel free to ask the ones that remain; I, along with our session members, will do our very best to respond as clearly as we can. But also take the time to warmly greet our brothers and sisters from Central who are joining us on this discipleship journey, beginning June 2nd. And let us all come together and celebrate this "new thing" that God is doing in our midst at a post-worship reception on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th. I don't know about you, but I feel a mighty wind blowing *Grace and peace. Mark Harper*



COVENANT'S COFFEE HOUSE And TALENT SHOW!

Saturday, June 29 at 6pm .

See the **sign up sheet** on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes.

Many thanks to Dick Zimdars (chair), Judy Capie, and Wayne Crowell (elected by the congregation on April 14) for their willingness to serve as our 2019 Nominating Committee, now seeking a slate of 4 Elders to serve on the Session in the Class of 2022. Please help them in this process, by turning in suggestions of members you would like to have on the Session. Forms are available in your church mailboxes, and a drop box is on the dining table in the Gathering Room.

New Packaging to Collect for TerraCycle!

The Green Dream Team has signed up to collect 2 new types of packaging for TerraCycle.

Gillette Razor Recycling Program. Accepted waste: All brands of blades and razors (systems and disposable units, and replaceable-blade cartridge units), rigid plastic packaging and flexible plastic bag packaging.

Calbee Recycling Program. You may not know the brand name, but you may buy the products. Acceptable Waste: plastic bags from these specific snacks: Harvest Snaps Green Pea Snack Crisps and Black Bean Snack Crisps, Popper Duos snacks, Whole Cuts snacks, Shrimp Chips.

Look for new collection boxes for these products next to the TerraCycle collection drawers. The boxes feature posters that picture the acceptable packaging materials.

Caren Snook for the Green Dream Team

WEEK OF May 19, 2019—

SUNDAY—

8:30am Worship
9:30am Church School (final WoRM)
10:45am Worship 2:30pm Piano Recital Betsy Burmeister
2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous

MONDAY—

5:30pm—9pm Challenger League Baseball Banquet in FH
OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY—

11:30am Restaurant Road Trip to Big City Bread
9:30am Athens Mothers Center
8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY—

8:30am—9:30am AA
10am Adult Bible Study
7pm Adult Choir

THURSDAY—

2pm Knitters & Knotters
6:30pm YOGA
7pm Celebrate Recovery
7:30pm Happy Squares

FRIDAY—

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
8pm New Freedom

SATURDAY—

Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WEEK OF May 26, 2019—

SUNDAY—

8:30am Worship (final)
9:30am Adult Church School (final)
10:45am Worship (final)
2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous

MONDAY—

MEMORIAL DAY
OFFICE CLOSED



TUESDAY—

11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's Restaurant (eastside)
9:30am Athens Mothers Center
6:30pm Stated Session Meeting
8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY—

8:30am—9:30am AA
10am Adult Bible Study
7pm Adult Choir

THURSDAY—

2pm Knitters & Knotters
6:30pm YOGA
7pm Celebrate Recovery

FRIDAY—

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
8pm New Freedom in FH beginning at 5:30pm for Anniversary Celebration

SATURDAY—

Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—May 19, 2019

8:30am Worship

Reader: Betsy Pless

Ushers: Dennis & Carol Calbos

Coffee: Dennis Calbos

10:45am—

Reader: Sandy Whitney

Ushers: Susan & Randy Parish, The Tweedell Family

Greeters: The Herndon Family

Congregational Care: Luanne Rigsby (May 15-31)

Counters: Sue Loegel, Bill Barstow

Flowers: Ellie McMinn

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alex Clark

Close the Building: Hank Tweedell

Grounds Stewards: Ed Ralph (May 20-26)

Nursery/Super: Valerie Stone

Birth—Walking: Valerie Stone

Walking—5 yearsold: Brian & Eli Stone

WORSHIP—May 26, 2019

8:30am Worship

Reader: Dianne Simpson

Ushers: Judy Capie, Alan Edwards

Coffee: Sharon Edwards

10:45am—

Reader: Carol Huber

Ushers: Phil & Sallie Hale, Jerry & Sarah Shannon, Dianne Simpson

Greeters: Maurine Wathen, Gloria Pylant

Congregational Care: Luanne Rigsby (May 15-31)

Counters: Judy Capie, Ellen Stoneburner

Flowers: Paula & Dick Zimdars

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Jim Bowden

Close the Building: Alex Clark

Grounds Stewards: Alex Clark (May 27 - June 2)

Nursery/Super: Pam Knox

Birth—Walking: Pam Knox

Walking—5 yearsold: Sandy Whitney, Carrie Tweedell, Chuck Rosenberger