

Keeping Up with Covenant Presbyterian Church News

Wendell, North Carolina

FEBRUARY 2019

Heritage Sunday February 24, 2019

The seed for the Covenant Presbyterian Church was planted on February 8, 1954 when representatives from Granville Presbytery met with a handful of interested people in the Wendell home of Mack and Carol Hester. This number grew to 40 when the group gathered on February 28, 1954 at the Woman's Club for worship. Dr. Emmanuel Gitlin, head of the Religion Department of UNC in Chapel Hill, preached each Sunday until an installed pastor was called. In July 1955 the Reverend Scott Poole was called as that first pastor. And on February 26, 1956 the Wendell Presbyterian Church (later the name would be changed to the Covenant Presbyterian Church in order to reach out beyond Wendell for potential members) was chartered with an original 46 charter members. In November 1956, four acres would be purchased from Lawson Knott and groundbreaking for the first sanctuary building would take place. To celebrate the chartering of this family of faith, you are invited to join us on February 24 for Heritage Sunday. After worship we will celebrate with a potluck lunch. Fried chicken and ham will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Mark your calendars now!!

New Book Group to Begin

Come join us for monthly fellowship as we form a new Book Group! Our first gathering will be on Thursday, February 21 at the home of Lisa Cauley, 118 Westlake Drive, Wendell. We will begin at 7:00 pm and conclude no later than 9:00 pm. Our first book is "Varina", written by Charles Frazier, author of the bestselling book "Cold Mountain". It is the true story of Varina Davis, wife of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy during the Civil War. At our first meeting, we will establish future dates and times for gathering and identify books we would like to read. So, come with your suggestions! Light refreshments and great fellowship will be offered!! If you have questions, call the church office, 919-365-7979.

Don't forget First Sunday lunch on February 3rd. Soup and grilled cheese sandwiches!



From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

Thank you for participating in the church wide survey and attending the gatherings the Session hosted to share the results of that survey. Nearly 70% of our congregation participated, which indicates your high level of concern/interest for the ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Here are a few interesting facts from the survey:

67% of the congregation lives more than 5 miles away from the church. Because of this fact, we are considered to be a “regional church” instead of a “local” church. This presents a challenge when scheduling meetings and activities.

48% of the congregation is over 65 years old and 93% are over the age of 45.

22% have only 1 person living in their household and 50% have 2 persons living in a household.

37% of the congregation have been at Covenant over 20 years.

You said that these are your top priorities for ministry:

Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people (98% of you listed this as your top priority.)

Make necessary changes to attract families with youth and children.

Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership.

Develop ministries that work to help those broken by life circumstances.

Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation.

The Session is in the process of taking this information from the survey and your comments shared at our gatherings to formulate a vision/mission statement. They will be sharing and asking for your feedback in the weeks to come. In an effort to clarify our vision and facilitate our ministry, they have made some changes to our ministry team organization. (See the Clerk of Session report in this newsletter.)

With the conclusion of the survey, this completes our Mission Study which will be sent to the Presbytery of New Hope for approval. Once that approval comes, we can move forward to the election of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Again, thank you for your input, for your support and for your prayers as we continue to move through this transitional time in the life of the Covenant Presbyterian Church. We give thanks for the ways in which the Spirit is moving through us and among us!

Blessings,

Pastor Debbie





Your Session in Action

Report from January 13 Session Meeting

New members, ministry team restructuring, and moving forward from the Holy Cow survey results highlighted the discussions at the 7 p.m. Session meeting. The elder class of 2021 consisting of returning elders Steve Buss and Steve Hicks with newly ordained elders Karen Marsh and Heather Wolfgang joined existing members; Class of 2019-Jeannie Driver, Bud Lawler, Barbara Sneade, Tim VanGelder and Class of 2020-Lisa Bailey, Paula Daniels, Doug Petrey and Rusty Wagstaff for the regular monthly meeting.

Now that the Holy Cow Survey is complete, elders Barbara Snead, Tim Van Gelder, and Lisa Bailey agreed to meet with Rev. Debbie and begin work on Covenant's Mission and Vision statements. The Session scheduled a mini-retreat on Sunday afternoon, February 17 to finalize these statements for presentation to the congregation and to work on the Policy and Procedures Manual.

A large portion of the meeting focused on discussing the ministry teams (committees) and their various responsibilities. Elders chose the team they would be the Session liaison for this year. The Session voted to expand the existing Congregational Care Ministry Team into three teams dividing up the responsibilities to allow expansion and better focus. The new teams will focus on (1) Caring for Members of our Congregation, (2) Hospitality and Outreach - inviting others to join us, and (3) Fellowship.

All Ministry Teams are looking for folks interested in working with their team. You are not limited to working with only one particular ministry team, so if you love to entertain and would like to serve with Fellowship for example, you can do that and still be a part of the Mission Team and work with Back Pack Buddies or any of the other team helping with their ministries.

The teams, their elder liaison(s) and contact information are listed below.

Administration:

Communications-Lisa Bailey, lbailey513@aol.com

Finance/Stewardship-Steve Hicks, stevehicks2@gmail.com

Personnel-Bud Lawler, bossdog67@nc.rr.com, Barb Sneade, Sneade@nc.rr.com

Property-Doug Petrey, doug.petrey@yahoo.com, Steve Buus, kabuus13@yahoo.com

Congregational Care:

Congregational Care-Karen Marsh, kmarsh2226@gmail.com

Fellowship-Jeannie Driver, driverconstruction@bellsouth.net, Paula Daniels, pjd424@gmail.com

Hospitality/Evangelism- driverconstruction@bellsouth.net, Paula Daniels, pjd424@gmail.com

Discipleship:

Christian Education-Heather Wolfgang, hlwofgang@gmail.com

Mission-Rusty Wagstaff, iam4duke@gmail.com, Bud Lawler, bossdog67@nc.rr.com

Worship-Tim VanGelder, tvangelder@mckimcreed.com, Barb Sneade, Sneade@nc.rr.com

Regular monthly stated Session meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second Sunday. Meetings are open to members of the congregation, conducted using Robert's Rules of Order, and minutes are public. If you would like to find out more about the Session or the Presbyterian form of government, contact Debbie or Fred Lanzi-Clerk of Session, or any Session member. If you would like to speak to the Session on a topic, you need to notify Rev. Debbie or Clerk Fred to be placed on the next stated meeting agenda. Our next meeting is Sunday, February 10.



Christian Education

Elder Heather Wolfgang

The next CE meeting is Tuesday, Feb 19th at 6:30 in the Education building. Please join us if you are interested in joining this creative and dedicated group!

Children's Ministry Team will meet on Thursday, Feb 28 at 7pm at Bonnie Wagstaff's home, all who are interested are welcome. The address is 1017 Home Farm Rd., Wendell. Phone # 919-630-7126.

A special thank you to Linda Berry for her years of service and dedication as the Christian Education Director of Covenant Presbyterian Church! She has planned and coordinated countless Sunday School lessons, mission trips, VBS events and Advent and Lenten plays. Equally important, Linda has always encouraged, loved and supported the children and their families! Thank you Linda and may God bless you always! You are forever in our hearts and welcome to help with any future CE events at Covenant!

Covenant's Youth Group is sponsoring a free big-screen showing of MARY POPPINS.

Date: Sunday, February 10, 2019

TIME: 5:00pm sharp-doors open and hot dogs ready by 4:30pm (Spit-spot! Don't dawdle!)

COST: No charge, be our guest (Oops, that's a different Disney movie..)

PLACE: Fellowship Hall (feel free to bring cushions, comfy chairs, blankets, etc.)

REFRESHMENTS: popcorn, hot dogs, tea & biscuits (of course), soda, water

Sunday School

All Sunday School classes for adults, children and youth begin at 9:45 on Sunday mornings.

Both elementary and youth will be studying the same scripture and stories but with a different emphasis.

Feb. 3 Families Remember God Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Feb. 10 Family Traditions Daniel 1:1-21

Feb. 17A Family's Faith Acts 16:1-5, Timothy 1:5-7

Feb. 24 Family Proverbs Proverbs 10:1, 1:17

The Hood-Underhill class is taught by Bob Fleming and Todd Turner, located in Education Building.

Stomp 'n' Holler is a men's class led by Bill Alden, located in the Education Building.

The Serendipity class is taught by Marc Johnson, meeting across from the Church office.

Coffee and Conversation Mini Courses will meet in the Session room until further notice.

January 20-March 3: Lisa Cauley will teach from the book of Ephesians.

Tuesday Bible Study (10:00am) with Pastor Debbie for a 14 week study beginning Jan 15th. We will be studying the Old Testament book of Exodus using the Kerygma Program resources. The study will strengthen and enrich, enliven and inform our faithful living today.

Bible Adventurers

Ages 4-10. This group leaves the church service after the Conversation with the Children. The children will learn about the Bible through a variety of adventurers with songs, stories, games and crafts.

Miss Leann and Miss Megan are teaching the books of the Bible in a variety of creative and engaging ways!

Miss Robin and Miss Kristen teach bell songs with the Music Makers every 1st and 3rd Sundays during Bible Adventurers.

Mission/Outreach

Elders Bud Lawler & Rusty Wagstaff



Advent Jesse Tree

"Join us for a brief interest meeting Sunday, February 10th after church for about 30 minutes. We will discuss plans for making Advent Jesse Tree ornaments for a Missions Outreach fundraiser. We will meet in the Education Building.

Carver Elementary Backpack Buddy Program

Don't forget our weekend meals for Carver kids. We need canned vegetables, snack items, breakfast bars, small packages of cereal/oatmeal. Immediate need for protein items—peanut butter, tuna, meatballs, viennas, soups; fruit, popcorn, sweet snacks. There is a designated bin in the Narthex and lists with suggested items on the bulletin boards. We are up to 40 children needing assistance and donations dropped during December. Please help with this important service for the children in our community.

The Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is an on-going project supplying bags of groceries to needy families in our area. Non-perishable foods are welcome.

Bring your food for the Back Pack Buddies and Food Pantry on Communion Sundays.

When we gather to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the second Sunday of each month, we recognize God's amazing gift of Jesus Christ to the world and the incredible sacrificial gift Jesus made for us. The table of the Lord's Supper is a table of incredible love and grace shared for us all. But we are called to be not only receivers of the gift, but givers of the gift. What better way to share than to bring our food to the table for the local food pantry and Back Pack Buddies. Did you know that we provide bags of food to some 30 plus families with children from Carver Elementary School which will enable them to put food on their tables for the weekend? We are inviting you to bring your food - canned vegetables, fruit cups, soups, etc., - on Communion Sundays. The children will collect your food during the Conversation with the Children and then place the food in the baskets at the communion table, reminding us that we are called to be not only receivers of God's grace, but givers. We will continue to gladly receive your food any time, in the boxes in the narthex. Just remember to bring a can or two on communion Sundays as well! Many thanks!

Worship

Elders Tim VanGelder

Barbara Sneade

Choir Chatter

Has a family member, friend, or someone sitting near you told you that you sing well? Would you like to test that person's belief? Your choir welcomes new members, and now is an excellent time to start. After the busy Advent season, we're singing a bit less challenging music and enjoying the pause before starting our Easter cantata.

We love sharing God's message in song and strive to be able to deliver that message well. However, we are more than a group of musicians. We are a choir family, and we welcome new members. We have fun as well as love and care for each other. Sitting in on rehearsal is a good way to see if you want to become part of this group. Yes, the caveat is still that if dogs howl and cats run under the bed when you sing, we need good listeners, too.

Think about giving us a try.

See you in church,

Wanda



The Master's Men will be singing for us Sunday, February 24th at 7:00pm. The concert is free of charge but an offering will be taken.

Congregational Care

Elders Paula Daniels & Jeannie Driver

Presbyterian Women of the church meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all women to come join us for a great night of fellowship when we resume in January. We enjoy lively discussions about what the Bible is saying to us and how we can put the message into action in our daily lives. Come and join us as we all journey together to strengthen our faith.

Breakfast Fellowship: February 11. Come join us for breakfast. Everyone is welcome! The second Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Zebulon at McLean's Restaurant.

Handy Hands helps with home repairs and chores for those who find it difficult to manage by themselves. They have installed several ramps for those with problems with mobility. Need is more important than ability to pay, so donations are appreciated.

Join a special care ministry: Contact Paula Daniels at 919-675-0363 or Jeannie Driver at 919-365-5521 for more information.

Prayer Shawl: Both knitters and crocheters are welcome! We meet at 5:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month and create shawls & throws for comfort in time of need. Want to join the group? Experienced knitters are happy to help & share patterns. Some supplies are available. Call Christine Mailliard at 919-366-0883 for more information or if you know of someone who could use a shawl.

Martha's Ministry provides meals in time of need. If you are experiencing difficulties, illness, stress or any other reason, and having a meal delivered would give you a lift, please let the church office know (919-365-7979). If you are able to help prepare and/or deliver meals, please call Paula, Jeannie or the church office.

Men's Breakfast: The third Sunday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Church's Education Building. The breakfast is held in the kitchen in the Education Building.

The Grief Group meets on the first and third Tuesday at 7:00pm in the Sessions Room. If you are grieving a loss, don't try to do it alone. Share your feelings with others as we "walk" together through the wilderness of grief. At the end of our journey together, may we be able to experience the wonderful memories we have of those we have lost. If you have any questions, contact Judy Shotts at 919-366-0849 or jshotts65@att.net.

Dear CPC Family,

As many of you know, I am retiring at the end February. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as the part-time Director of Christian Education these last five years. I love this church family and hope that I have been able to meet your expectations. Your love and support have been the backbone of my wonderful experience. If I asked you to do anything, share any of your talents, volunteer your time, teach, help with VBS, buy Butter Braids, or simply to talk – you have been there! Thank you so very much. God works in mysterious ways, but I will be eternally grateful for this opportunity He offered me through you.

There are simply no words to describe how "gobsmacked" I was with the surprise reception, flowers, and THE PLAY to honor my retirement. It was indescribably wonderful; the children and youth humbled me and impressed me with their love, creativity, and talent. Thank you to all those who "pulled this off."

With love and grace, Linda Berry.

Church Staff:

Transitional Pastor	Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt, 478-363-2010 (mobile) Revdeb2017@gmail.com	
Pastor Emeritus	Reverend Bob Borland	
Directors of Christian Ed.	Linda Berry	lberry61@hotmail.com
	Dorine Newton	dorinenewton@nc.rr.com
Administrative Assistant	Wendy Taylor	covsecty1@raleigh.twcbc.com
Minister of Music	Wanda Ramm	wjramm1@gmail.com
Church Musician	Jeff Bottoms	Innerkid13@earthlink.net
Clerk of Session	Fred Lanzi	fredlanzi@bellsouth.net
Church Treasurer	Carol Rich	crich319@gmail.com
Accounts Receivable	Judy McCurdy	mccurdyj@aol.com
Webmaster	Lisa Bailey	lbailey513@aol.com

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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“Celebrating the Past—Building the Future”