



Covenant Chimes



November 2022

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Clerk's Corner

October 2022 Session Notes

Session Notes is now "Clerk's Corner" which will bring important information from Session but not duplicate information from the various ministries that are in the *Chimes*.

Clerk's Report:

Facility usage: Session approved the wedding of Katherine Huff & Nathan Banks and the use of the sanctuary Friday, May 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. for the rehearsal and Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. for the wedding.

Membership: Lois Grimstead Davis joined the Church Triumphant September 9, 2022. Lois J. Reynolds also joined the Church Triumphant September 29, 2022.

Mary McCarter, Aubrey Moore and Judy Grieve are the commissioners to the Northeast Georgia Presbytery meeting Tuesday, October 25, at Monticello Presbyterian Church.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Aubrey Moore reported that the Covenant church budget had a slight deficit in August but has an overall surplus of \$30,226.51 year to date. He shared that he was thankful for the increase in donations to the Pastor's discretionary fund and building fund following his Faith in

From Our Pastor

Before you read the rest of this article, I want you to close your eyes and think of a place that's meaningful to you. Ready? Go.

Which place did you think of? Maybe it was the back porch at your house. Maybe you thought of the room where you stayed when you visited your grandparents. Maybe it was somewhere you've been on vacation with family.

Places matter to us. Places hold meaning for us, and that meaning is not so much about the geography of the place as the experiences and relationships that happen there.

This year's Stewardship Campaign "Heart and Home" touches on both of these aspects. The "heart" of Covenant are the ministries and relationships that happen here. Even a partial list of these ministries shows just how big Covenant's heart is: worship services, Meals on Wheels, Covenant Preschool and Children's Day Out, Presbyterian Women, Covenant Choir, handbells, marriage and family therapy sessions, Matthew 25 efforts, Sunday School classes for all ages, and more. These ministries and the people who are part of them are, by the grace of God and the power of the Spirit, the heart of this church.

The "home" of Covenant is our campus. It's the building where we come together on Sundays and also throughout the week. I imagine that there are particular places around the church that are meaningful to you. The parlor is where you gathered with your family before your spouse's funeral. The sanctuary is where your children were baptized. The fellowship hall is where you had dinner for the first time with another church member who has become one of your closest friends. The nook under the stairs is where you and your friends hid during a game of Sardines at a youth group lock-in.

Our building is a structure made of concrete and metal, but it's more than that too. It's the place where we come together as God's people to learn, worship, grow, and share life together. It's a place where we grieve and celebrate; it's a place where we ask big questions and find good company.

This year's Stewardship campaign includes two asks: the first ask for an annual financial commitment to the heart and ministries of the church and a second ask for a three-year "Home Improvement Plan" effort to pay for campus-related expenses. Just as place matters, so does your giving this year.

(See "Clerk's Corner" page 2)

(See "From Our Pastor," page 2)

From Our Pastor

(continued from page 1)

It matters for the well-being of our church, but it's also important for your own well-being. God created us to be generous, and stewardship gives us an opportunity to practice generosity with the time, talent, and treasure that God has given us.

Whether you've been here for years or you're new to church, whether you feel like you've got this faith figured out or if you still have a lot of questions, you are part of the heart and home that the Spirit has created at Covenant Presbyterian, and it's a joy to be in ministry together.

Grace and peace,
Katelyn

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: All Covenant Members

Co-Pastors:

The Rev. Katelyn Gordon Cooke
and

The Rev. Andy Cooke

Director of Music and Organist:

Lyn M. Patterson

Parish Associate:

The Rev. Karla Conditt Daniels

Nursery Caregiver: Alex Krumme
and Sherry Nash

Church Secretary: Judy Strogonoff

Finance Secretary: Jenn Harrison

Covenant Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m. Mon, Wed, Fri.

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Tues, Thurs.

Clerk's Corner

(continued from page 1)

Action. Aubrey commented that the Mission Ministry is spending at budget and that this is a good thing.

Motions Passed:

- The Capital Campaign Task Force serving as the 2023 Stewardship Committee recommended the approval of the 2023 Stewardship Campaign "Heart and Home." Heart reflects our traditional stewardship campaign designed to support our 2023 church operating budget. Home reflects a three-year Home Improvement Plan designed to eliminate our building expansion and renovation loan and to fund facility improvement projects such as HVAC and roof.
- The Sustainability Ministry Team recommends to Session the approval of 38.5 unpaid leave hours for our Church Secretary to be used by the end of 2022.
- B & G Ministry Team recommended that Covenant enter a contract with AIM for the replacement of the Sanctuary HVAC equipment at an

approximate cost of \$200,000.00. Following discussion Charlotte Ealick made an amendment to the motion to include "using the Presbyterian Investment Loan Program 2.5% loan to help fund the purchase." It was seconded and passed. Clerk Judy Grieve read the amended motion: Recommendation that Covenant enter a contract with AIM for the replacement of the Sanctuary HVAC equipment at the approximate cost of \$200, 000 using the PILP loan at 2.5.% to help fund the cost. The amended motion was seconded and passed.

From Mary Oliver -
Six Recognitions of Christ:

*Oh, feed me this day Holy Spirit,
With the fragrance of the fields and
The freshness of the oceans which
you have made, and help me to hear
and to hold in all dearness those
exact and Wonderful words of our
Lord Christ Jesus, saying:
Follow me.*

Judy Grieve,
Clerk of Session

Congregational Meeting

The session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 21 in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to receive a report from the Congregational Nominating Committee and to elect a new class of elders, deacons, and members of the Congregational Nominating Committee.

Building & Grounds

CHURCH WORKDAY

The Building & Grounds Ministry Team is having a church workday, Saturday November 5. Contact Mary McCarter for more details.

Advent

A Note from Your Treasurer...

BEFORE THE MANGER WORSHIP SERIES



When we look back over the stories of our lives, we might notice that we often think in terms of before and afters.

There was life before we moved out of our parents' home and after, before we got married and after, before we started the job and after. There are all kinds of events that become defining.

When we look at the story of our faith, we notice these kinds of events too, and one of the most obvious and most significant ones is the birth of Jesus. The season of Advent helps us to mark this milestone moment in our faith when we remember life before Jesus' birth and consider all that has happened ever since.

Join us in worship this Advent for our series "Before the Manger" as we reflect on the significance of Jesus' birth in our personal stories and the story of God with God's people.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, November 27
11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Covenant members and friends of all ages are invited to an Advent Workshop on the first Sunday of Advent. You'll have the opportunity to make an Advent wreath for your family and other crafts. Join us for fun, fellowship, and food in the Fellowship Hall. The Education Ministry Team is hosting this event, and all are welcome!



*Please note: Sunday School classes will not meet on this Sunday.

At the recent Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference held this past September in Savannah, The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) remarked, "Stewardship is to serve something greater than ourselves." Whether through time, talent, or treasure, or more likely some combination of all three, I think the people of Covenant are ever faithful in living into these words. This is evident in our 3rd Quarter Financial Report; where, despite a fairly dismal U.S. economy, the giving at Covenant remains strong, and our expenditures remain manageable due to the time and talents of our professional staff and ministry teams. That is good news.

Thank you all, and thanks be to God.
Aubrey Moore

Covenant Presbyterian Church			
3rd Quarter Financial Report - January 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022			
<i>With 75% of the fiscal year complete, the chart below reflects our revenue performance to date.</i>			
Revenues	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	Goal ≥ 75%
Income Accounts			
Pledges	\$ 354,166.98	\$ 453,000.00	78.2%
Non-Pledge Gifts	31,988.76	55,000.00	58.2%
Loose Plate Offering	1,078.00	750.00	143.7%
Interest, Checking	74.70	200.00	37.4%
Interest, Prime Savings	54.15	300.00	18.1%
Processing Costs Revenue	701.11	750.00	93.5%
Rent/Facilities Use	4,762.00	4,400.00	108.2%
Total Income Accounts	\$ 392,825.70	\$ 514,400.00	76.4%
Designated Funds Transfers			
Transfers from Bldg. Fund	37,500.03	50,000.00	75.0%
Transfers from Carryover Surplus	4,158.00	5,543.96	75.0%
Total Revenues	\$ 434,483.73	\$ 569,943.96	76.2%
<i>With 75% of the fiscal year complete, the chart below reflects our expense performance to date.</i>			
Expenses	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	Goal ≤ 75%
Ministry Teams			
Building & Grounds	\$ 130,297.65	\$ 177,260.00	73.5%
Congregational Life	381.07	2,000.00	19.1%
Education	7,288.21	13,450.00	54.2%
Mission	31,489.04	42,700.00	73.7%
Sustainability	227,877.63	322,733.90	70.6%
Worship	7,248.14	11,800.00	61.4%
Total Expenses	\$ 404,581.74	\$ 569,943.90	71.0%
Net Total	\$ 29,901.99	\$ 0.06	5.2%
Portion of Building & Grounds expense attributable to mortgage.			
Church Mortgage	\$ 52,719.10	\$ 70,197.00	75.1%

Congregational Nominating Committee Report

ELDER CLASS OF 2026



Jim Buckalew and Karen Buckalew first came to Covenant Presbyterian Church in 1993-95 while he worked with United

States Rowing Association as the Southeast Field Service Coordinator, helping prepare the Southeast area for the 1996 Olympics. Prior to 1993 and after 1995, Jim lived and worked in Charleston, WV teaching and coaching at the University of Charleston, taught public school in Special Education, then worked at the First Presbyterian Church as the Director of Fellowship and Recreation and the Director of Plant and Property. He now works with the Aiken County, SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. As a member at First Presbyterian Church, in Charleston, WV, he served on several committees and was an Elder. He also served as a volunteer church league coach.

Jim and Karen returned to the Covenant family in 2021. They have two daughters, Megan Buckalew of North Augusta, and Laura Buckalew Austin (Milledge) of Martinez and one grandchild, Ennelle Grace Austin. Jim now serves as an usher and is member of the Capital Campaign Task Force.

Dr. William Davis is Professor Emeritus in the Division of Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia. He continues



some part-time work at MCG. He and his wife Dr. Loretta Davis joined Covenant in 2014. They have 3 children: Susan, Michael and Kathleen. William served as Elder in the Class of 2018 and has served on the Worship and Music Ministry for several years. William's outside interests include piano, reading, gardening, and exercise.



Susan Monk has been a member of Covenant since December 2021. Prior to moving to Augusta, she was a member of Ray

Thomas Memorial PCUSA in Marietta, GA. for 31 years where she served as an Elder. Since joining Covenant, Susan has joined the Matthew 25 Task Force and the Sustainability Ministry Team as well as Presbyterian Women. Now in retirement, Susan and her husband, Philip, moved to Augusta to be closer to their daughter and her family.



Aubrey Moore – Aubrey has been active in the life of Covenant for more than 20 years. Currently serving as church Treasurer, previously he was elected to serve as both Deacon and Elder. and he has served on various task forces, committees, ministries, and commissions. Aubrey is married to Sabina Widner. They have two young adult children, Ava and Ian. Outside of church and family, Aubrey is a practicing Clinical Psychologist. If elected, he would be honored to serve.

DEACON CLASS OF 2026

Chuck Baldwin joined Covenant in 1986. He had served as an Elder and has been on a Senior Pastor search committee and also on the Transitional Search Committee that brought Stu Ritter to Covenant. With his grandchildren attending Covenant, that made four generations of Baldwins in the pews. Since joining, Chuck has taught Sunday school from toddlers to adults. He has been Chair of Worship and Music, Buildings and Grounds, Stewardship, Preschool Ministry and Mexico Mission. He has also sung in the choir for the last 20+ years. He was ordained as an Elder in October 1987 and served again in 1990. He participated in the church basketball and softball leagues as well as Covenant's Men's Prayer Golf group.



Phil Humphrey is the son of Camilla Humphrey. He was baptized at First Presbyterian Church in Florence, SC. When his family relocated to Augusta in the 70's they began attending Covenant. Phil has

always found his way back to Covenant for many years. He has a son, Coleman James Humphrey. Phil re-joined the church in 2021 and states that Covenant has been a constant for him since his childhood and is "proud to be a member and it always feels like home."



Linda-Jean Jay became acquainted with Covenant Presbyterian Church as the Finance Secretary in 2019.

Within 2 years she and her husband Charles became members of the congregation. Linda-Jean has served on the Matthew 25 Task Force as well as the Christian Education Ministry Team. She loves to read Scriptures, serve, and pray. It would be an honor and a joy to serve as a deacon for this church family. Thank you.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elaine Lea and her husband Jimmy have attended Covenant for 29 years. They have 3 adult children who have been raised with the help of our Covenant family. Elaine has worked 29 years at AUMC in the clinical laboratories. Elaine is active in the mission ministry at Covenant.



Pat Ritter A 30-plus-year member of Covenant, Pat Ritter has served on Session, worked as a deacon and been on several different

committees over the years. She married Stu Ritter in 2019 and has recently retired from a career as an RN. Her three adult sons grew up attending Covenant and were all confirmed here. Pat enjoys singing with the choir and loves getting to know people.



*Respectfully submitted by the
Congregational Nominating Committee,
Charlotte Ealick, Chair.*

Education

CHILDREN

Sunday School

Sundays, November 6, 13, and 20

Preschool (ages 3 through kindergarten) // 11:15-11:25 a.m. // Room 2

Elementary (1st through 5th grade) // 11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. // Room 103

During the month of November at Covenant, we focus on the practice of giving as part of our annual stewardship campaign. Another word for “giving” is “generosity,” and the preschoolers and elementary school children will be learning all about generosity on Sunday mornings. Using a unit from the *Follow Me* PC (USA) curriculum, we’ll talk about sharing resources or things (Luke 10:25-37), sharing wisdom (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), sharing justice (Luke 4:16-21) and sharing power (Luke 18:18-23).

Children & Stewardship

This year, we have special pledge cards for children to make their own commitments of time, talent, and treasure to the church. Grown-ups, be on the look-out for this card to come in the mail addressed to your child.

YOUTH

Sunday Small Groups

Sundays, November 6, 13, and 20
11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

High School youth – room 203
Middle School youth – room 204

Stewardship and the practice of generosity are not just about giving away money, though that’s certainly part of them. What we do with our money, time, and resources is also a reflection of our beliefs about justice, God’s vision for the world, and our part in it.

This month, middle and high school youth will consider what Scripture teaches us about generosity and

stewardship and then how we can put these teachings into practice in our own lives.

Second Service Playground Clean-Up

Sunday, November 13
3:00-4:30 p.m.

Come help make our playground a safe and fun place for our neighbors to play! We’ll meet on the church playground and clean up the sandboxes, sort out broken toys, etc. We’ll also have snacks and drinks.

Fourth Third Fellowship - Advent Prep & Pizza Lunch!

Sunday, November 20
12:15-1:30 p.m.

It’s a tradition for the youth to help assemble the Buddy-the-Elf-sized Christmas tree that goes up in the sanctuary for Advent. After small groups, we’ll head over to the sanctuary to put the tree together, and we’ll also have a pizza lunch/fellowship time. All are welcome!

Pledge Cards

This year, we have special pledge cards for youth to make their own commitments of time, talent, and treasure to the church. Be on the look-out for this card to come in the mail addressed to your youth.

ADULT

Adult SALT (Sharing and Learning Together) and Choir Class

Sundays, November 13 and 20
11:15 a.m. in Room 12

All adults are invited to participate in our Sunday School class on November 13 and 20 at 11:15 AM in room 12.

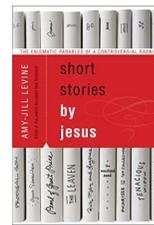
Our topic is an interesting and engaging book by Brian McLaren titled, *We Make the Road by Walking*. The book leads us in exploring what a difference an honest, living, growing faith can

make in us and in our world today. Since the chapters are short, we will be reading and discussing them together in class. For questions, please contact Steve Bell, Judy Grieve, or Kathy Ordelt.

Disciples Bible Study

Disciples will study *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. The class will use the book and the DVD that goes with this 11 part series. We will meet November 9 and November 30 for lessons 1 and 2. In this study

Amy-Jill Levine analyzes and illuminates Jesus’ parables, taking readers back in time to understand how the original Jewish audience heard the stories. Contact Judy Grieve judygrieve@mac.com about this class.



Coffee and Conversation

You’ve already come to worship, so stay after the service for coffee and conversation in the gathering area outside the Fellowship Hall. Join Covenant friends for some time to visit and see where the Spirit leads us in conversation. This time is meant to be informal, and all are welcome!





NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	Oct 31	1	2	3	4	5
		Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30 PM Communion at Brandon Wilde 7:00 PM Stated Session Meeting, Parlor	9:30 AM Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal	Parent Teacher Conferences 6:00 PM JuBellation Ringers 7:15 PM WADING Bible Study, Parlor		9:00 AM Bldg & Grnds Workday 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Ken Courtney, Guest Organist/Director 10:00 AM Kirking of the Tartans and Communion Service 11:15 AM Sunday School*	5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor	General Election, Fellowship Hall 12:00 PM Men's Brown Bag Lunch, Room 12 4:00 PM Education Ministry Team, Room 104	9:30 AM Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study, Room 104 1:30 PM Covenant Staff Meeting, Work Room 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM JuBellation Ringers 7:15 PM WADING Bible Study, Parlor	Veterans Day, No School	9:00 AM Church Women United, FH 10:00 AM Pick-up Basketball, Gym 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Preschool Playground Playdate 11:45 AM Girl Scout Troop 20179, Room 204 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Stewardship Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Service* 11:15 AM Sunday School* 3:00 PM Youth 2nd Sunday: Service-Playground Cleanup	Spirit Week Covenant Chimes Deadline 5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor 5:30 PM Congregational Life Ministry Team, Zoom 6:30 PM Building and Grounds Ministry Team	Spirit Week 9:45 AM PW CT Meeting, Room 104 11:00 AM PW WINGS Gathering, Room 12 6:30 PM Sustainability Ministry Team Meeting, Parlor	Spirit Week 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal	Spirit Week 1:15 PM Preschool Staff Meeting, Room 12 6:00 PM JuBellation Ringers 6:30 PM Capital Campaign Task Force, Parlor 7:15 PM WADING Bible Study, Parlor	Spirit Week	10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Special Offering: Thornwell Offering 10:00 AM Worship Service* 10:50 AM Congregational Meeting 11:15 AM Sunday School* 12:00 PM Chrismon Tree Set-up, Sanctuary 12:15 PM Youth 3rd Sunday Fellowship: Advent Prep & Pizza Lunch	Preschool Thanksgiving Holiday 5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor	Preschool Thanksgiving Holiday 6:00 PM Mission Ministry Team, Zoom	Preschool Thanksgiving Holiday 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study, Room 104 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal	Church Office Closed Preschool Thanksgiving Holiday 	Preschool Thanksgiving Holiday	10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 11:45 AM Girl Scout Troop 20179, Room 204 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3
Hanging of the Greens 10:00 AM Worship Service* 11:15 AM Sunday School*	5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor		9:30 AM Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal			
4	5					



Worship

Covenant Preschool & Children's Day Out

NECROLOGY

November 1 will mark All Saints' Day, a time in the church when we remember those who have gone before us. On the Sunday following All Saints' Day, it is a tradition at Covenant to remember individuals in our congregation and extended community who have died in the past year by speaking their names aloud during the service followed by the chiming of a bell.

On November 6, the bulletin will include a printed list of Covenant members who have died in the past 12 months as well as any others who have had their funeral or memorial service in our sanctuary or memorial garden in the past 12 months. After the printed names are spoken, the congregation will be invited to speak aloud the names of other individuals whom they would like for us to remember together. We welcome your participation in this holy time of worship on Sunday, November 6.

KIRKING SERVICE

This year's Kirking Sunday, November 6, will look more like it was in pre-pandemic times. We will have pipers and drummers from the Aiken Sheriff's Pipes and Drums participating in the worship service, and Celtic Harper Debbie van Tuyl will play during Communion distribution. However, we will not host the annual Kirking Tea with live music this year. Don't forget to wear your tartan or plaid on Sunday, November 6!



CHRISMON TREE SETUP NOVEMBER 20

Volunteers are needed after worship on November 20 to install the Chrismon tree in the sanctuary. This effort results in a centerpiece for our holiday worship decorations. Lunch and good fellowship will be provided for volunteers!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, November 27
11:00 a.m.

Please join us for Hanging of the Greens worship service.

Congregational Life

PICK-UP BASKETBALL

Saturday, November 12
10:30 a.m. Covenant Gym

Anyone who likes shootin' hoops is invited to come to the gym at 10:30 a.m. on November 12 for pick-up basketball game. If you want more information, contact Chris Terry at catterry005@gmail.com.

MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

Bring your own lunch and join us at noon on November 8, in the Fellowship Hall. We are continuing to look at Richard Rohr's book, *From Wild Man to Wise Man*. We hope to see you there!

*Dear God, thanks for friends,
both great and small.
Thanks for flowers, short and tall.
Thanks for birds and bumblebees.
Thanks for rocks and grass and trees.
Thanks for bright blue sky and sea.
And thank you, God, for loving me.*
-from *Great and Small Prayers for
Babies* by Pamela Kennedy

We like to focus on gratitude during the month of November at the preschool, and this year our gratitude is coming to life on our Thankful Tree! Check out the tree across from the preschool office and take a moment to read all of the things the preschool children are thankful for on the tree's leaves.

We're also learning about the history of our country, and the PK3, PK4, and Kindergarten students are taking a virtual field trip to see what life was like as a kid in colonial times. In Music, we're singing Thanksgiving songs, and in chapel, we're learning about saying thank you to God and to each other.

We hope you know how grateful we are for the church's support of the preschool's important work and ministry, and we wish you and your family a happy Thanksgiving!

Peace,
Katelyn Gordon Cooke
Co-Pastor and Preschool Director



Presbyterian Women



WINGS — PW

The November meeting of WINGS will be on November 15 in Room 12 at 11 am. Judy Grieve will lead us as we discuss Lesson Three from *Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight, the 2022-23 PW/Horizons Bible Study*. Contact Kathy Ordelt or Cindy Wallerich if you have questions.

TREATS FOR TROOPS

Covenant Presbyterian Women will be collecting individually packaged treats to make 200 snack bags for soldiers at Fort Gordon who will be traveling home for the holidays. Please consider donating individually packaged food items, such as cheese, crackers, granola bars, fruit roll-ups, pretzels and candy. Place your items in the boxes that will be in front of the office from November 13 to November 30. Thanks so much to all who have supported this mission in the past.

Mission

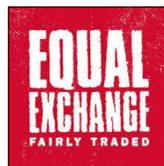
FAMILY PROMISE

Covenant was scheduled to host Family Promise during the week of December 11-18, however, the families will be staying at a constant place. Covenant will plan to take meals for the families the week they were scheduled to be at Covenant. If you have any questions or would like more information contact Chuck Baldwin at 706-339-1505.

Chuck Baldwin,
Family Promise Coordinator

EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE SALE

Mission Ministry will be hosting a sale of coffee and chocolate from Equal Exchange on Sunday, November 27. Look for the table in the narthex after the worship service.



Charlotte Ealick and
Sabina Widner

THORNWELL HOME SPECIAL OFFERING

We will take up a special offering for the Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, SC on Sunday, November 20.

With a legacy of hope and healing that began in the heart of a young pastor in 1875, Thornwell serves to prevent child abuse and neglect, build up and reunite families, and support healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ. Thornwell activates its mission with a Christ-centered continuum of care to build strong children and families across FL, GA, and SC. When the organization started, the first funds came from a young boy. Thornwell Emphasis Month honors this legacy by inviting each of us to contribute what we can—prayers, acts of service, or financial donations. Family takes all of us. Together, we are building strong families.

GAP MINISTRIES

The GAP item of the month for November is stuffing mix (type which only needs water added). We always need food that goes into the "walking bags" that we give to the homeless and to the working poor who come by to get something for lunch. We provide two sandwiches, chips or crackers, water with flavoring, fruit and a sweet. Some of these items are seldom available from Golden Harvest at their special pricing, so we really appreciate donations of packs of crackers, small packs of cookies, flavor packets for water bottles, chips, and small containers of fruit.

LIST OF ITEMS BY MONTH

January: Hot chocolate
February: Canned pork and beans
March: Canned chicken or ham
April: Boxes of cereal
May: Toothbrushes & toothpaste
June: Deodorant
July: Canned fruit
August: Toilet paper
September: Canned soup
October: Instant grits or oatmeal (Individual packets)
November: Stuffing mix (type which only needs water added)
December: Beef stew or chili



A Letter from Cheryl Barnes, serving in Malawi

Dear friends,

My work in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe has allowed me to experience the mutuality of relationships that bring such joy and unanticipated fulfillment. This work has also revealed a bit of truth about me and has allowed me to get in touch with my “inner child.”

Those that know me best will attest to the fact that I am sensitive and sentimental. It takes very little to make me “tear up.” I will openly shed tears watching a sad movie or seeing someone in pain or in need. I get watery eyed when I watch a social media post of a beautiful marriage proposal that ends in a “yes,” and my heart breaks for the one who has risked public humiliation when the answer to a proposal is “no.” My tears often betray me in meetings or while preaching in the pulpit. Yet, on these occasions of vulnerability, I am consciously aware of how powerfully my tears ground me in the present moment and that is a beautiful thing. Let me preface the sharing of all of this personal information by saying that I do not suffer from depression or anxiety, and if anyone falls into this group, please make your mental health a priority. For me, I belong to a group of people called “empaths,” those who feel connected emotionally and cognitively with others.

This is just one of the attributes that define who I am, it is how I interact with the world; it is how I was designed by God, and I offer no apologies for this fact. It is also one of the reasons that I find my work as an educational facilitator so rewarding. This work uses all my gifts, it is work that brings utter joy

along with the discomfort of tears.

I recently visited the Chimwala Primary School in the Nkhoma Synod. I was greeted by the headmaster, Mr. Herbi Konyani, who escorted me around the school campus. Chimwala Primary School has a student enrollment of 6,000 students. The student teacher ratio is 1 to 100. Chimwala Primary was one of the many schools that had the opportunity to benefit from a recent Early Childhood Education Training, held via Zoom, which focused on the classroom environment. Unfortunately, Chimwala Primary School does not have a classroom building for the youngest learners, and as a result, they could not fully benefit from the training. Mr. Konyani directed me towards two areas where the youngest students are taught, a small unwallled structure and an open outside area. Both spaces are devoid of chairs and grass. The reality that young children sit in such barren classrooms brought tears to my eyes. The physical space of any classroom should be a safe space, a place that should be practical, interactive and interesting. In her book, *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*, the late author Bell Hooks writes, “The classroom remains the most radical space of possibility.” Knowing that these young learners sit on the ground, under the sun, and in the rain, in order to receive instruction denies them the environment that promotes successful student development.

There remains an inner child within me that would feel helpless when she watched TV commercials displaying the poverty in African countries with pleas requesting donations of what one would spend

on a daily cup of coffee. As a little girl, I wanted to help the children on those TV commercials and now that I have this chance, I don’t want to disappoint the eight-year-old me. I made a commitment to Mr. Konyani to identify donors to support the building of a classroom structure for the youngest learners. Towards the end of my visit, Mr. Koyani urged me to stay a little longer in order to witness the ringing of the bell in the bell tower on the campus of Chimwala. At noon, the older students gathered at this massive brick tower, to ring a bell to signal their lunch break. Listening to the ringing of the bell combined with the laughter of the children was such a beautiful thing.

In my partnership with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), I strive to shine a light on the challenging situations and unrealized goals of the Education Department. I believe that growth happens when the dry ground is watered, even if watered with tears. Water is life, and our tears are sacred because of their ability for inner renewal. Their presence ushers us into a soft place of recovery from a world that is often difficult to survive within. They are a humbling reminder that we are connected to something bigger than ourselves. Our tears validate every theory about the special relationship between the head and the heart ... and that is a beautiful thing.

As always, I am immensely grateful for your financial support and prayers.

Zikomo (thank you),

Rev. Cheryl Barnes

November Worship Schedule

USHERS

11/6: Judy Grieve, Chris Henry,
Ruth Mayhall, Philip Monk
Buddy Simpson, Bill Usry
11/13: Steve Bell, Dalton Cooper,
John Ealick, Angela Hobby
11/20: Jim Buckalew,
Jim Crimmins, Jimmy Lea,
Johnny Lowe, Charlie Terry
11/27: Hugh Dobbins, Dave Lapp,
Lucyle Ferris,
Fidelis Ndingwan

LITURGIST/READER AT 10:00 AM SERVICE

11/6: Dalton Cooper
11/13: Mac Hobby
11/20: Beverly Dorn
11/27: Hanging of the Greens

PREACHER

11/6: Katelyn Gordon Cooke
11/13: Andy Cooke
11/20: Karla Conditt Daniels
11/27: Andy Cooke

GREETERS

11/6: Amelia Hall
11/13: Lindsay Kircher
11/20: Buddy Simpson
11/27: Sabina Widner

A/V TEAM

Steve Bell, Terry Bowers, Miller
Cooke, John Ealick, Charles Jay,
Owen Gillies

COORDINATORS

Lindsay Kircher, *Greeter*
Coordinator
John Ealick, *A/V Team Coordinator*
Chris Henry, *Usher Coordinator*
Kaye Petkas, *Liturgist/Reader*
Coordinator
Cindy Wallerich, *Flower*
Coordinator



Prayer Concerns



NEW CELEBRATIONS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

Ruby and Rishard Banks – For the
birth of their twin boys, Tuesday,
October 25.
Margaree Donaldson —mother of Bill
Usry, who is recovering from a
stroke (1017)
Family of Larry Lutcher—who passed
away on October 25

CONTINUED PRAYER CONCERNS

All of Covenant's Missionaries
All who serve in the U.S. Military
Gail Baker – Recovering from foot
surgery
Bill Cornes – At home(0901)
Sharon Griffin (Diane Griffin's sister-
in-law) (0802)

Donna Johnson (friend of Sarah
Colborn) – Hospital (0824)
Jessie Lea and Alex Hall as they
prepare for their wedding (0924)
Leonard Lewis (friend of Angela &
Bob Vernoy) – Washington, GA
(0304)
Sam McCarter – Summerville, SC
(0815)
John McCrosky – as he begins a new
call as the Interim Pastor at
Monticello Presbyterian Church
(1008)
Maggie McFadden (Joslyn Field's aunt)
– Beaufort, SC (1003)
Luis R. Rivera (father of Maria Rivera)
—in hospital in Puerto Rico (0826)
Elaine Sanders-Jackson (Joslyn Field's
sister) – Orangeburg, SC (1003)
Jennifer Shook (sister of Elaine Lea) –
Bandon, Oregon (0901)
Sue Walsh (friend of Diane Griffin) –
Charlotte, NC (0722)

ENDURING CONCERNS

Dorris Andrews (Elaine Lea's mother)
– Brandon Wilde
Joe and Eunice Cook – Brandon Wilde
Phyllis Daniels – Brandon Wilde
Dan Freeman (Kaye Petkas' brother) –
Winter Park, FL
Priscilla Gilman – Brandon Wilde
Erroll Hatcher –Adairsville, GA
Betty Johnston – Brandon Wilde
Leah Mannel – Brandon Wilde
Jocelyn Martin-Moses (Karell Moses'
mother) – At home
Anita Parker (Joslyn Fields' cousin) –
Beaufort, SC
Elizabeth Swink – At home
Jane Terry (Chris Terry's mother) –
Lake Wales, FL

And for all those whose names we hold
in our hearts.

The prayer ministry is led by deacons Lindsay Kircher, Deb Pittman, and Dana Johnson. To add a prayer concern, please contact the church office at jestrogonoff@covenantaugusta.org.

Covenant Chimes

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3131 WALTON WAY AT AUMOND ROAD
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Covenant Presbyterian Church
Stewardship 2023

“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.”

Acts 2:46-47