



# Covenant Chimes



September 2021 COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

## Notes from Session

Session met in the Gathering area. Katelyn moderated the meeting. She led a devotion from the Book of Order, using the *Foundations of Polity* section F-1.0301: The calling of the Church. She explained that she and Andy will lead the devotions on a three-year rotation beginning first with the Book of Order, second the Book of Confessions and third a book chosen for the Session to read together. This devotion was most instructive and interesting to the Session.

Clerk Judy Grieve reported there was one facility request from P.E.O. which was approved and that six people were removed from the rolls at the June session meeting. She and Chris Henry, Charlotte Ealick, and Steve Bell agreed to serve as commissioners to the Northeast Georgia Presbytery meeting August 21 via Zoom.

Treasurer Aubrey Moore informed Session that church revenues remained below expenditures for May and June. Aubrey will be tracking finances closely through July and August. He also reported that the Preschool had preliminary net surplus of \$2,254.00.

The Open the Gates Task Force presented the Stage 4.1 recommendation which the session passed.

Andy reported that the Stewardship Task Force needed volunteers. Brock Daniels and Chris Henry

## From Our Pastor

By their very nature, churches are some of the most conservative places in our society. I don't mean that in any sort of political way. Instead, I mean that churches seem to resist change more than any other institution. In many ways, I think that is what people like about churches. No matter how the world changes—how scary and unpredictable it becomes—you can come to this place on Sunday and speak anachronistic phrases that your ancestors would have used like “the quick and the dead” or “hallowed be thy name.” There is a strange comfort in that.

Lately, it seems that even the church has not been immune to the change that is happening in the world (no pun intended?). As I write this, the session approved stage 4.2 of our COVID guidelines. This was only two weeks after approving stage 4.1. Shortly after this hits your mailbox, we might be on to another version, so please make sure and check the website and your email inbox. Unexpected change seems to be normal now, and we all must deal with that together. Some of the things that we were looking forward to resuming in the fall will not return after all. There is certainly some disappointment shared by many of us.

On the other hand, I am excited about some of the new things that are happening around the halls of Covenant. If you haven't kept up with the work of the Matthew 25 Task Force, then you are missing some truly Spirit-inspired ministry. Please read the articles in the pages that follow and join in where you can! We also have new members (see their profiles on page 5), two infant baptisms last month, and a preschool full of new staff and new students.

If things are going to be rapidly changing around us, then I hope that we can find ways to celebrate and continue to honor our callings to be disciples of Jesus Christ. In the meantime, know that you will always have a place here on Sunday morning where you can pray those ancient words of the Lord's Prayer together. I'll be right there with you, speaking garbled yet familiar words on the other side of a mask. I hope to see you around soon!

Peace,  
Andy



(See “Session Notes,” page 3)

## Quarterly Statements

Recently, we have made some upgrades to our financial software that have allowed us to be more efficient. One place where you may see this change is in our quarterly giving statements. Normally, we send these printed statements in the mail. Now, we will be sending as many of them through email as possible. This will help us to save money on postage while also helping us to honor our commitment as an Earth Care Congregation by saving paper. If you would like to receive a paper quarterly statement instead, then please let us know and we will send you one. If you do not have an email address, then we will continue sending paper statements.

At the end of the year, we will still send everyone a paper statement.

If you are a Realm user, then you can also view all your contributions through onrealm.org or through the Realm Connect app on your phone. If you need help setting up your Realm account, then please contact Judy Strogonoff.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Jenn Harrison, Finance Secretary  
([jharrison@covenantaugusta.org](mailto:jharrison@covenantaugusta.org))

Aubrey Moore, Treasurer

## 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:** Sherry Nash and  
Caley Boomer

**Church Secretary:** Judy Strogonoff

**Finance Secretary:** Jenn Harrison

## Covenant Presbyterian Church

3131 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30909

(706) 733-0513

[info@covenantaugusta.org](mailto:info@covenantaugusta.org)

[www.covenantaugusta.org](http://www.covenantaugusta.org)

[www.facebook.com/covenantaugusta](https://www.facebook.com/covenantaugusta)

Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon-Fri

## Worship

### JuBellation Ringers

JuBellation Ringers will have their first rehearsal of the new program year on Thursday, September 2, 2021, from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. in the Music Room. More ringers would be a welcome addition to the ensemble. We currently ring 2 octaves of bells and would love to expand to 3 octaves – we need 3 more ringers to make this happen! If you are interested in joining this fun and interesting group, please contact Lyn Patterson.

### Covenant Choir, Day of Singing and Seasonal Singers

***All singers must be fully vaccinated  
against Covid***

The Covenant Choir will begin rehearsals in the balcony on Wednesday, September 8. Rehearsals are from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. for the month of September. Starting in October and continuing

through December, rehearsals increase by 15 minutes and will be from 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. as we work on Advent and Christmas music.

The Covenant Choir's Day of Singing is Saturday, September 25 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., in the balcony. Snacks for the break will be provided and water will be available for singers. We will rehearse Advent and Christmas music first for *Seasonal Singers* who may join us. After the break they will be excused (with no guilt!) and the remaining singers will work on the anthems selected for Sundays in September, October, and November.

If your schedule does not allow you to sing with the Covenant Choir on a regular basis, please consider joining us as a *Seasonal Singer* for this year's Advent and Christmas seasons. This would involve attending the first hour+ of the Day of Singing and beginning in October, rehearsing from 7:15 – 7:50 p.m. Please contact Lyn Patterson for more information.

## Congregational Life

FAMILY \* FOOD \* FRIENDS!



### FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

Food Truck Friday  
Friday, September 17  
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Trucks will be announced closer to the date of the event

## U.S. Mail

Recently, we have discovered several letters and packages mailed to Covenant that have not been delivered to us. If you are sending a contribution to the church via USPS, then please check your bank statement to make sure that it has been deposited. If you are sending a letter and do not get the response that you may have hoped for, then please call or email the church office to confirm that we have received it. Thank you for your help with this.



# Session Notes

(continued from page 1)

volunteered, joining Katelyn, Andy, and Aubrey. Andy will find another women from the congregation to join this task force.

Chuck Baldwin, Building and Grounds Ministry Team, stated Building and Grounds received bids to replace the playground fence. They have chosen the company and requested \$1,650 for this work to be done. He asked the money to be allocated from the Memorials Fund. Andy reminded the Session that the CSRA Community Foundation grant of \$10,000 had been donated to the Memorials account. Session approved this motion.

Joe Huff, Congregational Life Ministry Team, informed Session that Food Truck Fridays will return beginning September 17, 2021.

Steve Bell, Education Ministry Team, thanked Andy and Katelyn for all the trips they took with the youth this summer and reminded Session Rally Day will be August 15, 2021.

Charlotte Ealick, Mission Ministry Team, reported the Phinizy Swamp tour would be Saturday, October 2, 2021.

Chris Henry, Sustainability Ministry Team, recommended that the "overpayment for parental leave" (\$720.34) to Katelyn Gordon Cooke be forgiven. Session approved this motion. The team also recommended the compensation of \$720.34 to Katelyn Gordon Cooke for her work as Interim Preschool Director. Session approved this

motion. The Preschool Budget of \$147,904 was also approved by Session.

Brock Daniels, Worship Ministry Team, recommended the following concerts be approved by Session:

Kirking (pending final plans for Kirking weekend): Debbie van Tuyll's group Friday, November 5, 2021

REBOOKED: Hotlanta – Friday, February 4, 2022

REBOOKED: Tannehill Weavers – Friday, October 7, 2022

Session approved this motion. Brock presented the recommendation from Worship that the U.S. flag and Christian flag be removed from the Sanctuary as neither reflect our reformed theology nor are an object of our worship. There was much discussion. Joe Huff made the motion to postpone the vote until the next Session meeting. Session passed this motion to postpone.

Katelyn informed Session that the Diaconate continues to meet the needs of the congregation with grace and willingness. For the deacons it is business as usual.

Under Old Business, Clerk Judy Grieve reported the Session records for 2019 and 2020 had been reviewed and approved by Cindy Lisniewski from St. Andrew and sent to Stated Clerk Stu Ritter.

Andy gave the Co-Pastor's report sharing his realization of just how

valuable the co-pastor model was for both him and Katelyn, but also for the church. While he was on the youth mission to St. Simons and Katelyn to Maryville on the Middle School Montreat trip, the pastor remaining at home met the needs of the congregation here in Augusta. And that he also recognized how vital youth mission trips are for the growth of the youth. Andy told session his work with Austin Theological Seminary was a week on Zoom. He was able to spend a week with Miller and Mattox in Utah, getting home in time for the boys to start school. Andy said it had been a busy summer and that he was ready to begin fall events. Katelyn urged Session members to become involved with the youth by getting to know them and helping with the Youth program. Andy said he has had several inquiries from people interested in joining the church and there would be a called Session meeting on August 22 prior to the 11:00 a.m. service for this purpose.

Andy closed the meeting with prayer.

The next stated session meeting is September 7, 2021 at 7 p.m.

*Communion with the Lord inescapably means a Christian life centered around a concrete and creative commitment of service to others.* -Gustavo Gutiérrez

Clerk of Session,  
Judy Grieve

## Preschool News

Covenant Preschool and CDO is off to a great start! It's so good to hear the sound of little voices on the preschool hall each day, and this year's team of teachers is an A+ bunch.

In September, we'll start Chapel and Music classes on Wednesday mornings. Pastors Andy, Karla, and

Katelyn will take turns leading chapel, and Mrs. Kristen will teach us some fun songs in Music. The PTO will also have its first gathering, and we're looking forward to having time to visit with parents and families again.

We still have opportunities available for Covenant members to be involved at the preschool by

volunteering as a classroom reader, bringing treats for the teachers, or greeting families in the morning one day during the month. To sign up, please visit this link: <https://tinyurl.com/CPClovesCPS>

There's good stuff happening at the preschool this year, and we're so grateful for your prayers and support!

# Education

## ADULTS

### Sunday School

**An open invitation to all of Covenant's adult members for our SALT and Choir Sunday School Classes.....**



If you haven't been to an adult Sunday school class for a long time (or ever), you

may be surprised to know that none of us are Bible scholars and we certainly don't have all the answers! But we enjoy meeting together, sharing our friendship, our questions, and our prayer requests. We are using the *Follow Me* Presbyterian curriculum this year. We look forward to learning how hospitality was practiced in the Hebrew scripture, how Christ shared hospitality and what we do to practice this today. The 5-part series will continue September 12 and 19 in the fellowship hall.

**Everyone is invited to join the "Baby Bottoms" diaper packing team for GAP Ministries!**

On September 5 (Labor Day weekend) at 9:45 a.m., instead of our regular Sunday School lesson, the SALT and Choir classes will pack diapers for GAP Ministry families in the fellowship hall. Diapers and bags will be provided.

All are welcome to join us in this opportunity to help GAP families by living out Christ's teaching in Matthew 25:45, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me".

### Companions in Christ

This small group meets every Monday at 5:00 p.m. in the parlor as it has for over 10 years. The current study is Brian D. McLaren's *We Make the Road By Walking*. If anyone is interested in beginning a Companions in Christ small group, please get in touch with Cindy Wallerich [cswallerich@gmail.com](mailto:cswallerich@gmail.com).

### Disciples Bible Study

This group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 1:00 p.m. in room 104. Having completed the beginning series of the Disciples, this group is now finishing the study of 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians from the Kerygma series. A new study will begin soon. Contact Judy Grieve [judygrieve@mac.com](mailto:judygrieve@mac.com) if you are interested in joining this Bible study group.

### WADING

Women  
After  
Dinner  
In  
Need  
Of  
God



This is a time for Bible study and fellowship for women. For all women, but after dinner for those women who find that their schedules don't permit them to join in the daytime study or fellowship groups.

Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (to approximately 8:15) in Room 12.

We have been studying the book of Esther this Summer. A short book with a lot of thoughts on women and being available for God's work.

As the school year begins, we will study the book of Ruth. Another short book about women.

For more information, please contact Mary McCarter, (812) 229-1368

### LADIES FOR LUNCH

Ladies for Lunch will meet Tuesday, September 14 at 11:30 a.m. Women and friends of Covenant will gather at the Boll Weevil, 10 James Brown Blvd., Augusta. Contact Phoebe Crimmins at 706-738-7820 or by email at [phoebbeach30@hotmail.com](mailto:phoebbeach30@hotmail.com) to make your reservation for this gathering so that we may have space for you.

## COLLEGE CONNECTION

Hey Covenant college students (and their parents)!

Your church family loves you and wants to keep in touch with you this year. As you begin the fall semester, please take a few minutes to fill out this form (<https://tinyurl.com/2122CovCollege>) and share your contact info with us. Thanks so much, and know that we're praying for you as you start a new semester!

COVENANT  
COLLEGE  
CONNECTION

## YOUTH

### Sunday School

Sunday mornings // 9:45-10:45 a.m. // Room 203

Leaders: Dana Johnson and Carrie Neill

This month, we're continuing our conversation about what it means to be welcoming to all people. When we're intentional about welcoming others, we affirm the worth of all of God's people. We'll look at Bible stories about hospitality, and we'll look at our own ideas of hospitality and ask ourselves if a friend or stranger would experience the welcoming Spirit of Christ in us.

### Second Service

Sunday, September 12 // 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the youth room

Matthew 25 – Poverty Simulation

Do you know how much a gallon of milk costs? How about a loaf of bread? Or a gallon of gas? All of these costs are important – especially to families who live under the poverty line. Covenant has committed to being a church that pays attention to the poor in our community and the challenges they face. Elaine Lea will lead us through a poverty simulation, so we can get an idea of what it's like for poor families to make ends meet from month-to-month. Spoiler alert: it's not easy!

(See "Education," page 5)

# Education

(continued from page 4)

## Fourth Fellowship

Tie-dye Tshirts!

Sunday, September 26

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Would you love to have a Covenant youth t-shirt? We thought so! Bring a white tshirt to tie-dye at our Fourth Fellowship event, and we'll add our Covenant youth logo to your shirt after it's dyed. More details to come, but we hope you'll plan to join us!

## CHILDREN

### Sunday School

Sunday mornings // 9:45-10:45 a.m.

### Preschool // Room 4

Leaders: Ruby Banks, Lola Bell, Lucyle Ferris, and Deb Pittman

### Elementary // Room 103

Leaders: Gail Baker, Jean Dirksen, Ralph Gillies

We're continuing to explore what it means to welcome others through Bible stories, games, crafts, and other activities. Join us – you're welcome here!

### Children and Families Lunch

Sunday, September 19 // 12:30 p.m.

Five Guys (Sprouts Shopping Center)

Let's have lunch together! Preschool and elementary school children and their families are invited to join us. Hope to see you there!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

### The Questions God Asks

Wednesdays, September 8, 15, 22, and 29

6:15-7:00 p.m.

Some of the best conversations start with good questions. A good question can be transformative in that

it can lead us to think differently, connect more deeply, and understand more fully. In the life of faith, we sometimes talk about the questions we'd like to ask God, but Scripture shows us that God has some questions for us too. Join us for this four-week series as we explore some of the questions God asks of us.

September 8 – Where are you? – Genesis 3:9

September 15 – Where is your brother? – Genesis 4:9

September 22 – Who do you say that I am? – Matthew 16:15

September 29 – What do you want me to do for you? – Matthew 20:32

## New Members

Please welcome our new members who joined Covenant in August.

### CARRIE NEILL



Carrie has been attending Covenant since May of 2018, when she moved to the area to attend Augusta University's Doctor of Physical Therapy program. She grew up in Watkinsville, GA where she attended Oconee Presbyterian Church. She made connections to Covenant Presbyterian years

ago through the Northeast Georgia Presbytery youth retreats and was eager to reconnect upon moving to the Augusta area. For the past three years, Carrie has enjoyed helping lead the youth programs at Covenant. Carrie graduated from PT school in May of 2021 and is now working as a physical therapist at Georgialina Physical Therapy. She is excited to continue growing in faith and love as she becomes a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church.

### KADIE CHEEKS & KATHRYN CRANDALL

Kadie and Kathryn met at Berry College where they both graduated with Animal Science degrees, Kadie first in 2014 and Kathryn 2 years later in 2016. Kadie pursued her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at UGA and graduated in 2018, while Kathryn attended Lincoln Memorial University and graduated with her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 2020. They were married by Pastor Andy Cooke in October of 2020 and live in North Augusta with their dog, 2 cats, and 2 guinea pigs (as well as the occasional wildlife creature passing through for rehabilitation and care). They love backpacking, kayaking, hiking, and almost anything else outdoors. They are excited to be new members and get more involved in the community!





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> <b>9:45 AM</b> Sunday School* <b>10:15 AM</b> Summer Choir Rehearsal* <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo*	<b>30</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Companions in Christ, Parlor <b>7:00 PM</b> WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Stewardship Task Force <b>6:30 PM</b> JuBELLation Ringers	<b>3</b> Preschool Labor Day Holiday (No School)	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Meals on Wheels <b>1:30 PM</b> Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
<b>5</b> <b>9:45 AM</b> "Baby Bottoms" Diaper Packing for GAP Ministries* <b>10:30 AM</b> Prayer Action Team, Prayer Circle, Parlor* <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo*	<b>6</b> Church Office Closed <b>Labor Day</b> Preschool Labor Day Holiday (No School) <b>5:00 PM</b> Companions in Christ, Parlor	<b>7</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> Communion at Brandon Wilde <b>7:00 PM</b> Stated Session Meeting, Zoom	<b>8</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary <b>1:00 PM</b> Disciple Bible Study, Room 104 <b>1:30 PM</b> Covenant Staff Meeting, Work Room <b>6:15 PM</b> WNF Program <b>7:15 PM</b> Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Music Room	<b>9</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Matthew 25 Task Force, Fellowship Hall <b>6:30 PM</b> JuBELLation Ringers	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Patriot Day</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Meals on Wheels <b>1:30 PM</b> Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
<b>12</b> <b>9:45 AM</b> Sunday School* <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo* <b>3:00 PM</b> Youth Ministry 2nd Sunday Service	<b>13</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Companions in Christ, Parlor <b>7:00 PM</b> Diaconate Meeting, Zoom <b>7:00 PM</b> WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	<b>14</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> Ladies For Lunch, Boll Weevil, 10 James Brown Blvd <b>1:45 PM</b> Church Women United, Room 104 <b>6:00 PM</b> Education Ministry Team, Room 104	<b>15</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary <b>3:00 PM</b> Goodies for GAP Collection, Fellowship Hall <b>6:15 PM</b> WNF Program <b>7:15 PM</b> Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Music Room	<b>16</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Preschool PTO Gathering, Fellowship Hall <b>6:30 PM</b> JuBELLation Ringers	<b>17</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Food Truck Friday	<b>18</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Meals on Wheels <b>1:30 PM</b> Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
<b>19</b> <b>9:45 AM</b> Sunday School* <b>10:30 AM</b> Prayer Action Team, Prayer Circle, Parlor* <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo* <b>12:30 PM</b> Children & Families Lunch, Five Guys, 630 Crane Creek Drive	<b>20</b> COVENANT CHIMES DEADLINE <b>5:00 PM</b> Companions in Christ, Parlor <b>7:00 PM</b> WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	<b>21</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> PW Coordinating Team Meeting, Gathering Area <b>11:00 AM</b> PW Faith and Deborah Circle Meeting, Room 12 <b>6:30 PM</b> Sustainability Ministry Team, Zoom	<b>22</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary <b>1:00 PM</b> Disciple Bible Study, Room 104 <b>1:30 PM</b> Covenant Staff Meeting, Work Room <b>6:15 PM</b> WNF Program <b>7:15 PM</b> Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Music Room	<b>23</b> <b>1:15 PM</b> Covenant Preschool Staff Meeting, Room 12 <b>6:30 PM</b> JuBELLation Ringers	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Covenant Choir Day of Singing <b>10:00 AM</b> Meals on Wheels <b>1:30 PM</b> Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
<b>26</b> <b>9:45 AM</b> Sunday School* <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo* <b>3:00 PM</b> Youth Ministry 4th Sunday Fellowship	<b>27</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Companions in Christ, Parlor <b>7:00 PM</b> WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	<b>28</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Mission Ministry Team, Zoom	<b>29</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary <b>6:15 PM</b> WNF Program <b>7:15 PM</b> Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Music Room	<b>30</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> Open the Gates Task Force, Zoom <b>6:30 PM</b> JuBELLation Ringers	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Meals on Wheels <b>1:30 PM</b> Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104 <b>2:00 PM</b> Phinizy Swamp Nature Hike

\* Indicates Childcare is available

# Mission

## LOOKING FOR A LEADER FOR A NEW GAP PROGRAM

GAP has discerned that we need to find a way for people to volunteer at GAP who are unable to come during the week because they work. We came up with a vision of holding a Saturday program once a month. We will call it Second Saturday, opening our doors for activities and service from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We are hoping volunteers will come from our partner churches and friends. This would also be a way for parents and children to serve together.

What the program will need is a leader to coordinate the activities each month and communicate with those participating that particular month. One thing we don't provide on Thursdays is cleaning supplies. Another need we do not provide regularly is feminine hygiene products. We picture children inside working with adults on cards, snack packs to give to clients on Thursdays or projects they create based on the time of year and how they feel led to serve. At the same time, other adults and youth will work with clients by providing cleaning supplies and feminine hygiene products. The community of volunteers working with this program would be encouraged to modify and develop this idea allowing it to grow in the direction God leads it based on their experiences each month. Funds for this new program would be provided by our GAP budget.

The leader(s) of this pilot program would coordinate projects and volunteers for the second Saturdays of each month. They do not have to commit to being present each month, but would need to identify a substitute manager in their absence. Are you interested in managing this new pilot program at GAP? Do you have someone in mind that would partner with you as co-managers?

We ask that you prayerfully consider this new opportunity. If you are interested or would like more information please call our Administrator, Jodi Huff at 706-722-4408 or [gapmin@bellsouth.net](mailto:gapmin@bellsouth.net).

## PENTECOST OFFERING

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Pentecost offering! This annual special offering goes to support programs with youth. We send 60% to the denomination for national programs and keep 40% for local programs. This year, the Mission Ministry Team and the Matthew 25 Task Force worked together to identify a local need at A. Brian Merry Elementary School. The administrators there told us that they needed baby wipes, so Joslyn Fields delivered the boxes below on August 17 and presented them to the Assistant Principal, Ms. Thomas. This need was met thanks to your gifts to the Pentecost offering this past May. Thank you!

Andy Cooke

## GAP ITEM OF THE MONTH

The items of the month for September is canned soup. This item will be a welcome addition to our Food Pantry shelves.

GAP Ministries is continuing serve the hungry through its food pantry, and our supplies are running low. We appreciate all that Golden Harvest does to keep us stocked, but their inventory is down, too. When you are at the store, remember that we especially need bar soap, canned meat, and canned vegetables. If you are sewing face masks, please donate some for our homeless clients. A donation box is outside the church on the landing beside the office door.

Mary Beachum

## CLOTHES DRIVE

At the request of A. Brian Merry for school year 2021-22 we can best support their staff with children's basic school clothes (underwear, socks, shirts and pants) in the sizes below.

### Girl sizes

Underwear:

4/5

6/7

8/9

10/12

14/16

Socks

6,7,8,9

Shirts:

S, M, L

Pants:

5/6(XS)

6/7(S)

7/8 (M)

10/12 (L)

14/16 (XL)

### Boy sizes

Underwear:

4/5

6/7

8/9

10/12

14/16

Socks

6,7,8,9

Shirts:

S, M, L

Pants:

5/6 (XS)

6/7 (S)

7/8 (M)

10/12 (L)

14/16 (XL)

An additional ask for baby wipes has already been fulfilled. Please place all clothing items in the donations boxes around the church from August 23 - September 12. Your continued support of local missions is very much appreciated.

Joselyn Fields

## GOODIES FOR GAP UPDATE

Goodies are collected and bagged on the *third Wednesday* of the month for delivery to GAP on the following Thursday morning. In addition, volunteers will work together to assemble bags at the church at 3:00 p.m. every third Wednesday. The next Goodies for GAP collection and bagging is September 16.

If you would like to be added to our list of bakers, please let Martha Bertrand know ([mbertrand651@gmail.com](mailto:mbertrand651@gmail.com)). Bakers contribute as their schedules allow and not everyone bakes every time.



# Covenant Sponsored Missionary

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## A LETTER FROM CHERYL BARNES, SERVING IN MALAWI | SUMMER 2021

### There Is Always Light

Many people are very passionate about advocating for those who are marginalized but lack the necessary resources to turn that passion into a purpose. Often, this can lead to frustration and feelings of helplessness. In my case, my heartfelt love for education, the creative ideas, and my earnest determination are not quite sufficient to move the needle for a child who only needs a chance to succeed.

I have recently added a new word to my vocabulary, "Habituation." This refers to the diminishing of an innate response to a frequently repeated stimulus. I like this new word because it compels me to resist what it infers. I remember how, during my first few months in Malawi, I was emotionally stirred by the children who were enjoying their childhood while living in conditions that many consider inadequate. I did not hear the girls complaining as they carried water on their heads in buckets; I watched as young boys continued to smile while running behind old tires using sticks to move them in play. They may not have much, but they cherish, love, and take pride in what they have. From the babies on the backs of young mothers to the elderly women sitting on the ground in the marketplace selling their potatoes and beans, the Malawian relentless spirit of joy is everywhere in a place that most of the world labels "the poorest in the world."

As the months passed, I realize more and more my own struggle between appreciating the immense beauty of this country combined with feelings of bleak hopelessness. I have learned to appreciate the struggle, lest I fall into the place of habituation where I am not moved by the wonder of Malawi or by the lack of much-

needed resources for the most vulnerable. It is essential to resist habituation so as not to become numb. Even as uncomfortable as it may sometimes be, I must walk alongside those on the margins of Malawian society, not with pity, but with loving support. I must advocate for those who lack social power: women, children (especially the girl child), the poor and those with mental and physical disabilities. In her now-famous poem from the 2020 inauguration of President Joe Biden, Poet Amanda Gorman writes, "When day comes, we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade?" It is imperative that I continue to look for the light.

This focus on looking for the light gives new life to the Matthew 25 initiative, which is often interpreted from a Western viewpoint. Matthew 25 reminds us that God is the God of the marginalized, the vulnerable, and the poor. However, we must resist the compelling urge to label our African siblings with diminished terms. Rather, we should seek to exchange light as we labor together. We take on their troubles and burdens as though they were our own, while we also confront the injustices in our country. And they take on ours as they invite us to walk with them. We are called to partner together in order to share in liberation, just as God sent Yeshua, as the light, for the purpose of the liberation of us all.

My passion for the work that is before me is renewed because I choose to resist habituation. I continue to blink back tears when seeing barefoot children walking to school. My heart continues to ache when I see a young 16-year-old single mother nursing a child instead of learning in a classroom, and my

peace is still disrupted as I think of the children whose physical or mental disabilities prevent their opportunities for an education.

I do not want habituation to threaten my innate response to all of this. The COVID pandemic has hindered much of my work, but it has not diminished my passion for building relationships. I partner and plan with the Education Directors of the five Synods under the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Education Department. They are the ones who do the day-to-day work of implementing the projects that offer possibilities of a brighter future for the girls who have been impacted by the COVID pandemic with unexpected pregnancies.

Together, we continue to look up, to imagine, to plan, to hope. I continue to learn the cultural customs and the Chichewa language while engaging in the never-ending struggle of resisting habituation.

In the last line of her inauguration poem, Poet Amanda Gorman concludes with these words,

*"The new dawn blooms as we free it,  
for there is always light,  
if only we're brave enough to see it,  
if only we're brave enough to be it."*

Thank you, Amanda, for the reminder that wherever we are, we seek to 'see' and 'be' the light.

As always, I am grateful for your continued support through prayers and financial gifts.

Zikomo. (Thank you).

Cheryl Barnes

*Editor's Note: Cheryl Barnes is a missionary from Northeast Georgia Presbytery whom we support through our annual budget.*

# Presbyterian Women



## Calling all ladies.....

You are invited to join us for our monthly Presbyterian Women (PW) get together on Tuesday, September 21 at 11 a.m. in Room 12. Our in-person meetings will now be **COMBINED** and include **both the Faith and the Deborah Circles**. Please note the new date, time, and location. Masks are not needed, but feel free to wear one if you like.

This year, our PW Bible study will be *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus* by Meryll Blair. The women in Jesus' family tree have backstories that are exactly the kind of story you can imagine hearing while sitting spellbound as a grandmother reminisces about her early life. What can these *Grandmothers-of-the-Faith* teach us about being followers of Christ? Please contact Gail Baker or Kathy Ordelt if you have questions.

## 2021-22 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MISSION PLEDGE

Funds from the Presbyterian Women's Mission Pledge are used to meet costs involved with the PW leadership functions churchwide, including the Presbytery and Synod. Every mission and ministry program of PW is supported in full or in part through gifts to the mission pledge. There are churchwide operating expenses such as rent, utilities and information technology support. At the Presbytery level, the pledge supports workshops, the Gathering, travel costs, Zoom fees and missions. The Synod has financial obligations for the costs of the Triannual Gathering, communications, etc. Please prayerfully consider your pledge. Anything you give above \$25.00 will stay with Covenant PW for local operating expenses and mission contributions.

In 2021, \$675.00 was donated to Covenant PW. The pledge money of \$325.00 was designated as follows: 30% for the Presbytery, 30% for the Synod and 40% for Churchwide. In May of 2021 we gave \$300.00 to Family Promise due to our commitment to the Matthew 25 initiative and addressing poverty. Through the generosity of our Covenant church members, we contributed \$456.50 to the Thank Offering and \$1105.00 to the Birthday Offering, the two dedicated offerings of PW.

When you have determined your pledge amount, please make out your check to Covenant Presbyterian, put "PW Pledge" on the memo line and give it to Joyce Bowers, PW treasurer, or to Judy Strogonoff.

## NORTHEAST GEORGIA PW GIFT TO COVENANT PW

*Horizons* is a magazine written by Presbyterian women, for Presbyterian women. Women in the Northeast GA Presbytery who do not already subscribe to *Horizons* can now receive a free one-year subscription, provided by the Beth Duncan Fund. The subscription will also include a free copy of the PW *Horizons* Bible study book for 2022-23, "Sabbath." *Horizons* articles offer ideas for putting faith into action, as well as devotions and additional Bible studies. Topics include information about Presbyterian women, the PCUSA itself, missions, social justice and faith concerns. Five issues are published yearly. These subscriptions will also include free digital access.

If you would like a subscription, please sign up on the sheet at the name tag table by the north door to the church (close to the sanctuary) with your name, address, email address and phone number. Sign up as soon as possible, but not later than September 7, 2021.

# September Worship Schedule

## USHERS

- 9/5: Steve Bell, Dalton Cooper,  
John Ealick, Angela Hobby  
9/12: Jim Buckalew,  
Jim Crimmins, Jimmy Lea,  
Johnny Lowe, Charlie Terry,  
Jim Wade  
9/19: Hugh Dobbins, Dave Lapp,  
Lucyle Ferris,  
Fidelis Ndingwan  
9/26: Judy Grieve, Chris Henry,  
Ruth Mayhall,  
Buddy Simpson, Bill Usry

## LITURGIST/READER AT 11:00 AM SERVICE

- 9/5: Linda-Jean Jay  
9/12: Pat Ritter  
9/19: Beverly Dorn  
9/26: Chuck Baldwin

## PREACHER

- 9/5: Andy Cooke  
9/12: Katelyn Gordon Cooke  
9/19: Andy Cooke  
9/26: Katelyn Gordon Cooke

## GREETERS

- 9/5 Fred & Jane Gehle  
9/12: Lindsay Kircher  
9/19: Pat Ritter  
9/26: Sabina Widner

## A/V TEAM

### **September**

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

## COORDINATORS

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

## Prayer Concerns

### **PRAYER** *Concerns*

#### **New Prayer Concerns**

- Family of Malcom Kling** – On the passing of Malcom August 27  
**Fred Kmiecik and Family** (former Financial Secretary Pam Kmiecik's Husband) – On the passing of his father, Steve Kmiecik (0824)  
**Dianna Snyder** (French Market Grille staff member) – MCG due to COVID (0827)  
**James T.** (Mary McCarter's co-worker) – In Hospital (0827)

#### **Continued Prayer Concerns**

All of Covenant's **Missionaries**  
All who serve in the **U.S. Military**  
**Tanya Dimorier** (Judy Strogonoff's step-sister) – At home, chemo treatments (0618)

- Donald Gilman** (Priscilla Gilman's brother) – Leg amputation, Alexandria, VA (0706)  
**Jim Gilman** (Priscilla Gilman's brother) – Kidney infection and Sepsis, Denver, CO (0706)  
**Camilla Humphrey** – Recent knee surgery, At home (0714)  
**Betty Johnston** – Recovering from Surgery, Brandon Wilde (0712)  
**Lynn Latimer** – Pavilion at Brandon Wilde (0820)  
**David Rhoades** – Recovering from Surgery (0518)  
**Gail Roat** – At home (0714)  
**Edwin Scott and Family** – On the death of his father (0811)  
**Deb Pittman** – Health during pregnancy (0723)  
**Lois Reynolds** – Radiation Treatments (0728)

#### **Enduring Concerns**

**Dorris Andrews** (Elaine Lea's mother) – Brandon Wilde

- Phyllis Daniels** – Brandon Wilde  
**Lois Davis** – Kentwood  
**Juanita Davis** (Andrea Butt's aunt) – Jacksonville, FL  
**Anne Degrazia** – Alpharetta, GA  
**Priscilla Gilman** – Brandon Wilde  
**Larry Lutcher** – Brandon Wilde  
**Leah Mannel** – Brandon Wilde  
**Jocelyn Martin-Moses** (Karell Moses' mother) – At home  
**Carol Paulson** – At home  
**Elizabeth Swink** – At home  
**Jane Terry** (Chris Terry's mother) – Lake Wales, FL  
**Barbara Williams** – Brandon Wilde

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

The prayer ministry is led by deacons Lindsay Kircher, Sabina Widner, and Dana Johnson. To add a prayer concern, please contact the church office at [jestrogonoff@covenantaugusta.org](mailto:jestrogonoff@covenantaugusta.org).

*Covenant Chimes*

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
3131 WALTON WAY AT AUMOND ROAD  
AUGUSTA, GA 30909-3266

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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## Youth: Fourth Sunday Fellowship at Top Golf, August 22, 2021

