



Covenant Chimes



June 2021

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Notes from Session

May 4, 2021

All ruling elders and teaching elders were present. Aubrey Moore attended, and Lyn Patterson was excused. After all the necessary procedural motions passed, Moderator Katelyn called the meeting to order.

After being offered a choice for the devotional, Session chose a reflection on resurrection hope. Using an article by Parker Palmer, *An Upside-down Easter Meditation*, Katelyn shared Palmer's thoughts about his depression, which he termed death-in-life and his decision to say yes to life and embrace it, which he termed resurrection-in-life. Katelyn asked the elders what discomfort or pain had brought them new life, like Palmer. Katelyn thanked Session members for sharing and opened the meeting with prayer.

Clerk's Report

Facility usage: P.E.O. Fellowship Hall on April 24, 2021.

There was no change in membership.

Commissioners for the May 18 Northeast Georgia Presbytery meeting via Zoom: Judy Grieve, Steve Bell and Chris Henry.

Treasurer's Report

Aubrey Moore re-sent the reports from last month due to some minor corrections and noted the first

(See "Session Notes," pages 2-3)

From Our Pastor

Way back in the spring of 2008, I took my first preaching class at Columbia Theological Seminary. I can still remember the first day of class. I was nervous because preaching seemed like a big deal, and I had no idea where to start with it. Anna Carter Florence was my professor, and the first thing she had us do in class was to read poetry. It wasn't what I expected, but one of the poems she had us read has stuck with me over the years.

As we make the shift to the summer season this month, I thought it'd be a good one to share with you too. If you're not familiar with the poet Mary Oliver, you're in for a treat, and if you're feeling bold and a little artsy, I'd encourage you to read the poem out loud...

The Summer Day by Mary Oliver

*Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean –
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down –
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

This summer, may you find moments to marvel at God's creation around you, may you pay attention to the grace that comes with being idle and blessed, and may you consider the blessing that is your one wild and precious life. I consider it a blessing that we get to do all of this together at Covenant and look forward to seeing how the Spirit shows up among us in these summer months.

Grace and peace,
Katelyn

Member Notes

A WORD OF THANKS

Marvin and I are truly grateful for all manner of kind regard shown to us as he recovers from a health scare. Your calls, prayers, visits and meals were greatly appreciated.



Sincerely,
Joslyn Fields

STAFF TIME AWAY

June 7-11: Andy will be taking continuing education to begin a Doctor of Ministry program at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

June 13-18: Andy will be on the Youth Mission Trip.

June 20-27: Katelyn and Andy will be on vacation.

June 27-July 2: Lyn will be taking continuing education to attend the Worship & Music Conference at Montreat.

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 Rentz

Church Secretary: Judy Stroganoff

Finance Secretary: Jenn Harrison

Covenant Presbyterian Church

3131 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30909

(706) 733-0513

info@covenantaugusta.org

www.covenantaugusta.org

www.facebook.com/covenantaugusta

Office Hours:

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

Session Notes

(continued from page 1)

quarter closed with a budget surplus. He also delivered Jan-Mar 2021 Preschool financial reports to Session. He noted a slight dip in the Preschool net surplus from February to March. This is due to a fundraising deposit not posting until April.

Aubrey asked Session, in the form of a 12-month loan, to move \$2500 from Undesignated Reserves to the Preschool checking account so that the Preschool could avoid \$25.00 banking fee. Chris Henry made the motion, and it was seconded and passed. Aubrey thanked Session for their action.

Task Forces

Membership Task Force

Recommendation from the task force to transfer Jennifer Dorn to Central Congregational Church (Atlanta) and Laura Smith to Quest Church. The motion passed.

Recommendation from the task force to remove 40 members from the church roll. A full list of names that were removed are in the Session Minutes which are available in the church office. The motion passed.

Open the Gates Task Force

Recommendation to move to Stage 3 which includes:

- no limits on the number in sanctuary and no limits on the sizes of indoor gatherings (meeting safety codes)
- Return of communion with elements (bread and juice) may be distributed during the sacrament as intinction is not used and a plate is not passed. It is recommended that worshippers sit on every other pew, that elders move across the unoccupied pews to serve, and that elders serve both bread and juice out of small cups, which will be individually removed from the juice tray by the worshippers. Those receiving the

elements will only touch the small cups. Those serving the elements will only touch the juice tray.

- Masks may be removed in small gatherings if everyone is fully vaccinated and socially distance 3 feet.

Memorials Task Force

The task force recommended that we continue the tradition of recording gifts in the Memorials Book. The record was interrupted around the year 2000, so if we want to continue the tradition, we will need to ensure the missing donations are added. Motion passed.

Vernon will return to the task force to work out the details for maintaining the book and report back to Session in June.

Ministry Reports

Building and Grounds Ministry

Team: Chuck Baldwin and Mary McCarter

Chuck presented a recommendation from Building and Grounds that the Ministry be responsible for closing and locking church on Sunday. The motion passed. He reminded Session of a workday on May 15, 2021.

Congregational Life Ministry

Team Joe Huff and Chris Terry

Joe informed Session of Food Truck Friday, May 14, 2021.

Education Ministry Team

Steve Bell and Judy Grieve

Steve stated that Graduation Sunday will be May 16.

Mission Ministry Team

Charlotte Ealick and Vernon Barnes

Charlotte informed Session the Matthew 25 Task Force has begun meeting and is working on which initiatives that they will recommend to the church.

(See "Session Notes," page 3)

Session Notes

(continued from page 2)

Sustainability Ministry Team

Chris Henry and Hubert van Tuyll

The Sustainability Ministry Team presented a motion that the position of interim Finance Secretary be converted to Financial Secretary and staffed by Jenn Harrison, Interim Finance Secretary. The motion passed.

Chris Henry made a motion to go to Executive Session, including Treasurer Aubrey Moore. The motion was seconded and passed as amended.

The Sustainability Ministry Team recommends the elimination of the "Interim Finance Secretary Job Description" and the adoption of the "Financial Secretary Job Description." The motion passed.

Hubert van Tuyll, chair of Personnel subcommittee, informed Session that Lauren Stull had resigned as Director of the Preschool. Hubert stated that the co-pastors' leadership and personnel management skills helped make the transition for the last days of preschool manageable.

Worship Ministry Team Brock Daniels and Sarah Colborn

Brock reviewed upcoming ideas for worship.

Deacons

Andy reported the Deacons continue to meet the needs of the congregation with grace and willingness. He reminded Session that the Prayer Action team is in the Parlor at 10:30 a.m. on the first and third Sundays ready to pray with any who comes.

Old Business

Katelyn opened discussion of returning to in-person Session meetings. The consensus was to meet via Zoom in June, followed by

no Session in July, and consider returning to in person meetings in August.

New Business

Chuck Baldwin informed Session that Family Promise is not ready to return to using the church facility. Covenant's time for Family Promise is over Memorial Day weekend, and the church will send a donation to Family Promise for that time. Chuck stated Covenant's next time to host would be in October and hopefully in person.

Co-pastor's report

Andy commented that all the personnel changes of the last two months had been very difficult. He shared that both he and Katelyn were most grateful for the support of the Session and others in the church during this time. He said that they found it a joy to be more involved with the preschool. And referring to Katelyn's devotion, he stated that he had experienced some resurrection that came from the trials and very hard work. Andy said that the last 14 months have been most eventful and challenging and that he remains very appreciative of the members at Covenant.

Hubert van Tuyll made the motion to dismiss the meeting. It was seconded and passed.

Andy closed the meeting with prayer at 8:45 p.m.

And in keeping with the Matthew 25 study from a blog I like Inward Outward: "*Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder. Help someone's soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd.*" -Rumi

Judy Grieve,
Clerk of Session

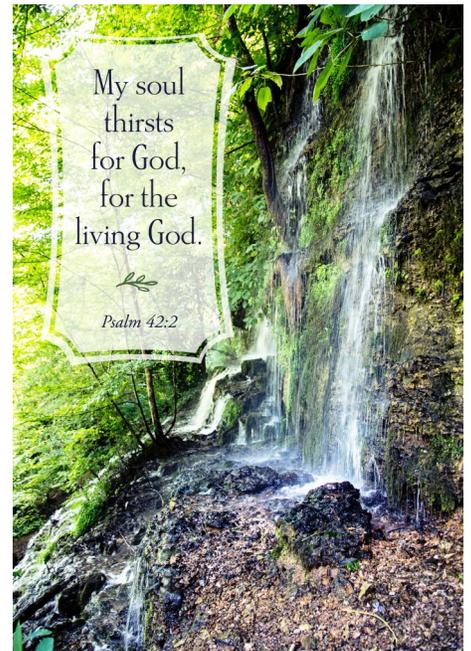
MORTGAGE REPORT

Many things go into a church budget. Some of those things are better known, and some lesser known, but all are available to you for review upon request. There is one item, an expense, that is significant and may be of interest to you. That is our church mortgage obligation. Here are some details:

Original Loan Amount (Sept. 2006):
\$1,500,000

Current Balance (April 2021):
\$454,829 Maturity Date: Oct. 1, 2028

Our annual mortgage payment, which currently stands at \$72,238.00, is paid through our budget and through a restricted account called "Building Fund Contributions." For more information, please contact Aubrey Moore, Treasurer.



Education

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children & Families Lunch

Sunday, June 6 // 12:30 p.m.

Chipotle OR Mod Pizza at Augusta Exchange

Children and families lunches are back! Preschool and elementary school families are invited to get together for lunch on Sunday, June 6. Get lunch from Chipotle OR Mod Pizza and eat outside on the patio. Contact Katelyn for more information.

YOUTH MINISTRY

BRIDGE Mission Trip

Sunday, June 13 – Friday June 18

On Sunday, June 13, five Covenant youth will head down to St. Simons for a week of service with BRIDGE Mission Program, an outreach ministry of St. Simons Presbyterian Church. Along with several youth from Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, Audrey Baldwin, Naomi Gillies, Owen Gillies, Russell de Lecuona, and Carson Turner will spend the week caring for God's creation through environmental stewardship activities, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

Please keep these young people in your prayers, and plan to join us for Summer Sundays on Sunday, July 25, when the youth will share about their summer trip experiences.

SUMMER SUNDAYS

During the summer months, you're invited to join us for Summer Sundays at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. All ages are welcome to participate in the rotation of weekly topics each month. Members from different ministries serve as our leaders each week, which means Summer Sundays are a great way to get to know your church family and

to learn more about our ministries.

Here's our schedule for June:

June 6 – Mission – Matthew 25 Program with Katie Cooper

June 13 – Music – Reverse Hymn Sing at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary

June 20 – Prayer – Diaconate Prayer Action Team

June 27 – Speaking of Faith – John McCrosky, Columbia Theological Seminary student and former Covenant Director of Christian Education

More information about each week's program will be available in future church publications as well.

WADING BIBLE STUDY



Women After Dinner In Need Of God

Monday, June 7
7:00 p.m., Room 12

In our initial time together, we visited with each other and did a brief study on Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well in Samaria (JOHN 4). Her seemingly short visit with Jesus changed her life and that of her community. Her thirst for excitement in her life was FILLED! Jesus knew HER. ALL of her, and He LOVED her! This story reminds us that we need Jesus, like we need water, to LIVE! And that a little alone time with Jesus can quickly turn into some exciting community time with Jesus!

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

Building & Grounds

The Church Workday on May 15 was a success on a job well done. Those who came out and working on sprucing up Covenant Grounds are: Polly Williams, Dave & Judy Grieve, Joyce & Terry Bowers, David & Carol Lapp, Bill Usry, Joe Griffin, LJ & Charles Jay, Chuck Baldwin, John Ealick. Thank you for your hard work.

Congregational Life

FAMILY * FOOD * FRIENDS!



FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

Mark your calendars for the next Food Truck Friday!

Friday, June 4
5:00-7:30 p.m.
Playground Parking Lot

LADIES FOR LUNCH

Ladies for Lunch will meet Tuesday, June 8, at 11:30 a.m. Women and friends of Covenant will gather at Raes Coastal Cafe, 2308 W.

Wimbledon Drive, Augusta. Contact Phoebe Crimmins at 706-738-7820 or by email at phoebebeach30@hotmail.com to make your reservation for this gathering so that we may have space for you.





Covenant Celebrates 2021 Graduates

High School

Emma Raider, daughter of Faith Raider

Evans High School; Honors Graduate and Capstone Diploma
Will attend Oglethorpe University

College

Matthew James Dirksen, grandson of Jean and Tom Dirksen

Mercer University; B.S. Mechanical Engineering
Outstanding Student in his Field

Thomas Huff, son of Jodi and Joe Huff

University of Georgia; B.S. Finance

Sam McCarter, son of Mary McCarter

Augusta Technical College; A.A.S. Aviation Maintenance Technology
Technical Certificate of Credit – Aircraft Mechanic (Fall 2020)

Allison Reardon, daughter of Paula and Tim Reardon

Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis; B.S. Biology
and B.A. History
Honors College
Will attend graduate school at IUPUI and study Public History

Rachel Scott, daughter of Joy and Edwin Scott

Agnes Scott College; B.A. History and Minor in Women's Studies
Will attend graduate school at Georgia Southern University and study
History

Claire Dirksen Stone, granddaughter of Jean and Tom Dirksen

University of California – San Diego; B.S. Mechanical Engineering –
Specialization in Renewable Energy and Environmental Flow,
Minor in Climate Change Studies

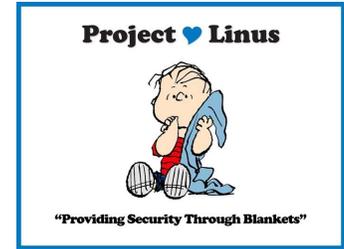
Graduate School

William Rogers Ealick, son of Charlotte and John Ealick

The Medical College of Georgia; Doctor of Medicine
Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society
Will be a resident at the Boston Combined Residency Program at
Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center



Presbyterian Women



PROJECT LINUS

All women in the church are invited to attend a blanket-making event on June 26 from 1:00-4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This gathering, sponsored by Presbyterian Women, is in support of Project Linus, a non-profit organization that provides handmade blankets to children in need. The local Project Linus director, Christine Newby, will join us to tell a little about the organization and to assist us in our blanket-making. We will be making no-sew blankets, and supplies will be provided. All you need to bring is yourself and your mask. All females in the church, no matter your age, are invited and encouraged to attend.

For more information contact Angela Hobby (aghobby1@comcast.net or 706-869-0451)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Trinity Sunday 10:15 AM Summer Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Worship Service (Stage 3) and Live Stream on Vimeo*	31 Church Office Closed Memorial Day	1 7:00 PM Stated Session Meeting, Zoom	2	3 6:00 PM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal	4 5:00 PM Food Truck Friday	5 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
6 10:00 AM Summer Sundays: Mission, Fellowship Hall 10:15 AM Summer Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Prayer Action Team, Prayer Circle, Parlor 11:00 AM Worship Service (Stage 3) and Live Stream on Vimeo* 12:30 PM Children & Families Lunch, Chipotle & Mod Pizza	7 5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor 7:00 PM Diaconate Meeting, Zoom 7:00 PM WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	8 11:30 AM Ladies for Lunch, Raes Coastal Cafe 6:00 PM Education Ministry Team, Room 104	9 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study, Zoom 1:30 PM Covenant Staff Meeting, Fellowship Hall	10	11	12 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
13 10:15 AM Summer Choir Rehearsal 10:45 AM Summer Sundays: Music 11:00 AM Worship Service (Stage 3) and Live Stream on Vimeo* 1:00 PM Youth leave for Bridge Mission Trip	14 Flag Day Youth: BRIDGE Mission Trip 5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor 7:00 PM WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	15 Youth: BRIDGE Mission Trip 6:00 PM P.E.O. Meeting, Room 12 6:30 PM Sustainability Ministry Team, Zoom	16 Youth: BRIDGE Mission Trip 3:00 PM Goodies for GAP Collection and Bagging, Fellowship Hall	17 Youth: BRIDGE Mission Trip	18 1:30 PM Youth Return from BRIDGE Mission Trip	19 Juneteenth 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
20 Father's Day Summer Sundays: Prayer 10:15 AM Summer Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Prayer Action Team, Prayer Circle, Parlor 11:00 AM Worship Service (Stage 3) and Live Stream on Vimeo*	21 COVENANT CHIMES DEADLINE 5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor 7:00 PM WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	22	23 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study, Zoom	24	25	26 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
27 10:00 AM Summer Sundays: Speaking of Faith 10:15 AM Summer Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Worship Service (Stage 3) and Live Stream on Vimeo* 12:30 PM Worship Ministry Team	28 5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor 7:00 PM WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	29	30	1	2	3 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104

Church Member Profiles

JEFF PETTIT

Jeff Pettit was born in Augusta, GA more years ago than he would like to admit. His dad, Ed Pettit was a Professor and later Associate Dean at Augusta College...er Augusta State University... errr Augusta University before retiring. His mom Elaine Pettit, stayed at home to raise him and his older sister, Vickie (now Vickie Terry). He attended Georgia Tech and majored in Chemical Engineering. Jeff now works for Solenis, a provider of chemicals to the pulp and paper industry as well as water treatment chemistries.

Although their family was religious, they did not attend church. After Jeff finished high school, Vickie and Jeff felt the need to find a church home. After trying several in the area, they attended Covenant and, due to the warmth and kindness of members of the congregation, felt like they had found their church. Vickie and Jeff were baptized the same day in 1999 by Rev. Dick Short at Covenant. Rev. Rob Watkins presided over the memorial service for Elaine when she passed way too soon in 2012.

Jeff has two sons, Gavin and Rylan. Gavin is 13 and attends Riverside Middle School. Gavin's favorite hobbies are creating 3D art from things he finds and Legos. Rylan is 11 and is finishing his time at River Ridge Elementary before moving up to middle school next year. Rylan enjoys swimming, basketball, and video games. The newest member of the family is their dog, Dobby, a shepherd / boxer mix who they adopted in April of this year.

Jeff enjoys running and doing house projects, but his favorite hobby is creating memories with his sons. He has a long list of house projects to do after moving a short distance in October of last year. He also enjoys traveling, both inside the US and abroad and is starting to plan a trip to Australia next summer with Gavin and Rylan.

Jeff Pettit



PAULA REARDON

I was born in Hendersonville, NC, where my Dad worked for Dupont, Construction Division. We moved to Martinsville, VA, and then to Chattanooga, before I was one. Between second and third grades, we moved to Parkersburg, WV, which had a large and always constructing manufacturing site. I graduated from Parkersburg High, and went on to college at Virginia Tech.

I studied Math Education and Statistics at Virginia Tech. While there, I met my husband, Tim. When I finished my studies, we began our married adventures.

My first job, after college, was in Kingsport TN, as a Statistician at Tennessee Eastman. Tim finished his schooling at UT-Knoxville, after which we moved to Martinsville, VA. The first time we were members of a Presbyterian church was when we lived in Martinsville. That is also where we had our older two children, Meghann and Sean. That great whooshing sound of textile jobs moving to Mexico and China caused us to need to leave Martinsville, in search of employment.

We moved to Martinsburg, WV five weeks prior to having our 3rd (& final) baby, Allison. I worked for Corning Consumer Products in Martinsburg, where the Corning Ware casserole dishes and Visions Ware were made (until they, too, were moved from U.S. production). We went to Corning, NY for a brief time, enjoying the best school and parks system we have ever seen while we lived in Horseheads, NY. We lived in a great old house (check it out at http://www.breeseusa.org/Sket_uylesses.htm). Once again, the tides turned. Telecom took a nosedive and Corning, Inc reduced its workforce.

Bringing us to Clinton, IN, where we moved the weekend before Allison started kindergarten and left the weekend after she graduated high school. We were very active members of the small-town community of Clinton, and the First Methodist Church. We could walk to church, the post office, the funeral homes, the library, and the annual Little Italy Festival. I worked at a large pharmaceutical manufacturing site in Clinton, which was part of Eli Lilly. It was through Lilly that I was able to transfer to Augusta.

I'm excited to live in Augusta, and to have found a church family at Covenant. I am anxious to get us all back to in-person activities, so I can continue to grow in relationships in the congregation and continue to find my role(s) in church activities. My kiddos live in South Dakota and Indiana, so we retain our ties to the Midwest (without having to live there).

Paula Reardon



Being a Matthew 25 Church with a focus on Goal 3: Eradicating Systemic Poverty

Thoughts on entrenched poverty –some factors that play a role

- Family instability – divorce, separation, co-habitation, people constantly in and out of the family life, homelessness, lack of sufficient resources of any type which could lead to other things, etc.
 - Low educational attainment. Can also include lack of basic skills such as reading and math depending on level of attainment and how well they did in school.
 - Inadequate income – working poor wages, not eligible for social service benefits, refusal to apply for child support for various reasons, no job, etc
 - The number of jobs available for those with low educational attainment and few job skills – especially those needed in a changing job market requiring more skills. Tied in with this are wage disparities, minimum wages paid in jobs they may be eligible for, less than part time work because of their situation or the employer’s decision. Some feel that by the time they pay transportation, child care & any other cost associated with getting and maintaining a job, their plight is just as good or close to it not working at all and drawing public benefits. This feeling is also tied in that once you start earning money, at some point, you begin to lose benefits.
 - Lack of transportation impacts ability to access healthcare, get to jobs, and limits access to appropriate/secure affordable housing in safe neighborhoods. In Augusta, it is exacerbated by the fact that we have a bus system that:
 - operates on a schedule not often consistent with need (i.e. limited hours which can impact getting to or from jobs, don’t run on Sundays or holidays even though folks still need to get to work)
 - requires transfers to get to many key places depending on where you live
 - busses only run to a certain point within the county (9 fixed routes). If you look at the transit map, you can see how large the area is between bus routes in some places <http://www.augustaga.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4454>
 - Poor/less than ideal health due to a number of factors including;
 - Inability to access and afford medical care (to include preventive, 2^o healthcare on up)
 - Access due to location of sites and lack of transportation to get there
 - Affordability issue due to many adults in the target population do not have insurance (if older folks (i.e. older grandparents are part of the equation, then they have Medicare). Those without insurance for themselves are because of their income which may disqualify them for low income Medicaid and ACA insurance. FQHCs exist but again transportation may be an issue and costs (sliding scale fee).
 - Priority for self-healthcare may not have a high priority depending on the circumstances
 - Problems from birth/childhood
 - Poor nutrition (not eligible for food stamps, misuse them, improper diet, living in a food desert, etc)
 - Stress (recognized and unrecognized)
 - Physical environment which could include lead or mold in the home, living near toxic waste site at some point in their life, living near our many manufacturing (to include chemical) plants that may impact surrounding air quality
- Hopelessness and/or apathy – could stem from generational poverty, not being able to see beyond today or the next day, feelings that no matter how hard they try they will never get ahead.
- Housing
 - Issues associated with living in unsafe low income housing such as crime, gangs and drugs.
 - Lack of affordable housing for those with little or no income which leads to families being homeless (on the streets, in shelters, or frequently moving from place to place). In conjunction with this, we have only 2 shelters for women (Salvation Army which puts them out at 9 and they have to be in line by 4 to get back in depending on if they are enrolled in some program with them and Head of the Giant which is having its own issues right now.) Safe Homes is only for those with IPV involvement but it is often filled because it covers a 13 county area.
 - Low social, civic and political engagement – this may stem from not knowing how to get involved, being discouraged (actively or passively) from involvement, lack of time/transportation/motivation to get involved, feeling their voice will not be heard and/or matter
 - Inequalities – can be tied in with many of the above
 - History – the racial history in Augusta that led some to think that others are holding them back vs

them holding themselves back, community fostering dependency rather than empowerment, etc.

- Media – To an extent they play a role in how they portray low-income individuals and poverty itself. Most often the focus is on the black community which could turn some folks off from helping because of other biases they may have. They also do not spotlight what is happening in the community to address the issue and rarely spotlight that has been successful in improving their ‘family self-sufficiency’.
- Lack of comprehensive collaborative or even coordinated process that engages all sectors of the community to address systems issues that hinder a process like this. Within this, you begin to have territorial issues, agencies/orgs/ people thinking you’re infringing on what they are doing and/or trying to take their clientele, & those that may not want to tackle alignment of systems especially where state agencies are involved because of the processes that may need to occur to make changes in policies and procedures.
- Lack of funding to support a comprehensive collaborative or even coordinated approach. Funding from all levels tend to focus on one or two outcomes and/or have limited focus areas. In addition, when proposals are written and/or funding does come into a community, there is no incentive to blend or braid the funds to maximize their use and impact on the issue being addressed.

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. Matt 25:40

Respectfully submitted by Joslyn Fields, Mission Ministry Team member.

SUMMER CHOIR INVITATION

Summer Choir begins **May 30**. If you’d like to sing with the Covenant Choir during the summer months and are fully vaccinated, please join us in the Balcony at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We prepare an easy anthem in our 30-minute rehearsal and sing it during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Covenant’s current Covid guidelines require Choir members to wear singers’ masks when singing; we have extras available for your use.

Questions? See Lyn Patterson or email her at lpatterson@covenantaugusta.org.

CHANGES TO COMMUNION

Beginning June 6, we will celebrate communion in a different way than we have in the past year. During worship, we will sit in every other pew. Elders will serve communion to members of the congregation by walking down the empty rows and extending the plates those who are seated. Worshippers will not pass the plate and will only touch the cup that they are using. This will allow us to serve everyone while continuing safe practices.

ROCKING CHAIRS

The Mission Ministry Team is working with the Worship Ministry Team to ensure that we can be hospitable to young families in worship. We are placing rocking chairs or gliders in the back of the sanctuary for parents to rock babies during worship. If you have an extra rocker or glider in your home that is in good condition and which you would like to donate to the church, then please be in touch with Charlotte Ealick. If we have an abundance of donations, then we may put some in the preschool.



SUNDAY EMAILS

Beginning Friday, June 4, worship information (bulletins, children bulletins, and the live stream link) will be included in the Friday weekly emails. There will not be a separate Sunday email.

DO WE STILL HAVE TO WEAR MASKS?

As a reminder, the Session makes the ultimate decisions about our COVID-19 safety protocols at Covenant. While we are grateful for guidance from elected officials and government agencies, their guidelines may not be our guidelines. By design, we are not able to act quickly through the decree of one person. Instead, we make decisions through a group of elected leaders who pray for God’s guidance together. The Session often meets the week after this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, so it may not reflect the latest information. The most up-to-date guidelines for Covenant can be found on our website.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS



Our Flower Calendar is a meaningful way to show love and to glorify God. If you would like to donate flowers, check with Judy Strogonoff in the Church Office to make sure your meaningful date is available. Forms to order flowers and to include a special message for the bulletin are located in the Church Office. You are welcome to use your own florist or Judy can place the order with the florist that Covenant uses. The cost of each arrangement is usually \$75-100.

Contact Judy Strogonoff in the Church office (706-733-0513 or jstrogonoff@covenantaugusta.org).

Mission

GAP UPDATE



There is a great deal going on at the GAP

building! We are pleased to announce that Kuhlke Construction is hard at work adding an elevator and updating the electrical service to the building! We are very excited that we will be able to use all our space. We are thankful that we have been able to remain open and continue to serve the Augusta community during COVID and the construction. The support that Covenant gives us –monetarily, through food donations, through the many volunteers and through prayer for our volunteers and our clients means so much to us. In the middle of Covid, we saw a large increase in the number of people coming to the food pantry- many for the first time. We could not have continued to serve without your support. As we open the building and increase our ministry, we look forward to the continued partnership with Covenant.

Jodi Huff

GAP ITEM OF THE MONTH

The item of the month for June is deodorant. This item will be a welcome addition to our Food Pantry shelves.

GAP Ministries continues to 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

GOODIES FOR GAP UPDATE

Goodies for GAP began last year in the early days of the Covid 19 Pandemic as an effort to add a little something special to the bags given to those who come to GAP for food assistance. This past year over 30 of us have contributed time and talent to this mission and well over 1,000 goodie bags have been filled and distributed.

As we move into the summer months and Covid restrictions are being relaxed, we feel it may be time to cut back just a little. On May 19, Goodies for GAP began operating once a month. Goodies will be 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 every third Wednesday. The next Goodies for GAP collection and bagging is June 16.

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

VIRTUAL MISSION TRIP

The Mission Ministry Team is organizing a “virtual mission trip” for June 20-26. We will work in conjunction with our mission partners in Honduras over the course of this week. More information will be provided in upcoming weekly emails. To find out how you can get involved, you may contact Elaine Lea.

ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR EMAILS?

If you are not receiving our emails, then please visit www.covenantaugusta.org and sign up. This is the best way to find out what is happening in our congregation each week. If you are having trouble signing up, then you may contact Judy Stroganoff at jstroganoff@covenantaugusta.org. Our emails are also posted to our Facebook page.



June Worship Schedule

USHERS

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

LITURGIST/READER AT 11:00 AM SERVICE

- 6/6: Jimmy Lea
6/13: Gail Roat
6/20: Pat Ritter
6/27: Chris Terry

PREACHER

- 6/6: Katelyn Gordon Cooke
6/13: Andy Cooke
6/20: Katelyn Gordon Cooke
6/27: John McCrosky

GREETERS

- 6/6: Fred & Jane Gehle
6/13: Jim Crimmins
6/20: Sabina Widner
6/27: Mary Beachum and
Martha Bertrand

SUNDAY NURSERY

- 6/6: Gail Baker
6/13: Judy Grieve

A/V TEAM

June

Steve Bell, Terry Bowers, John
Ealick, Owen Gillies, Emma Raider

COORDINATORS

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



Prayer Concerns



New Prayer Concerns

Marvin Fields – At Home (0514)
David Rhoades – Upcoming surgery
(0518)

Continued Prayer Concerns

All of Covenant's **Missionaries**
All who serve in the **U.S. Military**
Tanya Dimorier (Judy Stroganoff's step-
sister) – MCG Hospital (0427)
Priscilla Gilman – Washington
Commons (0427)
Garrett Grice (brother of Melissa Grice
Tyler) – hospitalized with brain
aneurysm (1005)
Anne Huff – Broken femur, Brandon
Wilde (0403)
LJ Jay (0319)

Jeremy and AJ Jay (Charles and LJ Jay's
nephew and his son) – Sudden death of
Jeremy's wife and AJ's mother,
Tallahassee FL (0504)

Gail Kouame – At home (1004)

Harvey Lapp (Dave Lapp's brother) –
Bluebell, PA (0115)

David Kent (father of Sarah Colborn's
daughter-in-law) – In Hospital (0413)

Jay Morrison (Lyn Patterson's friend) –
At home (0523)

Gail Roat – Surgery, At home (0416)

Julie Usry – Fractured bone in her foot, At
home (0414)

Debbie van Tuyl – At home (0525)

Enduring Concerns

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

Phyllis Daniels – Brandon Wilde

Lois Davis – Kentwood

Anne Degrazia – Alpharetta, GA

Betty Johnston – Brandon Wilde

Malcolm Kling – Brandon Wilde

Larry Lutcher – Brandon Wilde

Leah Mannel – Brandon Wilde

Jocelyn Martin-Moses (Karell Moses'
mother) – At home

Carol Paulson – At home

Lois Reynolds – Morning Side

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 jjstroganoff@covenantaugusta.org.

Covenant Chimes

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Augusta, GA
Permit No. 81

Food Truck Friday, May 14

