

THE TIMES, THEY ARE A'CHANGIN'

by Mary O'Keeffe, Clerk of Session

2019



Covenant is now living out the expression that the only constant in life is change. While times of change and transition can leave a person feeling a bit off balance, we, as a Community of Faith, know that our Heavenly Father is guiding our every step into the future. I want to take this opportunity, as your Clerk of Session, to give you a general overview of what's happening, the process that we will go through in the next weeks/months, and to assure you that Session is on top of things.

Rich Fifield, the Executive Presbyter of the Holston Presbytery, and David Roane, a member of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry met with Session in August and outlined the process that is to come. David Roane will be our liaison with the Committee on Ministry and will help us with any questions or issues we may have as we move forward.

The Committee on Ministry will appoint an ordained minister to be the Moderator of Session to help direct, focus and guide our Session meetings. The moderator and Session will continue to meet and provide direction for Covenant and, working through our great committees, we will continue the day-to-day work God has entrusted to us.

Specifically about a pastor search...

Many of us have been through this process, either at Covenant or other churches. There is a well-defined process that we'll go through. With faith and trust in that process, we'll do just fine.

At this time, the major task we must address is beginning the search for an Interim or Transitional Pastor. Session has already begun to put together a Search Committee to find that individual that God has already chosen for us. Once we have a Search Committee, they will fill out a form describing our congregation, our goals, our mission, etc. This form is called a Ministry Information Form (MIF) and is submitted to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) and the Committee on Ministry. Ministers looking for an interim position have completed a form called a Personal Information Form (PIF) and have also submitted those to the CLC. You can think of CLC like Match.com. They will match our MIF with appropriate PIFs and forward candidates information to us. Our search committee will take it from there, reviewing applications, interviewing and, most of all, seeking God's guidance and discernment.

The Interim Pastor is chosen by Session and hired by contract (usually 12 months).

After we have an Interim Pastor, then a Pastor Nominating Committee is elected by the congregation and a second search begins. But that will not be happening for several months. Rather than overwhelm you with more details, I'll leave the description of that search for another time.

So, no skipping church because you're not sure what's happening...WE are what's happening, we're here and we're moving forward!

Mary

AFTER CHURCH LUNCH—SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

The theme for our September 8th After Church Lunch is **Family Heritage**. Here's a chance for others to taste some of the recipes that have been passed down in your family for generations, or a dish that you discovered that your whole family really enjoys. The category is wide open!



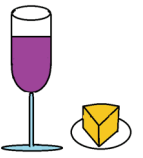
As always, if you can hang around to help with cleanup, it would be appreciated. Many hands make light work. See you at our fellowship tables!

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COVENANT COURIER**



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

2019-2020 HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY—LOVE CARVED IN STONE: A FRESH LOOK AT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



There are 3 Presbyterian Women's Circles at Covenant: the **Friendship Circle**, the **Joy Circle**, and the **Red Tent Circle**. All women of the church (and friends of the women of the church) are welcome. The studies usually go from September to May or June. This year, the Red Tent Circle began meeting in August.

- ♦ **The Red Tent Circle meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month.** The next meeting will be on **Thursday, September 12, at 7:00 PM at the home of BJ King, 8 Fox Run Lane.** (Contact for this Circle is BJ King.)
- **The Joy Circle meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 10, at 7:00 PM in the Bible Discovery classroom in the hallway near the Sanctuary.** (Contact for this Circle is Betsy Moakler.)
- **Friendship Circle meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month** (note that this is different than last year). **The first meeting will be on Wed., September 11 at 1:30 PM in the church library.** Lesson 1 will be led by Estelle Armistead. (Contact for this Circle is Elaine Warehime.)

COVENANT AT FAMILY PROMISE: NOVEMBER 18 & 19

Covenant is scheduled to serve at Family Promise on November 18th & 19th. This is an **excellent** mission outreach opportunity for a group in the church to consider participating in. Perhaps a Sunday School class or a Bible study group? Maybe a PW Circle? How about members of another committee in addition to the Local & World Missions committee? Please contact Don Coble (dwcoble1@gmail.com or 423-483-6493) or Patti Coble (patticobl@gmail.com or 423-943-5580). They have packets of information they would be thrilled to share with you!

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 AT 3:00 PM

Gather with us from 3 PM to 5 PM on September 1st as we continue our travel from the comfort of the sofa and chairs in the Library. This month we will enjoy visiting the Louvre in Paris. This film takes you inside the Louvre and invites you to a guided tour.

THE LUNCH BUNCH IN SEPTEMBER

The Lunch Bunch gathers at various restaurants on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. **The time has been changed from 11:30a to 12:30p** so that those attending Alliance for Continued Learning classes can participate. **Please contact Victory Cooper at 282-4641** to let her know if you plan to come so she can make the appropriate number of reservations AND if you need transportation or directions.

Wed., September 4 at 12:30p: Aubrey's, 3029 Hamilton Place

Wed., September 18 at 12:30p: Yuimaru Kitchen (Japanese cuisine), 3020 Franklin Terrace, #6

BRIDGE AND GAMES: TUESDAYS FROM 2—4 PM

Bridge and Games meets on Tuesdays from 2:00—4:00 PM. They play bridge if there are enough players, and card/board games with the non-bridge players. Everyone is welcome! (Board/card games in the library, bridge in the Bible Discovery classroom next to the sanctuary.)

BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Black/White Dialogue meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Carver Recreation Center, 322 W. Watauga Ave., JC, from 6:00—8:00 PM. The next meeting will be on **Monday, September 9.** Everyone is welcome!

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES IS BACK!

Please join us **Saturday, September 21st at 7:00 PM** as Saturday Night at the Movies kicks off its second year with a showing of **The Bucket List**, starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman, two men from different worlds whose paths join in a profound way. If you've seen The Bucket List, come see it again. If you haven't, you're in for a treat! We won't be serving Kopi Luwak, but there will be snacks! Director: Rob Reiner. Rated PG-13. Running time: 97 minutes.

UPDATES FROM THE AUGUST 11, 2019 SESSION MEETING

- ◆ Rich Fifield, Executive Presbyter, and David Roane, a member of the Committee on Ministry gave the Elders an overview of the process for selecting an Interim Pastor and a new permanent Pastor.
- ◆ The Administration & Budget Committee reports that Tina will get a new computer and updated software.
- ◆ The Communication Committee continues to work on the update of our website.
- ◆ Congregational Life Committee reports there will be a restructuring of how the committee handles some of their tasks. They will likely meet monthly as they work out the details. The committee voted to discontinue the Prayer Chain because it has not been active since 2016. (Individuals can still email or call Tina for prayer needs.)
- ◆ The Nominating Committee has begun their work of discerning potential Elders of the Class of 2022.
- ◆ Property Committee reports that the water fountain off the Fellowship Hall will be replaced. They will be purchasing a new HVAC unit for the classroom off the Fellowship Hall. (The room used by Gateway to Worship and some youth activities.) A new sink has been selected for the kitchen. A new water heater is to be installed for the kitchen and restrooms on that end of the Fellowship Hall. Thanks go to Tony Madden who secured it as a donation from American Water Heater.

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

ENTERED INTO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT:

Bob Hart—August 1, 2019

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

BOB HART

BY

Bob & Betty Maletich
Gary & Anne Smith



GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

The **Good Sam Food Offering** will be received on **Sunday, September 22**. Again this month, we are collecting: **Spaghetti Sauce (canned, bottled, fancy or plain), and dry pasta (spaghetti, bowties, shells, rigatoni, angel hair, etc. in bags & boxes)**. Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

JULY TREASURER'S REPORT

Income to General Fund
July

Actual	\$17,118.75
vs. Budgeted	\$20,777.00

Expenses from General Fund
July

Actual	\$22,982.86
vs. Budgeted	\$20,777.00

Year to Date Income
General Fund

Actual	\$154,034.32
vs. Budgeted	\$145,439.00

Year to Date Expenses from
General Fund

Actual	\$142,974.63
vs. Budgeted	\$145,439.00

*The 5-Cents a Meal Offering
for July was \$117.00.*



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Helen Davis
401 Princeton Rd., #107
Johnson City, TN 37601
423-975-1907



ONLINE GIVING!

Online Giving is available through our website at cpcjc.org. Getting started is easy—just click on the Online Giving link. This is a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. *If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office.*

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

Phone: 423-282-5324, Fax: 423-282-5346

<http://www.cpcjc.org>, E-mail: office@cpcjc.org

Find us on Facebook:

“Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)”

Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACKS FOR BABMOC!

The children in the BABMOC free school in Liberia need backpacks and school supplies. Our goal is to send 150 backpacks, each filled with a set of the supplies on this list. Please bring your items to the church and place them in the labeled bin. The deadline is September 30th.



- *Backpacks – child size
- *Boxes of chalk
- *Compasses for math
- *Packs of Blue or Black pens
- *12” rulers
- *Children’s books
- *Protractors
- *Packs of erasers
- *Packs of Pencils
- *Spiral notebooks
- *2 pencil sharpeners

*You may also call Laura Arnfield 423-647-2670
or Matt Cary 423-737-3102 for pickup
if you are not able to bring them to Covenant.*

MISSION STATEMENT:

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to glorify and enjoy God. We live knowing that God calls us to be a place of love, support, hope and acceptance regardless of earthly labels; Jesus Christ commissions us to make disciples and passionately share our gifts with the world through prayer, teaching, and service; the Holy Spirit allows us to determine and carry out Christ’s will for our lives and the life of our church, and empowers us to seek out and respond to the needs of our local and global community.