

July 2015



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.

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Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



A Difficult Time

A number of years ago, when I was free on Wednesday evenings, I began attending the mid-week Bible Study at Faith Community Church. This was part of an expanding relationship in which my history with Nelson and Joyce Johnson grew in a variety of ways; including our two families joining a delegation representing Greensboro's Truth and Reconciliation process in a trip to South Africa. This Bible Study was different in a variety of ways, but perhaps the most remarkable was that occasionally a young person who was struggling with life would show up. What amazed me was how gracious the members of Faith were with the "stranger walking in off the street". This is where my mind went last Thursday when I heard about the horrific attack at 'Mother' Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC.

Given our complicated economic and political conflicts, I have some understanding regarding the racial divide in our country. However, I have never been able to get my head around the racial divide in our churches. This reality, plus the connection that my family and so many other members of Covenant have had with Faith Community Church and the Johnson family, generated the thought of Covenant joining Faith Community at this tragic time. I was not at all surprised by the warm response of Nelson and Joyce to this idea.

I was also heartened by the positive response of Covenant's Session and the good turnout of our people on Sunday. Nelson and I shared thoughts about Charleston, Lou offered a wonderful prayer, and then members of Faith Community, Covenant and Epiphany shared their own concerns and hopes. Building on the amazing faith of the members at 'Mother' Emanuel AME Church, our comments became far more positive than I could have imagined. As Susan Andreatta shared her concern for her daughter living in Charleston it became clear that we all have a vested interest in finding ways for resurrection to come from this heinous action.

William Barber, North Carolina leader of the Moral Monday movement, made the remark that "the perpetrator has been apprehended but the killer is still at large". This is, of course, a reference to the systemic nature of racism that produced a Dylann Roof. Dylann now faces the consequences of his actions; what remains less clear is whether we, as a church and as a nation, will see our own complicity and exercise our courage for a new tomorrow.

Chris East

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 Music & Meditation, Sanctuary

9:30 Study/Group Time, various locations

9:30 Summer activities for children with Lou, Fellowship Hall

10:30 Fellowship time, in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 Progressive Worship, Sanctuary

Nursery 9:00-12:00, Rm101

Important Dates ...

July 3: Church Office Closed, 4th of July Holiday

July 4th: Happy Independence Day!

July 5: Communion Sunday Everyone Is Welcome!

July 13: Session Mtg., 6pm, Fasel Room

July 14: Sierra Club, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

July 15: WNFS Guest Speaker after dinner, GSO Police Dept.

July 19th: 10:45 am Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing, Sanctuary

July 19th: 12:15 pm Summer Potluck and Rosser's Retirement Party, Fellowship Hall

July 27: CHNA Mtg., 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Musicians at 9:00

July 5: Carol Rauch



July 12: Kristy Jackson



July 19: Dave Fox



July 26: Walt Lott



Ushers at 11:00

July 5: Nancy Schaefer, Frank Starling

Communion: Nancy Schaefer, Celia Starling

July 12: Barry Barber, Celia Starling

July 19: Lem Cox, Saralyn Griffith

July 26: Frank Starling, Celia Starling

Church Office Hours

Chris East

Lou East

Mon. 10-3
Wed. 10-6
Fri. 1-5
Sun. 1-5

Tues. 12-5
Wed. 1-6
Thur. 12-5
Sun. 1-5

Kate Baird

Mon.- Fri. 9-1



Every Week ...

Monday: Yoga, 6:00 pm, Parlor
Tuesday: Pilates, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall **
Wednesday: WNFS, 6pm, Fellowship Hall;
Choir rehearsal, 7pm, Sanctuary
Thursday: Yoga, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall**
Friday: Coffee Group, 8:45am, Panera,
Jefferson Village 1604 Highwoods Blvd.

**\$10/session

Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper

You're invited to join our church family every Wednesday at 6:00 pm for our potluck dinner! Share something scrumptious and enjoy all the contributions. Afterward, there may be music or a program or a special event, or we just chat and catch up with each other. It's always delicious fun!

July Events

- July 3: Office Closed
- July 4: Happy Fourth of July!
- July 5: Communion Sunday *All are welcome to take part!*
- July 9-12: Study Leave, Chris and Lou will be attending the Wild Goose Festival
- July 12: Worship Leader: Julie Strope
- July 15: Guest Speaker after WNFS: Sgt. Johnson of the GSO Police Dept.
Sergeant K.B. (Brad) Johnson, one of the patrol supervisors for Central Division, will join us for supper and conversation. The purpose of the new initiative in the police department is to provide a casual setting for community members to ask questions, voice concerns and meet a few of the officers who patrol our community.
- July 19: 10:45 am Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing! Join us in the Sanctuary before the Worship Service
12:15 pm Potluck Luncheon/Retirement Celebration for Rosser Tilley
Join us for a covered-dish luncheon following worship on 7/19! We'll celebrate Rosser's service to Covenant as she officially begins her retirement. Please bring a favorite summer dish to share with each other and to honor Rosser! Want to help set up/clean up? Email Joyce Powers: jkpowers42@gmail.com
- July 25: Annalise Stalls CD Release Party, 7:00-9:00 pm, Sanctuary



While we may take pride in our own mission statement, you might be interested in how other progressive churches are defining themselves. Beginning in this newsletter and continuing in future newsletters, we will print the mission statement of different progressive churches who are seeking *the road less traveled*. Below is the mission statement of the Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill, NC.

Church of Reconciliation (PCUSA)

We are called to proclaim in word and action the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are guided by a vision that neither race nor gender, neither ethnic origin nor sexual orientation, neither age nor infirmity, neither marital status nor educational background, neither economic condition nor any other aspect of personhood will divide this Christian community, this household of God, for we are one in God's love. We are to work for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

We are to 'do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.'

“From our earliest days, we’ve followed the beat of a different drum. In 1966, in the still-segregated South, our founders answered God’s call for an intentional community of racial reconciliation, hence our church name. We remain true to our origins: we are a theologically-diverse faith community where anyone who is on a spiritual journey can find encouragement, challenge, and support to grow.

As a progressive church in the Presbyterian tradition, we are strongly committed to peace and social justice. We believe we are called to cultivate a culture of peace in our interior lives, in our interpersonal relationships, and in our social witness. The Rec is widely known as a faith community whose members walk their walk.”



A Note from Barbara North (Chairperson, Interiors Committee)

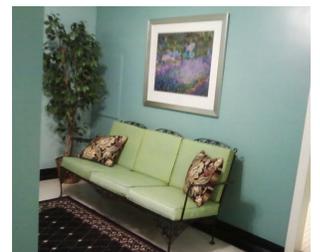


The bathrooms on the first floor by the Sanctuary are a facility much-used by church members, by Gateway, and by others in our community. It was way past time to bring a new look to these areas. Last fall, Lem Cox took on the project of renovating the men’s bathroom to update it with new toilets, sinks, paint, etc. This winter and spring, the Session approved work on the ladies bathroom/lounge and the Interiors Committee began working on plans to redecorate this area. As you



probably know by now if you have been to the church in recent weeks, the ladies’ bathroom has been reopened after a couple months of renovations. It always takes longer to get things done than expected. The bathroom renovations are 99.9% complete with new paint, stalls, bathroom sinks, console table, lamps, and other accessories. It could not have been done without the help of a lot of people.

I would like to thank the members of the Interiors Committee – Joyce Powers, Julie Strobe, Ann Finch, Clara Kelly, Lil Gibson, Jim North, and Lee Conrad for giving of their time and design skills; to Lem Cox for having the patience of Job in putting up with a committee of women and playing the role of general contractor; and to Mark Cable for using his many skills in patching, plumbing, and picture hanging. A special thank you to Lil Gibson for her contribution of the picture, Monet’s “Garden”, which hangs over the settee in the ladies lounge. The two bathroom projects could not have been accomplished without the financial support of the Session, the Presbyterian Women, and the contribution of time and talent by the many individuals mentioned. Thank you,



Theatre Summer Camps

Coming to Covenant's Fellowship Hall in July!
for children ages 6-14

Monday—Friday, 9:00 am—4:30 pm
(Weekly, full day or half day rates)

Weekly themes and dates:

Making Laughs July 7-10

Seussical the Musical July 13-17

Imaginary Worlds July 20-24

It's Your Movie July 27-31

Zora Medor: 336-273-8724 or zoramed@yahoo.com

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

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Check us out online!

www.athinkingchurch.org



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