

June 2015

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.

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The Covenant Compendium

Musings on Progressive Christianity ...

Progressive Christianity is about a refusal to believe that I have to stay in a rut. I am not helpless; I am not a depraved sinner; I need not be a pawn of overwhelming, outside forces. I am not condemned by “original sin”, and I do not need to focus significant time and energy on life after death. Tomorrow will be managed by forces beyond my touch – today is good enough for me. I can live and give myself to eternal forces, both within and beyond me, that are shaping this moment. I have limitations, but I am created in the image of God, and can work for transformation in my own life without selling my soul to others.

Progressive Christianity is about the truth that I can think for myself. I can think and act in ways that diverge from the mainstream; especially from those persons who are presently at the helm of church, state, and corporate structure. I now choose ways that are consistent with my own imagination, creativity and best thinking. I define and design what I find to be true, and I choose to enact these definitions and designs. I explore and venture outside the box. I follow my own strongest life convictions even though these life convictions will often not be well received by the larger world. I dream my own dreams.

Still, Progressive Christianity is about more than just finding liberation for my own soul. I see a direct connection between my true self and the Spirit of Life that is working to redeem and reconstruct this earthly home. Powers and Principalities seem to have a vested interest in keeping us dependent and small. These forces of domination are present within and outside the church, and minimize those biblical teachings that depict the Kingdom as revolutionary grace. I choose to move forward with or without approval from others, but I celebrate each friend who is on this journey with me. I know that I have been called into community; that I need to be in vital, mutually respectful relationships. For ultimately my own liberation is tied into the jubilee of all life – in an ever expanding Universe.

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 Music & Meditation, Sanctuary

9:30 Study/Group Time, various locations

Way of the Child - readers, rooms 206-207; non-readers, room 202.

10:30 Fellowship time, in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 Progressive Worship, Sanctuary

Nursery 9:00 - 12:00, room 101

Important Dates ...

June 6: Workday, 9 -12 pm

June 7: Communion Sunday

June. 8: Session Mtg., 6pm, Faselo Room

June 9: Presbyterian Women's Mtg., 10:00 am, Fellowship Hall, Parlor

June 9: Sierra Club, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

June 10: Writer's Group Mtg 4:30 pm, Faselo Room

June 21: Father's Day

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

Musicians at 9:00

June 7: Melodee Karabin
 June 14: Thomas Linger
 June 21: Sam Frazier
 June 28: Walt Lott

**Church Office Hours**

Chris East	Lou East
Mon. 10-3	Tues. 12-5
Wed. 10-6	Wed. 1-6
Fri. 1-5	Thur. 12-5
Sun. 1-5	Sun. 1-5

Kate Baird Mon. – Fri. 9 –1

Ushers at 11:00

June 7 Frank & Celia Starling
 June 14: Saralyn Griffith,
 Nancy Schaefer
 June 21: Barry Barber,
 Celia Starling
 June 28: Nancy Schaefer,
 Lem Cox

**Every Week ...**

Monday: Yoga, 6:00 pm, Nursery

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 NIGHTS: WNFS POTLUCKS

At 6:00 pm, share a meal with family and friends. Bring an entrée, a side dish, a dessert...After that, we talk, visit, catch up with one another, and sometimes there's a program.... If you have ideas or suggestions for programs or activities after Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner, please call the church office!

June Events

June 6: Work Day, 9:00 am -12:00 pm We need your help ! Lots of projects and chore both inside and out can't get done without you. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall,;you choose what to do.

June 7: New Sunday Schedule Begins / Communion Sunday All are welcome to take part!

June 9: Presbyterian Women's Meeting, 10:00 am Join us for the quarterly meeting of the PW! We meet at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments, followed by study in the Parlor at 10:30 am. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend.

June 21: Happy Father's Day! We appreciate you and celebrate you, dads! Thank the Dads in your life for all they do. ("Pet Dads" count, too!)

Many Thanks To...

... the Congregation of PCoC for your commitment to the work of the IRC in our community! When the Session asked for a special offering for the Interactive Resource Center this past winter, you generously answered the call by donating \$989. The Session voted to add another \$1,011 to your donations. A check was mailed to the IRC two weeks ago totaling \$2,000. Their thank-you letter is posted outside Marty's Room.

... Chipper Nuckles and Julie Strobe for so ably leading our Worship Services the two weeks Chris and Lou were on vacation.

... Lem Cox, Mark Cable, Jim North, Barbara North, and all the volunteers whose hard work to renovate our first floor ladies' room has resulted in a wonderful space to share with our congregation, guests, and tenants.

... Kelley Griffith and everyone who took part in the wonderful Special Memorial Day service and display. It was marvelous to learn about the experiences and efforts of PCoC and its members during WWII and beyond.

... Ken and Lee Conrad and all the volunteers who treated PCoC to the annual cookout luncheon, which followed the Memorial Day service. Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal, the decorations were beautiful, and some unforgettable stories were shared of wartime experiences and military life.

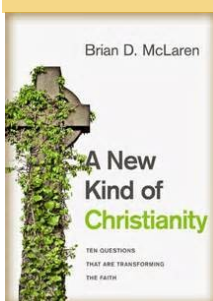
...Julie Strobe and all the volunteers who planned, facilitated, and led the memorial service for Marty Sheets. It was a wonderful celebration of love and laughter, joy and tears, for his family, friends, and church.

Summer Worship Series: Trending Towards a Sustainable Future

For better or worse, institutions tend to reflect human nature! The extent to which our institutions are based upon our coarser impulses and fear-driven choices is the extent to which those institutions are unsustainable. So there are some good reasons that trust in one another and the communities that we have built has plummeted in recent years. In many ways, we are living at a *tipping point* in which we must learn how to regain trust in one another and live into healthy, long-term life patterns that sustain wholeness and possibility.

What is it going to take for us to reshape the world in which we live? What role can the Church play? Beginning on June 7th, Chris and Lou will be sharing messages during the worship service around critical trends in human relations which are intimately connected to this need to rebuild trust and create life patterns that make for a sustainable future. Join us!

Sunday Study Groups in June



New Class beginning June 7th

(To order a book, call/email the church office by Wed. ,June 3)

A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith by Brian McLaren

Some depressing factors have shaped sectors of the Christian faith in recent decades: polarization, politicization, spiritual decline, loss of identity, and just plain close-mindedness to exploring new ways of thinking. But a number of leaders see more potential at work as new expressions are coming into public discourse, and evolve into new ways to be church. One of the more positive voices for change in recent years has been Brian McLaren, a vital force for the *Wild Goose Festival*, inspiring progressive leaders from all over the U.S. to gather for national events, helping spirited folk in shaping a new faith. Brian believes that we are in the midst of a paradigm shift in the church. Not since the Reformation five centuries ago have so many Christians come together to ask whether the church is in sync with their deepest beliefs and commitments.

One of Brian's most well-received books is "***A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith***". After years of traveling around the world to lead workshops for those who are exploring new ways of visioning the Christian faith, Brian came to recognize that, no matter where he travelled, there were common questions guiding the vital conversations of these pilgrim people. In this book, McLaren examines ten questions facing today's church—questions about how to articulate the faith itself, the nature of its authority, who God is, whether we need to understand Jesus through an ancient Greco-Roman lens, what exactly the good news is that the gospel proclaims, how we understand the church and all its varieties, why we are so preoccupied with sex, how we should think of the future and people from other faiths, and the most intimidating question of all: what do we do next? During the months of June and July we will be exploring these 10 questions, and no doubt will raise a few of our own.

Table Talk

This sharing group continues to meet on Sunday mornings in Marty's Room. Coordinated by Jane Cauthen, it's a supportive community time of open sharing that invites acceptance, encouragement, humor, and motivation for the inward journey.

The Session looks forward to hearing from Sojourners and other congregation members about how they would like to spend the 9:30am study/discussion time that is part of PCoC's new schedule. Are you interested in hands-on activities? The return of previous guest speakers for more discussion? Exploration of dreams or Enneagrams? Are you someone who's never taught a class, but would like to? Here's your chance! Share your ideas with the pastors or members of the Session. Or call or email Session member Morgan Josey Glover at 314-5191 or mjluvsjc@gmail.com.



Last week the Covenant family said their farewells to Marty Sheets while surrounding Dave and Iris with care and concern, thoughts and prayers, as they entered a new chapter in their life together.

Each person in our community is unique, each loss is felt deeply. For this moment, I want to offer some thoughts about the distinctive combination of factors in Marty's life for which I pause and offer a simple 'amen'.

Marty was gifted with extraordinary parents who would not allow the expectations and limitations of our culture to define the quality of life for their son. Iris and Dave kept on believing - with Marty - that new opportunities awaited him around each corner; new challenges that might add a bit more decor to "Marty's room". Having two supportive sisters, Nancy and Jaime, always available for Marty meant that he had a strong, caring network to help him navigate the more challenging times. The calling, however, was about more than awards. Here was a young man, God-blessed in his own unique ways, and here was a family that would see to it that their son, their brother, would keep on keeping on.

Living in a world that is ensconced in too many patterned ways, it can be liberating for all of us to see a young man – with his parents and siblings – break with the traditional molds and demonstrate for all of us the real wonder of our human family. *Chris*

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

501 S. Mendenhall Street
Greensboro NC 27403
Phone: 336-275-6403
E-mail: pcoc2010@gmail.com



Check us out online!

www.athinkingchurch.org

