

March 2015

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.

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Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 Gathering of Sojourners, Sanctuary

10:00 Fellowship time, in the Fellowship Hall

10:30 Study/Group Time, various locations

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

11:15 Progressive Worship, Sanctuary

Nursery 9:00 - 12:00, room 101

Important Dates ...

March 1: Communion

Sunday; Exec. Session Mtg.

March 3 & 31: IRC Bag Lunches, 9:00am, Kitchen, Fellowship Hall

March 7: Workday, 9 - 12

March 8: Daylight Savings Begins. Change the clock!

March 9: Session Mtg., 6pm, Marty's Room

March 10: Men's Coffee

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

March 10: Sierra Club, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

March 11 & 25: Sojourners' Coordng. Comm. Mtg., 5:00 pm, Marty's Room

March 17: St. Patrick's Day; wear green or get pinched!

March 23: CHNA Mtg., 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

March 28: Men's Coffee Group, PCOC



The Covenant Compendium

The season of Lent has been understood as a time of preparation, reflecting the journey of Jesus from the relative peace of Galilee to a pressure-packed Jerusalem where careful allegiance to orthodoxy was viewed as critically important if the nation was to keep the peace with Pontius Pilate. We might be critical of religious leaders in Jerusalem who were often engaged in 'damage control', but then we speak as those who do not know what it means to be a nation under continual occupation by a foreign Empire that routinely uses intimidation to control.

This may be why many of us, no matter our religious affiliation, continue to be hopeful as we observe Pope Francis. I really appreciate his effort to keep his focus upon those whom we might be able to serve. Here are a few words from his recent Lenten message;

"Lent is a time of renewal; a 'time of grace' ... a time [to release] an attitude of indifference. Christians are those who let God clothe them with goodness and mercy ... so as to become, like Christ, servants of God and others. Saint Therese of Lisieux expressed her conviction that joy in heaven ... remains incomplete as long as there is still a single man or woman on earth who suffers and cries out in pain. ... Every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor.

In each of our neighbors, then, we must see a brother or sister for whom Christ died. The Church is present [as] islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference! As a way of overcoming indifference ..., I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart. A merciful heart means ... a strong and steadfast heart. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters."

Historically, the heart has been used as a metaphor to represent the very core of an individual. Though piercing this core may sound extreme, if we are swimming in a sea of global indifference, then Francis may be right on target.

How might you observe Lent? How might you navigate the 'sea of indifference' with intentional practices that will make a difference for those in need around you? Blessings on your journey.

9:00 Musicians

MARCH

11:15 Music

March 1: Will Ridenour/Sean Gaskell
 March 8: Sandy Blocker
 March 15: Ann Curtis
 March 22: Dave Fox
 March 29: Donna Hughes



March 2015: Walt & Choir

11:15 Ushers

March 1: Lem Cox, Frank Starling
 March 8: Frank & Celia Starling
 March 15: Barry Barber, Saralyn Griffith
 March 22: Celia Starling, Nancy Schaefer
 March 29: Lem Cox, Frank Starling

Communion: March 1: Nancy Schaefer, Saralyn Griffith,

9:00 Facilitator for March

Sandy Bundgaard

Church Office Hours:

Chris East		Lou East	
Mondays	10-3	Tuesdays	1-5
Wednesdays	10-6	Wednesdays	1-6
Fridays	1-5	Thursdays	12-5
Sundays	1-5	Sundays	1-5

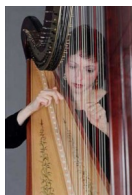
Kate Baird Monday – Friday, 9 –1

And Every Week ...

Sunday: Meditation, 4-6pm, Parlor
Tuesday: Pilates, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall **
Wednesday: WNFS, 6pm, Fellowship Hall; Choir practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
Thursday: Yoga, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall** \$10/session
Friday: Coffee Group, 8:45am, Green Bean

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS... 6:00 PM WNFS POTLUCKS March is the month to enjoy all things Irish; if corned beef and cabbage aren't for you, how about Irish stew or soda bread? Bring some to eat and some to share. And don't forget dessert! **Special After-Dinner Programs in March:**

March 4, 18, 25: Vance Arnold will host a documentary, "Will for The Woods", regarding green burial, followed by a discussion session, in the Parlor; each week covers a third of the documentary.



March 11: Concert by Harpist Carol Rauch Carol has played for us before and has always received an enthusiastic response. Her repertory includes classical and Israeli, Irish, & Scottish folk music. This event is free, but we are requesting donations since this event was not in our budget. Make checks out to PCoC ; write "March 11 concert" on the memo line. Donations (cash or check) can be left in the marked basket on the back table in the sanctuary. No money will be collected on Wednesday night.



March 1st: Communion Sunday, during the 11:15 am Worship Service.



March 3 AND March 31: IRC Lunches, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Kitchen & Fellowship Hall. Volunteers needed to help assemble & deliver bag lunches for the IRC. Make sandwiches, share compassion.



March 7: Church Work Day, 9:00 am-12:00 pm A chore list is on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers always needed & welcome. It's Spring Cleaning time!



March 8: Daylight Savings Lose an hour of sleep, gain more time to enjoy the sunsets.



March 11: Men's Coffee Group 9:30 am at Earth Fare
March 24 Men's Coffee Group, 9:30am, PCoC Fellowship Hall



March 11: Presbyterian Women Quarterly Meeting 10:00am, Fellowship Hall, Snacks; 10:30am, Parlor, Study, led by Lou East.

March 20: First Day of



March 17: Two Reasons to Celebrate! It's St. Patrick's Day (Erin Go Bragh!) and it's the beginning of March Madness!



March Sermons & Speakers

Gathering of Sojourners: **March 1** Cathy Hamilton & Danny Lineberger, "My Spiritual Journey by Two Sojourners"
March 8 Bob Wineberg, "Role of Religious Organizations in Community Services"
March 15 Steve Shoemaker, "The Way of Compassion"
March 22 Steve Hayes, "Resilience: The Art of Bouncing Back"
March 29 Chris or Lou East, Co-Pastors

March Sermon Series, Worship Service:

Drawing significantly from Dominic Crossan's new book, "*The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer*" Chris and Lou will continue the sermon series on the Lord's Prayer; connecting this challenging prayer with the most pressing social issues of our day.

Sunday Study Series/Groups for March

During February and March Covenant has been offering a single class entitled, *What, Where, and How?*, offering a variety of topics related to spiritual growth. Some of the topics already presented are Current Events, Book Studies, and Movie Reviews.

On March 1st Chris East will lead a general discussion of Outreach opportunities, including a review of the North Carolina Moral Monday Movement that will be re-emerging this spring in Raleigh. Chris will encourage participants to discuss outreach efforts that are personally important.

Later in March, leaders will include Kelley Griffith, who will look at the place of poetry as a powerful resource supporting our spiritual growth. Focusing on the area of spiritual practices, Paula Davis will discuss her own spiritual journey, highlighting important turning points in her journey toward health and wholeness. Beth Sheffield will co-lead a class looking at the ways that music can inspire us to keep on keeping on.

The Spiritual Formation Committee will meet soon to discuss study options for April and beyond. If you have interest in a particular subject, or if you willing to lead a class, please speak to Jim McKenzie, Annie Oakley, Morgan Glover, Susanne Jordan, Lora Farlow, or Chris East.

In addition, the **Table Talk** sharing group will continue to meet on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.

2014 Financial Summary Report

FINANCIAL SUMMARY – DECEMBER, 2014

The church collected a little over \$241,000 of revenue in 2014, a decline from 2013 of about 13.5%, or about \$37,700. A little over half of the total revenue received came from contributions - about \$136,100. Rent collected from users of our building and parking lots added another \$103,750 to our accounts. Interest from our investments and utility refunds make up the remainder of our income.

Total expenses for the year were a little over \$260,400, a 9% drop from 2013 expenses of \$285,700. About 75% of those expenses went to pay the staff, \$110,945; and for the upkeep and routine expenses for our building and grounds, \$90,000. Office and postage expenses were \$16,525; contributions to Salem Presbytery were \$12,000; and our music program expenses were a little over \$18,800. The church sent \$4,850 to local charitable groups including the Greensboro Urban Ministry, the Presbyterian Campus Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, and the Interactive Resource Center.

The church also spent a little over \$7,200 to renovate the first floor men's bathroom, however the cost for the renovations were completely funded by contributions from the congregation.

The net result of our operations for 2014 was an excess of expenses over revenues of \$19,295. This deficit was paid out of the church reserves from prior years.

Charts of this summary are available by emailing the church office at pcoc2010@gmail.com

Special Offering Opportunities in March!

Sunday, March 1, both services: IRC Special Offering. The Session has asked that we take up a special donation to benefit the IRC's efforts to shelter the homeless. Please make checks out to PCoC! The IRC has been opening its doors on frigid nights to house the homeless, but doesn't have a budget for this. They have asked for donations to fund those nights, which go toward the supplies needed, the breakfasts provided, laundry and supplies, etc. A list of these expenses is on the back table in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, March 8th, both services: Presbyterian Women's Charity, Church World Services, Offering. Every March, the entire congregation contributes funds to a variety of projects such as blankets, tools, seeds, sewing machines, new community wells and more. Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity for all ages. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world. For over 60 years, CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including: blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster; tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields; wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens; and literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential. Flyers and offering envelopes will be distributed with the March 8th Sunday bulletins and are also available on the back table in the Sanctuary. Please make checks out to PCoC!



Community members across Greensboro are invited to FOODSTORM - a local brainstorm about Greensboro's food needs, on March 27th, 2015. UNCG will host the FOODSTORM event from 12-3 PM at the Gatewood Studio Arts Building. The purpose of the event is to go beyond learning about local food issues to catalyzing action - just in time to gear up for the 2015 growing season. The event is open to the public: contact Laura Cole at lsmith5@uncg.edu or Marianne LeGreco at atmelegrec@uncg.edu

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

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Check us out online!

www.athinkingchurch.org



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