

January 2015

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.

Service Musicians, **2**
WNFS, Office Hours

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Session Report **3**

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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 ...

**Jan. 7 & 21: Sojourners'
Coordinating Comm.
Mtg., 5:00 pm, Marty's
Room**
**Jan. 10: Workday 9am -
12**
**Jan.. 12: Session Mtg.,
6pm, Marty's Room**
**Jan. 13: Sierra Club,
7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**
**Jan. 24: Men's Coffee
Group, see page 4**
**Jan. 26: College Hill
Neighborhood Assn.
Mtg., 7:00 pm,
Fellowship Hall**
**Jan. 27: IRC Bag
Lunches, 9:00 am,
Kitchen, Fellowship Hall**



The Covenant Compendium

How Does Change Happen?

A story is told of a monastery that had fallen upon hard times. Once a great order, this spiritual home had lost its vitality. Now there were only five elderly monks left in the decaying mother house: the abbot and four brothers.

In the deep woods surrounding the monastery there lived an ancient and wise hermit. It occurred to the abbot that he should go visit the hermit, seeking guidance. The hermit welcomed the abbot and listened carefully to his story which concluded with a question. "Wise One, do you see some way forward that we might return to our glory of old?"

The Hermit had tears in his eyes, and just sat there for a long time. Finally, he gathered the hands of the Abbot in his own and said, "My friend, I have no wisdom for you. I can only tell you that one of you living in the monastery is the Messiah." Surprised and confused, the Abbot returned to his brothers at the monastery who quickly gathered around him. "What did the hermit say?" "He only said that one of us is the Messiah, but I don't know what he meant."

In the days and weeks that followed, the old monks pondered these words. "Could it be true? The Messiah is one of us?" They could not imagine who among them it could be. "The Abbot? He is a great leader. Or Brother Thomas, who is truly a holy man? Or could he have meant Eldred, our crotchety brother, though he is almost always right? Perhaps quiet Brother Phillip, who is always right there when you need him; or Brother Andrew, the youngest at age 70." And so it went; the pondering of the Abbot and four monks.

And then something happened. There was no conversation or strategy, it just happened. The five old monks began to treat each other with extraordinary respect - on the off chance that one among them might be the Messiah. A new tenderness filled the air. And as each brother offered deep respect, it seemed to bring something new to the community. It was transforming.

Because the monastery was so beautiful, it so happened that people still occasionally came to visit, to picnic on the grounds or meditate in the chapel. And the transformation among the monks permeated the atmosphere. One by one new initiates were drawn to this sacred place. The monastery did not return to its old glory; instead it grew into its new glory.



9:00 Musicians

Jan. 4: Walt Lott
 Jan. 11: Betsy Bevan
 Jan. 18: Nancy Pitkin/
 Jan. 25: Hope & Honour Davis

9:00 Facilitator

For the month of January:
 Elsie Hutchens



11:15 Music

January 2015: Walt & Choir

11:15 Ushers

Jan. 4: Saralyn Griffith, Celia Starling
 Jan. 11: Frank Starling, Celia Starling
 Jan. 18: Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox
 Jan. 25: Saralyn Griffith, Barry Barber

Communion: Jan. 4: Saralyn Griffith, Celia Starling



Church Office Hours:

Chris East	Mondays	10-3	Lou East	Tuesdays	12-5	Kate Baird
	Wednesdays	10-6		Wednesdays	1-6	Monday – Friday, 9 – 1
	Fridays	1-5		Thursdays	12-5	
	Sundays	1-5		Sundays	1-5	

And Every Week ...

Monday: Meditation, 6-8pm, Parlor **Tuesday:** Pilates, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall \$10/session
Wednesday: WNFS, 6pm, Fellowship Hall; Choir practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
Thursday: Yoga, 5:30-6:30pm, Fellowship Hall** \$10/session
Friday: Coffee Group, 8:45am, Panera, 1604 Highwoods Blvd.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS... Our WNFS potlucks begin at 6:00 pm. January is National Soup Month! Treat family and friends to your favorite homemade soup during the Wednesday night dinners, then enjoy something warm and gooey for dessert. After-dinner programs at begin at 7:00 pm and change weekly. Start your new year here!



Jan. 4th Communion Sunday, during the 11:15 am Worship Service



Jan. 7th VOLUNTEERS NEEDED after the WNFS to take down all the holiday trimmings and trees and store them away. Many hands make light work! Please lend yours!



Jan. 10 Church Work Day, 9:00 am- 2:00 pm, see chore list in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers always needed, always welcome. Just a few hours spruces us up for another month!



Jan. 24 Men's Coffee Group, 9:30am, in PCoC Fellowship Hall, come enjoy the fellowship!



Jan. 27 IRC Lunches, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Kitchen & Fellowship Hall. Volunteers Needed to help assemble bag lunches for the homeless among us. Make sandwiches, share compassion.

Welcome To Our New Members!

We have enjoyed Marcia, Susanne and Anthony for a number of years, and are pleased that they they elected to officially join Covenant.



Marcia Rhodes

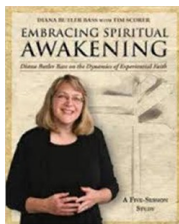


Susanne Jordan

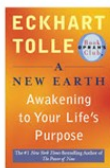


Anthony Taylor

Sunday Study/Group Time in January



Diane Butler Bass, author of “*Christianity After Religion; The End of Church and the Beginning of a New Awakening*” says that we are at the end of a sea change in religious Christianity which has been going on since the 1970s; that a Fourth Great Awakening is underway and as a result there is a great deal of doubt and discontent in the culture and in churches. Her vision for the new spiritual awakening in Christianity revolves around relational community (belonging), intentional practice (behaving), and experiential belief (believing). Diana has expanded on these ideas in a new VD, *Embracing Spiritual Awakening*. She explores what Christianity may look like “beyond religion and beyond the church.” Segments include (1) Arriving, (2) Believing, (3) Behaving, (4) Belonging and (5) Awakening. On January 4th Chris will lead this 5-part series in Marty’s Room. If you would like to join this venture, you are encouraged to purchase the guidebook, *Embracing Spiritual Awakening Guide: Diana Butler Bass on the Dynamics of Experiential Faith*, through the church for \$10.



Ongoing through January is our study of *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life’s Purpose* by Eckhart Tolle, a profoundly spiritual manifesto for a better way of life—and for building a better world. Led by Lora Farlow, in the Parlor.



Table Talk, led by Jane Cauthen, is a supportive community time of open sharing that invites acceptance, encouragement, humor, and motivation for the inward journey. The group meets in the 2nd floor Library, above the church offices.

Session Digest, October to December 2014

Over the past three months, the Session has been engaged in a fresh look at our Sunday morning schedule. At the conclusion of our single summer services, the Session was seriously considering the option of a single service during the fall, which would serve all our people. Major motivators for this were: a) the benefit of everyone gathering in a single service, and: b) a simpler schedule on Sunday morning. At the October Session meeting, a number of Sojourners met with the Session to urge that we retain our two services, and further, they requested a lay-led service. The following week the Session led an informal conversation with the entire congregation during the Sunday School hour. Strong points were made for both a single service and two services. After much conversation, the Session elected to honor the request made by these Sojourners to organize a lay-led service. The Session, as well as the Sojourner Coordinating Committee, will review progress early in 2015. Other work over the past three months included:

Supported the work of the Resource Committee in sponsoring the Stewardship Luncheon, the stewardship outreach, and the work on forming a budget for 2015.

Supported the Nominating Committee in their work.

Crafted a document which details the process leading up to sponsoring the reorganization of the Sojourner service. Copies of this document are available in the Church Office.

Secured and presented a tea set gift to Rosser for her good work at Covenant.

Action on phase one to repair our organ. A contract in the amount of \$10,000 has been signed with Allen Harris to bring our organ back into working order.

Awarded a \$500 gift for People to People.

Keeping close watch over our boiler, which will have to be replaced in the near future.

Oversaw the Men’s bathroom renovation; expressed support to renovate the downstairs’ Women’s bathroom.

And some Thank-You Notes to Everyone:



See? They do look just alike! So many thanks to the Session and everyone at Church of The Covenant for my semi-retirement gift...a tea set featuring cats by one of my favorite potters was beyond perfect.

Love to you all, Rosser.

During this season of Christmas, as we seek to bear witness to the Light of Christ that has illuminated our lives, we so appreciate the wonderful gifts and expressions of support from the Session and from the Covenant family. From the beautiful cards filled with well-wishes to the delicious homemade goodies, the support of ministries on our behalf, the gift cards that we will enjoy together throughout the year; our hearts are filled with gratitude for each of you. We look forward to the coming year and the possibilities that we will live into together. In hope, Chris and Lou

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for all your calls, contributions and hugs after the death of my husband, Jeff. This burden of sadness is lightened through your caring concern. Nancy Schaefer



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

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Check us out online!

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