

# THE COVENANTER

## February 11, 2018

Member NE GEORGIA Presbytery,  
Synod of the South Atlantic, General  
Assembly of the Presbyterian Church  
(USA)

Come one, come all, to our monthly Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon. On Tuesday, February 13, at 12:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall, Melody Lane Cartledge will provide pulled pork, so everyone else bring a side dish, salad, bread, or dessert to share. Our program will be on the how & why of living to be 100 years old! Centenarians have good stories & wisdom to offer, and Mary Ann Johnson will glean the best for us from her work at UGA. Hope to see you!

Covenant will welcome Nibs Stroupe, as our guest speaker on February 18 at the 8:30am & 10:45am worship services. Nibs is the author of the book, Deep Waters Sermons for a New Vision a sermon collection— but also a manifesto. Its sermons sound forth a call for Christian preaching that is *evangelical* and *emancipatory*: un-ashamed of the good news about Christ's death and resurrection and resolute in resistance to white supremacy, male domination, and redemptive violence. For thirty-four years, Stroupe pastored at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, a multiracial congregation in metropolitan Atlanta. The sermons of this collection present the mature fruit of that ministry, and they offer a gift and example to the next generation of preachers and workers summoned as witnesses of Jesus Christ to the American context. A book signing will follow the 10:45am worship service in the fellowship hall. Books are \$15 each (cash or check only). (see page 5 for more info)

### **Bowden Church Vocations Fund**—a special offering for Covenant Presbyterian Church

We continue to be grateful to God for all the gifts of the Spirit seen in Covenant's ministry of the past 52 years. We have had 8 candidates for ministry who attended Columbia Seminary in Atlanta: Andy Casto-Waters, Rob Lohmeyer, Jennifer and David Horton, Insook Lee, Boin Cho, David Fuentes, and Lauren Van Wicklen Peters and one who attended Union in Richmond, Robin Mann Murzynski. We have also supported the efforts of our members as Volunteers in Mission, on summer Mission Teams, as student interns on our church staff, and in other studies and certifications at Montreat College and Columbia Seminary. We also encouraged Susan Verbrugge and Catherine Willis Oliver as they too became PCUSA Ministers of Word & Sacrament. Named in honor of Jim & Jere Bowden's 35 year ministry here at Covenant, the BOWDEN CHURCH VOCATIONS FUND was established in 1996 by our Session to support our members who have been called to full-time employment in some form of Christian ministry. This year we celebrate with Colleen Cook who is finishing her third of 4 years at Columbia Seminary this spring. Colleen is a longtime member, who was active in the choir and coordinator of our CovConn program. Please keep her in your prayers. The costs are great. *A special offering for the Bowden Fund will be received this month. Make checks out to Covenant and mark them BCVF or Bowden Fund. PLEASE RESPOND GENEROUSLY, as we support our members in this journey of faith together!*

COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road  
Athens, Georgia 30605  
706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344  
[www.covpresathens.org](http://www.covpresathens.org)  
[covenantp@covpresathens.org](mailto:covenantp@covpresathens.org)



The season of Lent begins this year, Wednesday, **February 14th**. Join us in the evening for our annual Ash Wednesday Worship, beginning at 6:45pm, which includes song, prayer, Scripture, and the imposition of ashes. Our Covenant Connection activities will end at 6:40pm so that the participants may worship with us. May it be a meaningful way to start this season of renewal and new beginnings in the Spirit of Christ.

**Remember in Prayer:** Rebecca Silver and family in the recent passing of her Uncle Randolph Kirby of Woodstock, VA; Stephanie Cahill's niece Jasmine, pregnant and moving to VA, with Graves' disease complications; Abby Horvath's 98-yr-old grandmother with flu, her uncle with prostate cancer, his wife also in chemo, and family members moving to NC; Bert Ballard-Myer's family friend Janet, paralyzed with brain cancer and in hospice care; Dell Whitehead's father Hubert Deaton with a recent fall; Missy Green's sister and Asher Hill's aunt Rebecca, recovering well from complex heart surgery Feb.6; Grace Eubank, at High Shoals Rehab, with a fractured lumbar vertebra; Jean Gibson, at The Oaks; Craig Topple's sister Genia in Atlanta; Joan Baird, Justin Dean, Don Mosley, Carl Huberty, Sharon Edwards, Bill Willis, and Ashley Wolfe, at home.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - February 12-18

Monday Psalm 25: 1-10  
 Tuesday Psalm 25: 11-22  
 Wednesday Genesis 9: 8-17  
 Thursday I Peter 3: 18-22  
 Friday Mark 1: 9-15  
 Saturday Luke 8: 26-33  
 Sunday Luke 8: 34-39

Covenant will welcome Nibs Stroupe, as our guest speaker on February 18 at the 8:30am & 10:45am worship services .

**WHO'S WHO:** Who at Covenant hates cold weather, even though she works outside?



**WHO'S WHO:**  
 Roberta  
 Ballard-Myer

**DOUBLE HITS:** Part A and part B share a word. What is it?

- | <b>A</b>            | <b>B</b>             |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Peter's Family   | 1. Judge unfavorably |
| 2. Added condiments | 2. Experienced       |
| 3. Rough Piece      | 3. Macho Man         |

## 2017-18 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

**WEEK #32 2/04/2018**

Anticipated Pledges: \$297,088.00

Received Pledges: \$305,761.14

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

Souper Bowl of Caring: \$705.00



## Healing Grief Workshop

Wednesdays  
 February 21 through April 18, 2018  
 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
 The Griffin-DuBose Healing Lodge  
 240 Talmadge Drive

A nine-week workshop for those who have lost someone through death. The loss does not have to be cancer related.

### Topics:

Getting Acquainted	Stress Management
Understanding Grief	Anniversaries
Remembering	Memorialization
Accepting	Role Changes
Closure & Evaluation	

Facilitated by  
 Lauren Richards, LCSW

Pre-registration is required for this workshop.  
 Please call 706-475-4900

*This free workshop is sponsored by the "In Their Shoes" Walk.*

*The purpose of Christian Education at Covenant Presbyterian Church is to nurture our discipleship, build our spirit of community and cultivate clarity of thought about our faith.*

**MENU for Feb. 14th:**  
Ham, Mac/Cheese,  
Broccoli, Fruit,  
Birthday Cupcakes

5:15pm—6:00pm k-2nd grade choir; 3rd—5th Servant time

6:30pm–7:15pm 3rd–5th grade Choir; K-2nd Servant Time

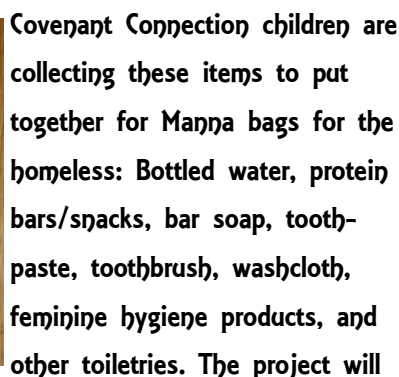
(Feb.7, 21, & 28) “Cotton Patch Gospel,” the gospels of Matthew & John translated into present day Southern vernacular

7:30pm Adult Choir

3:30pm Supervision for Middle & High School Youth in the youth rooms begins

6:00pm Family Dinner      6:30pm Faith and Film

7:15pm Depart    7:25pm Adult Choir



Every Cookie Has A  
**MISSION**  
TO HELP GIRLS DO GREAT THINGS

Girl Scout Cookies. Cookies will be in the first week of February and are the same as last year: Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Dosidoses, Trefoils & Savannah Smiles are \$4 per box. S'mores & Toffee—tastic are \$6 per box. Thank you for your support of these Girl Scouts.

## FINDING SABBATH AT MONTREAT

First Presbyterian Church of Athens, Fellowship Hall, 185 E. Hancock Ave.

Wednesday, February 21, 6:30 p.m., Dinner at 5:45

Montreat Conference Center is a ministry of the PC(USA) located outside of Asheville, NC. For over 100 years, they have provided a sacred space to encounter God through relationships, renewal, recreation, and rest. Everyone is invited to join us as Montreat President Richard DuBose comes to FPC Athens.

You are also welcome to join us for dinner, which begins at 5:45 p.m. For dinner reservations please visit [firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org) and click the "Wed@First" button.



Covenant  
Presbyterian  
Church will  
host  
Learning

Ally's annual Game Night Saturday, February 24th, from 6:00 - 8:30 PM. This family-friendly event includes a potluck dinner and more board and card games than you can possibly play! This event is free and open to the public, but **reservations are required**. To make your reservations or for more information please email Stacie Court at [sCourt@LearningAlly.org](mailto:sCourt@LearningAlly.org), or call her at 706-424-9516.

*Learning Ally is a nonprofit providing dyslexia support through audiobooks & parent support services. Join us in building a community that helps blind, visually impaired & dyslexic students thrive*



## Healing Grief Workshop

Wednesdays  
February 21 through April 18, 2018  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The Griffin-DuBose Healing Lodge  
240 Talmadge Drive

A nine-week workshop for those who have lost someone through death. The loss does not have to be cancer related.

### Topics:

Getting Acquainted	Stress Management
Understanding Grief	Anniversaries
Remembering	Memorialization
Accepting	Role Changes
Closure & Evaluation	

Facilitated by  
Lauren Richards, LCSW

Pre-registration is required for this workshop.  
Please call 706-475-4900

*This free workshop is sponsored by the "In Their Shoes" Walk.*



***La Table 2018. We invite you to join at tables, Covenant and East Friendship Baptist will be hosting for a luncheon to benefit Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens!***

**Date:** Tuesday, February 27, 2018

**Time:** Registration from 11:00-11:45 a.m.; Luncheon at noon

**Place:** Athens Country Club - 2700 Jefferson Rd., Athens, Georgia

**Cost:** \$50 Contribution

*The funds raised through this event will support IHNA in its mission to mobilize our community to help homeless families in crisis situations achieve sustainable independence by providing emergency housing, meals and comprehensive support services.*



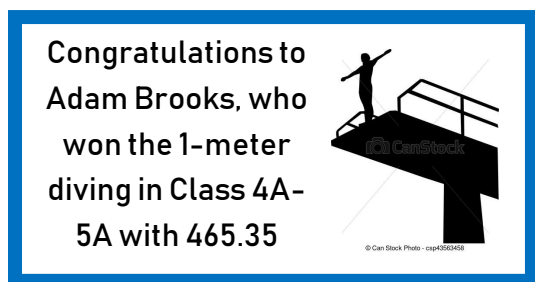
**Nibs Stroupe** is a native of Helena, Arkansas and retired as senior pastor at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church in 2017, where he had been pastor since 1983. Oakhurst Presbyterian is a nationally recognized leader in multi-cultural ministries, having been featured in Time Magazine, NBC News, NPR, CNN News, CBS Radio, Christian Science Monitor, and Presbyterians Today. In 2003, the church was named as one of 300 Excellent Protestant congregations in the United States by a Lilly-based study.

He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Rhodes College with a B.A. in philosophy, and he graduated first in his class from Columbia Seminary in 1975. He was a conscientious objector in the Vietnam War era and did his alternate service by directing a halfway house for men getting out of prison in Nashville from 1970-72.

He is married to the Rev. Caroline Leach, and they have two children and two grandchildren. He and Caroline were the first clergy couple to serve in a local church as co-pastors in the former PCUS, and they were pastors at Oakhurst Presbyterian until her retirement in 2012. He is the author of four books "While We Run This Race," "O Lord, Hold Our Hands," "Where Once We Feared Enemies," and a book of sermons just published "Deeper Waters: Sermons for a New vision," by Wipf&Stock Press.

He has made contributions to many books and magazines, including The Atlantic. He is a monthly columnist for Hospitality Magazine and has written frequently for Journal for Preachers and the Feasting on the Word Series. He has led workshops on racism for more than 50 groups, and he currently serves on the national Presbyterian Intercultural Network Board. He was a member of the board of the Oakhurst Community Health Center for 6 years and served as its chair for 2 years. In 2007 he was inducted into the MLK Board of Preachers at Morehouse College, and in 2008 he and Caroline were named Peacemakers of the Year by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. He served as Moderator of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and was a commissioner to the Presbyterian General Assembly in 1994. He delivered the Kulenkamp Lectures at Eden Seminary in 1997 and the Alumni Lectures at Drew School of Theology in 2006, and he will deliver a lecture at the Conference on Karl Barth and Preaching at Princeton Seminary in June, 2018. He has been adjunct faculty at both Columbia Seminary and Candler School of Theology.

His website is [www.RevNibsStroupe.com](http://www.RevNibsStroupe.com), and he writes a weekly blog at [www.nibsnotes.blogspot.com](http://www.nibsnotes.blogspot.com). His e-mail is [nibs.stroupe@gmail.com](mailto:nibs.stroupe@gmail.com).



#### ANSWERS TO DOUBLE HITS:

1. Pan
2. Seasoned
3. Hunk

The Restaurant Roadtrip is heading to Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, 2040 Oconee Connector, on Tuesday, February 20, at 11:30pm. It's near Loop 10 and Freddy's ice cream shop on Epps Bridge Parkway. Please signup to let us know you're coming. You can meet us there or join a carpool from the church at 11:15am.



For the month of February  
Covenant is collecting for the AAEFB:  
*Saltines, cold cereals*

and as always brown paper bags.

Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!

The Restaurant Roadtrip is heading to Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, 2040 Oconee Connector, on Tuesday, February 20, at 11:30pm. It's near Loop 10 and Freddy's ice cream shop on Epps Bridge Parkway. Please signup to let us know you're coming. You can meet us there or join a carpool from the church at 11:15am. Always good food & fellowship!



**YOGA AT COVENANT!**

**Thursdays at 6:30pm**

**Everyone is welcome!**

Covenant is now capable of making CD's of the Worship Service. They will be available in the

Church Office. The audio portion is also available on the church website. Click on or enter this address to access

<http://covpresathens.org/wp/sermons/>

Join us for Lunch Bunch, every final Tuesday of the month, at DePalma's Eastside at 11:30am. Next one is Tuesday, February 27th. Always good food & fellowship to share. Separate checks – meet you there.

Come one, come all, to our monthly Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon. On Tuesday, February 13, at 12:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall, Melody Lane Cartledge will provide pulled pork, so everyone else bring a side dish, salad, bread, or dessert to share. Our program will be on the how & why of living to be 100 years old! Centenarians have good stories & wisdom to offer, and Mary Ann Johnson will glean the best for us from her work at UGA. Hope to see you there!

**The effects of plastic bags on the environment** are really quite devastating. While there are many objections to the banning of plastic bags based solely on their convenience, the damage to the environment needs to be controlled. There is no way to strictly limit the effects of plastic bags on the environment because there is no disposal method that will really help eliminate the problem. While reusing them is the first step, most people either don't or can't based on store policies. They are not durable enough to stand up to numerous trips to the store so often the best that citizens can do is reuse them when following pooper scooper laws.

The biggest problem with this is that once they have been soiled they end up in the trash, which then ends up in the landfill or burned. Either solution is very poor for the environment. Burning emits toxic gases that harm the atmosphere and increase the level of VOCs in the air while landfills hold them indefinitely as part of the plastic waste problem throughout the globe. Check out the Green Dream Team Bulletin Board for more information.

**5th Sunday Worship** - Next 5th Sunday is April 29. Parents, children, and youth and others can begin to think about and prepare special offerings. Music is coordinated with Cliff Brock ([cbrock@covpresathens.org](mailto:cbrock@covpresathens.org)); Other worship aspects are coordinated with Craig T. ([ctopple@covpresathens.org](mailto:ctopple@covpresathens.org)) and Mark ([mharper@covpresathens.org](mailto:mharper@covpresathens.org))

**Child Liturgist (10:45 Service)** -Children in 3rd - 5th grades are invited to lead the Call to Worship each Sunday. Next three Sundays.  
Feb 11 - Luke Shannon  
Feb 18 - Eli Stone  
Feb 25—Karl Ritzler



In *February* we turn to Matthew 3:1-6;13-17. John the Baptist, Jesus' baptism, our own baptism, and Lent! Water, essential to life, is an essential part of the experience, and also a powerful metaphor. As you and your children interact with water in your day-to-day lives, I encourage you to think of ways water is a deep part of the faith experience, our connection with God, the Earth, and one another.

**Memory Verse: Matthew 3:17** - Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased."

**February Rotation** - *Thanks be to God for our volunteers!*

**K - 2nd** Feb 4th - Kay Brooks and Adam Brooks, Temple Courtyard  
Feb 11th - Nancy Omdahl and Rosa Peña, Loaves and Fishes  
Feb 18th - Christine Carpenter and Jennifer Frey, Oasis Theatre (combined classes)  
Feb 24th - Luanne Rigbsy and Susan Parish, Potter's Workshop

**3rd - 5th** Feb 4th- Craig Topple and Annemarie Braswell, Potter's Workshop  
Feb 11th - Craig Topple and Jere Bowden, Temple Courtyard  
Feb 18th - Christine Carpenter and Jennifer Frey, Oasis Theatre (combined classes)  
Feb 24th - Patrick McMaster and Jere Bowden, Loaves and Fishes

**GREEK TO ME:** Fill in the blank of the missing letter from words we're learning this month from Matthew 3:

μέ\_\_ι = honey; Βα\_\_τιζω - baptize;

λέγ\_\_ - say/speak; \_\_ωνή - voice

Can you translate this word? Ἰησοῦς

**YOUTH NEWS!** - Can you provide a meal for Sunday Night Youth group? If so, please contact DeLynda Tweedell, and thank you! Sign up sheet is outside the church office.

### Covenant Connection!

3:45 - 5pm: Study Hall/Hang out  
5:15 - 6: Bible Study with Pastors Mark and Beecher  
6 - 6:30: Supper  
6:30-7:15 - Movie with Craig Barber and Juergen Wiegel

### Next Three Sunday Evening programs

Feb 11: Youth Group - Topic, Preparing for the Lenten Journey (Mary Barnett –Supper)  
Feb 18: No Youth Group, Winter Retreat  
Feb 25: Youth Group - W/A/M, visit to Highland Hills Assisted Living to help lead evening worship  
Sign up/ questions/ feedback - [ctopple@covpresathens.org](mailto:ctopple@covpresathens.org)

### Sunday morning's at 9:30

**B.A.S.I.C.** Sunday school with Abby Horvath happens every Sunday at 9:30am in youth room.

### Sunday Evenings: 5-7pm at church unless otherwise specified.

*We are exploring the Beatitudes, specifically, experiencing the blessing of being peacemakers*



Moses' first and last day as a lifeguard.

**The Cave** - the Covenant Sponsored free after school program for middle and high school students from 3:45-5:30 every Friday there is a regular school day. *Thank you volunteers who make this valuable program happen!* Contact Christina Cotsakis Cordon, Cave Manager, for more information or to volunteer: [cotsakiscordon@gmail.com](mailto:cotsakiscordon@gmail.com)

**WEEK OF February 11, 2018****SUNDAY-**

8:30am WORSHIP  
 9:30am Church School for All Ages  
 10:45am Worship  
 12:15pm Witness Ministry Team Meeting (Upper Room)  
 5pm Youth Groups

**MONDAY- OFFICE CLOSED**

Beecher on leave through Feb. 12  
 6:00pm Scouts

**TUESDAY-**

9:30am Athens Mother's Center  
 12:30pm Graduates Covered Dish Lunch with Mary Ann Johnson  
 7:00pm Athens Stamp Club  
 1:30pm Grief Recovery—Upper Room (Pattie Priester)  
 8pm New Freedom  
 7:00pm Christian Education Meeting

**WEDNESDAY- ASH WEDNESDAY**

10am Adult Bible Study  
 5:15pm—6:40pm CovConn  
 6:45pm—7:15pm ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE  
 7:25pm Adult Choir

**THURSDAY-**

2:00pm Knitters & Knotters  
 6:30pm—8:00pm YOGA 7:00pm Sanctuary Task Force Meeting  
 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery (Mary McGarity)

**FRIDAY-**

9:30am Athens Mother's Center  
 3:30pm The Cave  
 8pm New Freedom

**SATURDAY- WinterTreat for Youth thru 2/19**

11:30am—2pm Climate Lobby Meeting  
 4:00pm Ann Haarmann & Jim Anderson Wedding  
 Fellowship Hall Cleaned

---

**WORSHIP—February 11, 2018****8:30am**

Reader: Steve Bell

Ushers: Judy Capie, Jim Smith Coffee Maker: Lola Bell

**10:45am**

Liturgist: Luke Shannon

Reader: Steve Follin

Ushers: Bill Rigsby, Julie Bower, Dick Zimdars, Jim & Dorothy Newland

Greeters: Anna, Shari & Jimmy Cobb

Congregational Care: Bert Ballard-Myer

Counters: Sue Loegel, Pam Knox

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alex Clark

Close the Building: Alex Clark

Grounds Stewards: Hank Tweedell (Feb. 12-18)

Nursery/Super: Christine Carpenter

Birth—Walking: Christine Carpenter

Walking—5 years old: Carolyn Hatfield, Jennifer Frey, McKenzie Redish

**WEEK OF February 18, 2018****SUNDAY-**

8:30am WORSHIP  
 9:30am Church School for All Ages  
 10:45am Worship  
 NO Youth Groups

**MONDAY- OFFICE CLOSED**

8:00am Covenant Breakfast at Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge Road  
 6:00pm Scouts

**TUESDAY-**

9:30am Athens Mother's Center  
 11:30am Restaurant Roadtrip to Cheddars  
 1:30pm Grief Recovery—Upper Room (Pattie Priester)  
 6:30pm Session Meeting  
 8pm New Freedom

**WEDNESDAY-**

10am Adult Bible Study  
 5:15pm—7:15pm CovConn  
 6:30pm Adult Bible Study  
 6:30pm WED  
 7:25pm Adult Choir

**THURSDAY-**

2:00pm Knitters & Knotters  
 6:30pm—8:00pm YOGA  
 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery (Mary McGarity) 8pm Happy Squares

**FRIDAY-**

9:30am Athens Mother's Center  
 3:30pm The Cave  
 8pm New Freedom

**SATURDAY-**

Fellowship Hall Cleaned  
 9:30am States Presbytery Meeting at First Pres in Milledgeville  
 4:30pm Set up for Learning Ally in Fellowship Hall  
 6pm—9pm Learning Ally

---

**WORSHIP—February 18, 2018****8:30am**

Reader: Sonja Holden

Ushers: Wayne Crowell, Alan Edwards Coffee Maker: Dennis Calbos

**10:45am**

Liturgist: Eli Stone

Reader: Phil Hale

Ushers: Stephanie Cahill, Julie & Don Bower, Robyn Malone, Betsy Pless

Greeters: Jim & Dorothy Newland, Don Bower

Congregational Care: Bert Ballard-Myer

Counters: Caren Snook, Paige Campbell

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alan Edwards

Close the Building: Hank Tweedell

Grounds Stewards: Alex Clark (Feb. 19-25)

Nursery/Super: DeLynda Tweedell

Birth—Walking: DeLynda Tweedell

Walking—5 years old: Luanne Rigsby, Tim Foutz, Carrie Tweedell