THE COVENANTER February 18, 2018

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



covenant welcomes Nibs Stroupe, as our guest speaker TODAY- 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 emancipatatory. 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). (pg 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 covenantp@covpresathens.org



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!

Remember in Prayer: brother of Junan Crisler, Jeff Davis in ICU in Texas; Debbie Waters, friend of the community, mother, Myrtle Chambers passed away Tuesday, February 6 at 96 years old;
Linda Turner, our presbytery's longtime admin. assistant, recovering well from gallbladder removal and pancreatitis Feb.12; Mitchell Wolfe, for God's blessings on his spiritual journey; the family of Rich Rusk upon his recent death, Cary Ritzler's friend in the community; Dell Whitehead's father Hubert Deaton, with a broken left arm after a second fall in Gainesville; our Cedar Shoals neighbor
Mrs. Bowen & family, in a difficult time; 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 19-25

Monday Psalm 22: 23-31

Tuesday Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16*

Wednesday Romans 4: 13-25

Thursday Mark 3: 1-6

Friday Mark 8: 31-38*

Saturday I Corinthians 1: 18-25

Sunday I Peter 4: 1-2, 12-16, 19

Title: It's All Good

Theme: Our relationship with God is forever, carrying us through the ups and

downs of life.

WHO'S WHO: Who at Covenant, as a Middler. entered a cherry pie baking contest honoring George Washington and won?

Carol Huber

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

<u>A</u> <u>B</u>

1. enclosure 1. outpowers a sword

2. dishonest
 2. askew

3. Cod is one 3. Zorro's trademark

(Citizens' Climate Education

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE FAITH COMMUNITIES

Join us for an exploration of Climate Change and the Issues it poses for the Faith Communities.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25/TH 2:00-3:30 PM

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1065 GAINES SCHOOL ROAD

LIGHT SNACKS PROVIDED.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT US AT: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ATHENSCOL

2017-18 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

WEEK #33 2/11/2018

Anticipated Pledges: \$306,372.00 Received Pledges: \$317,774.64 Thank you for your faithful giving!

Bowden Vocations Fund: \$1,740.00

SANCTUARY MOVEMENT TASK FORCE-At our session meeting on August 15th, the session voted to create a "Sanctuary Task Force" that would explore ways Covenant might respond in faith and compassion to undocumented immigrants in the Athens area. One of the primary ways might be to support work already being undertaken by our friends at Oconee Street United Methodist Church under the leadership of our Green Acres neighbor JoBeth Allen. Please take a moment to read the "Athens-Area Sanctuary Coalition Proposal" that JoBeth distributed at our session meeting and prayerfully consider whether you might want to be a part of this effort. Feel free to contact Mark Harper or Sue Rathbun if you have interest or questions.



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.

Wonderful Wednesdays 10:00am Adult Bible Study

Covenant Connection

MENU for Feb. 22th: MENU for Feb. 22th: Wegetarian Chili, com Chips, salad, fruit, Birthday Cupcakes

5:15pm – 6:00pm k-2nd grade choir; 3rd – 5th Servant time 6:00-6:30pm Family Dinner for children, youth and adults

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

6:30pm Adult Bible Study

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

6:30 pm-7:15 pm Wednesday Evening Devotions

7:30pm Adult Choir

Wednesday Covenant Connection for Youth

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

5:15pm "Wednesday School" for Youth led by Mark & Beecher

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

7:15pm Depart 7:25pm Adult Choir



Covenant Connection children are collecting these items to put together for Manna bags for the homeless: Bottled water, protein bars/snacks, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, washcloth, feminine hygiene products, and other toiletries. The project will

begin February 28th. Please leave your contributions in the box in the hallway in front of the church office. Thanks!



Lily Herndon and Carrie Tweedell are now taking orders for

Girl Scout Cookies. Cookies will be in the first week of February and are the same as last year: Thin Mints, Samoas,
Tagalongs, Dosidoes, 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 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, 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
Understanding Grief
Remembering
Accepting
Closure & Evaluation

Stress Management
Anniversaries
Memorialization
Role Changes

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 multicultural 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 <u>www.RevNibsStroupe.com</u>, and he writes a weekly blog at <u>www.nibsnotes.blogspot.com</u>. His e-mail is nibs.stroupe@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Adam Brooks, who won the 1-meter diving in Class 4A-5A with 465.35 points!



ANSWERS TO DOUBLE HITS:

- 1. Pew
- Crooked
- 3. Cape

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.

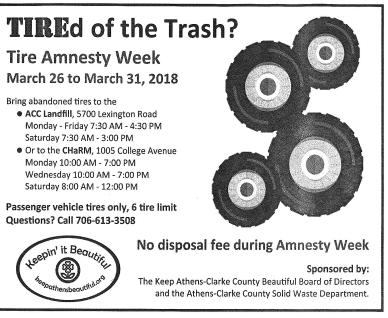
Highlights of the called Session meeting on Tues.Feb.4 include: 1) approval of hiring Grahl Construction to renovate our bathrooms for \$120,055; 2) approval of an additional 10% for potential, unexpected costs, if needed, for a possible total of \$132,000; and 3) approval of Hank Tweedell as the one person representing Covenant with the contractor during construction. Renovations should begin by early March. *Ongoing copies of the minutes of Session meetings, as well as Ministry Team minutes, can be found on the table in the narthex. All Session meetings are open to anyone's attendance.*

I am truly thankful to all those in the Covenant congregation who contributed to the Ben Bruner Fund. The purpose of the fund was to help Ben go with his Cedar Shoals ROTC unit to Normandy France to celebrate the 70th anniversary of D-Day. That trip was a wonderful gift to Ben who would not have been able to go without this help from you. All of the funds were not used by Ben for that trip. Now Ben is a freshman cadet at the University of North Georgia, Dahlonega. He was a good student at Cedar Shoals and earned grants and scholarships for his freshmen semester at UNG. Some fees were not covered by these grants/scholarships. The remaining dollars in the Ben Bruner Fund have been used to pay some of the remaining fees. Thank you all so much for your contributions to help this deserving young man.

Ben has now finished his first semester at UNG-Dahlonega and I am happy to report that he made all A's during this first semester!!!

If you would like to send him a note of encouragement, his mailing address is Ben Bruner, Box 6769, UNG Post Office, 82 College Circle, Dahlonega, GA 30596

Catharine Tyson



SHRED EVENT

Saturday April 21, 2018 9 AM – 12 PM CHaRM 1005 College Ave. Athens, GA 30601

For more information contact ACC Recycling Division: (706) 613-3512, recycle@athensclarkecounty.com, or athensclarkecounty.com/recycle



Area residents and small businesses can shred up to 2 boxes (size of a bankers box) of documents for free. Additional boxes can be shredded for a \$5.00 fee per box, payable in CASH.

The Lindsay Group will provide secure destruction of your

confidential and sensitive materials for FREE with their mobile shredding units that destroy materials onsite under

your supervision.
The ACC Recycling Division will recycle the shreds.

*The Lindsay Group now offers hard drive destruction for \$10.00 per hard drive. Cash Only. Size: 8.5 in. x 5.5 in. x 1 in. INDSAY GROUP 706.549.8902 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.

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/

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);

Other worship aspects are coordinated with Craig T. (ctopple@covpresathens.org) and Mark (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 18 - Eli Stone

Feb 25—Karl Ritzler

March 4—Wesley Whitehead



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 Courtvard

Feb 11th - Nancy Omdahl and Rosa Peña, Loaves and Fishes

Feb 18th - Christine Carpenter and Jennifer Frey, Oasis Theatre (combined classes)

Feb 24th - Luanne Rigsby 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: We are getting along learning the Greek alphabet. Do you remember:

What is the third letter of the Greek alphabet?

Why was ε scared of ζ ?

These letters look familiar but don't sound like they look. Can you identify them and tell your parents the correct pronunciation? P, η , v Repeat from last week: Can you translate this word? 'Inoove

Raising our children in the faith is a gift we give and receive.

YOUTH NEWS! - During the school year, when school is in session, youth have three weekly oppor-

tunities to get together with your friends. CovConn on Weds, after school until 7:15pm; Sunday Morning at 9:30am with Abby and BASIC; and Sunday evenings from 5-7pm for Youth Groups, at church unless otherwise indicated.

Next Three Sunday Evening programs

Feb 18: No Youth Group, Winter Retreat

Feb 25: Youth Group - regular time. W/A/M nightleave from church to visit to Highland Hills Assisted Living to help lead evening worship.

March 4 - Youth Group, Highway Clean up/ Game night

Sign up/ questions/ feedback - ctopple@covpresathens.org

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

Sunday morning's at 9:30

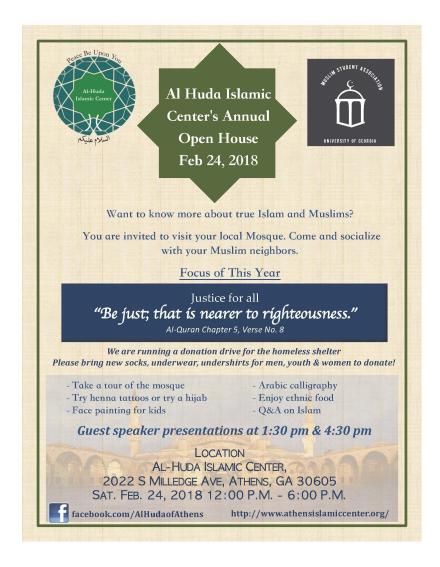
B.A.S.I.C. Sunday school with Abby Horvath happens every Sunday at 9:30am in youth room.

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

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



WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING CREATURES THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS



Come and see! You are invited to bring a bag lunch to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 4, at 12:30pm, and hear a wonderful presentation from Eric Zimdars about his 2 years in the Peace Corps in Alto Parana, Paraguay, 2014-16. Remember that Covenant helped finance "Water Security for Community Production," digging a deeper well to irrigate the 100,000 yerba mate saplings produced annually by 13 small-scale, local farmers. Eric will be moving out west later this year, to pursue employment and a graduate degree – so this is our chance to learn more from him about his experience. Hope you can attend!

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:ooam Covenant Breakfast at Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge Road

6:oopm 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 in the FH

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

Reader: Sonja Holden

Ushers: Wayne Crowell, Alan Edwards

Coffee Maker: Dennis Cal-

bos 10:45am

8:30am

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: Rich Reaves

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

Nursery/Super: Joan Baird Birth-Walking: Joan Baird

Walking—5 years old: Luanne Rigsby, Tim Foutz

WEEK OF February 25, 2018

SUNDAY-

8:30am WORSHIP

9:30am Church School for All Ages

10:45am Worship

2pm Citizens Climate Lobby Meeting in FH

5pm Youth Groups

MONDAY- OFFICE CLOSED

6:oopm Scouts

TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mother's Center

11:00am—2pm La Table at the Country Club 11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's Eastside

1:30pm Grief Recovery—Upper Room (Pattie Priester)

8pm New Freedom in FH

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)

FRIDAY-

9:30am Athens Mother's Center

3:30pm The Cave 8pm New Freedom

SATURDAY-

Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—February 25, 2018

8:30am

Reader: Dianne Simpson

Ushers: Heidi & Kent Wolfe

Coffee Maker: Shirley Hunt

10:45am

Liturgist: Karl RItzler

Reader: Jim Newland

Ushers: Kent Silver, Marie Ballard-Myer, Julie Bower, Shirley Reinert

Greeters: Tim & Karen Foutz, Julie Bower

Congregational Care: Bert Ballard-Myer

Counters: Sue Loegel, Judy Capie

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alan Edwards Close the Building: Hank Tweedell

Grounds Stewards: Wayne Crowell (Feb. 26-March 4)

Nursery/Super: Pam Knox Birth—Walking: Pam Knox

Walking—5 years old: Brian & Wyatt Herndon, Megan Sperr