



Covenant Chimes



April 2021

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Notes from Session

March 2, 2021

Session welcomed new officers Mary McCarter, Hubert van Tuyll, and Chris Henry. Steve Bell was excused. Ruling Elders Charlotte Ealick, Judy Grieve, Vernon Barnes, Brock Daniels, Chris Terry, Joe Huff, Sarah Colborn, Chuck Baldwin were present as well as Teaching Elder Katelyn Gordon Cooke, Teaching Elder Andy Cooke. Music Director Lyn Patterson and Aubrey Moore also attended the meeting. After all procedural items were voted on affirmatively, Moderator Katelyn called the meeting to order.

Katelyn used one of the Lenten Micro Practices, creating a “sticky note” prayer wall, for the devotion. She asked Session members to use the chat function of Zoom to post prayers they have for people, places, and/or circumstances. Katelyn thanked members for sharing and informed the group she would use these for the closing prayer. Katelyn opened the meeting with prayer.

Clerk’s Report

There were no building requests or membership changes. Presbytery commissioners Judy Grieve, Chris Terry, and Brock Daniels each shared the highlights of the February 27, 2021 Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting.

(See “Session Notes,” page 3)

From Our Pastor

One of my favorite songs is “Awake My Soul” by the band Mumford and Sons. There’s a chance you’ve heard it on the radio, but if you haven’t heard it before, you can find it on YouTube or Spotify or any other music streaming service.

The lyrics of the song’s refrain are:

*In these bodies we will live; in these bodies we will die,
And where you invest your love, you invest your life.*

I doubt that the band members were thinking about Lent or Holy Week when they wrote those words, but they could have been. Life, death, bodies, and love – these are the very things at the heart of this liturgical season when we revisit stories about Jesus’ earthly ministry, the way he loved people with broken bodies and broken hearts, and then gave his own body to die on a cross so that we might have life.

This month, we take the final leg of our Lenten journey to the cross, and during Holy Week, we’ll witness some of the most beautiful and most terrible events of our faith.

I’m grateful that our Holy Week services will look more like what we’re used to this year (in comparison to last year when we had just started virtual worship and hadn’t yet started live-streaming), and you can read more about Holy Week and Easter morning worship services on page 2.

As we move through the final days of Lent and into the season of Easter, may we lean into the promises of Jesus’ resurrection that how we live matters, how we die matters, what we do with our bodies matters, and the way we love others matters.

Grace and peace,
Katelyn



Covenant is an Earth Care Congregation

Congratulations, Covenant! We did it! We received certification as an Earth Care congregation. In order to



accomplish this, our session took the "Earth Care Pledge" and our congregation completed activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities and outreach throughout 2020. We will continue tracking our activities in order to maintain our certification. The beneficiary of all of this work is God's creation and the poor, who are most impacted by environmental destruction.

Amy House,
Creation Care Task Force

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: All Covenant Members

Co-Pastors:

The Rev. Katelyn Gordon Cooke and
The Rev. Andy Cooke

Director of Music and Organist:

Lyn M. Patterson

Parish Associate:

The Rev. Karla Conditt Daniels

Nursery Caregiver: Mary Simms

Church Secretary: Judy Strogonoff

Interim Finance Secretary:

Jenn Harrison

Preschool Director: Lauren Stull

Covenant Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. Mon-Fri

Worship



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

With the exception of the Good Friday service, all of these services are open to the congregation and community, and you are not required to RSVP ahead of time.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Thursday, April 1 at 7 p.m.
Covenant Sanctuary

Good Friday Community Service

Friday, April 2 at noon
*Livestream only

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.
Memorial Garden

Communion Service at 11 a.m.
Covenant sanctuary

EASTER CROSS

You are invited to come by on Sunday and place flowers from your yard on the cross as we continue the tradition of the flowered cross. The large wooden cross will be in the narthex. The flowering of the cross is a beautiful way to witness to the new life that comes through Christ's Resurrection.



Congregational Life

FAMILY * FOOD * FRIENDS!



FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS

Food Truck Fridays are back! Mark your calendar for Friday, April 23, and plan to join us in the playground side parking lot for dinner and fellowship from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Save the date for more Food Truck Fridays on May 14 and June 4!

New Stage 2 Guidelines

The Session has approved Stage 2 Guidelines for safely occupying the building. You can read the full guidelines on our website by clicking the *News and Resources* tab. Here are a few highlights:

- ◆ Everyone continues to wear a mask when inside of the building.
- ◆ Reservations are no longer required for Sunday morning worship.
- ◆ The limit for people in the sanctuary is increased to 60 people.
- ◆ The choir may begin practicing again. People who are fully vaccinated and wear a singing mask may participate.
- ◆ Time with Children during worship has resumed.
- ◆ Nursery and Children's Church will resume at some point in the future when it is practical and feasible.
- ◆ Groups may meet in the building if everyone wears a mask and the guidelines for group sizes are followed.

Session Notes

(continued from page 1)

Treasurer's Report

Aubrey Moore reported he did not have a report for February yet but would send it to Session members when he has it. He reported that revenues continue to come in as projected.

Task Forces

- Membership Task Force has begun going over the rolls. Session affirmed their approval of the two letters written by the co-pastors, one to inactive members and the other to members who have moved away. The task force wants members to know they are missed and that removal from the rolls is their decision.
- The Open the Gates Task Force's motion to move to Stage 2 was passed. These new recommendations will be sent to the congregation, put in the Chimes, and posted around the church.
- The Memorials Task Force is still in the process of reviewing information and will present a policy recommendation at the next Session meeting.

Ministry Reports

- Building and Grounds Ministry Team: Chuck Baldwin informed session of a sink hole located under the kitchen. A contractor has given an estimate of \$9,750 to correct the issue. Andy told session a church member had given Covenant a CSRA Community Foundation grant of

\$10,000 that has no stipulations as to how it is used. A motion to use the grant for the sinkhole repair was made, seconded and passed.

- Congregational Life Ministry Team told Session they are working to have a Fire and Fellowship event on March 6, 6:30- 8:30.
- Education Ministry Team gave an update of ongoing Education activities.
- Mission Ministry Team made one motion to observe Earth Day during worship April 25, 2021. The motion passed. Vernon Barnes shared that Mission will offer another outing to Pinzy Swamp on April 24, 2021.
- Sustainability Ministry Team presented two motions. The first was to remove the last sentence from the vacation section of the Personnel Policy that *"Up to one week vacation may be carried over to the next calendar year from the policy."* This motion passed. The second motion to add the following in the Director of Music Job Description section #12 *"Provide detailed copyright information for the paper bulletin and for the livestream video on a weekly basis and provide weekly reporting to copyright licensing agencies."* This motion passed as well.
- Worship Ministry Team reported all is going well.

Deacons

Andy reported the Diaconate had met twice since the last Session meeting and that all actions teams are busy. The new Diaconate leadership is Moderator Sabina Widner, Vice Moderator Deb Pittman, and Secretary Lindsay Kircher.

There was neither **Old nor New Business**.

Co Pastor's Report

Andy told Session he had worked hard on the training for new officers and the officer retreat, and he felt both went very well. He shared that he was very happy to have Katelyn return to work. Katelyn expressed her gratitude to all those who helped during her maternity leave, giving her time with Charlie and Andy.

Katelyn closed the meeting with prayer at 8:20pm.

The next Session meeting will be April 6, 2021 at 7pm via zoom.

A thought for all of us at Covenant: Philippians 4:6 NRSV

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Judy Grieve,
Clerk of Session



Education



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Zoom Gathering

Sunday, April 18 // 2:00-2:30 p.m.

Elementary and preschool kids are invited to our monthly Children's Zoom gathering! Each month's gathering looks a little different, but we always have time to catch up with our friends, hear a Bible story, and pray together. We hope you'll join us this month!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Our youth group schedule looks a little different this month, so please be sure to read the information below for each week's activity. We may also have an additional gathering or two to work on plans for Youth Sunday, so check your email and texts for messages from Katelyn.

April 4 – Easter
No youth group

April 11 – Youth Sunday planning
3 p.m. via Zoom

April 18 – Youth Sunday!

Middle and high school youth lead worship at 11 a.m.

April 25 – Fourth Sunday Fellowship

Mini golf
3 p.m. at Top Golf, 437 Topgolf Way

Summer Trip Registration

Friendly reminder to youth families – Registration for youth summer trips was due on March 31. If you haven't registered yet and are interested in participating in one of these trips, please be in touch with Katelyn!

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, May 16, we'll celebrate Covenant members who are graduating from high school, college, or graduate school this year! If you or someone in your family is graduating this year, please take a moment to let us know by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/covgrad2021> or by calling the church office by May 10. Thank you!



YOUNG ADULT

Thursday, April 15 // 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

This monthly virtual gathering for Covenant Young Adults includes time for fellowship, Bible Study, and prayer. Young adults take turns leading the discussion, and we always enjoy some good theological conversation. Check the Friday email for the Zoom link, and we hope to see you there!

ADULT

SALT and Choir Class Adult Sunday School

All Covenant adults are invited to participate in our adult Sunday School class at 9:45 AM via Zoom as we discuss the book, *Traveling Light* by Eugene Peterson. The book centers around God's gift of freedom in Christ as chronicled in Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Brock Daniels will have a Zoom screen set up in the church parlor each week at 9:45 AM for those folks who cannot participate from home. For questions about adult classes, feel free to contact Judy Grieve, Steve Bell, or Kathy Ordelt.

NOTE: we will not have adult Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 4 and we will complete our review of this book on April 18.

On April 25, we will begin an engaging new series led by Mary Beachum, entitled *Voices of the Early Church*. In this five-part Sunday School series, we will explore the experiences of some of the people who are witnesses to Christianity in the first few generations after the apostolic church of the New Testament. Some we will get to know in their own words and others in contemporary accounts of their lives. We will be able to consider what they contributed to the development of the church and what lessons they have for our adventures with Christ. Suggestions for reading will be included in each weekly email.

April 25: *The World of the Early Church and Its Outside Witnesses*

May 2: *Christian Apologists Who Spoke Out for the Church*

May 9: *Determining Church Policies (Did They Have Committees Already?)*

May 16: *Two Heroic Men: Friends and Martyrs*

May 23: *Two Heroic Women: A Diary and a Novel*

Wednesday Night Fellowship

EARTH DAY PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 21 // 7:00 p.m.



Join us on Earth Day Eve to explore together what it means to be stewards of God's creation and how we can be faithful in this calling. More information about this event will be available in upcoming church publications.

RETIREMENT OF LINDA-JEAN JAY



As you may have heard, Linda-Jean Jay retired from her role as Finance Secretary on March 31. We are grateful to LJ for her service

to our congregation over the past couple of years. She has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her work at Covenant, and many of you have come to know her well during her time here. While we will miss her in the office, she and Charles will remain members of our congregation, and you will see them in worship and at other events. We hope that you will join us in expressing our gratitude to LJ for a job well done and wishing her every blessing as she transitions into retirement.

WELCOME TO JENN HARRISON



On March 10, we welcomed Jenn Harrison into the role of Interim Finance Secretary at Covenant. Jenn currently occupies this same position at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, where she has worked part time for the past ten years. With an accounting degree from Augusta University and lots of experience running our financial software at another Presbyterian church, she has been a great help to us as we navigate the transition of this position. Jenn will work at Covenant on Wednesday and Friday afternoons doing the essential financial processes until we find someone to permanently fill this position. If you need to reach her, then you may email her at jharrison@covenantaugusta.org.

Presbyterian Women

PW CIRCLES

The combined circle meeting will be held on April 20, 2021 at 2:00 pm. Details will be provided via email and This Week at Covenant.

BIRTHDAY OFFERING 2021

The Presbyterian Women's (PW) annual Birthday Offering for 2021 is being collected on Sunday, April 25, 2021. This year, the offering is being used to support three projects:

- Garden Gate Ranch, Inc. of Des Moines, IA — an Education Center Renovation
- Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc. of Stone Mountain, GA — Gymnasium Capital Improvements

- Nkhoma Mission Hospital of Nkhoma, Malawi — Women's Health Center / OBGYN Theatre

Please visit the link below to learn more about the offering and the recipients. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmp2bYiSrdg>

Birthday offering envelopes will be in the bulletins on April 25th. You can also give electronically via Realm.

All contributions will be greatly appreciated.

We are BLOOMING in so many areas of the preschool this month!!! We trapped leprechauns in celebration of St. Patrick's Day! We will plant a rainbow of flower seeds and enjoy fruit loops as a rainbow snack in Totally Terrific Thursday! We will then turn our focus to new life by reading the book, *Whose Egg?* We will take a virtual field trip to a farm to see baby animals and learn about Passover traditions in chapel. Our Easter egg hunts will get underway, and we will celebrate Earth Day. Our Summer Fun registration begins. We look forward to a great themed activity two week sessions beginning June 8th. Please keep us in mind when recommending children's day out, preschool and kindergarten to your friends and family members for the upcoming school year and summer fun activities! We continue to thrive in so many areas. Thanks to everyone for your continued thoughts, prayers and support! Enjoy this picture of Marley Kitchens who likes to sit in Mrs. Lauren's chair, put on her glasses and pretend to register children in the preschool.



Train up a child in the way he should go..... -Proverbs 22:6

Lauren Stull,
Preschool Director

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Palm Sunday Special Offering One Great Hour of Sharing 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Class, Zoom 11:00 AM Stage 2 Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo 12:30 PM Worship Ministry Team, Zoom 3:00 PM Youth Fellowship, Virtual Escape Room	29 6:00 PM Companions in Christ, Zoom	30	31 7:00 PM WNF Program, Zoom 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	1 Maundy Thursday 6:00 PM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary and Live Stream on Vimeo	2 Good Friday 12:00 PM Community Good Friday Service, Covenant Presbyterian Church and Live Stream	3 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
4 Easter Sunday 7:00 AM Sunrise Easter Service, Memorial Garden 11:00 AM Stage 2 Communion Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo	5 Masters Week Preschool Spring Break 6:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor	6 Masters Week Preschool Spring Break 2:00 PM Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Meeting, Zoom 3:30 PM Communion at Brandon Wilde 7:00 PM Stated Session Meeting, Zoom	7 Masters Week Preschool Spring Break	8 Masters Week Preschool Spring Break 6:00 PM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal	9 Masters Week Preschool Spring Break	10 Masters Week 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
11 Masters Week 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Class, Zoom 11:00 AM Stage 2 Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo 3:00 PM Youth Sunday Planning	12 9:30 AM Membership Task Force, Zoom 5:30 PM Congregational Life Ministry Team, Zoom 6:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor 6:30 PM Building & Grounds Ministry Team, Zoom	13 6:00 PM Education Ministry Team, Zoom	14 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study, Zoom 1:30 PM Covenant Staff Meeting, Zoom 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	15 6:00 PM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal 7:00 PM Young Adult Gathering, Zoom	16	17 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
18 Youth Sunday 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Class, Zoom 11:00 AM Stage 2 Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo 2:00 PM Children's Ministry Gathering, Zoom	19 COVENANT CHIMES DEADLINE 6:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor	20 2:00 PM Deborah and Faith Circles, Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Sustainability Ministry Team, Zoom	21 7:00 PM Wednesday Night Fellowship, Earth Day Program, Zoom 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	22 Earth Day 6:00 PM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal	23 5:30 PM Food Truck Friday	24 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Phinizy Swamp Guided Hike 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
25 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Class, Zoom 11:00 AM Stage 2 Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo 12:30 PM Worship Ministry Team, Zoom 3:00 PM Youth Fellowship, Mini Golf	26 6:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor	27 6:00 PM Mission Ministry Team, Zoom	28 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study, Zoom 1:30 PM Covenant Staff Meeting, Zoom 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	29 4:00 PM Open the Gates Task Force, Zoom 6:00 PM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal	30	1 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104

On the Bias

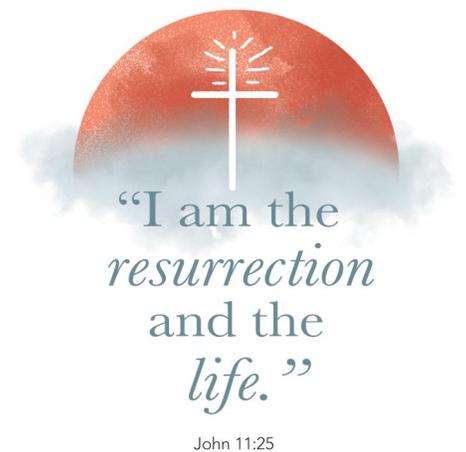
During Lent, we studied biases on Wednesday nights as outlined in Brian McLaren's book *Why Don't They Get It?: Overcoming Bias in Others (and Yourself)*. We talk about how we are called to be transformed in Romans 12:2, and asked how our biases might be hindering our transformation. Some of you have asked for a list of these biases, so we decided to include them below. Thanks to all of you who participated in our study! If you didn't participate, then it may be helpful to look at this list below and ask how your biases might be hindering your transformation.

- **Confirmation Bias:** We judge new ideas based on the ease with which they fit in with and confirm the only standard we have: old ideas, old information, and trusted authorities. As a result, our framing story, belief system, or paradigm excludes whatever doesn't fit.
- **Complexity Bias:** Our brains prefer a simple falsehood to a complex truth.
- **Community Bias:** It's almost impossible to see what our community doesn't, can't, or won't see.
- **Complementarity Bias:** If you are hostile to my ideas, I'll be hostile to yours. If you are curious and respectful toward my ideas, I'll respond in kind.
- **Competency Bias:** We don't know how much (or little) we know because we don't know how much (or little) others know.
- **Consciousness Bias:** Some things simply can't be seen from where I am right now. But if I keep growing, maturing, and developing, someday I will be able to see what is now inaccessible to me.
- **Comfort/Complacency Bias:** I prefer not to have my comfort disturbed.
- **Conservative/Liberal Bias:** I lean toward nurturing fairness and kindness, or towards strictly enforcing purity, loyalty, liberty, and authority, as an expression of my political identity.
- **Confidence Bias:** I am attracted to confidence, even if it is false. I often prefer the bold lie to the hesitant truth.
- **Catastrophe Bias:** I remember dramatic catastrophes but don't notice gradual decline (or improvement).
- **Contact Bias:** When I don't have intense and sustained personal contact with "the other," my prejudices and false assumptions go unchallenged.
- **Cash Bias:** It's hard for me to see something when my way of making a living requires me not to see it.
- **Conspiracy Bias:** Under stress or shame, our brains are attracted to stories that relieve us, exonerate us, or portray us as innocent victims of malicious conspirators.



Everyone in the Covenant congregation who wishes to remember or honor family and/or friends through the gift of Easter Lilies is invited to make a donation to the Flower Fund. Donations will be used to purchase lilies to place in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. To cover the cost of the plants, we are asking for a minimum contribution of \$12.00 for each dedication. Orders should be in the church office no later than Tuesday, March 30. Those who make donations are invited to take a lily home after the 11:00 worship service.

You may donate online or send checks to the church office made payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church and note for the Easter Lilies Fund. (To access the form online go to <https://tinyurl.com/2021easterliliesform>.)



Matthew 25 Church

Covenant is a Matthew 25 Congregation!

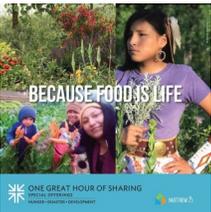


The PC(USA) Presbyterian Mission Agency has developed a program calling churches to become Matthew 25 congregations. Our session has voted to register as

a Matthew 25 congregation with a focus on eradicating systemic poverty. Session has requested that the Mission Ministry Team form and coordinate a task force to address this challenge. As you can read on the PC(USA) website, "Systemic poverty refers to the economic exploitation of people who are poor through laws, policies, practices and systems that perpetuate their impoverished status"

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

March 28



In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Please give generously. IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Although this seems like an insurmountable task to tackle, it is our hope that Covenant can start conversations that will lead us to activities we can work on together. Hopefully we will discover elements of poverty alleviation that we can incorporate into our congregational life. This is just the beginning of these conversations at Covenant, but our General Assembly has made statements on systemic poverty as early as 1996. To start us all thinking, statistics from 2020 include:

- The United States national median income is \$78,500
- Poverty for a family of 4 is defined as a yearly income \leq \$26,500
- 40.6 million people live in poverty in the United States

- The United States has the 4th highest poverty rate (17.8%) despite being the largest economy in the world

Look for articles in future Covenant newsletters to help inform us all on the effects of poverty and what we can do to help.

Our first task force meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 25 at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall. Please join us as we begin to discuss and organize moving forward to answer God's call to respond to poverty.

"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor." Proverbs 22:9

Elaine Lea, Chair
Matthew 25 Task Force

THE LANEY-WALKER HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

AUGUSTA, GA

Payment can be made at the time of the tour.

Saturday, April 17, 2021

From 1:00-2:00pm
Tour start location: Corner of Laney-Walker and Phillips Street next to the gravesite of Lucy Craft Laney

Cost: \$15.00 per adult
\$10.00 per child (12 and under)

Discover the profound and historic impact of the Laney-Walker district of Augusta, GA on this special guided tour.

Tour Sites Include:

- Christ Presbyterian Church
- Lucy Craft Laney High School (The site of the Haines Normal and Industrial Institute)
- The gravesite of Lucy Craft Laney
- The Laney House
- The Tutt House
- The Bohler House
- The Wallace Branch Library
- The Pearson House
- The gravesite of C.T.Walker
- Tabernacle Baptist Church
- The former site of the Pilgrim Health and Life Insurance Company

To book a tour or for more info please contact Mr. Corey Rogers at ocur761@gmail.com

Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced.

Background photo: The Historic Tabernacle Baptist Church

Church Member Profiles

DEBORAH PITTMAN

I was born in Atlanta on February 12, 1985 to my mother, Constance, and my father, Douglas Bedell. I am the middle of four siblings (Crystal, Douglas Jr., and Dianna). My parents were both very young parents and learned to navigate through this world without a strong sense of parental guidance for themselves. Though they lacked in this department, they made sure that they themselves were phenomenal parents and went without so that we could all have what they never did. We had a great childhood and for that I am grateful.

My mom was a stay-at-home mom when we were little but worked odd jobs here and there. When she was in her 40's, she earned her college degree in Accounting. She worked in accounting while we were teenagers, and then went to work back at the school system. My dad has always worked in remodeling and owned his own business, DLB Remodeling and Repairs. He is now retired, but still does repair work as a hobby in his spare time.

I attended Arbor Station Elementary in Douglasville, GA from K to 4th grade. I was Home-schooled for part of my 3rd grade year and when I was in the 5th grade, I went to Stewart Middle School and progressed to graduate from Alexander High School in 2003. I then went on to get my degree in English with a minor in History at The University of West GA in Carrollton in 2011.

I met my husband Blake when I was 18 at a restaurant in Douglasville, GA called Gumbeaux's Cajun Café. I was a server and he worked in the kitchen. We started dating a year later. We broke up for three years, but then got back together in 2009. We dated for 3 years, one of which Blake was deployed in Iraq; we married May 27, 2012. We had our son, James (Jimmy) Randall Pittman, on July 23, 2016. It's been a fun and wild ride since.

Blake is in the National Guard and works as a contractor for the military. I work at Covenant Preschool and do medical billing from home. I am also looking to get my Master's degree in the next couple of years.

Growing up, we were members of New Covenant United Methodist until I started attending Atlanta West Pentecostal in 2001. I first dedicated my life to the Lord in 2001 when I was 15. I was baptized also at that time.

Blake and I moved to Augusta in May of 2018 for a military deployment. We first enrolled Jimmy into Covenant Preschool before giving Covenant Presbyterian a try. It was our first time going to a Presbyterian church, and we found it very welcoming. We became members of the church in September 2019. We also had Jimmy baptized at Covenant. We are happy to call Covenant our home and feel like we have grown in faith here.

Deb Pittman

OWEN GILLIES

Owen Gillies was born to Amy House and Ralph Gillies in 2005. He was baptized at Covenant Church, attended Covenant's preschool, and has been a regular at Wednesday Night Fellowship. "I've been at Covenant my whole life." Some of his earliest memories are playing at the church playground and learning his letters at the preschool. Since the pandemic, Owen has missed the weekly Wednesday Night Fellowship over the past year and is looking forward to their return.

Owen's sister and brother are Naomi (12) and Jonah (9). Owen is in the 9th grade at Davidson Fine Arts School where his favorite subject is history. Outside of school, Owen likes golfing at the driving range, mountain biking on trails along the Augusta Canal, running, and learning to drive. He also recently learned to snow ski with his friend in North Carolina. "It was intimidating at first but ultimately a lot of fun." Another place besides the mountains where he likes to go is Destin, FL. "I love hanging with my cousin and my extended family who live there. The warm sun, white sands, and emerald water are not too bad either!"

Owen has not yet begun considering college options but does have an interest in film and television, perhaps as a producer one day. Overseeing a project from script, to filming, editing, and distribution would be fun. Owen has created projects in the past using sound editing, graphics, and a green screen for visual effects. This interest and skill make Owen a good fit for Covenant's current A/V team on Sunday mornings. As an aside, Georgia is a film industry friendly state with its tax breaks and geography so perhaps he can get some experience locally.

At Covenant, Owen can be seen at Sunday service assisting the A/V team; at the Building and Grounds workdays; Congregational Life team and as a liturgy reader. Owen particularly likes how welcoming Covenant is to him and others. "I like when new members come everyone goes up to greet them and tries to make them feel welcome."

Ralph Gillies



Mission

GUIDED HIKE AT PHINIZY SWAMP

We will celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 24 with a guided nature hike at Phinizy Swamp. We will meet at the front picnic pavilion next to the silos in the visitor's parking lot at around 10:15 a.m. Our 2-mile hike begins at 10:30 a.m. and should conclude by 12:30 p.m. Please bring a mask and appropriate attire. For more information, contact Charlotte Ealick.

GAP ITEM OF THE MONTH

The item of the month for April is boxes of cereal. This item will be a welcome addition to our Food Pantry shelves.

GAP Ministries continues to serve the hungry through its food pantry, and our supplies are running low. We appreciate all that Golden Harvest does to keep us stocked, but their inventory is down, too. When you are at the store, remember that we especially need bar soap, canned meat, and canned vegetables. If you are sewing face masks, please donate some for our homeless clients. A donation box is outside the church on the landing beside the office door.

Mary Beachum

GOODIES FOR GAP 2021

GAP continues to see large numbers of people in need of food assistance, generally well over 150. Most of the food they give out consists of meats, vegetables, fruit and other basic dietary needs. Our goodie bags add a special touch of love for those who are struggling.

We will collect Goodies for GAP on the **first and third Wednesdays** of each month to be distributed on the following Thursday morning. This months collection dates are Wednesdays, April 7 and 21. As usual Mary Beachum and Martha Bertrand are available to pick up your goodies from your home or you can drop them by our house, 651 Canterbury Dr. in Augusta. Some people leave them at the church for us to pick up.

As a general rule, baked goods should be unwrapped



so that we can put together sandwich sized ziplock bags with a variety of goodies. If you have baked something that you feel needs to be separately bagged, iced cupcakes for example, feel free to put one or two of them in a bag and we will add them into bags with other goodies. Putting together so many bags is quite a project. I'd really appreciate receiving your baked offerings before 5:30 if at all possible.

If you have questions, contact Martha Bertrand at mbertrand651@gmail.com

TROUBLE WITH LIVESTREAMING?

If you are experiencing difficulties streaming the service on a Sunday morning, then you may want to return to our website on Sunday afternoons. We always record the service and post it there later in the day. You may also wish to watch past services that you may have missed. Please visit www.covenantaugusta.org and click on the worship tab to learn more.

ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR EMAILS?

If you are not receiving our emails, then please visit www.covenantaugusta.org and sign up. This is the best way to find out what is happening in our congregation each week. If you are having trouble signing up, then you may contact Judy Strogonoff at jstrogonoff@covenantaugusta.org. Our emails are also posted to our Facebook page.



April Worship Schedule

USHERS

- 4/4: Hugh Dobbins, Dave Lapp,
Lucyle Ferris,
Fidelis Ndingwan
4/11: Judy Grieve, Chris Henry,
Ruth Mayhall,
Buddy Simpson, Bill Usry
4/18: Steve Bell, Dalton Cooper,
John Ealick, Angela Hobby
4/25: Jim Buckalew,
Jim Crimmins, Jimmy Lea,
Johnny Lowe, Jim Wade

LITURGIST/READER AT 11:00 AM SERVICE

- 4/4: Jim Crimmins
4/11: Chuck Baldwin
4/18: Audrey Baldwin
4/25: Fidelis Ndingwan

PREACHER

- 4/1: Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.
Andy Cooke
4/2: Good Friday, noon
Mark Medina
4/4: Easter Sunday
7 a.m. Sunrise: Andy Cooke
11 a.m.: Katelyn Gordon Cooke
4/11: Andy Cooke
4/18: Youth Sunday
4/25: Katelyn Gordon Cooke

GREETERS

- 4/4: Lindsay Kircher
4/11: Sarah Colborn
4/18: Jim Crimmins
4/25: Fred & Jane Gehle

A/V TEAM

April

Steve Bell, Terry Bowers, John
Ealick, Owen Gillies, Emma Raider

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Our Flower Calendar is a meaningful way to show love and to glorify God. If you would like to donate flowers, check with Judy Strogonoff in the Church Office to make sure your meaningful date is available. Forms to order flowers and to include a special message for the bulletin are located in the Church Office. You are welcome to use your own florist or Judy can place the order with the florist that Covenant uses. The cost of each arrangement is usually \$75-



Prayer Concerns



New Prayer Concerns

LJ Jay (0319)

Richard Marshall and family

Continued Prayer Concerns

All of Covenant's **Missionaries**

All who serve in the **U.S. Military**

Garrett Grice (brother of Melissa Grice Tyler) – hospitalized with brain aneurysm (1005)

Nancy Holloway (Polly Williams' sister-in-law) – Columbus, GA (1118)

Gail Kouame – At home (1004)

Harvey Lapp (Dave Lapp's brother) – Bluebell, PA (0115)

David Rhoades – At home (1120)

Ruben Rosa-Rivera and Family – At home (0215)

Elaine Sanders Jackson (Joslyn Fields' sister) – Orangeburg, SC (0107)

Jennifer Shook (Elaine Lea's sister) – Bandon, Oregon (0115)

Samantha Smith (Becky DeLecuona's cousin) – Pascagoula, MS (1123)

Debbie van Tuyll – At home (0525)

Enduring Concerns

Dorris Andrews (Elaine Lea's mother) – Brandon Wilde

Phyllis Daniels – Brandon Wilde

Lois Davis – Kentwood

Anne Degrazia – Alpharetta, GA

Priscilla Gilman – Washington Commons

Betty Johnston – Brandon Wilde

Malcolm Kling – Brandon Wilde

Larry Lutcher – Brandon Wilde

Leah Mannel – Brandon Wilde

Jocelyn Martin-Moses (Karell Moses' mother) – At home

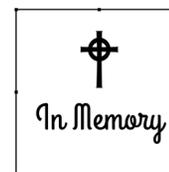
Carol Paulson – At home

Lois Reynolds – Morning Side

Elizabeth Swink – At home

Jane Terry (Chris Terry's mother) – Lake Wales, FL

Barbara Williams – Brandon Wilde



Christian sympathies are extended to Richard Marshall and the family of **Gloria Jennings Marshall** on her passing on March 21, 2021.

And for all those whose names we hold in our hearts.

The prayer ministry is led by deacons Lindsay Kircher, Sabina Widner, and Dana Johnson. To add a prayer concern, please contact the church office at jestrogonoff@covenantaugusta.org.

Covenant Chimes

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3131 WALTON WAY AT AUMOND ROAD
AUGUSTA, GA 30909-3266

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SCAVENGER HUNT HOSTED BY THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

