

June 2016

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



Inside this issue:

Services, Schedules, Events	2
Reports	3
Outreach	4

SESSION DIGEST – May 9, 2016

The Session was moderated by Reverend Mark Sandlin, Interim Pastor, at its May stated meeting. Morgan Glover received an excused absence. Susan Reep was acknowledged as a visitor.

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:15–10:00 9:15 Gathering
 10:00–10:15 Fellowship time
 10:15 –11:00 Study Group/Time
 11:00–11:15 Fellowship time
 11:15–12:00 11:15 Gathering
 Nursery 9:00–12:00, Rm101

Session Actions:

- ◆ **Tenant Relations:** Received a report from the church’s building committee that the most seriously overdue payments are mostly caught up. One of the tenants that owe back rent will try to catch up rent payments from 2015 that are in arrears. The Session was also informed that all current tenants have signed the new rental lease agreement.
- ◆ **Tabled motion to change rent for Epiphany New Church Development:** Mark Sandlin provided clarification about Epiphany’s needs for their use of space in our building. The Session approved a reduction in rent to \$350 per month from the current amount of \$500.
- ◆ **Received report of commissioner to Salem Presbytery meeting:** Heard the report from Nancy Schaefer who attended the meeting on April 30th in Elkin, North Carolina.
- ◆ **Committee reports:**
 - Resource:** Received the April financial results. Approved a request from the committee to make an appeal to the congregation for donations to offset the cost of HVAC repairs.
 - Interim Support:** Ralph reminded the Session of the 6-month evaluation of the interim pastor that is required by the Committee on Ministry of Salem Presbytery.
 - Spiritual Formation:** Approved a request to acknowledge the volunteers who helped with the children’s programs for many months over the last several years with monetary and other gifts.
 - Personnel:** Received a report that Emily Seawell has agreed to be an additional liaison for the nursery workers.
 - Building:** Received a report that a new tenant has agreed to rent two rooms to conduct a Spanish immersion summer day camp.
 - Communications:** Received a report that the committee is working on additions to the website, as well as starting a daytime meditation group.
- ◆ **Congregational Brunch:** The Session was informed that the next communal Sunday brunch in June will have a “Sundae Sunday” theme.

Important Dates ...

June 4: Church Work Day,
9:00—12:00, Fellowship Hall

June 5: Communion Sunday,
Both Gatherings; all are
welcome!

June 6: Higher Ground
Breakfast, 10:00am,
210 East Bessemer St.

June 13: Session Meeting,
6:00 pm, Faselso Room

June 14: Sierra Club Mtg.,
7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

June 19: Father’s Day!

June 26: Joint Study Group
Brunch: Sundae Sunday!
10:00am, Fellowship Hall

June 27: CHNA Meeting,
7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Mark adjourned the meeting with a thanksgiving for the work of the Session.

The complete draft minutes of this meeting are available for anyone to read in the church office.

Kelley Griffith, Clerk of Session

June Sunday Service Information

June 5:

9:15 Host: Morgan Glover
 9:15 Music: Dave Fox
 11:15 Ushers: Ann Finch, Charlie Finch
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Sarah Sills

June 19:

9:15 Host: Jane Walter
 9:15 Music: Walt Lott
 11:15 Ushers: Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox
 11:15 Asst.: Mitch Fore

June 12:

9:15 Host: Jane Cauthen
 9:15 Music: Scott Manring
 11:15 Ushers: Celia Starling, Frank Starling
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Emily Seawell

June 26:

9:15 Host: Sue Stinson
 9:15 Music: Will Ridenour
 11:15 Ushers: Clara Kelly, Barry Barber
 11:15 Asst.: Julie Strobe

Church Office Hours

Mark Sandlin: Mon.—Thurs., 9:00am—3:00pm
 (summer hours, effective 6/01/16)
 Kate Baird: Mon.—Fri., 9:00am—3:30pm

Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers at 6:00 pm

Join our weekly potluck dinners! Bring a dish to share and enjoy the contributions. After-dinner events are announced in weekly emails or bulletins.

Every Week ...

Mon.: Yoga, 6:00pm, Parlor **
 Meditation, 6:00m, Marty's Room (106)
 Tues.: Pilates, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall **
 Wed.: Coffee Group, 9:00am, The Green Bean
 WNFS Potluck, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
 Choir rehearsal, 7:00pm, Sanctuary
 Thur.: Yoga, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall**
 Fri.: Coffee Group, 9:00am, Panera (New Garden Rd.)
 ** \$10 per class; \$7 for church members!

Church Work Day: Saturday, June 4, 9:00—12:00

We will concentrate on the children's classroom, Room 206. There's a lot of clean-up to do: Rugs vacuumed and moved to the basement, walls/floors washed, blinds washed, furniture moved. We need lots of volunteers to assist with this; please consider donating just 3 hours of your time, especially if your children take part in the activities we offer every week in this room. The sign-in sheet and coffee will be in the Fellowship Hall; come for all 3 hours, or as long as you can. Many hands make light work!

Breakfast at Higher Ground, June 6, 10:00am

Our next monthly breakfast is Monday, June 6, at 10:00am. Participate by volunteering, contributing food/supplies, or just stopping by to hang out, at 210 E Bessemer Ave. Breakfast once a month is just one need among many at Higher Ground. Any donated funds which exceed breakfast needs each month will be forwarded directly to HG to be used for bus passes (which are a lifeline for many clients), or other pressing needs. Just drop your gift in the offering basket clearly marked for Higher Ground; if writing a check, please mark "Higher Ground" on the memo line. Please contact Sarah Sills or Sue Stinson for more information: SarahBSills@gmail.com or suestinson1968@yahoo.com

Next Joint Brunch: Sundae Sunday, June 26th



Come enjoy a delicious ice cream sundae with all the fixings on Sundae Sunday at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall! We are accepting donations to fund this; a donation basket is on the back table in the Sanctuary. If writing a check, please write "Sundae Sunday" in the memo line. Volunteers are needed for set up, serve, and clean up. Please contact Joyce Powers or Joy Saleeby to donate your time. Joyce Powers: jkpowers42@gmail.com
 Joy Saleeby: straycatmom22@yahoo.com

Interim Update from Mark Sandlin

Quite a lot has been going on at Church of the Covenant to prepare us for doing the core work of this interim\transitional period. After spending a month getting the lay of the land and hearing from as many of you as possible, I realized that there were some issues of having a stable foundation from which to do the core work.

What we've managed to do in the past five months is more than some churches can manage to do in a year. A heap of thanks and congratulations go out to all of you for helping to accomplish that. We've reinstated two Gatherings on Sunday mornings and tweaked their layouts to best provide for our community. We've worked to get all of our tenants on a uniform contract and up-to-date on their rents. We've sorted out a new structure for our committees, installed chairs in each committee, and now have active committees for the first time in a long time.

That's just the tip of the iceberg, but it's a lot to do in such a short time. Thank you all for your investment in this process and for your patience and understanding.

Financial News—As of April 30, 2016

A summary of the results of operations for the church as of April 30, 2016, shows that the church has spent \$20,706 more than it received in revenue. This deficit can be attributed mostly to a reduction in contributions received. We also miss the rental income from the office suite on the second floor that was leased for many years by the state for a monthly rent of \$1,764. Hopefully we will find a suitable tenant for that space soon.

Total contributions received for the first four months are \$30,541. This represents a decline of nearly 30%, as compared to the same time period in 2015. Rent received from building tenants is \$20,834 and revenue from parking lot permits is \$5,550. Other revenue received equals \$156. Expenses for personnel, building, and committees total \$77,787 and are under budget by \$2,440 for the year.

Report from the April 2016 Salem Presbytery Meeting

The April 30th meeting was held at the Elkin Presbyterian Church. Attendees heard from many different committees about the work being done throughout the region. The gathering voted in the affirmative to grant a dismissal for the Eden Presbyterian Church to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. There was a great deal of discussion about new guidelines developed to guide the Presbytery in its dealings with churches that desire to leave the Presbytery with their property and equipment. The guidelines presented were approved with many votes in the negative. The attendees also voted on a resolution to condemn HB2, and approved concurrence with an overture to be presented at the General Assembly meeting in June encouraging the Presbyterian Church USA to seek to divest itself of investments in companies involved in fossil fuel activities. The reasoning behind the overture was that fossil fuel companies must feel moral pressure to abandon "business as usual" strategies in the 21st century. The group also commissioned the group of elders who will attend the June 2016 General Assembly meeting.

Calling All Practicing Meditators! Volunteers Wanted!

PCOC is planning to host a Tuesday at Noon Meditation each week for our community. This will be a 45 minute commitment (once every 4 to 5 weeks), with 15 to 20 minutes being in a silent or guided meditation that you will facilitate. Please let us know if you would enjoy sharing in this peaceful offering to our community. Contact Lora Farlow at 336-294-6048 or Lora.farlow@gmail.com.

Goodie Bags for Higher Ground

Covenant's May 2016 Joint Services Project was to donate materials for goodie bags for clients of Higher Ground. On May 29th we gathered to assemble the bags, which were transported to Higher Ground. Many thanks to organizers Sarah Sills and Sue Stinson, and thanks to everyone who donated supplies and helped to stuff the bags. We had fun for a good cause. We'll have another service project in August!



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

501 S. Mendenhall Street
Greensboro NC 27403
Phone: 336-275-6403
E-mail: pcoc2010@gmail.com

Check us out online!
www.athinkingchurch.org

