

March 2018



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



The Covenant Compendium

SESSION DIGEST — February 13, 2018 Meeting

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Sunday Morning Schedule

- 9:00-10:00 Early Gathering
- 10:00-10:20 Fellowship time
- 10:20-11:00 Study Groups
- 11:15-12:00 Second Service

Important Dates ...

- Mar. 3: Monthly Work Day, 9:30am—12:00pm, F. Hall
- Mar. 4: Communion Sunday, both gatherings; open to everyone.
- Mar. 5: Higher Ground Breakfast, 10:00am, 210 E. Bessemer
- Mar. 5-9, UNCG Spring Break
- Mar. 6: In*Spire Meditation, 12:00pm, Sanctuary; 12:30pm, Brown Bag Lunch in Fellowship Hall
- March 11: Daylight Savings Time Begins; Spring Ahead!
- Mar. 13: Session Meeting, 6:00 pm, Faselso Room
- Mar. 13: Sierra Club, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- Mar. 26: College Hill Neighborhood Assn. meeting, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- Mar. 27: ARC meeting, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- March 30: Good Friday; banks, city, schools closed.

SESSION ORDINATION/INSTALLATION

Tom Taylor related his faith journey to the Session; his ordination and installation is on February 25th during the Joint Service. Ralph Cauthen and Marcia Rhodes will be installed with him as the Class of 2020.

OLD BUSINESS

- *The Safety Committee is in the process of researching various methods of securing the building and increasing safety for members, staff, and tenants.
- *PCoC is in discussion with Gateway about expanding their presence.
- *Thriving at Three's has requested dedicated nursery space; they will continue to share PCOC's nursery space.
- *The Clerk's Annual Statistical Report was approved by the Session and submitted to the Presbytery.

NEW BUSINESS

- *PCOC received a request to hold a vegan food market one Saturday a month in the Fellowship Hall. They've been offered the Mendenhall St. parking lot for this venture.
- *The need for committee oversight of the WNFS has been referred to the Fellowship Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resource

*We are behind budgeted revenue for January, despite strong sales of parking passes, and have overspent budget in several areas due to unanticipated expenses.

Spiritual Formation

*We will seek a replacement for our nursery attendant, who has tendered her resignation.

Building and Grounds

*We are considering options to facilitate rental of building vacancies.

Personnel

*We are creating a new contract for future nursery attendants. Jane Cauthen, Pastoral Care Associate, made ten pastoral visits; other members made six visits.

Other Business

*Concern was raised about the committees with no members, especially the Outreach Committee. We discussed the surveys made, the requests for volunteers, which have seen little response in the last two years. We are seeking an outreach that the entire church can be involved in. Nancy Schaefer had information from the Presbytery website on Hunger Action; Mark is going to look into this.

Annie Oakley, Clerk of The Session

March Sunday Service Information

March 4: *Communion Sunday*
9:00 Host: Gratia Wright
9:00 Music: Nancy Pitkin, Elaine Penn
11:15 Asst.: Ann Finch
11:15 Ushers: Clara Kelly, Barry Barber

March 18:
9:00 Host: Kate Baird
9:00 Music: Tyler Millard
11:15 Asst.: Julie Strope
11:15 Ushers: Celia Starling, Frank Starling

March 11: *Daylight Savings Begins!*
9:00 Host: TBA
9:00 Music: Neill Clegg
11:15 Asst.: Julie Strope
11:15 Ushers: Ann Finch, Charlie Finch

March 25:
9:00 Host:
9:00 Music: Nancy Pitkin, Elaine Penn
11:15 Asst.: Janet Blue
11:15 Ushers: Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox

Church Office Hours

Mark Sandlin: Mon.—Thurs., 9:00am-3:00pm
Kate Baird: Mon.—Friday, 9:00am-3:30pm

Monthly Workday, Mar. 3rd

We'll meet at 9:30am in the Sanctuary to share coffee and check out the task list. Just a few hours a month helps keep the church clean, neat, welcoming, and we can't do it without you! Volunteers are always needed and welcome; to volunteer, contact Lora Farlow: lora.farlow@gmail.com.

Communion Sunday, Mar. 4th

PCoC celebrates Communion on the first Sunday of every month during each gathering, and it's available to everyone, especially guests and visitors.

In*Spire Meditation

In*Spire Meditation meets every Tuesday at noon in the Sanctuary for 20 minutes of free, group-led meditation. It's different every week, but always wonderful. It's open to the church and the community, so come enjoy some nourishment for your spirit with us. On **Tuesday, March 6th**, join us for a brown bag lunch in the Fellowship Hall following meditation.

Do We Have Your Contact Info?

Got new contact info? Moved? Got a new cell phone or land-line phone number? Changed your email address? Email us at: pcoc2010@gmail.com to let the church office know. Thank you!

Every Week ...

Mon.: 4:00pm, Choir Rehearsal
 5:30pm, Bell Choir Rehearsal
 6:00pm, Yoga, Parlor **
 6:00m, Meditation, Marty's Room (106)
Tues.: 12:00pm, In*Spire Meditation, Sanctuary, free!
Wed.: 9:00am, Coffee Group, The Green Bean
 6:00pm, WNFS Potluck, Fellowship Hall
Thur.: 4:30pm, Pilates, Parlor **
 5:30pm, Yoga, Fellowship Hall**
Fri.: 9:00am, Coffee Group, Panera (New Garden Rd.)
 ** \$10 per class; \$7 for church members!

Higher Ground Breakfast

Join our volunteers at 10:00am on Mar. 5th, at Higher Ground, 210 East Bessemer Ave., as we make and serve breakfast to this community group for those with HIV/AIDS. Contact Sue Stinson to volunteer or for more information: suestinson1968@yahoo.com

Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper

Enjoy PCoC's weekly potluck supper every Wednesday night at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and enjoy a delicious dinner with the group. **Special After-Dinner Program on Mar. 7th:** Barbara Brown will present the second half of the talk she began on Feb. 28th on healing arts. Please join us and expect to have an interesting and useful

Session Meeting Night Changes

The Session now holds its monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, at 6:00pm in the Fasel Room, Room 205.

Rumi By Candlelight: April 27th!

See The April 2018 newsletter for details!

Many Thanks to the “Brunch Bunch”

We extend our grateful thanks to the Fellowship Committee and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make our Breakfast Brunch on Feb. 25th so enjoyable. Special thanks to the chefs who made all the delicious dishes, and to everyone who gave so generously of their time and energy to set up, to clean up, and to wash dishes.

Service Hosts, Assistants Needed

We urgently need volunteers to serve as either 9:00am service hosts or 11:15am service assistants! The more people who volunteer to serve our community in this loving way, the more enjoyable our services will be. It's fun and easy; guidelines are provided, and handling the microphone doesn't take any expertise. Any questions? Contact Elsie Hutchens to sign up or for more information at: elsiehutchens@gmail.com

News From The Pastoral Nominating Committee

The PNC is continuing the big job of reading, examining, and considering the candidate applications that have arrived so far. To date, we have received over 50, and are sure we'll receive more. So the application process continues, and the committee has taken the next step of requesting further information from some potential candidates. Please wish the committee members well as they work on this task every week.

Musical News

This month we look forward to hearing more great music from our PCoC Choir on Sunday, March 26th, Palm Sunday, during the 11:15 service. Also, on Easter Sunday we will be hearing the melodious sounds of the Bell Choir, as well as a performance by our Men's Quartet. See each week's Sunday Bulletin for more information on the services and other soloists and instrumentalists who will be joining us.

March Brings Changes in Nursery Personnel

Jesse Herndon, our Nursery Assistant since 2015, will be leaving us in mid-month to pursue a college internship. We have certainly enjoyed having her take care of our children, and wish her well in the days to come. Jesse, you will be missed. The Personnel Committee has found a new Nursery Assistant in Draven Ward, who will be joining us as of March 18th. Draven is a sophomore at UNCG majoring in Human Development and Family Studies. She is experienced working with pre-school children and in a church environment. Welcome, Draven!

IRC Book Drive

The IRC needs book for the use of their clients, and for visiting children. The clients are especially interested in books on spiritual practices and in fiction, and books for children of all ages are requested. Place donations in the blue tub under the table at the back of the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to those who have already donated! We need volunteers to help transport the books to the IRC during the last week in March. Please contact the church office to volunteer: (336) 275-6403, or email: pcoc2010@gmail.com

***“The Gift of Fading Away”*: A Talk by Bayo Akomolafe, Mar. 18**



REGISTER ONLINE

March 18, 2018 7-9 p.m. Cost: \$25

The Sanctuary at
Church of the Covenant
501 S. Mendenhall St.

Our modern lives are built on the foundation of a truism: that we are the center of the world, and that nature around us is a mere backdrop for human activity. In recent imagination, nature has mounted an irresistible insurgency, shocking us by spilling through, by disturbing our calculations, by infiltrating our purity, and closing the presumed distance between us. In this talk about culture, losing faith, meeting loss, seeking home, and dealing with toxic futures, Bayo Akomolafe speaks about the cracks, openings and undoing of our former stories of certainty, and why we can make do with "dwelling in the meantime." The call to honor our entanglement with place and planet invites a strange but familiar vocation of recognizing we are fading away, and that this is ironically our deepest source of hope for justice.

Bayo Akomolafe (Ph.D.) is Chief Curator and Executive Director of The Emergence Network. He is author of *These Wilds Beyond our Fences: Letters to My Daughter on Humanity's Search for Home* and *We Will Tell Our Own Story*. Lecturer, speaker, father, and "rogue planet saved by the gravitational pull" of his wife Ijeoma Clement Akomolafe, Bayo hopes to inspire a diffractive network of sharing within an ethos of new responsivity—a slowing down, an ethics of entanglement, an activism of inquiry, a 'politics of surprise'. Born into a Yoruba family, Bayo graduated summa cum laude in psychology in 2006 at Covenant University (Nigeria), and then was invited to take up a lecturing position. Largely nurtured and trained in a world that increasingly fell short of his deepest desires for justice, Bayo conducted doctoral research into Yoruba indigenous healing systems as part of his inner struggle to regain a sense of rootedness to his community. He has been speaking about his experiences around the world since those moments back in 2011.

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Check us out online!

www.athinkingchurch.org



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