

# THE COVENANT COMMUNIQUÉ'

Dear Covenant Family,

It is with heavy hearts that we must inform you that we are moving to Burlington, NC in about a year. For the past several years we have been exploring options of where and how we want to spend the next phase of our lives. Finally, last year we received information from Twin Lakes, a Continuing Care Community, that they were building new independent single homes within their community of other independent homes. This community also provides assisted living and nursing home facilities. In addition to being in a new house with options for future health needs, the main incentives which swayed us were: no more maintenance work inside or out, the many onsite activities and, best of all, only a four hour drive to Virginia Beach to see our son and his family instead of the usual seven and a half hour drive.

This has been a very difficult decision for us because for the past twenty years Covenant has been our church home and second family. We will truly miss each one of you! But we will take with us the many memories of you and our times together serving and glorifying God. After moving to Twin Lakes in March 2020, we will retain our church membership and continue our financial pledge to Covenant as long as this is in the best interest of the church.

Love in Christ,  
Jim and Emily Bleiler



**April 2019**

Covenant Presbyterian Church

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# LETTER FROM PASTOR

These past few weeks, I have sought out times to reflect and sit in quiet. We are leaving the Upstate after 18 years, and that has brought about some significant grief. My daughters were born here, and I run by the first house we lived in almost every day. I glance at the windows and remember where we put their cribs, the color of the rug in the playroom, how we would manage breakfast, then playtime, then Sesame Street, and then a snack. I see the azaleas blooming and wonder if they have azaleas in Florida - wonder if they have a Spring in Florida. I pass through Greer City Park and know that there won't be many more strolls down those sidewalks.

These thoughts make me feel sad. Sad for the season we are leaving behind as we embark on a new journey. Sad for the relationships that won't be the same come this summer. Sad for the changes that are upon us.

I'm wondering if you have had some of that same kind of grief as we approach the end of this season together. My guess is that you have been grieving for some time, as we have endured significant loss over the last few years. A pastoral transition, several significant deaths, and now a new transition can bring sadness and grief.

As we approach this new transition time, the Session is seeking God's will for the next steps for Covenant. We are in conversation with the Presbytery Committee on Ministry and our Presbytery leaders, as well as engaging in intentional, listening prayer. We know God has great care and concern for us. And we are seeking to be faithful to who God is calling us to be as a community of faith.

There will be several opportunities to share with the congregation ideas and possibilities. The first of these will be at the Small Group Fellowship at the McChesney's home on April 7th at 5:00 pm (different than the usual meeting day). Another time is being planned for a Wednesday night, with a third during the Sunday School hour. There will be other conversations that follow these.

While we may be experiencing a sense of loss, there is also hope. Hope in the resurrection, hope that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, hope that the Lord doesn't lead us here to leave us here. Hope that God's love endures forever.

Thanks be to God.

Andy

# EASTER LILIES ORDER SHEET

Lilies will be placed in the sanctuary for Easter, April 21st.

They may be purchased for \$14 each (supplied by Roebuck Greenhouses). If you would like to place one or more in the sanctuary for Easter, please complete this form and place in the offering plate, or return to the office by April 14th.

Thanks!

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ Easter lily/lilies to be placed in the sanctuary on Easter, April 21st as follows:

In Honor of:

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In Memory of:

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To the Glory of God

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

# PRAYER REQUESTS

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Shelly Akers

Cathy Baldwin

Joan Barnhardt

Alexis Bezilla (friend of the Bleilers)

Ann Campbell

Chip Cecil (Ronnie Meeks' friend)

Kathryn Clark

David and Catherine Dedmon

Gia Ellenburg (Ann Granger's Daughter)

June Garren (Cathy Baldwin's Mom)

Zeverly Glenn

Taylor Goode (M) (Bleilers' Son)

Rev. Charles Hall (Eddie Hall's Dad)

Mary Harris

Jay Jeter

Jeff Phillips (Cynthia Bridges' Brother)

Sandra McKinney

Dave Starkey (friend of Bleilers)

Thad and Elaine Strickland

Charles and Miriam Turner

Remember our shut-ins

Families who have lost loved ones

Our President and officials in Washington

World Peace

(M) Indicated Military

# OTHER NEWS / APRIL USHER DUTY

Covenant's Small Group will meet Sunday, April 7th at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Anne and Paul McChesney at 314 Holly Drive. *Please note this change from the usual second Sunday meeting date. Feel free to join us for food, fellowship, and thoughtful conversation about the direction of our church in light of recent events and proposals.*

The Easter Season is approaching! As we approach Holy Week and Easter, here is our worship calendar:

April 14th: Palm Sunday Worship

April 18th: Maundy Thursday Worship with Inman and Unity (at Unity in Boiling Springs)

April 21: 8:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service, beginning in the Prayer Garden.

9:30 a.m. - Easter Fellowship Breakfast. **There is no 11:00 a.m. Worship on Easter.**

April 28: 2:00 a.m. - Hymn Sing with Inman and other Churches

Please mark your calendars and note the changes to the Schedule.

Jim and Emily Bleiler's letter to the congregation is on the back page of the newsletter.

April 7 Cynthia Bridges and Jim Fraley

April 14 Bob McMichael, Carole Sanders and Jim Bleiler

April 21 Russ Sanders and Nancy Biggerstaff

April 28 Callaway Alford, Henry Polston and Terry Terawaki

# APRIL 2019

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 5 pm - Small Group	8 Carl Cole's Birthday	9	10 6:30 pm - Transition Meeting	11	12	13
14 11 am - Palm Sunday Worship	15	16	17	18 Maundy Thursday Worship with Inman & Unity (at Unity in Boiling Springs)	19	20
21 8 am - Sunrise Service, begin- ning in the Prayer Garden. 9:30 am - Easter Fellowship Breakfast	22	23 10:30 am - Keenagers trip to Strawberry Hills	24 Clothes & Food Pantry 11 am - 3 pm	25	26	27
28 2 pm - Hymn Sing with Inman & other churches	29 Joyce & Jenny Shelden's Birthdays	30				