

Covenant Call

August 2018 Newsletter

A Time to Learn By: Dr. Dan Milford

August marks the month that students head back to classes. Children are getting their school supplies and new clothes, some youth are beginning extra-curricular practices, and college students are preparing to begin another semester. For them, it is a time to learn.

Truth be told, though, for all of us it is always a time to learn. To be fully alive is to be exploring the world around us, striving to find resources to help navigate new challenges in life, and seeking to discover how we can use our lives to bring joy, justice, and hope into the lives of others. Learning can take place for us in rather happenstance ways as we reflect on experiences we have or things we read or see. There can also be levels of intentionality to our continued learning.

Our intentional approach to learning can take on a variety of forms. For example, we can embark on a plan of study to grow in a particular area. We can also begin doing something and seeking to learn from others who have been doing that thing longer than we have. Additionally, we can take an extended period of time, such as a retreat, to step away from the normal flow of our lives and focus on learning something different.

As children and students return to the classroom, this is a good time for all of us to reflect on areas where we may be called to grow in our faith, places where we have become stagnant, and ways that we could best engage in that learning and growth.

For individual study, I recommend beginning with a top-notch study Bible. I have put the ones I recommend on our website in the “Bibles” tab in the drop down menu under “Education.” For guides in reading through scripture in a way that promotes both understanding and application, I recommend the series by Justo Gonzalez titled “Three Months with...” (i.e. Three Months with John, Three Months

with Paul, etc.). The books are very accessible, but also invite us to put our faith into action in practical and challenging ways.

Group study is an important complement to individual study. Each of us may gravitate more to one or the other, but the two together provide the greatest opportunities for growth. We are encouraged by having fellow learners and broadened by the differing perspectives that they bring. We may be able to devote more time to individual study and may be more open to the Spirit convicting us or challenging us when we are alone. Covenant offers several Bible studies and Sunday School classes throughout the year. One of these might be a great place to engage in learning with others. Consider joining one or helping us start a new group.

Living our faith provides another great way to grow. As Nike proclaims, “Just Do It!” When we begin serving in some way, it invites into doing the learning we need to serve better. Covenant supports many mission ministries. I encourage you to pick one (if you haven’t already) and learn how you can get involved in serving others.

Next, retreats or mission trips can be great times away from our normal schedules when we can focus in on living and growing in our faith. Emmaus Retreats have been a significant part in the life of many of our members over the years. These retreats can provide a powerful time of experiencing the love of God and the beauty of community in Christ. Perhaps this is the year for you to participate in an Emmaus Retreat.

Finally, our Christian Education team is working on some new approaches to inviting us to grow in faith together. I encourage you to be open to these new experiences and see how they can help you to grow!

Weekly Summer Sunday School for all ages in August!

Preschool (2 years – Kindergarten)
West Wing Room 107

Elementary (1st – 5th Grade)
West Wing Room 103

Middle School/Senior High (6th -12th Grade)
West Wing Room 201 (Youth Loft)

Adult Summer Sunday School *Partial Truths* - 9:30am

Emmaus Room

There are a multitude of phrases that many of us have heard before, or perhaps hear on a regular basis. Some of us have even said these phrases. These phrases sound Christian—perhaps something one might find in the Bible. These phrases have an element of truth, and yet they seem to miss the point in important ways.

Join us this summer as we look at common phrases and platitudes which are used in conversation. Each week, a different guest teacher will take a close look at one phrase and explore how it is partially true. The class will then examine ways in which the phrase does not capture the truth of the Bible and will explore how these common phrases can become stumbling blocks for us as well as those to whom the phrases are directed.

Date:	Partial Truth
August 5th	“I’m sorry for your loss. Heaven must have needed another angel.” Guest Teacher: Sandi Nemecek
August 12th	“The Bible says we should submit to authority.” Guest Teacher: Laura Stephens
August 19th	“God said it. I believe it. That settles it.” Guest Teacher: Sharon Fowler

2nd-3rd Grade Bibles

Our 2nd-3rd grade students will receive their very own NIRV Bible on Kickoff Sunday, during the 11:05am worship. These bibles are written at their reading level and are given as a gift from Covenant Presbyterian Church. If your child is in 2nd-3rd grade, please contact Chad Bosse (chad@covenantcares.org).

The Bible and the newspaper: God help us. Reading the Newspaper & the Bible in Context of Lectionary Readings

9:30am - Samaritan Room

August 5 - August 19, 2018

Karl Barth is quoted as saying “Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible.” Newspapers, he says, are so important that “I always pray for the sick, the poor, the journalists, authorities of the state and the church--in that order. Journalists form public opinion. They hold terribly important positions. Nevertheless, a theologian should never be formed by the world around him--either East or West. He should make it his vocation to show both East and West that they can live without a clash. Where the peace of God is proclaimed, there peace on earth is implicit. Have we forgotten the Christmas message?” - Time Magazine 1963

Exploring Karl Barth’s idea, this class will focus on reading the newspaper and the Bible together. Participants will be expected to pick one lectionary text (there is a choice of four) each week and bring a newspaper article to class from the week that relates to that text. This is a participatory class (not a lecture), and participants are asked to come prepared to discuss each Sunday. We invite you to bring a cup of coffee (or your choice of beverage) and your articles for an insightful discussion. Al Kissling will lead the discussion each week.

August 5th

First reading and Psalm: 2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15;
Psalm 78:23-29

Second reading: Ephesians 4:1-16
Gospel: John 6:24-35

August 12th

First reading and Psalm: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130
Alternate First reading and Psalm: 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8
Second reading: Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2
Gospel: John 6:35, 41-51

August 19th

First reading and Psalm: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111
Alternate First reading and Psalm: Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14
Second reading: Ephesians 5:15-20
Gospel: John 6:51-58

All are invited to join Young at Heart Friday nights at 6:30PM in Mission Hall for Game Night. This is a time of laughter, fun, friendship, and fellowship.



Kickoff Sunday! Sunday, Aug. 26th

Mission Hall 10:00am

Adults, Youth, and Children are invited to join us on Kickoff Sunday to hear about this coming year's classes over a light breakfast in Mission Hall. We hope you will join us to meet the teachers and explore the educational opportunities Covenant has to offer beginning this Fall.



- **Website:** www.covenantcares.org
- **Prayer Chain** – send an email to covenantprayerchain211@gmail.com
- **Church News by Email** – send an email to office@covenantcares.org
- **No email? Telephone prayer chain** or church information lists - call the church office (210) 342-5253.

San Antonio Rescue Mission

is one of our church's sponsored ministries. It is a Christian organization with the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, as well as to meet the physical needs of homeless men.

Each day at 5PM, the doors are open for those men who desire a clean bed and meal. Each person is required to shower, have clean clothing prior to dinner and attend a prayer program before retiring for the evening. 60-75 persons attend this program daily.

This mission is dependent upon free will gifts, donations, and contributions for their support. It is free to any and all men who seek admission, regardless of race, creed, religious persuasion, or station of life.

Voluntary contributions are the only means of support. They do not receive support from any federal, state, or county/city organization nor do they solicit funds. If you wish to provide individual support for the San Antonio Rescue Mission, please write a check to Covenant Presbyterian Church with "San Antonio Rescue Mission" on the memo line. In addition, a wicker box for clothing donations is in Mission Hall.

Food Pantry needs Volunteers!

Are you available from 10 AM to 2 PM on Thursdays? That is when we give bags of food and fresh produce from our garden to needy families. We need volunteers to help. (Don't worry, it's easy!) Call Laura Glueck at 210-342-5253 if you are interested.

The Covenant Presbyterian Church Mission Committee is seeking to increase both the number of and participation in church mission activities. We hope to provide more opportunities to demonstrate God's love in action by supporting congregation engagement in mission work regardless of age or experience. With that in mind, this September we will be mailing out a survey to gauge your interest in the type and frequency of mission activities you would like to support. Between now and then, please give some thought about your mission interests. When you receive the survey, please complete it and return it as soon as possible. We will use your suggestions to plan mission activities for 2019 and beyond.

ELDER & TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

Your Nominating Committee has begun consideration of candidates for the office of Elder (4) Class of 2021 and one Trustee Class of 2021. These offices are very important to the life of our congregation. The Committee would sincerely appreciate your suggestions for candidates for these offices. Please drop this nomination form in the offering plate or feel free to email your nominations to: office@covenantcares.org
~Thank You, Nominating Committee

**I nominate the following individual(s) for the office of Elder
Class of 2021.**

Nomination 1: _____
Nomination 2: _____

NOMINATIONS DUE AUG 15th.

**I nominate the following individual for the office of Trustee
Class of 2021.**

Nomination 1: _____
Nominations submitted by: _____

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211 Roletto Drive
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Return service requested

August Birthdays 2018

1 – Theresa Jackson	22 – Edie Payette
4 – Cecil Holloway	22 – Margaret Mather
5 – Allyson Moreno	23 – Lori Anderson
7 – Bill Lucks	24 – Kenneth McCollister
7 – Van VanDerHeck	25 – Lois Lorch
9 – Tweenette Schwartz	27 – John Poteet
12 – Mary Davidson	28 – Betty Huff
12 – Marylynn Wesson	29 – Trish Hopkins
13 – Magarita Durand-Hollis	30 – Nicholas Von Aschen
13 – Craig Hopkins	30 – Shelly Bosse
13 – Nataliya Verona	31 – Alan Klinzing
14 – Steve Davidson	
14 – Richard Galloway	
14 – Nicole Ramirez	
16 – Ember Bosse	
18 – Michael Manibusan	
21 – Melissa Runyan	
21 – Martha Hernandez	
22 – Dan Milford	

Mission Calendar of Events:

July 31st – August 2nd – Intergenerational Mission Trip will be working with the Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group. The Coastal Bend Area is still in need of help since the devastation of the Harvey Flood.

September 27th – Christian Medical and Dental Association Luncheon at UT Health – Covenant volunteers will help provide and serve lunch for students during their weekly meeting. CMDA gathers physicians, dentists, medical and dental students for fellowship and spiritual growth through Bible study, prayer groups and weekly meetings. CMDA organizes mission opportunities to bring medical and dental services to those in need. Contact – Beverly Burris

Every Thursday – 10am-2pm – Covenant Food Pantry – The food pantry provides a bag of non-perishable food items for a family of four in need for one week. Contact - Laura Stephens

Every 4th Saturday – 8am Covenant Community Garden Workday – The garden provides fresh vegetable for the patrons of the Covenant Food Pantry and SAMM's Transitional Living Center. The work day can involve, planting, weeding, harvesting vegetables. Contact - Carrie Pitcher