



THE COURIER

LIFE AT CHRIST COVENANT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

WHAT IS A SHEPHERD?

Last year, our church embarked on a strategic vision initiative for discipleship at Christ Covenant. One of the key components that we have been working on is the work of shepherding. Shepherding is patterned after God himself (Psalm 23) and is seen in the ministry of Jesus as the chief shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). In the church, the work of shepherding is done especially through the ministry of elders (1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1). We might be tempted to think of elders as administrators or members of a “board.” However, as shepherds under Christ, the role of an elder is more than a mere decision-maker. His role is to serve the Lord’s people by guiding them into spiritual well-being and growth. At Christ Covenant, we believe this requires a vital relationship between the elders and the congregation. To that end, we want to connect every member to an elder, who has the care of their soul as his primary responsibility. We look forward to sharing more in the coming months about our design for shepherding and the heart of a shepherd. Please continue to pray for our church and for the Shepherding Project Group as we continue to work together to seek the Lord’s direction for shepherding at Christ Covenant. -Pastor Derek Wells

SAVE THE DATE FOR

JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We are pleased to announce that we will be gathering for adult congregation-wide joint Sunday school sessions on October 13 and 20. The purpose of these gatherings is for the Shepherding Project Group and the Sunday School & Small Groups Project Team to share some information regarding their work toward a new design in each of these areas. On October 13, we will spotlight the role of shepherding in our congregation as we move toward a new shepherding model. On October 20, we will highlight some exciting developments around our Sunday school structure and the ways it will serve our overall vision for discipleship. Along with hearing from the project groups, Pastor Kevin will speak on both Sundays to address the vision driving each initiative.

MEN’S MINISTRY BBQ, CORN HOLE & GAMES

All men ages 12 and older are invited to attend the men’s bbq, corn hole, and games on Saturday, September 28, at 1pm at the lower CLC youth area. Come hungry and ready for corn hole, basketball, various games, and fellowship. Be sure to bring your friends & neighbors! Cost is \$10 per person. RSVP by Monday, September 23, at ChristCovenant.org or stop by the men’s ministry table in the main lobby.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Christ Covenant Church offers three different and valuable support groups - GriefShare, Divorce Care for men and women, and Caregivers - for people who want to find a way to cope with the pain or isolation they are experiencing because of life-changing events. Each of these groups is open to our congregation and to our community and meets Monday nights beginning September 9. We share a wonderful community dinner together prior to meeting in our support groups. To learn more or sign up, please visit ChristCovenant.org. Or, if you want to come see if this is for you, please join us one night! All are welcome!

WOMEN’S FALL BIBLE STUDIES

Registration is now open for all of our Fall women’s Bible studies! Whether you are looking for a weekly study, one that meets one or two times a month, or a short class - there is something for everyone! Several Bible studies even have childcare available! If you need childcare to attend a study, the deadline is September 10 to register childcare needs. Please visit ChristCovenant.org to see the complete list of Bible studies and classes available for 2019-2020.

SYMPATHY TO:

Ron Stading on the death of his wife, Sue McCall Stading.

PRAYING FOR THE SHEPHERDING PROJECT GROUP

The Shepherding Transition Team has been tasked with creating a new shepherding design model for Christ Covenant that will serve to spiritually care for our congregation.

Please join us in praying for the Shepherding project team by praying for the following:

- For wisdom as we seek to connect an elder to every member;
- For wisdom as we seek to leverage existing relationships and ministries;
- For logistics to come together as we seek to provide helpful communication to the congregation as we move through the Fall.

MORE WAYS TO PRAY

CHURCH PLANTER OF THE WEEK: JOSÉ & ANNA PORTILLO | José is planting a Hispanic church through Central Carolina Presbytery in Charlotte, NC.

Pray for José as he begins to plan, prepare, and meet people for the church plant. Pray for Anna to have a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery of their baby boy in November. Pray for them as they settle into the Charlotte area.

PERSECUTED CHURCH: Continue to pray for Christians in India where the majority political party has increased efforts to enact and abuse laws that prohibit religious conversion. Pray for believers who have left the religion of their families and are often the victims of violence. Pray for Christian workers who are subject to arrest, violence and the destruction of their property.

LOCAL CHURCH: Pray for the teachers and school administrators in local public and private schools.

RTS PAIDEIA CENTER BOOK DISCUSSION

In partnership with the RTS Paideia Center for Theological Discipleship, Christ Covenant is hosting a theological reading group this Fall. Do you desire a rich theological diet so you can develop maturity in Christ? Do you want to read Christian classics but don't know where to start? Would you like to grow with people who share your love for theology and learn from those who have gone before you? If so, register at <http://paideiacenter.com/>. In the Fall, we will read a book from the early church and one from the Reformation era in the Spring. The theme for this year's readings is "soul care." This Fall's group will meet three times (September 11, October 9, November 13) from 7:00-8:30pm in WC105 with a guided discussion of Gregory the Great's *The Book of Pastoral Rule*.

WOMEN'S FALL KICKOFF: CELEBRATING MILESTONES

All women are invited to join us on Tuesday, September 17, at 7pm in the CLC to "Celebrate Milestones: Then and Now" at Christ Covenant! Come dressed in fashion from the decade in which you were born, and be ready for fun games and prizes!

We will look back with Bernie and Pat Lawrence at the Lord's faithfulness through the years and look forward with anticipation to the years to come. As a part of looking forward to future ministry, we will use the evening to bless and encourage our interns and their families by bringing an item(s) to give them as they begin their journey in ministry. Learn more at ChristCovenant.org.

SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION

The special election on September 10 will determine who will represent the 9th Congressional District in Congress. In the City of Charlotte there will be primary candidates on the ballot as well. Early voting goes through Friday, September 6. Please pray that God would bless our city, state, and country with elected officials who are upright, honorable, and wise. To learn more, you can research at unioncountync.gov if you live in Union County or mecknc.gov if you live in Mecklenburg County.

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Would you like to make a life-long impact on a child right in our town? Sign up to be a sidekick to a student at Matthews Elementary. The commitment is just to eat lunch once a week, or every other week, and to be a buddy to a student who needs a stable adult in their lives. It is a true blessing to get to know a student in this way and show them the love of Christ. If you would like more information or to sign up, contact Brendan Kelly at bpkclan@carolina.rr.com or 704-277-6694.

*Standing on Truth.
Walking in Grace.*

COME JOIN US AT CHOIR!

We hope you will join us for one of the 2019-2020 choir opportunities.

•**Adult choir:** Meets every Wednesday evening for rehearsal from 6:30-8:30pm.

•**8th-12th grade choir :** Meets every Wednesday evening for rehearsal 6:30pm beginning September 4.

•**3rd-7th grade choir** – Meets every Wednesday evening for rehearsal 6:30pm beginning September 4.

•**K-2nd grade choir:** Meets Sunday evening during the evening sermon beginning September 8.

Please contact Liz McNulty at lmcnulty@christcovenant.org if you have any questions.

LOOKING FOR A CHRISTIAN ALTERNATIVE TO SCOUTING?



Want adventure, character development, and leadership opportunities for your son? Trail Life USA is a Christian outdoor adventure, character, and leadership program for boys and young men in grades K-12. The program centers on outdoor experiences that build a young man's skills and allows him to grow on a personal level as a role model and leader for his peers. The Trail Life motto comes straight from Colossians 1:10 – "Walk Worthy," and this motto is supported by the core values of purity, service, stewardship, and integrity. We are having Open Houses on September 12 and 19 starting at 6:30pm in the Community Life Center. For more information, please email contact@traillifenc413.com or visit <http://www.traillifenc413.com/>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This list shares special one-time and monthly events and the start of weekly programs. See our website for our full calendar and the E-Courier (found on the News webpage) for a complete list of what is coming up this week, along with additional announcements.

THIS WEEK (SEPTEMBER 8 - SEPTEMBER 14)

- Sept 8 • Fall Discovery class begins (9a)
- Sept 8 • Timothy Project begins (5p)
- Sept 8 • Women's ministry prayer group (4:45p)
- Sept 9 • Women's open seminar (7p)
- Sept 9 • Support groups begin (6p)
- Sept 11 • Seniors kickoff
- Sept 11 • RTS Paideia Center book discussion (7p)
- Sept 11 • LINK & EPIC (7p)
- Sept 12 • Trail Life open house (6:30p)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept 16 • Men's open seminar
- Sept 16 • CCYM High school prayer
- Sept 17 • Women's Ministry fall kickoff
- Sept 19 • Trail Life open house

WATCHING OUR BUDGET

Thank you for your tithes and gifts to all of the ministries of Christ Covenant. Please continue to pray for God's provision throughout 2019.

<i>Inflow 1/1/19 – 9/1/19</i>	<i>Actual \$</i>	<i>Budget \$</i>	<i>Difference \$</i>	<i>% (-) or +</i>
Operating Budget	3,564,525	3,507,500	57,025	1.6%
Faith Promise Budget	243,142	211,984	31,158	14.7%