

A LAMPSTAND

FOR MOUNT AIRY

COVENANT REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PASTOR SCOTT WILLET

AUGUST 2018

Full Steam Ahead

Like everything else, churches have different seasons of life. As I look back upon the past 2-1/2 years of my life and ministry among you, I can identify three such distinct seasons. There was, of course, the interim season, when I arrived with the intention of staying for six months. I still remember with fondness the refreshment of those months, as you welcomed me so warmly and responded to my ministry so enthusiastically. I am thankful for the fruit which the Lord brought about through those months, and for the stability He gave to the whole church during a time when great transition could have become a time of very unsettling upheaval. Thankfully, there was no such distress.

Then came the season of uncertainty, as the Pulpit Search Committee was formed and gave careful consideration to calling me to come permanently as your pastor. I was certainly thankful for the final determination of that committee and the congregation after those months, thankful for the confidence and encouragement you gave to me as you chose to call me to be your pastor. The uncertainty of that time was, of course, sadly magnified by the actions of those from my previous church who had filed charges against me, charges which were the occasion for others in our presbytery to use in an attempt to prevent me from being installed as your pastor. It was such a relief to me, with more than a little sense of vindication, when those charges were finally and rather resolutely dismissed.

Welcome!

To our visitors,
we welcome you to Covenant
Reformed Presbyterian
Church.

Visitors, please take a copy of
the burgundy colored
Welcome!
folder located on the foyer
table next to the bulletins.
Please fill out a visitor's card
and either give it to an usher
or put it in the offering plate.

"But now God has set the members,
each one of them, in the body
just as He pleased."
(1 Cor. 12:18 NKJV)

Thus the third season of our time together, the time of transition as you and I both have now settled into this new and permanent relationship between a pastor and a congregation. I'm no longer new, and there is no sense of anything temporary. The past now lies behind us and the future lies ahead. What a joyful blessing that has been for me, as you continue to receive me and my ministry with eagerness and earnestness. Opportunities for fruitful ministry abound. And yet, there was still that sense of transition until the time when we finally sold our house in Atlanta and those frequent trips "home" to Georgia finally came to an end.

My point is this, that we have now entered a fourth season—one that I hope will last for years to come. I can best describe and define that season as "full steam ahead." In other words, with all the obstacles removed, with all the uncertainty gone, it's time to get to work! As I see it, that work needs to focus not only on the pastoral care and shepherding of our flock (which ought never to be neglected!), but also upon the need of our church to make ourselves known in our community. In a word, outreach.

There are many facets to that outreach. There is the obvious need for an updated, fresh presentation of the church to the public via the internet. In other words, the website. We have had the church website professionally redesigned, and with the ongoing customer support offered to me, the new website is up and going, though far from complete and continuing to improve. Please take a look... and look regularly. At a minimum, the site will be our business card to everyone who wants to know anything about us. Everyone who visits us will all but certainly have already looked at our website. We will also cease to pay for access to

Sermon Audio, as our sermons are now available on our own site. The site will also be useful for congregational communication as well as evangelism. I hope to keep the content fresh and up to date, and will be looking to others to provide content as well.

There are other aspects of outreach. As you read this newsletter, you will see that we have scheduled a seminar put on by Walk Thru the Bible, a presentation on the summary contents of the whole Old Testament. That one day event in October will be an opportunity to invite friends, to advertise to people we don't even know, and to come ourselves. If you aren't familiar with what Walk Thru the Bible does, please look them up on their website, www.walkthru.org. And please come to the seminar! The session hopes to schedule other seminars as well, on topics that can be easily used to reach out to the needs of people in our community. A financial seminar is one such idea in the early stages of planning.

If you read the Mount Airy paper carefully, you would have noticed our ad this past week. It's a small ad that will run all month. With a special advertising promotion through the month of August, we will purchase a number of larger ads as well, at a greatly reduced price. The goal is to make ourselves known, particularly the distinctives that might identify us by contrast to other churches. My goal in those ads is to attract the notice of people who love the Lord and His word, but find themselves longing for either more in-depth teaching of the Bible or more personal pastoral attention and oversight. I also long to attract the attention of people who do not know the Lord, but whose awareness of the "misery" of life has caused them to seek after something more...Namely, the gospel.

So full steam ahead! Yet in that, my ongoing pastoral work can not diminish. With a relationship now seasoned by multiple years, my pastoral yearning for your spiritual well-being abounds. How I love you, and long for nothing more than to see you walking well with the Lord. How thankful I am for your trust, for your willingness to let me into your lives, to seek out my counsel and my encouragement, and even, at times, to receive the loving admonitions of correction. I am excited about those relationships now matured by the passing of these couple of years. I am excited about the teenagers and young adults who have sought my attention to encourage them in their faith. I am encouraged by the married couples and other adults who have sought counsel and received some measure of solace in times of difficulty and struggle. I am thrilled to spend time with people new to our congregation, eager to see them established in their faith and in the fellowship of the church. And I am so glad to share that ministry with my fellow elders, Mike and Mark, thankful that our relationship has also matured with the ongoing affections of our mutual respect.

Full steam ahead as I seek to lead you in this whole endeavor of reaching out. My goal is nothing less than the right balance between those two objectives, broadly defined as shepherding and outreach. Full steam ahead as we work together for the building up of this church which the Lord has established and preserves throughout all the seasons of our life.



<i>Schedule of Preaching & Teaching</i>	
<u>Aug. 5</u>	
Adult SS	<i>Pastor Willet</i>
AM	John 14:15-18, 25-31
PM	<i>Lacy Andrews, preaching</i>
<u>Aug. 12</u>	
Adult SS	<i>Summary of Calvin's Little Book</i>
AM	John 14:19-24
PM	Leviticus 11-15
<u>Aug. 19</u>	
Adult SS	<i>Pastor Willet</i>
AM	John 15:1-8
PM	Leviticus 16
<u>Aug. 26</u>	
Adult SS	<i>1 Corinthians 1 (Mike Shields)</i>
AM	John 15:9-17
PM	Calvin Keller, preaching
<u>Sept. 2</u>	
Adult SS	<i>1 Corinthians 1</i>
AM	John 15:18 - 16:4
PM	<i>Joint Service with Harvest Mission</i>

Treasurer's Report

<u>Monthly Income</u>		<u>Monthly Expenses</u>		<u>Income minus Expenses</u>	
June	\$8,900.25	Aug.	\$18,706.38	June	-\$9,806.13
YTD	\$52,055.22	YTD	\$66,240.47	YTD	-\$14,185.25
<u>Monthly Average Income</u>		<u>Monthly Average Expenses</u>			
\$8,675.87		\$11,040.08			

Harvest OPC (Winston-Salem)

Calvin Keller has been invited to candidate for the call of organizing pastor at Harvest!
August 18- 27

Pastor Keller will be preaching both services at Harvest August 19 and 26
He will be preaching at Covenant on August 26 (2:15 pm service)

A congregational meeting will be called for September 2, in Winston-Salem,
following the joint evening worship service, with reference to his candidacy.

*Calvin Keller has been the pastor of the Cornerstone OPC in Chattanooga, TN since 2006.
Ordained in 1993, he previously served OPC congregations in Santa Cruz, CA and Hamden, CT.
He and his wife, Connie, are the parents of four children in their twenties.*

*Because Harvest is a daughter church of Covenant, the organizing pastor at Harvest will be a Pastor called
by the full, combined congregations to serve as organizing pastor of the mission work in Winston-Salem. His financial
support will be assisted by the Presbytery of the Southeast and our denominational Committee on Home Missions.*

Summer Picnic

with friends from Covenant and Harvest OPC

Saturday August 18
2 PM

At the home of Jeff and Kathleen George
1005 Sara-Dan Lane
Pinnacle, NC

Please RSVP by email (if you haven't done so yet) to Stephanie Childs, mommychilds@gmail.com

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Everyone is invited to our weekly Bible study
each Wednesday evening at 7 pm,
focusing on the book of Hebrews.

We meet at the home of Marvin and Susan Kaye, 419 Spring St.

August 8: Hebrews 11:5-22
August 15: Hebrews 11:23-40
August 22: Hebrews 12:1-3
August 29: Hebrews 12:4-11
September 5: Hebrews 12:12-17

Youth and Young Adult Bible Study

Thursdays 7 pm

(most weeks at the home of Mike and Cindy Shields)

Dinner at 7 pm

Bible study begins approximately 7:45 pm

Taught by Pastor Willet

Current Topic: *The Bible and Money*

Everyone is invited to this discussion-based Bible study.

Men's Reading Group

Each Friday, 8:00 AM

at the church

studying the book, *Knowing Scripture*, by R.C. Sproul

August 10: Chapter 1 (pp.28-35)

August 17: Chapter 2 (pp.36-45)

August 24: Chapter 2 (pp.45-48)

August 31: Chapter 3 (pp.49-54)

All the men and young men of the church are invited for a time of study, prayer and fellowship.

Sunday School

Reorganization Day: August 26

Four Classes to be held each week:

Pre-Readers

(Teachers to be determined)

Young Readers

(Teachers to be determined)

Youth

Taught primarily by Pastor Willet

A practical and personal study of the Westminster Confession

intended for our covenant children

as they learn to understand and embrace the Confession for themselves.

Adults

Taught by Ruling Elder Mike Shields

An expositional study of 1 Corinthians

*As an outreach to our community and a benefit to our own congregation,
the Session has scheduled...*

Walk Thru the Bible Old Testament Seminar

**Saturday October 27
9 am to 4 pm**

*\$20/person, \$40/family
Scholarships will be offered
Lunch will be provided*

*More information will follow, with volunteers needed to help.
Please mark your calendars and plan to attend if you are able.
The seminar is appropriate and helpful for young children to adults*

From their website (walkthru.org):

Learn the Old Testament in Just a Few Hours

*There's a lot to remember in the Bible. And it can be overwhelming and confusing.
But in just a few short hours, you will learn the major people, and events of the Old
Testament in chronological order—and you'll enjoy yourself in the process!*

Church Website

www.mtairyopc.org

Please visit our newly updated website!

Please note:

Weekly sermons are now posted on this website. (Sermon Audio will no longer be active.)

Urgent church announcements (such as weather closings, etc.) will be posted on this site.

We plan to keep the site current and up to date, as an outreach to our community.

Please note any errors or make known any suggestions for improvements to Pastor Willet.

Newspaper Advertising

Did you notice our ad in the newspaper this past week?

The small ad will run all month, and several additional larger ads will appear as well.

Please pray for this advertising, as an attempt to make ourselves known in and around Mount Airy.

Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church

495 S. Franklin Rd.
Mount Airy, NC 27030
336-673-3176 (Church office)
770-880-2265 (Pastor's phone)

mtairyopc.org

Pastor Scott Willet: sswillet@mac.com

Sunday Services

Sunday School Classes
10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service
11:00 AM

Sunday Afternoon Worship Service
2:15 PM

Other Activities

Wed. Night Bible Study
7:00 PM
Meeting at the Kaye home, 419 Spring St.

Thursday Night Youth and Young Adult Bible Study
7:00 PM
Meeting at the Shields' home, 250 Apollo Dr.

Men's Reading Group
Friday 8:00 AM
Meeting at the church