

Covenant Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

2911 S.W. Cary Parkway Cary, NC 27513

Phone: 919-481-4715 Fax: 919-481-4016

Email: covenantcc@bellsouth.net

Web: www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org

Sundays

Worship: 9:00am & 11:00am

Sunday School: 10:00am

Wednesdays

Youth Groups & Adult Studies 6:30pm

Worship: 7:30pm

Volume 21 No.11

October 31, 2007



It's that time of year...

When it seems like everywhere you turn, you're hearing about the church's finances. But I do so unabashedly because Jesus Christ is my stewardship role model. Jesus never shied away from teachings that call us to share what we have with others. In fact Jesus speaks of the stewardship (managing) of our lives far more than Jesus speaks of prayer and even love!

The formula is simple: God blesses us by giving us ALL—and I mean ALL-- that we have and ALL that we are. And in turn what's expected of us? You and I are called to *joyfully* return to God what belongs to God in the first place!

Once you come to this critical theological understanding, then you must begin to look at this entity called "the annual stewardship campaign," ***Share the Feast*** quite differently. But alas, no matter how it's presented, most people end up interpreting the campaign solely as an attempt to raise funds in order to simply meet the annual operating budget. Of course, funds are needed to fuel the ministries that God is calling us to do through Covenant, but Christian Stewardship is MORE than this.

Christian Stewardship is about prayerfully reflecting on all the resources with which God has blessed you; so that you may determine what you are able to offer God in return, period. The budget is a tool that simply grows out of what you and I and all of our households are willing to generously offer to God through the mission and ministries of Covenant.

Pray without ceasing, that's what we're told to do...So, let's do just that as together we commit our resources to all that God has in store for us; and then fasten your seat belt...God's Holy Energy, will be unleashed beyond our wildest dreams; taking us to new heights of ministry and service! Trust and believe....may it be so...

Blessings, Joanne



Remember to fall back Saturday night!!

Let's Fill the Food Pantry...

Habits are hard to break...so let's get in the habit EVERY week as you shop for your groceries to remember those in our community who struggle to make ends meet; who skip meals or go to bed hungry. Put some non-perishable items in your cart for them. Involve your children in this "teaching moment" activity. Then bring the food items to the church's entryway each week and place them in the blue tubs. They will be taken to the Food Pantry at Christian Community in Action, here in Cary.



Share the Feast on Anniversary Sunday November 11 beginning at 11am

Anniversaries are celebrations of sharing—past memories and accomplishments, current ministries and fellowship, and future hopes and dreams!

On Sunday, November 11 at 11am, Covenant will pause to celebrate the bountiful feast of community and ministry shared in this place. In studying *Unbinding the Gospel* we have focused on how to share our faith journeys with an ever-expanding circle of friends here and in the wider family of God's creation.

Let's celebrate **the feast** that our faith journeys have led us to enjoy at Covenant. Come to Covenant on Anniversary Sunday and join in the shared celebration as we study, worship, and break bread together. The presence of everyone in our family of faith is needed to complete the shared circle, celebrating this **feast of faith**.

As we worship on Anniversary Sunday we will again be worshipping around tables in our sanctuary. Intentionally plan to sit with someone in our Covenant family you do not know well yet. Watch for guests and invite them to join your table. During the mealtime, share some of the stories of your faith with your extended family. Share the welcome and inclusiveness that is part of **the feast** of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Following worship there will be a delicious **feast** of food: ham and turkey accompanied by a variety of side dishes provided by the wonderful cooks in our church family. If you would like to provide a turkey or ham, please contact Jeanne White at 919-342-3713 or jandiw@nc.rr.com.

Everyone else is asked to bring a salad, vegetable, or other side dish of their choice. Dessert, bread, and beverages will be provided by the hospitality ministry.

Come, Share the Feast!

P.S. REMEMBER: November 11 only one worship at 11am



And Now a WORD from the Moderator...Everybody Pitching In!

Americans have a terrific tradition of rugged individualism. We admire those who pull themselves up by their own bootstraps and even more so those who do so with grace, understanding, and compassion. We in this church are no different. We're justifiably proud of what we have done and what we do to help ourselves. We receive no money from a central denomination—in fact, we give money freely to the denomination to help sustain the ongoing ministries of the General and Regional efforts on our behalf.

Does it surprise you that the ministries of our church family are sustained by fewer than 70% of the individuals or family membership households? We do incredibly well under these circumstances; but we need more of you to help. Just think of all that we can do in the name of Christ, if everyone joins in this committed effort. We **CAN** do more...more for the children & youth in our congregation; more for our Disciples outreach and as we reach out to those in need in our own community; and more to develop and deliver even more programs to help each of us grow closer in relationship to our Creator.

I hope all of us together will support Covenant's ministries as we prayerfully consider making a commitment that flows out of your abundance and not out of scarcity; as we give God our best and not our leftovers!

****Remember to bring your estimate of giving card to worship Anniversary Sunday, November 11 for our 11am worship, as together, we dedicated our gifts to God****

Chris Hitch, Moderator

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart



Sunday, October 14, we welcomed **Jennifer Velea** as she reaffirmed her faith. Jennifer and husband, Rob Swaringen live at 515 Dundalk Way, Cary, 27511. Her Shepherding Elder is Dick Reaves

We also welcomed **Cathy Rush** as she also reaffirmed her faith. Cathy's address is: 5704-102 Magellan Way, Raleigh, 27612. Her Shepherding Elder is Carolyn Allen
Offer your own words of welcome to Jennifer & Cathy.

Prayer Concerns

Our Love & Prayers are with: Elgin & Elaine Fry and family in the recent death of his sister, Mary Lee.

Recent: Art Brothers at home; Ralph Messick at home...

Continuing Prayers for: Denise Loughridge; Elaine Kennel; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston; Hannah Stiles; Amarvi Thompson;

Parents of: Ann Hall. **Mothers of:** Betsy Mebane; Ann Washington; Renié Palmer; Steve Frost; Sandi Velez; Dave Deardorff; Alan Wilkinson. **Fathers:** Megan Larsen; Sharon Frost; Debbie Miller.

Daughter: Monteith's. **Sons of:** Kathy Smith; Jim Johnston.

Grandmothers of: Darla Baldwin; Diana Toney; Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen; Bill Rivers.

Grandfather of: Darla Baldwin **Sisters of:** Darla Baldwin; Hazel Brothers.

Brothers of: Art Brothers; Sharon Frost; Carol Carson. **Great-Uncle of:** Terry White.

Aunts of: Cathy Downs; Larry Linguist. **Uncles of:** Vicki Wilkinson; Terry White; Melanie Bunn. **Niece of:** Patricia Mills; **Nephews of:** Melanie Bunn; Meg Snave; Joe Busby;

Great-Nephew of: Jody & Jay Barish. **Cousins of:** Anna Perry; Terry White; Bob Kennel; Barbara Crumpler; Elaine Fry; Larry Linguist; Jim Hartman;

Sisters-in-Law of: Hazel Brothers; Rocio Anderson; Mary Lou Jackson

Remembering Others: Sandy Zies; Bill Huncik; Renie Palmer's neighbor, Bill; Hazel Schuller; Cameron Wall; Ron Walters; Don Styles; Sharon Johnson; General & Regional Church Leaders; Disciples new church starts.

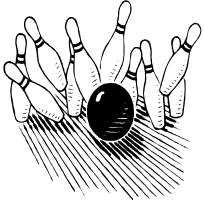
Please remember to contact the church office covenantcc@att.net if you wish the above names to remain on the current list after 2 weeks...

New contact information for Tim & Becky Stiles:
128 Charter Ct., Cary, NC 27511; 919-481-3049; stiles.becky@gmail.com

General Board Meeting
Sunday, November 18 *FOLLOWING*
11:00am Worship

Miss a Sunday? Want to hear what went on in worship?

We are now able to provide CDs of the 11:00am Sunday morning worship each week. Contact the church office: 481-4715; covenantcc@bellsouth.net or stop by to pick up a CD or request it to be mailed.



For more information,
contact Rev. Perry

Covenant CYF
Bowling Day
With St. Paul's & Hillyer
Sunday, November 18
1:30pm
AMF Bowling Lanes
Pleasant valley in
Raleigh

Calling All Men...

**Young & Young at Heart!
To A Men's Ministry Breakfast
Saturday, November 10, 8:30a**

Breakfast is served at 8:30a followed by a golf clinic given by Len Kosequat, an accomplished golfer, golf teacher & scratch player. Len has had 7 hole-in-ones during his career & has won many tournaments. He will show the basics of the grip & other aspects of the swing, as well as putting & chipping. Len is 83 years young and is a very inspirational person who has overcome many obstacles during his life through his strong belief in both God & Golf!!!

You don't want to miss this event...call/email the office (481-4715/covenantcc@bellsouth.net) if you want your name on this list!!!



Covenant's Women's Ministry

**District CWF Meeting
St. Paul's Christian Church, Raleigh
All Women of the Church Welcome!
Saturday, November 10, 11:30a-2:00p**

Please **RSVP** to Lisa Yanchunas by Thursday, **November 1** at 656-7078 if you will attend so we can plan on enough lunches and if you have any questions.

Women's Ministry Bible Study

Our next bible study is Tuesday, November 13, at the church beginning at 7:30 pm. We normally meet in the first classroom down the hall on the left. This is a great opportunity to fellowship with other women and learn about this year's intriguing New Day theme, "Come to the Table." Every session stands alone, so come to one or come to all!

December Church-Wide Breakfast – Men & Women Invited

Saturday, December 1. Breakfast begins at 8:30am and the program is 9:00-10:00am. Come learn about the "The Interfaith Food Shuttle"--how surplus food is delivered to people in need in our community and some ways Covenant could help. We may be able to see how Covenant's own garden can help in this effort. A pancake breakfast is being provided!

Fun-Raising Day Results

The women's ministry's portion of the annual Fun Raising Day yielded a net profit of \$1707.60. 40% goes to the Quadrennial Fund; 19% goes to youth missions and 29% remains in the women's ministry fund. Thanks to all who added to the success of this event!



This is a reminder of our visit to Carolina House this Sunday, November 4

We'll meet at 4:00 p.m. at our house (509 Heathridge Ln - same street as the church -last house near corner of MacArthur Drive) to go over a couple of songs and reminders for our visit. We'll be at the Carolina House from 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. and you may pick up your children at Carolina House 111 MacArthur Drive at Cary Parkway). **(PLEASE NOTE THE TIME HAS CHANGED DUE TO CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE. WE DIDN'T WANT PEOPLE TO TRAVEL TO THE CHURCH 3 TIMES IN ONE DAY!)**

We will talk to the residents about Trunk or Treat and any other Halloween activities. If the children have some pictures they want to share, that's always a big hit. If we could have one parent volunteer to accompany us, that would be great. The rest of you are welcome as well, or you may prefer to run errands and/or enjoy a coffee break close by. We look forward to seeing your children on Sunday. The Carolina House residents really enjoy seeing and talking to the children. If you have any questions, please contact us (460-2820) or email jodylb23@yahoo.com)

Looking forward to Sunday! Jody & Jay



It's time to start rehearsing for the Christmas play, so join us this Sunday, November 4, at 5:00pm for the first play practice and a pizza dinner. We hope you have encouraged your child/ren to be a part of the play. We look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with our church family.

If you have any questions or want to help in any way, contact the church office: covenantcc@bellsouth.net or 481-4715; or Kathy Kidwell: 460-8931; or kathy.kidwell@accesspointinc.com .

We will present the play December 16 at 5:00pm in conjunction with our annual Holiday Tasting Party. So mark your calendars and invite others...

Wanna Spread A Little Love?



On Wednesday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m., Kids to Kids will meet to make polar fleece blankets for Project Linus. The children would love to have some helping hands, so please join us.

If you can't help make the blankets, but would like to participate, please consider making a donation to help pay for the fabric. Donations can be made to Covenant Christian Church with 'Kids to Kids - Project Linus' on the memo line. For more information, please contact Jody or Jay Barish: 460-2820.

Thanks for spreading the love!



Looking towards God's Future..

Children and Youth Ministries



For the Month of: NOVEMBER

Have you heard?
Covenant's CYF is raising money for their SUMMER MISSION TRIP!

On Saturday, December 1st
CYF is sponsoring a **"DROP & SHOP"**
for you and your children from 5:00-9:00 PM.

Simply sign up to bring your child(ren) to the church and we'll entertain them while you shop, dine, or just have an evening to yourself! What a gift to yourself!
It's only \$10.00 or \$15.00/family! What a bargain you simply can't pass up!

Sign up is in the entryway of Covenant's sanctuary.
For more information, contact Rev. Perry.

Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly,
FALALALALALALALA...

Have you ordered your
Singing Christmas Card yet?

Covenant Youth will be delivering these special cards in full voice and person on **Saturday, December 14th**.
What a better way to send holiday cheer to your family and friends.
You may order your cards in the entryway of the sanctuary.
These unique cards are only \$10.00, but don't delay for they are limited!

Please note: Delivery must be within 15 miles of the church.

It's time to preorder your,

COOKIE MIX JARS

Order today and have them just in time for the holidays. Order 1, 2, 3, or more for you, or anyone special on your gift-giving list.

You may select from:
Oatmeal Cookie Mix
Chocolate Chip Cookie Mix
M&M Cookie Mix

Only \$10.00 per jar!

Hey, Kids 2 Kids!

Don't forget that **Sunday, November 4**
You'll be visiting **Carolina House Residents** from
4:00- 5:00 p.m.
Contact Jody, Barish for more info.

**"Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you,
happy birthday dear..."**

Sara Maret- 1st
Madeline & Isabella Fry- 15th
Keaton Barish- 17th
Nicole Nystrom - 19th
Peyton Barish- 26th

Happy Birthday to you!"



October 2007 Financial Information

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ (25.98)
Receipts	\$ 18,693.81
Disbursements	\$ 18,906.74
Transfer	\$ 4,248.68
Ending Balance	\$ 4,009.77
Capital Campaign General	
Beginning Balance	\$ 4,098.68
Receipts	\$ 700.00
Transfer	\$ 4,268.68
Ending Balance	\$ 550.00

Thanks to all who responded generously to the recent appeal. Please continue to share out of your abundance as we serve God through the ministries and mission of Covenant Christian Church...

*And thanks to all of you who walked and/or donated money for our annual CROP Walk for the hungry of Wake County & around the world. Your energy and generosity helped us raise, **\$1,120.***

<>< <>< <>< <>< <><

We also want to encourage any members/guests to setup **automatic bill pay** with their bank so that a check is sent to us each week or month, whether you are able to be in worship or not. The information that you need when setting up an automatic payment is as follows:

Billor Name: Covenant Christian Church

Account number: GENERAL FUND

Billor Address: 2911 SW Cary Parkway

Billor City, State, Zip: Cary, NC 27513

Billor phone number: 919-481-4715

The account number can be GENERAL FUND/ SANCTUARY FUND/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/or MEMORIAL FUND. Further questions? Contact Betsy Mebane, Treasurer:

betsy_mebane@hotmail.com.

An opportunity to fill Covenant's Christmas (Stock-ing)

Also, as you make end of year decisions that will affect your 2007 personal income tax, you may want to consider donating your appreciated stock to CCC.

The tax benefits are hard to beat for a couple of reasons: 1) the full value of the appreciated stock is deductible as a charitable donation and 2) you do not have to pay capital gains tax on the value of the appreciation. Your personal tax advisor can help you assess specific benefits. Stock donations may be used to fulfill balance of unpaid 2007 pledge. Contact the Church Office for procedural instructions (481-4715).

Library Corner...

What Would You Do? by John Howard Yoder
(O154 110p. c1983)

The complete question is "what would you do if a violent person threatened to harm a loved one?" John Yoder offers his thoughts on this standard question from a Christian point of view. The author is a theologian who taught at Notre Dame and Mennonite Biblical Seminary. He received his Doctorate at the University of Basel and has written other books on peace and pacifism as well as other subjects.

The Preface explains how and why he wrote this book, which is divided into three sections. Each builds on the other and also gets easier to read.

Taking the Question Seriously is deep and theological. It deals with assumptions and emotions related to the question. War, options for action, and the way of Christ are also considered.

Other Ways to Respond includes essays on the topic by Leo Tolstoy, author; S.H.Booth-Clibbon, leader of the British Pentecostal movement; Henry Hodgkin, founder of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation; Joan Baez, folk singer and others.

Does it Really Matter? includes stories from real life situations that illustrate the experiences of people like Tom Skinner, a former gang leader in Harlem. Gladys Aylward, missionary to China tell how she stopped a prison riot and the results of her actions. Three other stories are included here.

The book seems dated because few of the writers are considered famous anymore. This does not take away from the presentation of the topic. The more one reads it, the better it gets.

Sally Shelly, Reviewer



And a Final Word from Mary Lou...

Updated Membership Lists are available via email... just call me and I will send you the attachment...or you can pick up a copy on the table outside the church office.

Attendance Counts! We need to know when you're here for worship; church school; meetings and events here at Covenant...Please remember to sign the attendance registry and pass it down your row even if the Worship Leader forgets to ask you to do so...The names of our guests are important to Invitation Ministry too!

AND...one more thing...All Staff, New Officers, Leaders and Ministry Chairs: Please, please...have your December Newsletter articles to me by November 16 so I can get it posted on line and mailed to those without email in a timely manner. It takes us all to make this work!