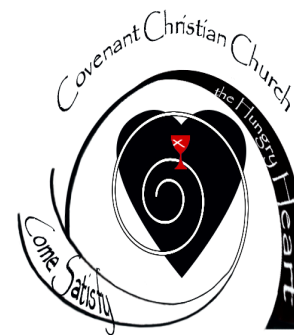


**Covenant Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
2911 S.W. Cary Parkway Cary, NC 27513  
Phone: 919-481-4715 Fax: 919-481-4016  
Email: [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net)  
Web: [www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org](http://www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org)



**Sundays**  
Worship: 9:00am & 11:00am  
Sunday School: 10:00am  
Childcare provided for Sunday Mornings & Wednesday Evenings

**Wednesdays**  
Living the Questions Study: 6-7:25 pm  
Taizé Worship: 7:30pm

Volume 23 No.2

January 30, 2009

## ***Fear & Faith Make Strange Bed-fellows!***

I believe that fear is the most debilitating emotion we encounter. I have also often heard that there are only two innate human fears: the fear of falling and the fear of loud noises. So, where in the world do the other fears come from? And how is it that we allow these fears to have such power and control in our lives? As I ponder this whole idea of fear and its power, I keep asking myself and others, "What exactly am I/are you ,afraid of?" Sure there are those things like spiders and other creepy, crawly things; things that go bump in the night; the dark; monsters under your bed or in the closet. Yes, I admit I do not like spiders or snakes or flying, buzzy, stinging insects...and I guess what I fear most is their bite or their sting.

But when I speak of fear, I am thinking more along the lines of deep, stop you dead in your tracks, dry-mouth, beads of sweat on your brow, kind of fear. What is it you fear? Failure? God? Death? Serious Illness? Success? The future? Public speaking? Being lost? Being alone? An abusive spouse? An abusive parent? Someone harming your well-being or that of your family? Losing your job? Losing your retirement? Losing your home? Losing face and/or respect? Or what else?

Both the Hebrew scriptures and all throughout the New Testament we hear angels as well as the voice of God, bringing the message, "Do not fear...do not be afraid..." And yet so many of us remain fearful people...worrying about how we will make it through these economic challenges that we find front and center in our lives...and yet, most of us have more than enough food; a nice place to live; clean water; access to more than adequate medical care; and most of us still have jobs, which means we have financial resources that provide all this, and much more.

And yet so many of us still live as if we are afraid of our own shadows. When we live each day as fearful people, we can be assured that our fear will manifest itself into anger, impatience and even spiritual blindness. And the hole that fear digs, becomes deeper and deeper and all consuming. We become more and more unable to see our way into God's future. And before we know it, our every waking moment is filled with worry and fear; so much so that we end up having little or no room for faith.

So, why is it so difficult for us to put our faith into action...to walk and live by faith? After all, aren't we first and foremost, people of faith? How then do we make room for faith; how do we feed our faith with a high-calorie spiritual diet? Have we really lost sight of believing that God provides for our every need? Have we forgotten that God equips us with whatever resources we need to relieve our fears; to move out in faith? God is calling us to increased faithfulness ...to use our eyes, our ears, our minds and our hearts to be open to God's leading...as we seek God's guidance in order to move into God's future, day by day.

Taking time out for daily prayer, studying and meditating on God's Word, seeking God's presence and power in our lives; asking God for strength, for the courage even when necessary, to put one foot in front of the other...to take risks by responding to God's love for us, God's call, God's claim on our lives as individuals and together as this congregation. Faith is a grand & glorious adventure that awaits us...an exciting adventure with God in the lead...Ready? Set? Let's go...let's continue to fill up with faith as together we cast out all fear...**Blessings, Joanne**

***And Now a WORD from Your Moderator...***

At the General Board meeting on January 18, the Board voted to call a new Associate Minister with Children & Youth to begin work on March 1. Both the Search Committee and the Board have agreed the candidate is the right person for Covenant at this time. The candidate is uniquely qualified to work with our children and youth and the Board is committed to growing an already strong program for our kids and their parents, which will attract more members and help us to grow numerically and spiritually.

It is no secret to any of you that this move will be a real financial challenge to our congregation, especially in light of a 2008 deficit. However, the Board members see this as a pivotal time in Covenant's history for the church to move forward and have voted to step out in faith, believing this to be the next right move for Covenant. The proposed compensation package is within the budget figures we approved as a congregation at the Congregational meeting on December 14, 2008.

**There will be a special called Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 15**, following EACH worship service to approve calling this candidate. We do not go into this blindly and naively, but are committed to being financially responsible. Therefore, the Board has wisely directed that a formal funding plan for 2009 be put into place with a compelling "statement of need" to raise awareness as to why Covenant needs more financial resources to grow the congregation, both in numbers and spiritually, and to be our guide in the coming months for increasing our financial commitments to carry out the programs God is calling us to have and that WE SAY we want.

You will receive **2 packets of information prior to February 15 to prepare you for the Congregational Meeting**. Part I will include the candidate's bio; the position's job description; the candidate's resume and the proposed compensation package. Part II will include the "Statement of Need" and the Funding Plan for 2009. **You will also have an opportunity to informally meet the candidate, Sunday, February 8 at 10am**, during the Church School time—adult classes will NOT meet but the children's classes will meet as usual. Please make every possible effort to be here on the 8<sup>th</sup> to meet the candidate AND on the 15<sup>th</sup> to approve the call of the candidate.

In other business, Debbie Miller was commended for her work with the Town of Cary and the sign company for negotiating **a new church sign** design and placement that meets all Town codes. While there is initially a letter missing (broken in delivery) from the sign, that letter and lighting will complete our new sign in the very near future. When you see Debbie, thank her – this was no small task and has been years in the process!

Finally, if you are planning to go to the **General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** in Indianapolis, July 29 through August 2, 2009, please let Karen Nolan or the church office know as soon as possible that you will be attending. **Thank you, Karen Nolan, Moderator**

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**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**  
**Just in case you think you might die one day...**

Ask yourself these questions: At the time of your death, "Do you want the government to receive the value of your estate?" If you have children, "Do you want your minor children to be wards of the state?" "Do you have a will?" "Have you thought about a will but have put off establishing one?"

**Well, circle this date: Saturday, February 28 at Covenant Christian Church.**

We'll begin with coffee/tea at 9:30am. At 10:00am, Randy Johnson, Vice-President of the Christian Church Foundation, Southeast region, will present a Wills & Estates Seminar. Plan to be here and learn more about how to take this important first step that will help secure your future. Childcare can and will be provided upon request.

## **2009 Purcell Bible Conference and Sprinkle Lectures at Barton College**

Barton College will host the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual E. G. Purcell, Jr., Bible Conference on Sunday, March 1: 2:30 pm registration; 3:00 pm Lecture, led by Dr. Warren Carter, Professor of New Testament, Brite Divinity School. A native of New Zealand, Dr. Carter has extensively researched and written on issues related to the New Testament and the Roman Empire; and concludes at 4:30 pm with Vespers.

The Thedford G. and Woodrow W. Sprinkle Lectures will be Monday, March 2 at 7:30pm and Tuesday March 3. At 11am; led by Dr. Kay Lynn Northcutt and ends with a buffet lunch. Dr. Northcutt is the Fred B. Craddock Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at Phillips Theological Seminary. Her writing has earned her three Associated Church Press writing awards. Her most recent work is *Kindling Desire for God: Preaching as Spiritual Direction*, which will be available from Fortress Press this spring. Besides her work in preaching, worship and spirituality, Dr. Northcutt is also an accomplished pianist.

***If you are interested in attending any or all of the above, contact the church office and we can help make car-pool arrangements.***

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### **‘Disciple ME — Disciple WE’**

Workshops, Worship Highlight Regional Academy  
Saturday, March 28, 9am-4:30pm  
Barton College Campus, Wilson, NC

In even numbered years, North Carolina Disciples gather in April for the Regional Assembly. In odd numbered years, we gather for the Regional Academy--a one-day event of worship, morning & afternoon workshops, keynote address, lunch and fellowship.

Kaye S. Edwards, Director of Family and Children’s Ministries for Disciples Home Missions (DHM), will keynote the 2009 Regional Academy with her address, “Children Are NOT the Future of the Church,” will be given at 9 a.m. in Howard Chapel. Acts 8:30-31 will serve as her background scripture.

10:15 Workshops include:

- Evangelism with Michael Cotton
- Spirituality/Prayer led by Mary Williams
- Generational Differences with Phil and Cathy Cralle Jones
- Disciple Making led by Sam Fulmer and Jane Alligood
- Bible Study with Rod Werline
- Spiritual Gifts led by Penny Ziemer
- Anti-Racism & Pro-reconciling Congregations with Sekinah Hamlin

1:45p workshops include:

- Children’s Ministry led by Kaye Edwards
- How to Lead without Authority led by Regional Minister John Richardson
- Missions/World Service with Daisy Chambers
- Worship as Journey led by Mary Beth and Terry Harper
- Church Structures with David Mallory
- Young Adults in Ministry led by Rob Morris.

The program ends with Closing Worship in Howard Chapel at 4:00pm

Registration forms are available in the church office and in the church entryway. We will plan to carpool to this event.

## Women's Ministries News



All Women of the church are welcome to  
**Our Quarterly Breakfast, Saturday, February 7th**  
**9-10:30am at the Church (A Babysitter is available)**

Get ready to have some fun! Our very own Renie Palmer is our guest speaker this day. We have explored our readiness to listen to God. Now the question is just **how** do we listen? The answer to this single question will be different for every individual. Do our actions and reactions (not to mention our non-actions) help determine the ways we listen? An interesting thought! Renie will help us to better understand why we all hear God's voice in our own unique fashion.

### *Looking Ahead:*

- Women's Bible Study-Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. Each session is independent of the other so just come when you can! We meet 7:30pm at the church.
- A Disciples Women Luncheon will be held during Regional Academy on March 28th at Barton College in Wilson. This is a fun and enriching one-day workshop for all men and women of the church. Contact Ann Washington, 851-9383; [annpw@hotmail.com](mailto:annpw@hotmail.com); or Marilyn Williams, 417-1021; marfwms@yahoo.com for further details.
- Continue to clip and save Campbell's soup and products labels for Christmount!

*Blessings to you and yours, Marilyn and Ann, Co-Leaders*

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### **Disciples Men are Gentlemen!**

Our Disciples Men have another outstanding breakfast and speaker scheduled for **Saturday, February 14, at 8:15 AM. Demetrius Marlowe** will return to discuss at greater length both leadership and value issues raised at the December meeting. Covenant women are also invited to share in this breakfast meeting.

**IT'S ANOTHER GREAT TIME TO PRACTICE INVITATION MINISTRY! INVITE SOMEONE AND WE GUARANTEE THE FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND PROGRAM WILL BE GOOD!**

When the weather improves we will get one final paint coat on the shed and the new basketball goal raised.

Questions about the Men's Ministry? Contact Mike Joyce (395-8746; [michael\\_joyce@ncsu.edu](mailto:michael_joyce@ncsu.edu)) or Bob Kennel (557-0847; [Bkennel@aol.com](mailto:Bkennel@aol.com)).

**Bob Kennel, Secretary**

**Congregational Meeting, Sunday, February 15**  
Immediately following 9am worship & 11am worship  
For the purpose of considering the call of an Associate Minister  
with Children & Youth

# Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

**Recent:** Phama Larsen-Johnston's coworker, Karen Keels; Patty Cole's mother, Virginia Porter; Jeremy Hopkins' father; Melanie Bunn's nephew;; Gerry Tokanel's sister, Faye Tepedino; Ann Etheridge; Brenda Cleary's father, Bill Lewis; all who are seeking employment...

**We wish:** Trey O'Quinn the very best as he assumes a new position at WCU in Cullowhee, NC

**At Home:** Elaine Kennel

**Continuing Prayers for:** Vicky Vanderford; Dave Deardorff; Deb Nystrom; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston...

**Parents of:** Patty Cole; Sharon Frost; Ann Hall. **Mother of:** Vicky Vanderford. **Fathers of:** Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller; Bob Nolan... **Daughter of:** Sally Shelly; **Son of:** Jim Johnston.

**Grandfathers of:** Trey O'Quinn; **Grandmothers of:** Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen.

**Grandson of:** Mary Lou Jackson. **Sister of:** Hazel Brothers. **Brother of:** Art Brothers.

**Aunts of:** Matt Layko; Jeff Miller; Melanie Fagert; Larry Linguist.. **Uncle of:** Jeremy Hopkins; **Nephews of:** Joe Busby; Melanie Bunn; **Great-Nephew of:** Barishes; **Cousins of:** Mary Lou Jackson, Elaine Fry

**Sisters-in-Law of:** Hazel Brothers...

**Remembering Others:** Michael Gantt; Carol Redis; Vann Cleveland; Hazel Schuller; Rosie Stockbridge; Elizabeth Pawelka; General & Regional Church Leaders; Disciples area new church starts

**Contact the church office: 481-4715 or [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net) if you want any of the above names to remain on the current list after 2 weeks**

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## *Covenant's Help Wanted List*

As we move headlong into this New Year we are in need of volunteers to help our church family provide important services to our members and guests. Please seriously consider saying YES to any of the following needs:

- Nursery/Toddler volunteers. While most of our parents are already on the serving list, we very much would like to add anyone who wants to provide love and care for our youngest children, ONE or TWO SUNDAYS A YEAR, for ONE HOUR during the 11am worship time. If on your assigned date, you are not needed, you may return to worship. Having quality childcare is so important to our own members as well as our guests. Contact the Church Office: 481-4715
- Office Helpers to answer the phone ONE MONDAY A MONTH, 9am-Noon  
Contact Mary Lou Jackson, 481-4715
- Kitchen Guardians needed ONE DAY/EVENING A MONTH to check on the condition of the church kitchen: light cleanup & organization of the cupboards, as needed & to check supply needs. We need 3 additional volunteers. Contact Sally Shelly: 466-0335

# Outreach Ministry News

## HUNGER IN WAKE COUNTY AND COVENANT'S RESPONSE...

Wake County has more than 50,000 people living below the poverty level and at risk of hunger! More than 1/3 are children. There are senior citizens who have to decide between buying their medicine and buying food. Families have to make the decision of paying their rent or buying groceries. One in five children in Wake County may not have had breakfast before going to school (and not by choice!) or may not get dinner when they get home.

Covenant Christian Church has responded to that need in a variety of ways, targeting different populations and different areas of the county. We provide financial support & food donations to Urban Ministries, Interfaith Food Shuttle and Christian Community in Action of Cary. Food donations are also made to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC.

During January and February our children are leading the way. Through Kids to Kids, they are reaching out to help at-risk kids! They are volunteering at the Food Bank as well as currently holding a special food collection to help feed children through the Backpack program.(see article above)

Let's learn more about the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC! Their reach is beyond Wake County. They serve 34 counties through 900 different agencies. In 2008 they provided 32.6 MILLION pounds of food to soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, after-school programs and elderly nutrition programs. The food comes from donations from individuals, churches, corporations and food companies. Then the food is sold to the agencies at a greatly reduced rate. More than 400,000 individuals were served last year; 30% of them were children, 18% elderly and 38% were working poor. In addition to providing food to a variety of agencies the Food Bank runs two nutrition programs for children: Kids Café and the Back Pack program. Both of these provide nutritious food to children who are at-risk of hunger.

Covenant Outreach Ministry will continue to support this dynamic organization. Would you like to follow the lead of our children and volunteer at the Food Bank during the coming year? We can organize a time for a group of adults from Covenant to work sorting and packing food in their warehouse. This is a wonderful way to make a "hands and heart" donation of your time. Interested? Let us know!

Together, let's "**Satisfy the Hungry Heart,**"

**Marian** ([jimarian@nc.rr.com](mailto:jimarian@nc.rr.com)) & **Ro** [rthompsonct@aol.com](mailto:rthompsonct@aol.com))

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## Green Team Information

Covenant's new "Green Team" held its first meeting on January 8. The Team reviewed the report from the Energy Audit that occurred last fall, and prioritized the recommendations in the report. Stay tuned to learn more about a spring workday that will be scheduled to make our buildings more energy efficient. **The next Green Team meeting will be on February 19.** We'll begin with a soup supper at 6:00 and will adjourn in time for choir practice at 7:30. If you plan to attend, or if you cannot attend the meeting but would like to receive the meeting summaries and other email information from the Green Team, please contact Marian Hartman at [jimarian@nc.rr.com](mailto:jimarian@nc.rr.com), or Ro Thompson at [rthompson@aol.com](mailto:rthompson@aol.com).



## Outreach Ministry –Kids to Kids—and YOU

Outreach Ministry, Kids to Kids and YOU working together to bring nutritious food to “at-risk for hunger” children....that is our opportunity over the next few weeks. February 14<sup>th</sup> our kids will be volunteering again at the Food Bank. We want to send them loaded with food donations to support the “Back Pack Program”. There are many children who are dependent on school breakfast and lunches in order to meet their daily food needs. This wonderful program sends them home on weekends with a back-pack full of nutritious food. Twenty four schools....850 children....are served by this program!!

### Here’s what we need:

- **Canned pasta products with pop-top lids (spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)**
- **Individual cereal boxes**
- **Individual wrapped snacks**
- **Fruit bars**
- **Canned fruit (with pop-top lids)**

**NOTE: Please make sure all individual items have the ingredients listed on them. This is necessary for them to be used for this program.**

Add these items to your grocery list and bring them to church over the next 4 Sundays. Let’s share our love on Valentine’s Day by helping a child in need!

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## CARING FOR GOD’S **GREEN** EARTH

According to Ideal Green Bite:

Each year, Americans toss out enough paper and plastic cups, forks, spoons to circle the equator 300 times if laid end-to-end. Dishwashing takes less water than producing new disposables.

SO --- return to washable utensils wherever possible including:

Dishes; Napkins; Glasses; Mugs; Placemats; Tablecloths; Dishtowels;; Storage containers; Water bottles

WHERE --- Home; Restaurants; Bars; Wherever you eat or drink.

OR --- Use bioplastics marked biodegradable or compostable with a # 7 such as compostable bowls, plates, platters made from corn, sugar, fallen leaves and recycled paper products. Check out VerTerra.com and biodegradable store.com for more information.

YOU may not be able to do all of this immediately but tackle one item at a time until it becomes habit.

*Blessings in the New Year, Your Outreach Coordinators,*  
*Marian Hartman, [jimarian@nc.rr.com](mailto:jimarian@nc.rr.com); and Ro Thompson, [RTHOMPSONCT@aol.com](mailto:RTHOMPSONCT@aol.com),*

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## Big Hearts Lead to Big Muscles!

Kids to Kids helped pack 11,000 pounds of food in January at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. WOW! They're planning to go again on **Saturday, February 14**, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. to spread their love on Valentine's Day - and maybe even break January's record! We have 25 slots and we hope to fill them all. If you have any questions, please contact Jay or Jody Barish at 460-2820 or [jodylb23@yahoo.com](mailto:jodylb23@yahoo.com).



### **Where is YOUR Treasure?**

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...” Matthew 6:21

For God, we are treasure: “You are children of the Lord your God. ... the Lord has chosen [you] to be his people, his treasured possession” (Deuteronomy 14:1-2). One of the gifts of being God’s children is that sometimes we are called to be “treasure tenders” for God. We are invited to tend God’s treasures beyond our congregation by participating in Week of Compassion.

Life can be tough at times. Hurricanes, tornadoes and tsunamis smash communities to bits. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter the very foundations of life, shoving people out of their homes and countries. Persistent hunger, poverty, lack of education, and ill health shrivel the life and dry the spirit. The current economic crisis right here at home leaves us all feeling a bit uncertain.

But we can do something to respond! Through Week of Compassion, we gently and effectively care for God’s treasures. By sharing some of our earthly treasure—our money, our time, our energy—decisive aid can be sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help as they rebuild their lives. We help people help themselves through education, health care, tools, seeds, and resources to improve community infrastructure.

And the sharing is mutual. When we care for people, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others (or we ourselves) have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life. Seeing what others live through, we are inspired to live courageously. Seeing that new life is possible, our hope rises.

Our treasure is doing God’s will, loving God, and loving God’s treasured people, so we all “may take hold of the life that really is life” (1 Timothy 6:19b). Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). May you find your treasure, and your heart, by sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to Week of Compassion.

**Please join us in sharing your treasure February 15 & 22!**



## December 2008 Financial Information

<b>General Fund</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$ (9,084.55)
Receipts	\$ 22,125.43
Disbursements	\$ 20,098.03 -
	\$
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$ ( 7,057.15)

Thanks to all who continue to generously support Covenant's ministries throughout 2008.  
**A year-end report for 2008 will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.**

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### Prepare Now for a New Way to Make Your Tithes & Offerings in the New Year

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 27513-8902

Billor phone number: 919-481-4715

The account number can be GENERAL FUND/NEW BUILDING FUND/or MEMORIAL FUND.

Questions? Contact Betsy Mebane, Treasurer: [betsy\\_mebane@hotmail.com](mailto:betsy_mebane@hotmail.com).

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### Miss a Sunday? CDs are Now Available!

Many circumstances can prevent you from being here for worship. One way of staying in touch is through the CD ministry. If you would like a CD of any 11am service simply contact the church office: 481-4715; [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net) to request it via snail mail or make arrangements to pick it up during regular office hours (Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm) or make special arrangements.

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### Now Here's a 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, Officers, Leaders and Ministry Chairs: Please, please...have your February Newsletter articles to me by **February 16, 2009** 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!**