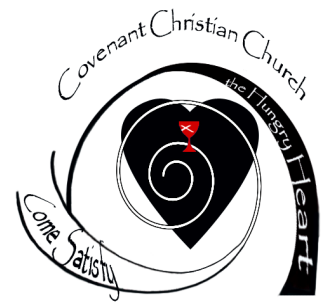


Covenant Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2911 S.W. Cary Parkway Cary, NC 27513
Phone: 919-481-4715 Fax: 919-481-4016
Email: covenantcc@bellsouth.net
Web: www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org



Sundays
Worship: 9:00am & 11:00am Christian Education for All Ages: 10:00am
Childcare provided for Sunday Mornings & All Programs & Activities

Volume 23 No.9

August 31, 2009

Let's Face (book) It!

It seems social networking is all the rage with Facebook and Twitter heading the list! And as several of you already know, Covenant has its own Facebook page. You too can become a fan of Covenant—see page 3! But you may be wondering what all the hype is about. Is it a passing fad or does it truly mark a new day for communicating with one another? Social networking takes email to yet another level where you can stay in touch with your closest friends and family. Once you dare to put your big toe into the Facebook waters, you quickly learn that some of the communication taking place is filled with way TMI—too much information. I still scratch my head in amazement & wonder to what lengths so many people go, in sharing their most intimate thoughts...knowing that whatever is put out there on Facebook or other internet places, is there forever...reminding us all to first stop and think before sending anything out there in cyberspace. ☺

It's becoming clearer and clearer that social networking is not going away...and so, I am left pondering about its influence in the church. We already live in a fast-paced, impersonal and disposable society where we can hide behind screens and yet communicate with each other; where we can venture less and less outside our homes because we can order more and more of whatever we need online and have it delivered to our front door; and where we toss one gadget after another into the trash, making way for another "soon to be obsolete" item. Planned obsolescence is the name of the game!

This is where I quickly offer a prayer of thanks for the church...a community of faith where we can physically, not virtually, gather together to worship; to share one another's joys and burdens; celebrate one another's lives...to actually give and receive smiles and hugs if /when we need to...And yet, after a few months on Facebook I am beginning to sense that these ventures into social networking, setting up virtual communities, actually have a place as part of the church experience. "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em" kind of approach...Maybe they really are presenting us with a new way to be the church...

After all, many Facebook entries offer prayers for others; mutual support in time of need; joyful sharing of photos and experiences; reminding one another of forgiveness and grace and love...not necessarily using "churchy" words...just offering the "churchy" love and support that still lingers in the memories of many of the church in days gone by. One of the appealing things about Facebook, at least for many churched or un-churched, is that you can experience all this without ever darkening the doors of a church; where you don't need to speak the language or need to know any of the rituals and customs.

But I still believe there is a need and much room available, for the real church in our lives where we can gather as a loving and supportive community of believers to worship, pray, sing and share the Bread & Cup with other saints and sinners. And in the busyness of our lives and the geographical distances that separate us from week to week, I am also coming to believe how we also need this entity of social networking that invites us to cry and laugh together, confess our sins, reach out when we feel lost or alone, pray with each other, right then and there...hmmmm...

It's so good to share the journey of faith with you as together we begin this new program year and as we wrestle with this fresh way of being church—not as THE way to be church, but to somehow embrace this virtual expression of Church as a means of staying connected while physically being apart from one another...**Blessings, Rev. Joanne**

And now a word from our Moderator...

It was my pleasure to represent Covenant as a lay voting delegate, along with Elaine Kennel and Carole Tyler, at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada in Indianapolis this summer. The theme was "...for the Healing of the Nations" (Rev. 22:2).

From the opening session 'State of the Church' address by our General Minister and President the Reverend Dr. Sharon Watkins to the closing All-Assembly Concert and Closing Communion, we were challenged, inspired, educated, informed, troubled, uplifted, ably led through the worshipful work of attending to the business of the general church, and much more.

We had opportunities to dialog with the leaders of our general units and church-related educational institutions and were encouraged to share our thoughts, successes, suggestions, etc. with the church leaders as we sought together in a *Wholeness Café* setting God's mission for us as Disciples in a hurting world. In addition, we saw many old friends and met new ones

And... the highlight for those of us from Covenant... was seeing our own Marilyn Williams installed as the Second Vice-Moderator of our denomination for the next two years to help plan and preside over the next General Assembly in 2011 in Nashville, Tennessee. Congratulations, Marilyn!! In addition to Marilyn, Elaine, Carole and me, Bob Kennel and Reverend Joanne also attended.. We look forward to sharing our experiences and the news of the whole church with you in coming weeks and months.

On another note, WE START OUR NEW PROGRAM YEAR here at Covenant Sunday, September 13. I encourage you to take part in the array of activities, worship services, outreach opportunities, study options and fellowship gatherings available. I also encourage you to step forward to help plan, lead or execute this array of opportunities. These things don't "just happen," it takes everyone pooling our talents, resources and time to provide the ministries of Covenant Christian Church.

There is a place for YOU to serve God and support the church's ministries.
Come, Satisfy your Hungry Heart... Karen Nolan, Moderator

**General Board Meeting
Sunday, September 20
After 11:00a Worship
Childcare Upon Request!**



ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

September 5 from 8 – 11a.

Tickets are \$7/adult and \$5/child under 12.

(In advance: \$6/adult, \$4/child)

Plant orders will be available for pickup on September 5 during breakfast.

If you can help on either Friday night or Saturday please contact Dennis Duryea (dduryea@nc.rr.com) or Betsy Mebane (betsy_mebane@hotmail.com)



Covenant's GotTalent!
Annual Talent/Un-Talent Night
Sunday, September 13, 2009 5:00 - 7:00p
Childcare provided!
Get ready it's almost time!

And we're having pizza for supper!
Prepare yourselves for a night of good laughs and lots of fun! So if you think you have a Talent/Un-Talent...
BRING IT ON! All Ages are encouraged to participate!
Sign up at sheets are located in the entryway to the Sanctuary. Let us know if you are coming so we will have enough food for all.



Get Your Hot Topics HERE... CAUSE WE'RE BAAACKK!

Not sure what to think about healthcare reform? Wondering how to incorporate your faith into what's going on in the world today? Please join us on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. for some lively discussions. On Sunday, September 13, we'll gather to plan our calendar and topics for the fall - don't miss it! Everyone Welcome!



Covenant's On Facebook -- Check Us Out!

Become a Fan! Simply paste this into your browser's address bar -
<http://www.facebook.com/regs.php#/pages/Cary-NC/Covenant-Christian-Church-Disciples-of-Christ/112787061980>



October 3: Pig-Pickin' Fund-raising event at 6p
hosted by Jerry & Debbie Miller
Watch for more info!

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Welcome New Member!

Sunday, August 30 we welcomed Marian Crowe as an Associate Member: 200 Weather Ridge Lane Apt 204, Cary NC 27513-4285; 919-651-0022. Alan Wilkinson is her Shepherding Elder. She retains membership at Central Christian Church in Warren, OH.

Please offer Marian your own word of welcome to our church family!

Congratulations to Brack Brown and Traci Bowden who were married on August 29 in VA...

Our love & prayers are with: Ann & Jerry Hall, Kelly, Bill & Riley Hurley, Amber Booker & John Taylor in the recent death of their step- father, grandfather & great grandfather, Melvin Adams; the family of Priscilla Dixon in her recent death (Kennel friend)

Recent: Sherri Duryea; Chris Grennan; Carol Horne; Dave Deardorff; Antoinette Francis(Marilyn Williams' dgtr) Rev. Lea Slaton's father, Dan Pardue...Cindy Masheegan, dgtr of guests, Deeann & Chuck Wilmoth...

Continuing Prayers: At home: Art & Hazel Brothers; Nelson Wakefield; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston. The Downs Family.

Parents of: Mark Huncik **Mothers of:** Ann Hall; Phama Larsen Johnston; Teresa DeMartin; Vicky Vanderford.

Fathers of: Bob Nolan; Patricia Cadle; Jeremy Hopkins; Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller;

Daughters of: Ken & Glenda Hoffman; Sally Shelly. **Sons of:** Jim Johnston; Kathy Smith; **Grandfather of:** Jon Gaffney

Grandmothers of: Angie Ballard; Vicki Wilkinson; Rosie Ryan; Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen; **Sisters of:** Jack Reilly;

Gerry Tokanel; Hazel Brothers. **Brothers of:** Jeremy Hopkins; Art Brothers **Aunts of:** Ann Washington; Karen Nippert;

Larry Linguist. **Uncle of:** Jeremy Hopkins. **Nephews of:** Gerry Tokanel; Joe Busby; Melanie Bunn; Terry White.

Great-Nephew of: Barishes; **Cousins of:** Jeff Miller; Lynn Wright; Glenda Hoffman; Mary Lou Jackson, Elaine Fry;

Brother-in-law of: Elaine Kennel; Patty Cole; **Sisters-in-Law of:** Renie Palmer; Hazel Brothers.

Remembering Others: Robin Miller's friend, Jackie Myers; Dennis Duryea's co-worker, Tina Mast; Mary Lou Jackson's friends, Rita Rollins' daughter Magen, Pam Wood & Mildred Davis; General & Regional Church Leaders; NC Disciples new church starts.

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

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Disciples Men Vigorous!

Covenant Disciples Men have been vigorous during August and September. We had a great breakfast on Saturday, August 15, with Drew Kidwell giving us a great program on his summer mission work in Florida. Afterwards, eight of us made repairs on a member's home. More work needs to be done in September, but the immediate electrical, plumbing, and HVAC issues were resolved. And on Saturday, August 29, we were invited to meet with **Don and Shirley Lucey** held a workshop on making a lighted Christmas decoration to use during the holidays at Covenant and to also sell at our annual Fun-d Raising Day, October 17.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, September 12, we will have a **tailgating** at the NC State- Morehead State **Football game** with food at 4:00 PM and game at 6:00 PM. Confirm your tickets early with Bob Kennel. Cost is \$35 for everything.

Friday/Saturday, September 25/26 the Regional Disciples Men's Retreat will be at **Christmount** in Black Mountain. See Bob Kennel for details.

Don't blink, you might miss something good in our men's work. There's something for everyone and **worth inviting a friend** to come and enjoy!

Bob Kennel, Secretary



What's New for Children & Youth this Fall?

Beginning Sept. 13th, 2009!

- 9 AM Worship

- Infant/Toddler Nursery - Paid staff

- Sunday School: (10 AM Hour)

- Toddler/Infant Nurseries (Newborn to 3 yrs. old)

- Preschool (Ages 3 & up) (Darla/Brad Baldwin)

- Early Elementary (Grades K - 1) (Melanie Bunn)

- Middle Elementary (Grades 2 - 4) (Renie Palmer)

- Chi Rho - AM (Grades 5 - 8) (Sam/Ginny Evett)

- CYF Experience (Sr. High Youth) (Randy Holste)

- Children's Church (11 AM - Worship)

- Infant Nursery (Newborn - 18 mos. old) - Paid Staff

- Toddler Nursery (18 mos. & up) - Paid Staff

- Children's Worship and Wonder (Ages 3 - 7)

- Additional Activities:

- Kids 2 Kids - Monthly SERVICE sessions for all Elementary students.

- Chi Rho - Activities for all Middle School Youth (Bi-weekly programs)

- CYF - Activities for all Sr. High Youth. (Bi-weekly programs)



CALLING ALL PRESCHOOLERS-5TH GRADERS WHO LIKE TO SING AND DANCE!

Please join Robin Miller, Debbi Layko, and Jody Barish on Sunday Mornings from 9:45 – 10:05 a.m. beginning September 20 through November 8. We will learn 4 or 5 songs and share them with the congregation on Sunday, November 15 at the 11 a.m. worship service. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Robin, Debbi, or Jody.



KIDS TO KIDS - WHAT'S UP THIS YEAR?

We hope you all have had a wonderful summer and we are anxious to put all of your giving hearts, minds, and hands to work for God. Please come to the Kick-off Talent/Unt-Talent Night on Sunday, September 13, 5-7p, to see what's planned for the year.

As a reminder, Kids to Kids (Kindergartners through Fifth Graders) participates in monthly service projects to foster a foundation of volunteerism in our young children's lives. If you have any questions, please contact Jay or Jody Barish at 460-2820 or JODYLB23@YAHOO.COM

September 2009

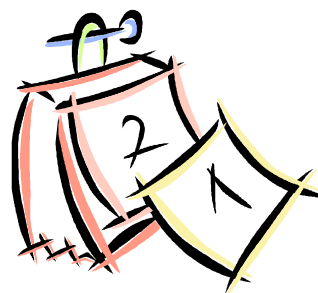
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Plant Sale & Pancake Breakfast
6 Children's Prayer Vigil Begins	7 Birthday – Carter Kearny Labor Day (Office Closed)	8	9	10	11	12 Birthday – Grayden Beaufort
13 Kick-Off Sunday! Talent/Untalent Night 5-7 PM	14	15	16 Birthday – Matthew Bunn	17	18 Birthday – Josh Hopkins	19
20 Children's Choir Practice 9:45 – 10:05a	21	22	23 Birthdays: Tate Kennel & Jackson Beaufort	24 Birthday – Ashley Mantz	25 Birthdays: Hannah Stiles & Seth Baldwin	26
27 Children's Choir Practice 9:45 – 10:05a 5 PM Chi Rho/CYF Meeting	28	29	30 Birthday – Kayla Grennan			

Upcoming Events:

Oct 4th: CROP Walk

Oct 25th: Trunk or Treat

Nov. 1st: Blessing of the Animals



Children Worship & Wonder... The Time Has Arrived!

Dearest Covenant members the time has arrived for Children Worship & Wonder! We are delighted to inform you that the hard work and determination is finally paying off for our newest ministry! Since your outpouring of love and generosity of purchasing ALL of the stories for this program - SO MUCH has happened! The stories & materials are present and accounted for. They are organized and ready to go! The room is being prepared at this time and we are anticipating a SEPT 6th implementation date!!!!



Some of you may say Sept 6th, I thought "Kick-off Sunday" was the 13th? You are correct - don't worry. However, the first meeting has to be split up due the probability of over-crowding. The very first orientation session requires that a parent be present, therefore, that more than doubles the occupancy in a small classroom. We are going to have 2 opportunities for Session 1 (Sept. 6th @ 11 AM & Sept. 13th @ 10 AM).

Children who plan on attending Children Worship & Wonder regularly should attend this session along with a parent. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS, ONLY ONE OF THEM.** Sessions 2, 3, & 4 of the orientation are **CHILDREN ONLY!** The following is a brief description of the upcoming Children Worship & Wonder schedule...

- Sept. 6th - 11 AM: Session I Orientation (parents & children)
- Sept. 13th - 10 AM: Session I Orientation (parents and children)
- Sept. 13th - 11 AM: Session II Orientation (children only)
- Sept. 13th - 5 PM: Children W & W Open House - (During Picnic & Talent/Untalent)
- Sept. 20th - 11 AM: Session III Orientation (children only)
- Sept 27th - 11 AM: Session IV Orientation (children only)
- Oct. 4th - 11 AM: W & W Story Schedule begins...



Choose One

The orientation schedule is lengthy; however, the program is very involved and requires some preparation for the children. Therefore, it is extremely important that your child(ren) try to attend as many, if not all, training sessions as possible! We are very excited about this new ministry and hope that you are just as excited. Please, join us as we initiate another chapter in Covenant Christian Church's faithful history.

Why Children Worship & Wonder...

What Will They Learn?



Young children know, love and worship God, but most worship is structured and full of words and symbols based on stories and memories they do not yet have. We want our children at Covenant to have the opportunity to encounter and worship God in a manner meaningful to them. Children Worship & Wonder allows them to enter into a sacred time and place where they can be with God, hear the stories of God, talk to God, and listen to God. They will participate in a ritual of

worship which corresponds with Covenant's order of congregational worship. The worship center will be a structured environment in which the children can abide in God's experienced in Biblical stories, parables, and liturgical presentations, so they may experience meaning and order in their lives and, as the body of live as Christ's ministers in the world.



love as
that
Christ,

Below are a few of the elements of Children Worship & Wonder that sets it apart from other forms of "children's church". Where other programs fail to truly incorporate worshipful experiences - "Children Worship & Wonder" does just that. Take a look...

Primary Principle #1: Sacred space is created whenever and wherever people of faith acknowledge the presence of God. When the children come through the threshold and enter into the Children's Worship Center they are entering sacred, holy space.

Primary Principle #2: We understand that God is everywhere but we often miss the holiness of places because we don't stop to acknowledge God's presence. Our movements and words, our preparations and presentations of the stories, the careful arrangement of the room - everything we do contributes to an atmosphere in which the presence of God is readily acknowledged and felt.

Order of Worship:

1. **The Greeting**
2. **Songs of Praise** - Sing a few songs and end with "Be Still and Know That I Am God"
3. **Telling God's Word** - The story and wondering time. Stories are told in a slow, calm manner and with as few words as possible so children can enter into the stories. In this way children have time to wonder about the Biblical stories and are able to connect the stories to their own life experiences.
4. **Responding to God's Word** - Individual work time. Working with stories, art materials, books, puzzles, etc. Each child decides what his/her work will be, sets up his/her own work space and puts away his/her work.
5. **Lighting the Christ Candle**
6. **Reading the Bible**
7. **Prayer of Thanksgiving**
8. **The Feast**
9. **Benediction & Blessing**



Women's Ministries News...

*All women of the church are welcome!
Come discover the fun and fellowship that
Women's Ministries has to offer!*

**Our Quarterly Breakfast meets Saturday, September 12th
8:30 - 10:30 at the church**

Jeanne Thompson, our Woman-to-Woman Representative, will be our guest speaker this day. Jeanne had an opportunity to visit the area of Bosnia/Croatia with a host of other Disciples Women and is ready to share her story. We look forward to seeing you there!

***QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY (QA) June 23-27, 2010
Registrations may be made online now.
Hard copies are available, also, for the asking!***

Make your plans now to be a part of this international event for the Disciples Women. For the 2010 event, **North Carolina** is serving as host! QA will take place at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro NC. How exciting to be among Disciples Women from across the globe!

***Just a bit curious? Want to learn more?
Go to www.quadrennial.org !***

***The FUN(D) RAISER IS COMING!
Saturday, October 17th***

Love to cook? Feeling a bit crafty? Do we have an opportunity for you! Plan now to pull out your favorite recipes or rediscover the creative hobbyist in you! All types of baked goods (that do not require refrigeration) and handmade crafts are welcomed. Thank you for the sharing of your time and talents for this Fun(d)Raiser. It just wouldn't be the same without you!

Bible Study to meet the 4th Sunday of each month

Our 1st study meets Oct 25th directly after our 1100 am service as a BYOL (bring your own lunch). Lesson one, *Who is the God of Joshua?*, is based upon Joshua 1: 1-9. Come join us!

Ann Washington and Marilyn Williams, Co-Chairs

Outreach Ministry News

Local Outreach

So what is going on with Outreach this coming year?

We will focus on two areas.

First, we will continue the “greening” of Covenant; learning more ways we can make our daily lives more environmentally responsible as well as continuing to make physical changes at the church itself to reduce our carbon footprint. North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light will be the agency we support financially as they support us with educational information and suggestions on positive action steps we can take.

Our second major focus will be Urban Ministries of Wake County. This interfaith ministry has as its goal helping to alleviate the effects of poverty in Wake County. They have programs for meeting peoples needs for food, shelter, health care and emergency assistance but they also provide services that promote self-sufficiency. In the coming months there will be information on these different programs that your outreach dollars help to support. There will also be information on volunteer opportunities.

A Look Inside Urban Ministries: The Open Door Clinic

One of the ministries under their broad umbrella is the Open Door Clinic. This clinic addresses the health care of many uninsured and indigent people of Wake County by providing comprehensive medical, pharmacy and support services at no charge to the patients. 21% of North Carolina residents are uninsured! There has been a 22% increase in just the past two years. As residents lose jobs...they lose their health insurance benefits too, swelling the numbers of the uninsured. There are 1.8 million folks in the state with no insurance; 790,000 of those people are actually employed but have no insurance. These statistics make the importance of having a ministry like the Open Door Clinic obvious.

Last year the clinic provided acute and chronic care for 7,319 people! Full pharmacy services worth \$3.1 million dollars in prescriptions were given free to patients. And free care from physicians, nurses, pharmacists, lab techs, interpreters and screeners totaled more than \$286,750-all volunteer labor! The Open Door Clinic gets its financial support from local churches & individuals as well as from Wake Med, Rex, Duke & other corporations. Covenant’s outreach dollars help make this important ministry possible!

The Open Door Clinic depends on doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, lab technicians, health educators and other licensed professionals in our community who work in hospitals, private practices and other health care settings. Other volunteers include front desk receptionist, eligibility screener, pharmacy assistant and Spanish interpreters/translators. More info: www.volunteer@urbanmin.org

THE GREEN FUND

Are you looking for a special way to honor a friend? Maybe you want to celebrate an important occasion ...an anniversary or birthday. Or you want to give a gift in memory of a loved one. **THE GREEN FUND** is an excellent way!

A special **GREEN FUND** was established to help Covenant begin to reduce our carbon footprint as well as our energy costs. (Thank you to the Men’s group for their initial grant of \$500.) This fund allows the Green Team to take our slogan “Caring for God’s Green Earth” from just words to action steps that truly make a difference!

Please indicate your support by remembering the fund c/o Covenant Christian Church and earmarking regular or special contributions for **“THE GREEN FUND.”**

Your Outreach Coordinators, Marian jimarian@nc.rr.com & Ro rthompsonct@aol.com

A Note from Your Treasurer –

Whether it's due to weekends at the beach, or just the general slow-down we feel in the heat, it's common in the summertime for church attendance to take a dip. Unfortunately, that often means that our offerings "take a dip" as well. Look at our June and July receipts below, and you'll see what I mean.

For the period	June, 2009	July, 2009	Year to Date
General Fund Receipts	\$ 16,693	\$ 12,140	\$ 118,616
General Fund Disbursements	\$ 15,242	\$ 17,891	\$ 123,428
Net increase (decrease)	\$ 1,451	(\$ 5,751)	(\$ 4,812)

Please keep in mind that Covenant's ministries continue when you're not here! Please consider mailing your contributions when you are going to be absent. Better yet, arrange for an automatic draft to your bank account (see below); and you won't have to trust to memory to write that check!

Thanks for your generous support for Covenant's ministries throughout the year.

Kathy Smith, Treasurer

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Automatic Bill Pay..A Convenient Way to Regularly Make Your Tithes & Offerings

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 or not you are able to be in worship. 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 Biller 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 Kathy Smith, Treasurer ekathys@gmail.com

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Now Here's a Word from Mary Lou...

Updated Membership Directories 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...the usual, "one more thing"...All Staff, Officers, Leaders and Ministry Chairs:

Please have your September Newsletter articles to me by *September 16, 2009.*