



Come Satisfy the Hungry Heart at Covenant

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Our Journey to Jerusalem Leads Us to the Empty Tomb and Beyond...

Look! Up Ahead! Just beyond the last bend in the long and winding road we've been traveling during Lent. We've been with Jesus in the wilderness; heard him as he grieved over those who just didn't understand him and his earthly ministry; as he offered God's grace to all by not cutting down the fig tree, welcoming home the Lost Son and praising Mary as she anointed his feet with perfume. And now the journey continues...take courage...gather strength...as we begin this holiest of holy times:

Palm Sunday Worship: April 1, 10:30am includes the Palm Processional and special music as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday Service: April 5, 7:30pm
A Candlelight Service of Communion & Tennebrae marking the events of Holy Week.

Good Friday: April 6, Noon-3pm. AND 6-8pm. The Labyrinth is available for walking and meditation.

Egg Hunt & Activities for Children, pre-school-5th grade: Saturday, April 7, 10am at the Church.

Easter Morning Worship, April 8: 6:45am: Sunrise Service & Breakfast; **10:30am:** Easter Celebration & Cantata, *Christ is Risen, Alleluia!*

Childcare is available for all services & activities

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A Note from Your Moderator...

We are entering exciting times as we move forward with the various ministries at Covenant Christian Church. The Faithful Planning Committee has completed its work. By now you should have received their summary report. Please look it over, and let us know if there are areas in which you would like to participate.

We appreciate their months of service as they help prepare the way for us in the months ahead:
Betsy Mebane, Chr.; Jerry Hall, Ken Hoffman, Jim Johnston, Mike Joyce, Karen Nolan, Dick Reaves, Kevin Sloop, Meg Shave, Carole Tyler, Alan Wilkinson & Don Downs. As we look toward the future, it is time to consider the new slate of officers and leaders for the 2007-08 program year, to be elected at the **Congregational Meeting, May 20 immediately following worship.**

The nominating committee has been formed:
Dave Garrett (Elder); Brad Baldwin (Deacon); Carole Tyler (Trustee) and At-Large: Amy Rutledge; Bonnie Andrews; Dave Deardorff & Steve Frost; ex-officio without vote: Don Downs(Moderator) & Rev. VerBurg. As they develop this slate, please prayerfully consider how you might be willing to serve.

As we develop new programs and ministries, there are many opportunities to dedicate your time and talents. One of the goals from the Faithful Planning Committee is for 50% of participating members to participate in one or more church programs and ministries. In *The 10 Natural Laws of Successful time and Life Management: Proven Strategies for Increased Productivity and Inner Peace* by Hyrum W. Smith, the 10th law is: *Give more and you'll have more.*

It is my personal hope that everyone will be able to find a ministry or program in which they can enthusiastically participate. In so doing, we'll no doubt find that God can make this seemingly paradoxically law come true.

May God richly bless you! Don Downs



Earth Stewardship Sunday April 22, 2007

Join the Celebration!

"God wants all people to blossom and flourish, yet unjust social structures cause many to wither and perish. Seeking justice includes trying to be fair to people we meet and also working for fair treatment in society. God's justice works through God's mercy, which gives human beings the freedom and the grace to live justly and mercifully with one another (Dorothy Bass and Don Richter, *Way to Live: Leader's Guide*).

One prevalent image of justice in the Bible is that of a well-watered garden (Is. 58:11). God's original plan included a garden called Eden (Gen 2: 8-9, 15-16)." Covenant Youth are taking justice in to their own hands by working together to grow a "community garden." The group started by planting tiny seeds of various vegetables, herbs and flowers in peat pots. We have enjoyed watching them become healthy plants.

And on **SUNDAY, APRIL 22**, we look forward to planting them in the ground as we celebrate Earth Stewardship Day at Covenant. We hope that everyone will join with us as we celebrate God's Creation. Our day will begin with worship at 10:30am, followed by lunch.

(You can either bring your own lunch or purchase a box lunch provided by Whole Foods Market for \$10.00. This includes a sandwich, chips, fruit salad, pasta salad, a cookie and a bottle of water. Order forms will be available in the church bulletin April 1, 8, and 15. All order forms must be in by April 15). During lunch, we will hear more about community gardening from Alice Lloyd, a representative from the NC Council of Churches.

The festivities continue as we move to the garden space where everyone is welcomed to participate in planting! You can either dig in the dirt or help sponsor a bed of plants by donating funds to support the mission that will help provide food for hungry families around the community. *Grace Note* will also participate in this wonderful day by providing an outdoor concert to conclude our exciting afternoon...Bring or wear your work clothes & gloves; trowels too, if you have them. *And come be a part of this day of Seeking Justice as we learn how to better care for ALL of God's Creation.*

Let's get our hands in the dirt... Rev. Anna

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Welcome to Our Newest Members

John & Jeanne White united with us Sunday, March 4 by transfer from Sandy Springs Christian Church, Atlanta, GA. Their address & phone number: 317 Felspar Way, Cary, 27518; 342-3713. Their Shepherding Elder is Pam Deardorff. Please offer them your own words of welcome!

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Chocolate Feast Celebration!

What fun we've had with the *Chocolate for Lent* study as we explored in depth the many poignant messages of the film, **Chocolat**. We've enjoyed the rich sharing of ideas & tasty chocolate treats! Now it's time to celebrate with our Chocolate Feast, this **Sunday, April 1 at 5:00pm**. If you haven't done so, please sign up to bring an appetizer, main course or dessert—chocolate preferred—or drinks... We'll gather, eat and see **Chocolat**, once again. Taste and see that the Lord is good!"—**Rev. VerBurg**

Joys and Concerns

Congratulations to: Casey Perry who was selected (12 from the State) to be a part of Education Program sponsored by Museum of Natural Science. The study will be held in Yellowstone Natural Park...Assia and Ogi Ivanov in the birth of their son, Andy James, born March 14; 7 1/2 lbs; 19 1/2 inches long. Lily is the big sister.

Recent: Glenda Hoffman; Martha Ross (Betsy Mebane's mother); Mel Metot (April Hitch's father); Robin Kennel; Frances Adams (Ann Hall's mother).

Ongoing Member Requests: Denise Loughridge; Hazel Brothers; Lesley Richardson; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston.

Continuing Prayers for Family Members: **Parents of Ann Hall; Mothers of:** Alan Wilkinson; Dave Deardorff; Sandi Velez; Donald Strickland; Lesley Richardson; **Fathers of** Sharon Frost; Debbie Miller. **Grandmothers of** Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen & Bill Rivers; **Sons of** Kathy Smith & Jim Johnston; **Sisters of** Elgin Fry; Hazel Brothers; Elaine Kennel; Sharon Frost & Brad Baldwin. **Brothers of** Mary Lou Jackson; Carol Carson; Phama Johnston; Art Brothers **Great Aunt of:** Terry White; **Aunts of** Betsy Mebane, Kathy Smith & Mary Lou Jackson; **Uncles of:** Terry White; Melanie Bunn; Betsy Mebane **Great-nephew of** Jody & Jay Barish; **Cousins of** Betsy Mebane; Elaine Fry; Larry Linguist; Jim Hartman; Jodi Bone; **Sisters-in-law of** Hazel Brothers; Mary Lou Jackson; Sharon Garrett; Phama Johnston; Patty Cole; **Brother-in-law of** Shirley and Don Lucey.

Remembering Others: Jeff Miller; Rhonda Wendt; Brenda Lorren; Ron Walters & Don Styles; Cameron Wall; Sharon Johnson; Hazel Schuller; General & Regional Church Leaders; Disciples new church starts: Chapel Hill; Burlington & Wake Forest.

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You're an Invitation Ministry VIP!

The Invitation Ministry Team recently met to evaluate and plan for a variety of ways to reach out to current guests and plans to help every member, from the youngest to the most experienced, learn about how to invite new people as our guests. Information about these efforts will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

The Living Bread Ministry is now divided into Bakers & Bread Deliverers. Terry White is coordinating the Bakers and assigned dates. Marian & Jim Hartman & Meg Snave are coordinating the Delivery volunteers—**more volunteers are needed**—and arranging for the quarterly Invitation Ministry Dinner hosts and food providers.

The Greeters before worship and after worship are beginning to be scheduled. Guidelines for greeting will be shared with each volunteer—**more volunteers are needed**.

Everyone at Covenant is an IM VIP and you have a very important job to do each time you are here for worship. It's quite simple:
SPEAK TO PEOPLE! How difficult can that be? And then if you're among the daring, introduce the guest to someone else and then you can be on your way. That's all there is to it! It doesn't matter if you don't know whether they're a first time guest, returning guest or even a member...Just introduce yourself and let him/her know you're glad they're here with us. If someone greets you as a newcomer and you're already a member, that's ok. It only means you've met a new friend!"☺

We want the contact to be very brief...newer people hardly want to be noticed let alone overwhelmed with TMI...too much information! Especially on their first visit with us, we simply want them to feel warmly welcomed into a loving community of God, period! Hopefully by faulting on the side of brevity with warmth there will be future times to share as well as gather more information.

We welcome any ideas you may have for improving Covenant's Invitation Ministry or to volunteer to serve, so please let us hear from you! **Meg Snave, Jim & Marian Hartman, Coordinators** megsnave@nc.rr.com and jimarian@nc.rr.com

Save the Date!

Cary Spring Daze, Saturday, April 28, 9a-5p
One of our Great Fun(d) Raisers
More info in the weeks ahead!

Kids2Kids Corner...

TRAVEL THE WORLD with our Kids2Kids next service project. Our K-5th graders are encouraging our church family to raise money for Heifer International, whose mission is to end hunger and poverty. Through your generous contributions, Heifer will purchase livestock to help families move toward self-reliance. Please enjoy the "Fill the Ark" calendars and bring your ark banks back to church on **Sunday, April 22 or 29**. Thanks so much for your help! If you have any questions, contact Jody Barish at 460-2820.

Parent's Night Out
May 5, 4:30 - 8:00pm

This is a fun time for parents and children alike. Please call the Church office, 481-4715 by **May 1** to register your child/ren. We will have lots of qualified help to love, play and read with your little ones!

Thanks, Mary Lou, PNO Coordinator

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April Playgroup! Wednesday, April 4

Carolyn Allen is hosting a trip to the Durham Museum of Life and Science. We will meet AT the Museum at 10am—call Carolyn for directions. Costs are: \$9.50 for adults; \$7.50, children 3-12; Under 3, Free.

Also, if you would like to host the group at your home or at Church in April, contact Carolyn Allen, 570-0622

Interested mothers of young children, who would like to be included on the e-mail list for playgroup events, please send your e-mail address to Carolyn Allen at drueallen@aol.com. Join us! It's a great way to get to know one another and for the children to play together!

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Women's Ministry News....

We are so blessed to have so much to look forward to and so many exciting changes as we start to wind-up this year and gear-up for next! We had many Covenant Women attending the Spring D.E.W (Disciples Enriching Women) Workshops & the Regional Academy on March 17. The attendees will be sharing the new ideas and programs with the church for the 2007-2008 year.

The inspiring new theme for this coming year is "Come to the Table." Also, please pray for guidance and service as we seek new leadership for the 2007-2008 year in Women's Ministry.

Please join us at the **next breakfast, Saturday April 21 @ 8:30**. Other district churches are invited to join us as we celebrate the 2006 Quadrennial. Maybe you will see people you met at Quadrennial or make some new friends...**Sharon Garrett & Lisa Yanchunas, Coordinators**

Elders' --Tuesday, April 3, 7:00 pm

Program Council Sunday--April 22, 7:00pm

General Board--Sunday April 29, 7:00 pm

Men's Ministry News....

Our next Men's Ministry Breakfast will be April 7 at 8:15am at the church. Invite a friend to join you!

On March 10 Russ Andrews represented the Men's group in the Wake County's annual Warmth for Wake wood project. We thank him for his efforts.

Mike Joyce, Men's Ministry Co-Chair

The Library Corner
The Mind of Jesus by William Barclay

The author tells us in the Preface, "The book is to try to make it possible to understand the mind, the work and the meaning of Jesus a little better." It consolidates the information about Jesus in the first three Gospels. He begins with Jesus first trip to Passover and how it may have affected him when he saw all the commerce, blood and crowds in the temple. Each chapter then moves through the journey to the cross and resurrection finishing with the Ascension and the awareness that Jesus is Lord.

Research into the history of the world at that time, customs of the people, symbolism and geography all effect how we interpret scripture. The author brings all of this into one resource for us. He does not persuade but presents things as he sees them from what he learned.

It is easy to read, has footnotes and an index which make it helpful when looking for something specific. The book can be read often with enjoyment and is one that will always be in my own personal library. Check it out!
Sally Shelly, Reviewer

2007 CAMP INFORMATION

Download registration forms at
www.ncdisciples.org

Send completed forms to:
Christian Church in North Carolina, PO Box 1568,
Wilson, North Carolina 27894
Or phone: (252)291-4047

Deadline: May 15 for all camps Late fee: \$25.00

All Camp Forms must be signed by
Rev. Perry or Rev. VerBurg

CAMP CAROLINE (Arapahoe, NC-along the Neuse River)		
Coed Mind, Motion & Spirituality Grades 4-7	June 10-15	\$410
Camp for Grades 3-5 I	June 17-22	\$275
Camp for Grades 6-7 I	June 17-22	\$275
CYF Conference Grades 9-12	June 24-29	\$275
Kayak Camp for Grades 5-8	June 24-29	\$410
Horse Riding Camp Grades 3-6 **See Below	July 2-6	\$400
Camp for Grades 1-3	July 6-8	\$125
Sailing Camp for Grades 4-7	July 6-8	\$125
Uno Camp for Grades K-1 (w/1 parent or grandparent*)	July 7-8	\$65
Created to Be Me for Grade 8	July 8-14	\$300
Kayak Camp for Grades 5-7	July 8-13	\$410
Camp for Grades 3-5 II	July 15-20	\$275
Camp for Grades 6-7 II	July 15-20	\$275
Horse Riding Camp Grades 3-6 **See Below	July 15-20	\$410
Sailing, Arts & Stars Camp Grades 4-7	July 29-Aug 3	\$275

CHRISTMOUNT (Black Mountain, NC near Asheville)		
CYF Conference Grades 9-12	June 18-23	\$275
Camp – Grades 3-5	June 25-30	\$275
Camp – Grades 6-7	June 25-30	\$275

Financial Help Available!
Contact Rev. Perry for more information!

February 2007 Financial Information

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 9,552.87
Receipts	\$ 15,280.27
Disbursements	\$ 20,790.43
Ending Balance	\$ 4,042.71
Capital Campaign	
Beginning Balance	\$ 26,318.36
Receipts	\$ 425.00
Disbursements	\$
Ending Balance	\$ 26,743.36

Thank you for helping us meet our budget!

Partnership between Covenant & the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

N&O

feed the need

FOR THE FOOD BANK



FOOD BANK
OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!

It's easy! It's fun! And we need your help!

To raise money for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, we need volunteers to sell a special edition of The News & Observer at retail locations throughout the region. Every paper sold means a donation for the Food Bank! All volunteers receive an exclusive, pocketed Feed the Need apron — yours to keep!

For more information and to sign up, please go to
<http://www.newsobserver.com/1508/>

Feed the Need is a new community service project established by The News & Observer, as an outgrowth of their commitment to making our region a better place for us all to live. The money and food donated through Feed the Need will go to The Food Bank of Eastern and Central North Carolina.

Feed the Need
The News & Observer
919.836.5990 or 919.836.2870
<http://www.newsobserver.com>



Did You Know?

With every dollar donated, The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is able to distribute \$8 worth of food.



For more volunteer information:
Rebecca Barbee, FBCENC
919.865.3022
rbarbee@foodbankcenc.org
<http://www.foodbankcenc.org>

Please forward this on to any & all colleagues, friends or family as we are in need of volunteers to assist on the day of (April 21st).

Thank you, Brenda Peterson



Lift off!

Soaring to new heights with God!
Vacation Bible School 2007
July 9-13

Mark your calendars NOW!
Registration forms available soon.
For more info contact:
Darla and Brad Baldwin, Directors
darlabaldwin@nc.rr.com

Note from Mary Lou....Please, please...have your Newsletter articles to me by April 19, 2007 for the Newsletter. I do like to get it mailed before the first of the next month!

And Now THE FINAL Word from Mary Lou...

You may obtain an updated copy of the Membership List via email...or there are some copies outside the office on the table.

Also, we do like to know of your attendance at functions here at Covenant...please remember to sign the attendance pads on Sundays and remember to fill in the Sunday School Registers located in each room.