



Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart at Covenant

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If We've Heard It Once, We've Heard It a Thousand Times...

"...Always plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark" This anonymous adage is filled with great wisdom. Obviously according to the traditional understanding of this ancient story, Noah couldn't have waited until the last minute or he and his family, not to mention a few hundred pairs of creatures, would have perished in the great flood.

God has given us minds to think and hearts to feel and we are expected to use these gifts wisely. So I am challenging every member & guest to bring your brain and heart to our **4th Annual Church Wide Planning Meeting, Saturday, August 4, 8:30am to 12:30pm—continental breakfast & childcare provided.**

This is a great gathering of folks who truly believe that Covenant ultimately belongs to God, but that God is calling us to take ownership & responsibility, in the best sense of these words—to name & claim this community of faith as our own—to prayerfully grow and stretch our spiritual understandings in the areas of Nurture, Outreach & Stewardship as we plan for our 2007-08 program year.

Plan Ahead! Save the date! I'm counting on YOU!

Blessings, Joanne

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No Rest for the Weary... Pre-Building Team Work Continues

The Pre-Building Team: Ken Hoffman, John White, Elgin Fry, April Hitch, Debbie Miller, Karen Nolan, Russ Andrews, with Chris Hitch and Rev. VerBurg, ex-officio and Dave Deardorff, Chairperson, got off to an enthusiastic start June 3 and met again on June 24.

Our summertime assignment is to explore all the possibilities for the next phase of our building program. Many of you are aware that further developing our current site presents us with some costly challenges, especially in the area of site preparation for a new sanctuary. The Team is hard at work identifying those challenges and their projected costs; as well as other site options.

- Members are busy contacting the appropriate Town of Cary officials for updated information regarding requirements affecting any proposed building programs as well as solutions to signage permits and visibility from the Parkway.
- At the April General Board meeting, we received the approval to secure an architectural consultant to review our property and make suggestions concerning any further development; who will meet with the Team on July 30.
- The Team is also investigating, with the help of a commercial real estate broker, the availability and related costs for a new location within a 5-7 mile radius of where we are now located.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

THIS IS ONLY A FACT-FINDING MISSION!

Our plan is to continue gathering all necessary data by mid-August. Then, during September there will be scheduled times for everyone to receive the final report, laying out ALL our options so that YOU, members of the congregation, may make informed decisions about our future building plans.

Any questions? Need more information? Contact a Team Member or Dave Deardorff: davedeardorff@aol.com.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! --Dave Deardorff

A Mid Summer Celebration Sunday! July 15, 10:30am-12:30pm

(No, the sermon isn't going to last that long!) ☺

Right in the middle of July, we've got another "great getting' up mornin' " planned—a time for celebrating all kinds of blessings among us! **Feel free to dress casually!**

- **Worship** will include a time for the giggles & singing of children as we help **celebrate the end of a terrific week of Vacation Bible School.**
- We will shout out a **huge "Thank You"** to all who have served our congregation during the past year as we recognize them for their leadership;
- Followed by the **Installation of our 2007-08 Officers and Leaders** who have pledged their time and gifts to serve us in the coming year.
- Immediately following worship, you are invited to stay for a **COOK-OUT**—we'll eat in the cool of the indoors! It's a Mission Trip fund raiser for the van rental and fuel for the trip. Lunch is \$5 per person/\$15 max for families.

Mid-July is a great time to catch up with folks who have already been vacationing & with those who are about to vacate! What a great Invitation Ministry Opportunity! **Invite your friends & neighbors!**



Lift off!

The Countdown Has Begun! We're Getting Ready to "Soar to New Heights with God"

Vacation Bible School
July 9-13 6:30 – 8:30pm
For Children, Youth & Adults
(Childcare for infants & toddlers provided)

It's not too late to register or to invite your friends!

For more info or to volunteer to help, contact:

Darla and Brad Baldwin, Directors

darlabaldwin@nc.rr.com

All participants need to also plan to be in worship, Sunday, July 15, for the VBS final celebration!

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Book Study Review Tuesday, July 31, 7:00p.m.

At last count 30+ people are busy reading our summer book club selection, *Unbinding the Gospel*, by Martha Grace Reese. There are a few copies available (\$14) in the church office during the week and in the entryway on Sundays. We will meet on July 31 (childcare available on request) to not only reflect on & respond to, what we have read, but also determine what we believe is useful for us as we explore the "E" word together here at Covenant.

Fresh winds of the Spirit are at work in the lives of so many here at Covenant. I for one can hardly wait to see what God has in store for us! Ready? Set? Let's go!

Rev. VerBurg

Joys & Concerns

Our thoughts and prayers are with: The congregation of Bethany Christian Church, Arapahoe, whose sanctuary was destroyed by fire.

Congratulations to: Robin Kennel & Jeff Miller who were married June 23, at Hominy Baptist Church, Candler, NC.

Recent: Ken Hoffman;

Ongoing Prayers for Members & Family Members:

Members: Denise Loughridge; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston.

Parents: Ann Hall; **Mothers:** Dave Deardorff; Dick Reaves; Alan Wilkinson; Sandi Velez; **Fathers:** Jay Barish; Meg Snave; Sharon Frost; Debbie Miller; **Stepfather of** Craig Paul; **Grandmothers of** Diana Toney; Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen & Bill Rivers; **Sons:** Kathy Smith & Jim Johnston; **Sisters:** Elgin Fry; Hazel Brothers; Elaine Kennel; Sharon Frost; **Brothers:** Sharon Frost; Carol Carson; Art Brothers; **Great Aunt:** Terry White; **Aunts:** Mary Lou Jackson; Steve Frost; Kathy Smith; **Uncles:** Derek Rutledge; Terry White; Melanie Bunn **Nephews:** Meg Snave & Anna Perry **Great-nephew:** Jody & Jay Barish; **Cousins of** Barbara Crumpler; Elaine Fry; Larry Linguist; Jim Hartman; **Sisters-in-law of** Ann Hall; Hazel Brothers; Phama Johnston & Mary Lou Jackson

Remembering Others: Marilyn Lewis; Barbara McCauley; Gail McCormick; Paula Andrews & family; Howard Tefft; Renie Palmer's neighbor, Bill; Cameron Wall; Rhonda Wendt; Brenda Lorren; Ron Walters & Don Styles; Sharon Johnson; Hazel Schuller; General & Regional Church Leaders; Disciples new church starts: Chapel Hill; Burlington & Wake Forest.

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All of You Are a Blessing!

Thanks to Sandi Velez for her endless energy and commitment to helping organize us so we could share our resources with the Doh family as they begin their new life in a new homeland. She went the extra mile in providing such warm hospitality. And many thanks to each Covenant person who donated the household goods and furniture that help to make the Doh family comfortable. Thanks also to Mike Joyce who donated his time and muscle power to securing the truck, recruiting help, loading and unloading everything; and to the Men's Ministry for the cost of the truck rental. What a joy-filled difference we can make in the lives of others in need!

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Worship Ministry Thanks YOU!

For several years now I have had the honor of serving as Worship Ministry Chairperson. We hear stories about how it takes a village to raise a child. For us it takes the whole church family to help provide meaningful worship and to experience that worship together. Many, many of you have helped in numerous ways to make our weekly worship the best. Great big thanks go to our Choir, our Staff; Elders, Deacons, Acolytes and to each of you who have served as worship leaders or scripture readers during our special worship services; to those who help decorate the sanctuary for the special seasons of our church year. Thanks again for your eager willingness to participate and share. **Elaine Kennel, Worship Ministry**

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F.A.S.T. Mission Team Heads for the Hills!

The Mission Team of youth & adults leaves for Alderson, WV after worship on July 22. We're busy finalizing our travel plans; taking time to study and share ideas about the reasons why one is called to commit time, money & energy for mission work; and also to host the Celebration Sunday Cook-Out on July 15 (see related article above). Thank you for all the love & support you have shown us. We're looking forward to sharing our experiences with you soon after we return. Please keep the Mission Team, the F.A.S.T. project and the families we will serve, in your prayers...**Rev. Perry**

And Now a Word from Your Moderator...

As I look back over the past two years, I would like to thank everyone, and especially those who accepted leadership positions, for your help. I enjoyed my time serving as your Moderator, and I especially enjoyed working with all of you.. Together, we continued to help move Covenant further into God's future. I believe God is a God of abundance - so even though we accomplished a lot, there are still more opportunities that await us.

*I would also like to thank all of those who have accepted leadership positions for the coming year. I am excited about the new leadership team, and I look forward to working with you all. **God Bless, Don Downs***

**Installation of 2007-08
Officers & Leaders and
Recognition of All
Outgoing Officers & Leaders
Sunday, July 15, 10:30 am**

We're Headed to Ft. Worth, TX for the 2007 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) July 21-25 "Share the Feast"

Covenant will be well represented at the upcoming General Assembly by Carolyn Allen & Larry Linguist; Bob & Elaine Kennel; Bob & Karen Nolan; Carole Tyler and Rev. VerBurg. We look forward to sharing our experiences with the congregation upon our return. Below you will find a list of the business items that will be considered during the General Assembly:

- 0716: Anti-racism/pro reconciliation goal for proportionate representation of people of color in church-wide leadership positions
- 0717: Concerning the health and well-being of the Church
- 0718: Celebrating New Congregations
- 0719: Concerning World Communion Sunday & Reconciliation Mission
- 0720: A Movement to Reconnect with our Food & the Natural World
- 0721: Elimination of Torture
- 0722: Educational Ministry
- 0723: A Call for Funding of General Assembly Processes of discernment
- 0724: Children's Health Care
- 0725: Proactive Prevention: Seeking Common Ground on the Issue of Abortion
- 0726: Faith United Against Tobacco Use
- 0727: Funding for Transformational Ministry
- 0728: The Church's Response to the War in Iraq
- 0729: Faith and Our New Neighbors
- 0730: Concerning the Ethical Provision of Health Care in a Religiously Pluralistic Society
- 0731: Recommendations Concerning Reconciliation Mission
- 0732: Revision of the Pension Plan of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- 0733: Report of the General Nominating Committee
- 0734: Concerning the Reorganization of Governance/ Accountability, Church Treasury Services, Stewardship Education and Promotion
- 0735: Report of the Disciples Benevolent Ministries Blue Ribbon Panel
- 0736: Accepting Disciples Care Network as a "recognized organization of the Church"

For full details on the resolutions and other events, visit the 2007 General Assembly website at:
www.disciples.org/ga/resolutions

Disciples Men Learning and Serving

Covenant's Disciples Men continue to be involved in different projects around the church and in the community:

- We plan to put the finishing touches on Mary-Lou's Shed.
- Along with several area Disciples of Christ congregations we supported the resettlement of the Doh Family, who recently moved to Carrboro from Burma. We secured a U-Haul, loaded the truck; Mike Joyce drove the truck and helped unload the items in Carrboro.

In addition to participating in the Church Wide Planning Meeting on August 4 & supporting our food booth at Lazy Daze, August 25, plans for our breakfast meeting are still in the works.

Mark your calendars now for the Regional Men's retreat, September 21-23, at Christmount, our Disciples Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. Spouses are invited to come too.

We're looking forward to officially getting back together again in August....**Joe Teixeira & Mike Joyce, Co-Chairs**

Women's Ministry News...

Thank you to all the women who attended the Women's Steering Committee meeting on June 10th. We had many people new to the meeting and it was heartening to see so many people interested in the future of the Women's Ministry. Keep an eye out for the results of this meeting, as we move forward in establishing our programming.

Art & Spirituality:

After participating in Discovery Weekend, I strongly recommend attending any event with Rev. Marcy Reid-Smith, who led the program, "Art and Spirituality." We spent the weekend creating - using clay, colored pencils, paper, and beads. Sessions began with singing led by Renee Brame who you may recall, has sung here at Covenant and provided one of our Christmas breakfast programs.. We worked in silence after focusing with scripture, brief sermons, and Christian chanting, created pottery, mandalas & beaded necklaces. We learned-by-doing how art and spirituality can be one and enhance each other. - **Lisa Yanchunas**

Disciples Women's Retreat at Christmount

August 10-12 (Registration due by August 3).

Covenant women have reserved a cabin and need to know how many plan to attend! Registration forms are available on the table in front of the office. Contact Lisa Yanchunas (656-7078) or Sharon Garrett (771-1940) about registration or more information.

Sharon Garrett & Lisa Yanchunas, Coordinators

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Covenant Is Recycling Now More Than Ever!

Please continue to help us take care of God's beautiful creation by putting:

- your bulletin & unwanted inserts in the basket by the entryway door.
- used household batteries and printer cartridges in the baskets on the table outside the church office
- plastic bottles, aluminum cans & cardboard in the blue tub in the kitchen.

Contact Kathy Smith at 363-6313 or ekathys@yahoo.com if you have additional ideas for Covenant's recycling efforts. **Thanks, Kathy Smith, Outreach Ministry**

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www.GoodSearch.com Continues to Pay!

Some of us have discovered how easy it is to use this new search engine and Covenant receives about a penny per search. It may not seem like much, but every penny counts! Simply go to the site & enter Covenant Christian Church, Cary, NC as the charity you want to support. Every bit helps. Be sure to spread the word!

Take Note!

Choir Members & Other Interested Singers...

You Are Invited To Save This Date

Saturday, September 15

9:30 am 'til Noon.

Lunch at noon will be provided.

WHAT? A Choral Music Workshop
WHERE? Covenant Christian Church (DoC)
LED BY: William P. Carroll, Chair
 Vocal Studies Division
 UNC-G School of Music
WHY? To learn new music
RSVP: By Tuesday, September 4, 2007
 Contact Carole Tyler, Director
 919-851-0233 (H); or
ectyler@nc.rr.com

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May 2007 Financial Information

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 3,847.84
Receipts	\$ 13,444.39
Disbursements	\$ 22,713.08
Ending Balance	\$ (5,420.85)
Capital Campaign General	
Beginning Balance	\$ 27,343.36
Receipts	\$ 350.00
Disbursements	\$
Ending Balance	\$ 27,693.36

Summer Time Fun has Begun!

As you travel & are away from Covenant, please remember the expenses of the Church continue!
 Check with Mary Lou Jackson to arrange an automatic draft for your church pledge so that your \$ is here even when you're not! Or simply mail your tithe/pledge to the church office...

Be a good Summer Steward!

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Check Out The Sunflowers! The Yellow Tomatoes & Cucumbers Are Scrumptious!

The GARDEN is Growing & Growing & Growing! If you would like to purchase any of the garden harvest, it is available to you with a donation that goes toward Youth Missions. See Rev. Anna or Casey Perry for how you can help tend the garden during the week.

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The 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 pad 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 August Newsletter articles to me by July 19! I make every effort to get it in the mail before the first of each month; but I can't meet this deadline without YOUR input!