



# Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart at Covenant

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## **"If you don't like the weather here..."**

...just wait a few minutes and it will change." So goes the quotation attributed to Mark Twain. Isn't it amazing how much time is spent reporting on the weather? I guess something so unpredictable and fickle that influences our plans and activities deserves its own cable channel & five minutes of network news, three times a day! ☺

Part of the opening exercises in the Living the Questions study asks participants to give a personal weather report indicating how you were feeling that day; i.e. sunny, partly cloudy; prevailing winds, etc.

If I were to give a weather report about Covenant Christian Church these last days of July and the first few days of August, I would say "Sunny and Clear!" Of course I know many of our personal lives have storms brewing and clouds overhead. And the weather is always subject to change. But right here and now, the spiritual climate at Covenant amid our Hi's & Lo's, is filled with hope and joy, expectations & excitement about moving into God's future. And it's contagious and is beginning to rain all over this place; touching each one of us and pouring out into the lives of everyone we meet and with those we share life.

And how do I *KNOW* this is true? Because I, along with so many others, have been participating in some very exciting gatherings. Some have met with the architectural consultant this past week and were given a foretaste of what the further development of our property could look like. Just looking at rough sketches, without wanting to look at the possible costs ☺ sparked so much energy.

**Excitement filled the air and spirits soared!**

And the very next evening, 31 of us gathered to discuss our summer book read, *Unbinding the Gospel*. By the time it was over, we set our sights on different ways that we will enable us to grow in our understanding of our faith and how we can become more aware of opportunities to share our faith and invite others to experience the joy of God's love expressed here at Covenant.

**Excitement filled the air and spirits soared!**

And when you read this, our annual churchwide planning meeting will have taken place. I trust that all that has happened earlier in the week will have gained further momentum as God breathes new and renewed energy into us, causing us to capture a sense of God's vision for our church family.

**Excitement fills the air and spirits are soaring!**

**Come Catch the Covenant Spirit!**

**Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart!**

*"The Spirit blows where it chooses... but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes..."* (John 3: 8).

*Blessings, Joanne*

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## **Architectural Consultant's Visit Offers Encouraging Words and Plans**

On July 30, the Pre-Building Team met with Joe Gardner, an architectural consultant from Church Extension. Some of the Team met with Joe over lunch for a few hours to better acquaint him with Covenant's building projects and to share with him some of the results of the congregation's Faithful Planning survey results. This discussion paved the way for him to take our ideas and develop some rough sketches of how our current site could be further developed to meet our needs in the future. He then shared a few proposals with the Team in our evening session. He will send us his final report and proposed sketches by the end of August that will later be shared with all of us in late September/Early October. **-Dave Deardorff, Team Chr.**

## **With Prayers of Love & Gratitude...**

The 2007 F.A.S.T. (Faithful Advocates Serving Together) Team would like to thank our church family for your support over the past few months. Your generous contributions of over \$1,175 plus all the supplies that the children collected at Vacation Bible School allowed us to experience a memorable work trip in the Appalachian region of West Virginia. We look forward to sharing our trip with you during our 10:30 am worship service on **Sunday, August 5.**

**In God's Love, the 2007 F.A.S.T. Mission Team:**

Jennifer Berger, Carol Carson, Hunt Cassell, Ashleigh DeMartin, Sarah Hitch, Drew Kidwell, Megan Larsen, Laura Murray, Matt Murray, Nicole Nystrom, Craig Paul, Anna Perry, Casey Perry & Jacob Sisson.

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## **Youth News!**

For those new to Disciples or youth programming in the Christian Church, here's a little helpful info as we gear up for fall:



CHI RHO is the name of the youth group for children in middle school. This name comes from the first two letters of the Greek word for "Christ."

We welcome Andrew Stiles & Andrew Teska to their first year of Chi Rho!

CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship) is the youth group for teenagers in high school. We welcome Joey DeMartin and Zack Sloop to their first year of CYF!

We have exciting programs for 2007-08 and welcome our new adult leadership team to work with our youth program as we continue to grow stronger in our love of Christ and each other: Rev. Anna S. Perry, Assoc. Minister; Carol Carson; Amy Gaffney; Jon Gaffney; Laura Murray; Matt Murray; Craig Paul; Casey Perry & Terri White.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**for the CHI RHO and CYF FALL RETREATS**  
**at CAMP CAROLINE!**  
**CHI RHO: September 14-16**  
**CYF: September 28-30**  
**See Rev. Perry for registration forms.**

## **End of Summer Youth Lock-In!** **Friday, August 24**

We'll meet at the church at 6:00 pm for pizza and painting the youth room! We'll also have time for a round or two of Frisbee & then watch "In Pursuit of Happyness" followed by some good conversation about the film. .

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## **Blessing of the Back Packs** **Sunday, August 26**

Some of our children have begun the new school year, while others still have a few weeks of vacation left. Whether your book bag, back pack or lunch box has been used for a few weeks already or if it is waiting for the first day of school, we'll have a time of blessing for all our teachers and students, pre-school-adult, Sunday, August 26 during 10:30a worship.

**Everyone, returning to school or not, is also asked to bring donations of book bags, notebook paper, pencils, pens, crayons and other school supplies to be shared with others in our community who cannot otherwise afford to buy them.**

## Joys & Concerns

**Our Love & Prayers are with: Art & Hazel Brothers,** Walter & Gay Sharon Brothers in the recent death of their grandson & son, Lee Brothers...**Patricia Mills, Camilla Mills & family** in the recent death of father & grandfather, Melvin Wiles in Danville, VA.

**Recent:** Darla Baldwin's grandfather; Amy Rutledge's grandfather; Herb Brothers (Art's brother); family & friends of Skip Prosser; Modesta Cedillo;

### Ongoing Prayers for Members & their Families:

**Members:** Denise Loughridge; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston; **Parents:** Ann Hall; **Mothers:** Kim Rivers; Ann Washington; Renie Palmer; Steve Frost; Sandi Velez; Dave Deardorff; Alan Wilkinson; **Fathers:** Jay Barish; Meg Snave; Sharon Frost; Debbie Miller; **Grandmothers:** Diana Toney; Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen & Bill Rivers; **Grandson:** Debbie Miller; **Daughter:** Monteith's; **Sons:** Kathy Smith & Jim Johnston; **Sisters:** Darla Baldwin; Elgin Fry; Hazel Brothers; Elaine Kennel; Sharon Frost; **Brothers:** Sharon Frost; Carol Carson; **Great Aunt:** Terry White; **Aunts:** Cathy Downs; Mary Lou Jackson; Kathy Smith; Larry Linguist; **Uncles:** Derek Rutledge; Terry White; Melanie Bunn **Nephews:** Meg Snave & Anna Perry **Great-nephew:** Jody & Jay Barish; **Cousins:** Bob Kennel; Barbara Crumpler; Elaine Fry; Larry Linguist; Jim Hartman; **Sisters-in-law of Ann Hall;** Hazel Brothers; Phama Johnston & Mary Lou Jackson

**Remembering Others:** Hazel Schuller; Bill Huncik; 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; General & Regional Church Leaders; Disciples new church starts: Chapel Hill; Burlington & Wake Forest.

### **New contact information for:**

Sandi Velez: 919-467-2922 & cell 919-358-3789;  
Ann Taska: 919-621-3789-cell # is now the home #.;  
Don & Shirley Lucey, 7 Sturbridge Lane, Greensboro, 27408. Phone 336-282-4049

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## Disciples Men Learning and Serving

NO AUGUST MEETING. The next major event is the Disciples Men's retreat at Christmount, September 21-22. Rev. Johnny Wray, Executive Director of the Week of Compassion will be the program speaker. There are application forms on the table in front of the office or register online at [www.christmount.org](http://www.christmount.org). It's a great time to enjoy the mountains!

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## Women's Ministry News...

God truly answers prayer! With grateful hearts, we welcome Patty Cole as she joins our Disciples Women's Ministry as co-leader this year! Patty brings lots of enthusiasm and ideas and strong Christian values. We are also blessed to have a lot of women from Covenant attending the Regional Women's Retreat at Christmount August 10-12. Please contact Lisa Yanchunas at 919-656-7078 for car pooling information.

**Lisa Yanchunas, Co-coordinator**

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## Back by Popular Demand... Talent/Un-Talent Night! Sunday, September 9, 5-7pm

What began years ago simply as one activity among many in the course of a program year, has blossomed into one of Covenant's most favorite programs. It's a great mixture of serious talent and raucous un-talent; young and experienced folks willing to risk it all for the sake of sharing enjoyment and fun! Consider this your advanced notice and plan now to share something of yourself. As the date draws closer there will be a sign-up sheet in the entryway to the sanctuary...Start practicing now!

## Finding Common Ground

The Seekers Sunday School Class for Adults will spend the four Sundays in August exploring the spiritual knowledge and practices of the Toltec, an ancient culture in Mexico. Do Disciples of Christ have anything in common with this ancient culture's view of spiritual truth? You are invited to explore the similarities and differences with others who will meet at 9:15am on Sunday mornings. We meet in the Youth room in the education wing.

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## Discovering Ways to Unbind the Gospel at Covenant!

Everyone had great things to say about the book, **Unbinding the Gospel**, Martha Grace Reese and its suggestions for better understanding our faith and how to share it with others. Studying this book is in response to the majority of you, through the Faithful Planning Survey, letting the church know that we have not always been effectively reaching un-churched people and that we are not better equipping you to share Christ with others.

We know as Christians and as members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we are each called to share God's love in Christ with others. Yet most of us are uncomfortable in doing this. We discovered that we were exactly like those surveyed in the book in our responses to the "E" word—Evangelism. When we THINK of evangelism we think of "knocking on doors; street preachers; witnessing; revivals; missionaries; spreading the Good News. And when it comes to how we FEEL when we hear the "E" word: panicky; uncomfortable; distrustful; fearful; put upon; a sense of duty; judged; guilty; while others felt people were sincere and friendly as they evangelized.

Be on the lookout for small group opportunities coming to a neighborhood near you to help us discover how to share the joy of what it means to be loved by God and one another here at Covenant.

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## Certificate Of Appreciation or... Your Generosity Is Showing

Once again, Covenant has been recognized for being a generous congregation. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Rev. VerBurg at the July General Assembly in Ft. Worth, Texas by former Covenant member, Dr. Lois Artis, President of the Church Financial Council for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Thanks to YOU--Covenant's members and guests, our congregation was listed among the top 300 givers of the 4200 congregations in the US & Canada; and among the top 12 givers of congregations in our NC Region, that contributed to the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) and Special Offerings in 2006. 47% of this money stays in NC for support of Regional Staff, camps & conferences, church leadership development, new church ministries and other regional outreach efforts.

Other funds are used by the General Church to support the Office of General Minister & President, Higher Education Leadership Ministries, Church Extension, Christian Church Foundation, Council on Christian Unity, Historical Society, Global Ministries, Homeland Missions, Pension Fund, Christian Board of Publication and Disciples Benevolent Ministries.

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## A HUGE Thank You To All Who Helped Make Vacation Bible School Such A Great Experience!

*From acting to gluing crafts to providing snacks to bandaging skinned knees, our volunteers really showed what Covenant is all about! Thanks for your time, effort, energy, talent, and enthusiasm.*

**Can't wait 'til next year! Darla Baldwin, Director**

*P.S. To anyone who participated in VBS: Photos from the week are located in the entry to the sanctuary. Please help yourself!*

## What Does It Mean?

Stewardship is a word we use in church when we talk about sharing our money, time and talents to support the idea and work of sharing our faith with others. Every day we are faced with opportunities to decide how we will use who we are and what we have, but what does it mean for Disciples of Christ to be good stewards?

Think of us in this way: We are people who have been shown by Christ how to share life with others in a way that celebrates the mystery of God's unconditional love for us and all people (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

### June 2007 Financial Information

<b>General Fund</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$ (4,960.33)
Receipts	\$ 15,455.75
Disbursements	\$ 20,368.97
Transfer	\$ 14,000.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,126.45</b>
<b>Capital Campaign General</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$ 27,693.36
Receipts	\$ 350.00
Transfer	\$ 15,000.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 13,043.36</b>

August is a busy travel month!

So when you are away from Covenant, 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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### [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) Begins to Pays Off!

Some of us continue to discover 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. Spread the word!

**Plans for a Second Worship Service are in the Works for this Fall!**  
**Stay Tuned following the August Church Wide Planning Meeting!**

### Covenant Continues Pledge to Recycle!

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**

### 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, Chr, 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](mailto:ectyler@nc.rr.com)

### Many are asking:

#### What is the Foundation for Hospital Art?

In short, John Feight, Executive Director and Founder, says: "Our quest is to comfort people in hospitals by bringing communities together to create artwork that will transform the traditional white, blank and cold walls and ceilings of hospitals. Our vision is to create hospitals that will be our most beautiful places for healing. "More than art, a chance to love and comfort people in hospitals."

What is the process?

1. Foundation artists draw the designs.
2. The designs are color coded.
3. You paint the artwork during your Paint Fest.
4. Paintings are touched up, signed, and donated to hospitals.

We are currently involved in stage four of this process and are about finished with the current murals. We can still use some help in the final touch-up so let me know if you are interested. In the future, I hope we will be able to paint on the original canvases as well as do touch-ups. We're hoping to do an activity with the youth later this year, also.

How did I get involved? My daughter (Heather Niemann) and I met John Feight at Sandy Springs Christian Church in 1989, and Heather immediately became interested in the project. She started working as an artist and has worked with John ever since. Dave and I have participated in several Paint Fests in Georgia and I decided I wanted to bring this idea to North Carolina.

It's a wonderful organization and benefits a lot of hospital patients. Thanks to all of you who choose to be involved. If any of you work for a company that would like to have a Paint Fest as a team building activity, let me know and I'll explain how it works. For more information about the Foundation, check out their website:

["About Us"@foundationforhospitalart.org](http://AboutUs@foundationforhospitalart.org)

**God bless you all, Sharon Garrett**

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### 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 September Newsletter articles to me by August 17!** I make every effort to get it in the mail before the first of each month; but I can't do it without **YOUR** input!