



Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart at Covenant

Volume 21, No. 9

August 31, 2007

Extra, Extra! Read All About It!

**God is about to do a new thing at
Covenant Christian Church!**

**Can You Perceive It?
Introducing Covenant's
New Fall Line-up!
Beginning September 9**

Sundays:

- 9am *The Gathering*—New Non-Traditional Worship with Grace Note providing the music/childcare
- 9:45am Coffee Break
- 10am Sunday School for All Ages:
Children's Classes described on page 2
Adult classes described below
- 10:45am Choir warm-up
- 11:00am Traditional Worship—same format as the current 10:30a—only difference is the time change/Children's Church, described on page 2/childcare

Adult Classes, September 9-October 28:

- *Unbinding the Gospel Series* meets in the Large Classroom on left
- Hot Topics for Adults & Teens(a Faith & Current Events discussion group) meets in Sanctuary

Adult Classes Beginning November 4:

- Disciples Class is an adult Bible study class. Emphasis is on applying the scripture to your daily life as you grow into a deeper Christian faith.
- Seekers Class is a theological discussion class for adults. Members are encouraged to share their thoughts as they use scripture and book studies to seek God's will for their lives.
- Hot Topics is a class for adults and teens who are interested in discussing current events and God's desire for justice in the world.

Wednesdays, beginning September 12:

- 6:30pm Youth Groups for Chi Rho (6th-8th) & Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF);
Adult Study Group: *Unbinding the Gospel*
- 7:30-8pm Prayer & Communion Worship
(Childcare provided)

Thursdays, beginning September 6:

- 7:30-9pm Adult Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary

Join us for an exciting program year!

Worship Ministry (Casey Perry), Education Ministry (Darla Baldwin), Rev. Joanne & Rev. Anna

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**Take Note! No Time to Rest or B Flat!
It's a Major Musical Event!**

Saturday, September 15 9:30 am 'til Noon

All current & former choir members and other interested singers are invited to Covenant's Choral Music Workshop led by William P. Carroll, UNC-G School of Music. Lunch at noon will be provided.

RSVP: By Tuesday, September 4. Contact Carole Tyler, Director, 919-851-0233 (H); or ectyler@nc.rr.com

Keeping Faith

One of the themes of Joanne's sermon on August 19 was her explanation of the cloud of witnesses and every day saints leading us to a closer relationship with God. One of her questions was "What keeps you running the race of life and who is encouraging you?"

Earlier this month, we had our annual "all invited" planning meeting. You can view the summary that Brad Baldwin put together in the narthex. On it, you'll see all of the ways that you can be a part of our church community of faith as we individually and collectively run our own "amazing race".

No matter whether we run fast, run slow, walk, saunter, or stroll, we are all part of this amazing race. Thanks to Brad, the people who were a part of the meeting and thanks to you for your willingness to be a part of this community of faith working together both inside and outside of this church to bring ourselves and others into a closer relationship with God.

Keep the faith & keep moving...Chris Hitch, Moderator

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Talent/Un-Talent Night Coming Soon!

As a new member of Covenant, I have heard what a **fun fellowship night** the community enjoys when the annual talent night rolls around! Plan on joining the fun **Sunday, September 9 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM!** Covenant is gifted with a variety of performance gifts, including the gift of comedy and the ability to laugh at ourselves.

Even if you think most of your talent is more like Un-talent, our Talent/Un-Talent Night welcomes and invites any and all individuals and groups from children to adults to participate and share talent from music to knock-knock jokes! There's a sign up poster in the church's entryway so that we can make a performance schedule. We all have talent for many activities. Please consider sharing a beloved poem, playing your instrument, doing a comedy skit, or demonstrating your pet's tricks.

It all begins with a Taco Supper at 5pm, (\$3 per person/\$12 family max) So, If you choose not to be on the "stage", please consider sharing your talent for cooking, set-up, or other "behind the scenes" support. To volunteer, sign up on the poster, call me at 919-342-3713, or e-mail at jandjw@nc.rr.com.

Jeanne White, Hospitality Ministry Coordinator

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Join Us As We "Unbind the Gospel!"

Our summer book read was a huge success! Over 60 people have been reading *Unbinding the Gospel*, by Martha Grace Reese, as she helps us become more comfortable with the "E" word—Evangelism, as we learn more about sharing our faith stories and stories of Covenant.

And now we're inviting YOU and all other members and guests to take 6 weeks to share in this informative and enjoyable study. Choose one of the following study dates and let's get started:

Sunday mornings, 10a, September 9-October 28

The combined Disciples Class & Seekers Class invite you to meet with them.

Wednesdays, 6:30p, September 12-October 17, during our new Adult Study time; childcare provided.

Thursdays, 9:30a, September 13-October 18; childcare upon request.

Joys & Concerns

Our love and prayers are with Rev. Sekinah Hamlin, former Covenant member, in the recent death of her father, James Hamlin of Charlotte...cards may be sent to Sekinah: 2233 Wilcox Dr, Greensboro, NC 27405...

Recent: Kathy Smith; Shirley & Don Lucey's granddaughter, Jenna Lucey; Ann Washington mother, Deane Parker; Jay Barish's father; Joanna Martinez; Jeanne & John White's granddaughter, Nora White...

Ongoing Prayers for Members & their Families:

Members: Denise Loughridge; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston; Hannah Stiles
Parents: Ann Hall; **Mothers:** Kim Rivers; Renie Palmer; Steve Frost; Sandi Velez; Dave Deardorff; Alan Wilkinson;
Fathers: Meg Snave; Sharon Frost; Debbie Miller;
Grandmothers: Diana Toney; Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen & Bill Rivers; **Grandfather:** Darla Baldwin
Daughter: Monteith's; **Sons:** Kathy Smith & Jim Johnston;
Sisters: Darla Baldwin; Elgin Fry; Hazel Brothers;
Brothers: Art Brothers; Elaine Kennel; Sharon Frost; Sharon Frost; Carol Carson; **Great Aunt:** Terry White;
Aunts: Cathy Downs; 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-laws: Hazel Brothers; Phama Johnston

Remembering Others: Barry New; Hazel Schuller; Bill Huncik; 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.

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With Gusto & Grace

"If giving is in response to a faith experience which continues as a living work of God in your life, it will be both a place of growth and a magnificent obsession. You will give, not so you can sleep with a good conscience, but so that you can arise each morning to live again with gusto and grace in response to God, the One who gives life anew every morning..." Rev. Dr. Terence Kelshaw

July 2007 Financial Information

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 3,651.45
Receipts	\$ 15,121.68
Disbursements	\$ 20,996.10
Transfer	\$ 10,000.00
Ending Balance	\$ 7,777.03
Capital Campaign General	
Beginning Balance	\$ 13,043.36
Receipts	\$ 1,330.32
Transfer	\$ 10,000.00
Ending Balance	\$ 4,373.68

Remember! When you're away from Covenant, the expenses of the church continue!

Have you considered setting up an automatic bill pay with your bank? Check with Betsy Mebane, our treasurer. It's a good way for your \$\$\$ to be here even when you're not! Or simply mail your tithe/pledge to the church office...



Fall Clean Up Day...Come & join in the work & fellowship...Saturday, September 29, 8am - noon. Bring your tools & gloves with you!!!!

Sunday Mornings for Covenant's Kids

The Education Ministry is excited to announce Covenant's new children's programs. Beginning September 9, we will have new classes, new teachers, and a new format for Sunday morning children's activities.

- At 9:00am, **Childcare** for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers will be offered during the new early worship. It's *kid-friendly*, so, children, kindergarten and older are invited to share in worship.
- At 10:00, **Sunday School** for all ages is available, using the dynamic and exciting **Live BIG** program. Infants and toddlers will be lovingly cared for in the nursery, while preschoolers age 3 and up are welcome to join the fun in the *Friendly Fish* classroom with Darla and Brad Baldwin. Kindergarten and 1st graders are invited to join Melanie Bunn in the *Treasure Hunters* class, and 2nd through 5th graders will love the *Spirit Squad* class led by Renie Palmer.
- During the 11:00 worship service, childcare will be available for infants and toddlers. **Children's Church** is a great way to begin to learn about worship. Kids age 3 years through Kindergarten will love *Bible Buddies*, an interactive, story-based worship experience led by loving adults from their church family, while 1st through 3rd graders will become *Young Disciples*, participating in worship led by Rev. Anna Perry as they prepare to become fully part of adult worship once they reach 4th grade. The Young Disciples will get a chance to practice at adult worship on the first Sunday of each month by remaining in worship with their parents.

For more information, please contact the church office or Darla Baldwin (846-0090). We're looking forward to seeing you and your kids on Sunday mornings! ☺

Kids 2 Kids Eager to Get Started...

...on their new program year. If you did not receive a survey of activities for your child, please contact the church office or Jody Barish (460-2820). We're looking forward to doing some great service projects and having fun in the process! **Thanks, Jody**

Youth News!



Hey Teenagers, Parents and Adults, there's a new program coming to you on WEDNESDAY evenings beginning September 12!

All are invited to join us
Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm
 For Fellowship and Programming:

Middle School and High School Youth will be engaged with a program called **REVOLUTION** that will change the way you think, live and worship.

Each lesson will cover life-changing topics.

Parents will be involved in a 6 week study beginning Sept 12 called "**Parenting your Teenager.**"

Help Your Teenager Overcome Hurts, Become Less Rebellious, and Discover their True Identity as you.

Other Adults will gather to study the book, "**Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism**" by Martha Grace Reese.

Following the time of study,
 All are invited to gather for
Wednesday WORSHIP at 7:30 pm
 for prayer and communion.



For more information contact the church office or Rev. Anna Perry at (919)481-

Women's Ministry News...

The 2007 Christmount Women's Retreat was event-packed, spiritual and just down right fun! The theme this year was "Come to the Table." Participants from CCC were: Elaine Fry; Elaine Kennel; Lisa Yanchunas; Patricia Cole; Rosalyn Thompson; Phama Larsen-Johnston; Mary Lou Jackson; Karen Nolen; Priscilla Glasener and Sharon Garrett. This was the largest number of participating Covenant women ever!

The keynote speaker was Daisy Chalmers, a former educator and special envoy to the Disciples of Christ congregations. She introduced the weekend by doing a characterization of Leah. Moving with the theme of strong women in the bible, we all broke in to small groups on Saturday to study other women in the bible. There were Ruth's, Esther's and even Jezebels!

Speaking of strong women of faith, Valerie Melvin was inducted as the Associate Regional Minister for the Christian Women's Fellowship and Pastoral Concerns. She has pledged to visit every church, and we hope to have her visit Covenant. And, of course, there was the basket raffle, held every year at Christmount. Each church assembles gift baskets to raffle off during the weekend. This Year the Covenant women put together a basket of mementos. The proceeds go to the Women-to-Women missions. We hope to have an even bigger group next year at Christmount!

Women's Ministry Bible Study: First monthly bible study is Tuesday, September 11 at the church beginning at 7:30 pm. We normally meet in the classroom down the hall on the left. This is a great opportunity to fellowship with other women and learn about this year's intriguing New Day theme, "Come to the Table."

Women's Ministry Breakfast: Saturday, September 22. The Theme is "Come to the Table." Breakfast begins at 8:30 am, the program begins at 9:00. Special event: Induction of new Women's Ministry officers from 10:00 – 10:15. Watch for more information to come!

Lisa Yanchunas, Co-coordinator

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Men's Ministry Gearing-Up for Fall

On the surface it may not look as if much has been happening with Disciples' Men's Ministry over the summer; but that would be deceptive. Covenant's men have been a great source of strength and muscle power in helping members of our church family as well as others move into their new homes and helping with needed repairs. Some of us also helped with Lazy Daze.

Once again we have been invited to participate in Warmth for Wake—a wood chopping and wood delivery ministry for those in need. There are several available dates to consider as we gather again this Fall. We also need to hear from you with any program or service ideas for the upcoming year.

Do you want to get away to the mountains this month? Make new friends with other NC Disciples men? Share in a meaningful program as we worship together? Then please consider attending the Regional Men's Retreat at Christmount September 21-23. Johnny Wray, outstanding speaker and Executive Director of the Week of Compassion—our Disciples of Christ international relief effort will keynote the retreat. Registration forms are in the hallway outside the church office. Contact: Mike Joyce, michael_joyce@ncsu.edu or Joe Teixeira, joetexjr@hotmail.com with program ideas and your interest in attending the retreat.

**Quarterly Program Council Meeting
Sunday, September 16, 7pm**

**General Board Meeting
Sunday, September 23, 7pm**

Both Groups will do 2008 Budget Planning!

Library Corner...

2 reviews for the price of one! ☺

The Best Of Bombeck: A Treasury Of Works By America's Favorite Humorist Erma Bombeck

Three of Erma Bombeck's books are included in this one volume: **At Wits End**, illustrated by Loretta Volmuth; **Just Wait Till You Have Children of Your Own**, illustrated by Bill Keane and **I Lost Everything in Post-natal Depression**, illustrated by Loretta Krupinski.

At Wits End takes you through the seasons making daily activities positive experiences by seeing the humor in them.

Just Wait Till You Have Children of Your Own is for parents of teenagers adding levity to the frustrations and anxieties that come with young adults seeking and learning independence.

I Lost Everything in Post-natal Depression is another collection of family life incidents that seem monumental at the time but put in humorous language become small and laughable. Husbands get more space in these stories.

Reading Bombeck before going to sleep can put the whole day in perspective leading to a good nights sleep.

More-With-Less World Community Cookbook:

Recipes And Suggestions by Mennonites on how to eat better and consume less of the world's limited food resources by Doris Janzen Longacre.

This book will help those who still cook to combat concerns about additives, contamination and obesity. It also gives direction on what food combinations provide the best nutrition at the least expense. Food becomes a spiritual concern as well as physical in relation to sharing this with the rest of the world.

The book is divided into two sections: **More-with-Less**, the educational part of the book, deals with the results of what we eat and how cutting back helps our neighbors around the world. And **Sharing the Recipes** covers 251 pages with recipes in all categories from all parts of the world. Many of these from missionaries who learned to cook like their neighbors. Some interesting things are how to enrich your own flour and a basic master baking mix for bread, pancakes, biscuits, coffee cake and muffins. Browse through this book just to see how different it is from the majority of cookbooks.

Sally Shelly, Reviewer

Only 116 Days 'til Christmas!

(how's that for a rude awakening? ☺)

Before your calendar gets filled, take note of some important dates here at Covenant:

October 1-CROP Walk, Kevin Eldridge, Coordinator
13-Annual Fun-d Raising Day (Craft Fair, etc)
28-Trunk or Treat Night!

November 11-Covenant's 21st Anniversary! Luncheon

December 9-Christmas Cantata at 11am worship
16-Holiday Tasting Party & Children's Play
24- Christmas Eve Worship-6:30p & 9:00p

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 October Newsletter articles to me by September 17as 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!