

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

Sunday School: 10:00am

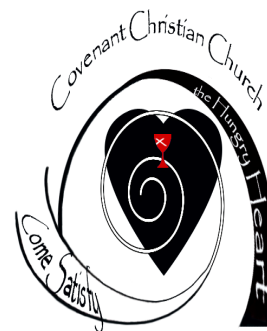
Wednesdays

Youth Groups & Adult Studies 6:30pm

Worship: 7:30pm

Volume 22 No.1

December 31, 2007



With Grateful Hearts...

Thanks to the Covenant members and guests who so generously provided our special Christmas gifts. It is a joy to share in ministry with you and we look forward to a wonderful 2008 as we move forward together into God's future.

With love and appreciation,

*Rev. Joanne VerBurg, Rev. Anna Perry, Carole Tyler, Lynn Lee, Mary Lou Jackson
Patricia Mills, Kelly Hurley & Carrie Pratt*

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Dear Covenant Members and Friends,

It was only one week ago that most of us were sitting amid the ripped wrapping paper, tissue paper, gift bags and bows, trying to sort through our gifts and remembering who gave us which gift. As I reflected on our Advent/Christmas season at Covenant, I thought about the Hope, Peace, Joy & Love we celebrated through the weeks. Then as I was preparing for last Sunday's message, I began to focus on the Light—how hope, peace, joy and love of God lead us toward the Light.

As I have declared through the years, my most favorite passage about Light comes from the Prologue of John's gospel (John 1:1-14): *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God...What has come into being in him (The Word=Jesus) was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it...and the Word became flesh and lived among us...full of grace and truth..."*

In these spiritually crafted words of John we have the Creator God who first brought Light to the world where there had been deep darkness; and also the God who sustains us through the power of God's Spirit. We are meant to live in the Light; to play in the glow of the Light; to receive its energy. So why is it, do you suppose, that we humans are more intrigued with darkness than with the Light? Everywhere we turn it seems as if the dark side of life is threatening to extinguish the Light. Living lives out of love, and kindness, patience, generosity, truth, forgiveness, mercy and grace so easily give way to anger, hostilities; wars; lies, brokenness; selfishness; lust, power & greed—living fearful lives.

But John has a way of reminding us that the birth of the Christ Child changed all this. "I am the provider of the Light," says God. "And the darkness from this day forward, doesn't stand a chance!" The Light is for everyone; offered to any and all who are searching for God; all who are trying to find their way back home to God. And those of us who receive the Light are called to reflect the Light; to share the Light with others...to be a beacon, like a lighthouse lamp; like a street light on a dark road; like the light reflected from the sun's rays poking through the clouds or the glow of a full moon's light, lighting the dark night.

One Christmas Eve night, a young child, shivering on the streets of a big city, went inside a church to warm herself. She heard the minister say, "Jesus is the Light of the world..." After worship, she asked the minister if that were true. "Yes it is." "Then I wish he could come down to my alley," she said, "cause it's awfully dark down there..." We are called to reflect Christ's light; to bring hope and meaning to all in need. You and I are to bring the Light into the dark alleys of life... "The Light shines in the darkness; and the darkness HAS NOT, WILL NOT, EVER overcome it..." Let us gather for worship together to reflect the Light as we poke holes in the darkness of our broken, hurting world... ***Blessings in this New Year, Joanne***

And Now a WORD from the Moderator...

If you're like me, you have written or thought about more than your fair share of New Year Resolutions at the start of the New Year-eat better, exercise more, read more, deepen relationships with those you care about... the list goes on and on. I've missed on so many of the resolutions that I can't keep count. Yet, making good on resolutions isn't necessarily hard-it's like the advice we give to those who are going to college and who are looking for the "secret to success". For those college-bound students (including my own) the secret is clear, succinct, and only 6 words-Go to Class, Do the Homework.

So, wherever you are on your faith journey, whether you feel you are progressing well or struggling, my guess is that a similar tactic would work as well. The difficulty, for me, at least, is applying those six words, or a variation of them on a consistent basis. But maybe together we CAN: GO to worship; DO God's work.

Keep the faith, Chris Hitch

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Called Board Meeting this Sunday, January 6 immediately following 11am worship
Called Congregational Meeting, Sunday, January 13, immediately following 11am worship
Both groups will consider a mortgage loan refinancing proposal

*Come and Hear "The Other Wiseman, a Christmas Cantata," by Emily Crocker
This Sunday, January 6, 11am*

We'll celebrate the Day of Epiphany—Old Christmas—the E.T.A of the Magi ☺

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Disciples Men Get Ready for Warmth for Wake

Our Disciples Men will meet for a breakfast and program on Saturday, January 12, 8:15am at the church. We'll also learn what date we are assigned for Warmth for Wake to deliver wood to those in need. Hopefully, following the program, those who are able to remain, can continue help with clearing the undergrowth and removing small trees. Folks with chainsaws, pruners and rakes are needed as well as others who can help add to the piles that will soon be removed.

Questions? Contact Mike Joyce (395-8746/michael_joyce@ncsu.edu) or Bob Kennel (5570847/Bkennel@aol.com).

Bob Kennel, Secretary

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Covenant's Women's Ministry News...

Find Out what **BODY IMAGE is all about!**

Youth and women are invited to the **February 23rd breakfast** sponsored by the Women's Ministry which features Covenant's own Melanie Bunn discussing Health and Body Image. Please join us at 8:30am at the church for breakfast; the 1 hour program starts at 9:00 am.

Women's Ministry Bible Study – Our next bible study is Tuesday, January 8th at 7:30 pm. We meet at the church in the first classroom down the hall on the left. This is a great opportunity to fellowship and pray with other women and learn about this year's New Day (study publication) theme, "Come to the Table." Every session stands alone, so come to one or come to all!

We Need Your Recipes!

The women's ministry is putting together a cookbook, "Come to the Table," to sell at the 2008 Fun Raiser/Arts and Crafts Fair. All men, women, youth & children are invited and encouraged to submit a recipe or two. A nice added touch would be to include a sentence or two about why you chose that particular recipe(s).

The purple fuzzy basket outside Mary Lou's office is awaiting your recipes...in fact it's a bit empty right now... Let's put our recipes together to make a great cookbook! Any questions? Contact Lisa Yanchunas (656-7078) or Patty Cole (388-2556).

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart



Sunday, December 16, we welcomed **Rosalyn (Ro) Thompson**. Ro & Harvey live at 5312 Crocus Ct. Holly Springs, 27540; 367-0257. Their Shepherding Elder is Kathy Smith.

Prayer Concerns

Recent: Jerry Miller, Sr. at home

Continuing Prayers for: Del Myers; Denise Loughridge, who finished her last round of chemo; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston (Heartsfield); Hannah Stiles; Amarvi Thompson; Ken & Glenda Hoffman.

Parents of: Ann Hall. **Mothers of:** Karen Nolan; Betsy Mebane; Ann Washington; Renié Palmer; Sandi Velez; Dave Deardorff. **Fathers:** Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller & Sharon Frost.

Daughters: Jack Reilly; Monteith's. **Sons of:** Mike Joyce; Jim Johnston.

Grandmothers of: Darla Baldwin; Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen; Bill Rivers.

Grandfather of: Darla Baldwin. **Sisters of:** Clelia Fry; Anna Perry; Darla Baldwin; Hazel Brothers.

Brothers of: Art Brothers; Sharon Frost; Carol Carson. **Aunts of:** Cathy Downs; Larry Linguist. **Uncles of:** Vicki Wilkinson; Melanie Bunn; Roxie Gold. **Niece of:** Patricia Mills.

Nephews of: Melanie Bunn; Joe Busby. **Great-Nephew of:** Jody & Jay Barish.

Cousins of: Bob Kennel; Barbara Crumpler; Elaine Fry; Larry Linguist;

Sisters-in-Law of: Hazel Brothers; Rocio Anderson; Mary Lou Jackson.

Remembering Others: A. C. Dawson; Agnes Chavis; Judi Shubert; Erna Travis; David Mills; Eli Kravitz; Betty Beckwith; Danny Prochazka; Marilyn Christian; Rev. Steve Halsted; Julie Mitzelfeld; Jackie Diberto; Rev. Ralph Messick; Carrie Barnett; Hazel Schuller; Cameron Wall; Chip Lineback; Sharon Johnson; Ron Walters; Don Styles; General & Regional Church Leaders; Disciples area new church starts.

Please remember to contact the church office covenantcc@att.net if you wish the names listed in "Remembering Others" to remain on the current list after 2 weeks...



Ready, Set, Let's Go...to the Carolina House
Sunday, January 6 1:00pm

It's time again for all Kids2Kids to visit with our special friends at Carolina House of Cary.

We'll meet at the home of Jody & Jay Barish at 1p. Please pick up your children at the Carolina House at 2p
Questions???? Contact Anna Perry or Jodi Barish...All children, Kindergarten through 5th grade, are invited and encouraged to join us. **See you Sunday, Jodi & Jay Barish**

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It's New Year's Resolution Time...

While you're making all those resolutions this year, why not spend some time developing your spiritual life? And why not make a few that we can help you keep? Beginning **Wednesday, January 9**, the Education Ministry is offering a new Wednesday evening study group. Based on the work of Steven Covey, **The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Christians**, an 8-week study that has been developed by our own Don Downs, who will lead the group in developing a personal or family mission statement and learning how to keep your life in check. Childcare is provided. We hope you'll join us for this exciting, timely new offering, 6:30-7:30 pm, Wednesday, January 9. A 30 minute contemplative worship immediately follows. For more Information. Contact Darla Baldwin (846-0090/DarlaBaldwin@nc.rr.com) or Don Downs (462-1521/d.downs@computer.org)



Church-Wide MOVIE NIGHT and SOUP SUPPER



Sunday, January 13

5:00pm

“Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”

Sponsored by Covenant’s Youth Ministry

A \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family donation toward Youth Missions would be appreciated.

Summer Mission Trip Deposit Due: January 16, 2008

If you would like to go with us to Covington, LA the week of July 20-26, we need your \$40.00 by Jan. 16. For more information, please contact Rev. Perry.

CYF will be working at Interfaith Food Shuttle on January 21

On Monday, Jan 21, Covenant’s high school youth will be bagging food items and delivering them to homebound elderly in our local community. We will meet in the church parking lot at 12:30pm to be at the Interfaith Food Shuttle by 1:30 pm. For those planning to help please let me know by Jan. 13. I am looking forward to working with you and serving our community by helping those who are hungry.

If you would like more information, please contact me at annaperry2@yahoo.com.

Youth Chili Supper

Middle School and High School youth will join for chili and fellowship on:

Sunday, January 27 from 5-7:00 pm

Winter Wonderland Weekend in Boone, NC

Covenant Youth will be mountain bound

February 16-19



Thanks to Carol Carson, we will be staying in a cozy cabin in the woods where we will enjoy hot cocoa and games by the fire. And if that’s not enough, for those who like to ski/snowboard/tube, there will be a crew headed for the slopes Sunday and Monday.

So mark your calendars and let Rev. Perry know you plan to go!

November 2007 Financial Information

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 4,058.01
Receipts	\$ 17,352.96
Disbursements	\$ 20,176.81 -
Transfer	\$ 725.00
Ending Balance	\$ 1,959.16
Capital Campaign General	
Beginning Balance	\$ 550.00
Receipts	\$ 175.00
Transfer	\$ 725.00 -
Ending Balance	\$.00

December information will be available by the week of January 13, 2008.

Thanks to all who continue to generously support the ministries of Covenant Christian Church throughout 2007.

Prepare Now for a New Way to Make Your Donations in the New Year

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 you are able to be in worship or not. 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

Billor City, State, Zip: Cary, NC 27513

Billor phone number: 919-481-4715

The account number can be GENERAL FUND/ SANCTUARY FUND/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/or MEMORIAL FUND. Questions? Contact Betsy Mebane, Treasurer: betsy_mebane@hotmail.com.

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Miss a Sunday? CDs are Now Available!

Many circumstances can prevent you from being here for worship. One way of staying in touch is through the CD ministry. If you would like a CD of any 11am service we can make sure you receive it. Simply contact the church office: 481-4715; covenantcc@bellsouth.net to request it via snail mail or stop by to pick one up during regular office hours (Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm) or make special arrangements.

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Now Here's a 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 February Newsletter articles to me by **January 18, 2008 so I can get it posted on line and mailed to those without email in a timely manner. It takes us all to make this work!**