

**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](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net)

Web: <http://www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org>

**Sundays**

**Worship: 9:00am & 11:00am**

**Sunday School: 10:00am**

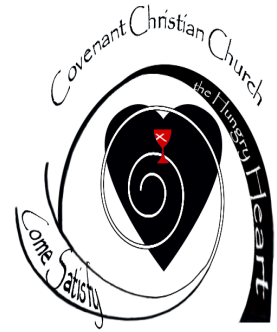
**Wednesdays**

**Youth Groups & Adult Studies 6:30pm**

**Worship: 7:30pm**

**Volume 22 No.2**

**January 31, 2008**



---

*“...On either side of the river is the tree of life ...  
and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations...” (Revelation 22: 2)*

As I reflect on this verse my mind immediately focuses on the word “healing” and how as a people, as a nation, as a world community, we stand in great need of this power. In times of war, famine, drought, global warming, homelessness, other concerns related to poverty, refugees, those seeking sanctuary, immigration; the broken Body of Christ, we call the Church—just to mention a few. And then there are concerns that hit even closer to home: relationships in turmoil; broken hopes; broken dreams; unemployment; the economy; issues of justice in our legal system, our own health or that of those whom we love; sandwich generation issues with aging parents and growing children—just to mention a few more...all in need of being made whole.

God offers us and all of God’s children the gift of healing for all our struggles and for whatever brings pain and suffering into our lives. God’s healing comes to us in so many ways and many times, even when we don’t fully understand how or why healing has come, we are yet reminded that God indeed does heal the brokenness in this life. Sure, God may not heal in ways **we** think are best, but in every circumstance God’s healing presence is made known to us as we learn to trust more in God’s wisdom and timing.

During the season of Lent, the 7 weeks leading us to the celebration of Christ’s resurrection on Easter morning, there will be a different kind of tree in our sanctuary symbolizing God’s desire for healing, reconciliation and restoration among all of God’s people and other living creatures who call Earth their home. Each Sunday and Wednesday during worship there will be a time to write down your prayer requests on paper leaves and place them on the tree. The prayers will be ever before us reminding us of God’s healing power and presence in our lives as together we seek wholeness.

As the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6, I will be praying for each member and guest of our church family, as together we seek God’s healing in our lives. Each day God brings forth so many miracles in our lives and it will bring such joy to see the unfolding work of God in your life and in the life of our congregation. We’ll you pray with me and for me? Thanks be to God...Blessings, **Joanne**

<> <> <> <> <> <>

***The Season of Lent Begins...***  
***Ash Wednesday Worship***  
***February 6, 7:30pm***  
***(Childcare is provided)***

It’s hard to believe that Lent begins so soon this year; signifying an early date for Easter on March 23! We will gather in the sanctuary at 7:30pm for a time of prayer and the imposition of ashes, marking our foreheads with an ashen cross; reminding us of our mortality and yet claiming us in hope as God’s own in Jesus Christ. Together, let us begin our journey to Jerusalem as we commit ourselves to traveling the path that leads us to the foot of the cross and beyond through the eyes of faith that allow us to see the miracle of Christ’s resurrection and the promise we have been given of living forever with God.

# Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart



Sunday, January 6, we welcomed **Chris & Liz Grennan** into membership along with their 3 year old daughter, Kayla. Liz made her Confession of Faith and will be baptized at a later time. Their address & phone number: 156 Finley Ct, Clayton, 27520; 763-0282. Their Shepherding Elder is Meg Snave.

Sunday, January 13, we welcomed **Kelly Hurley** into membership. The address & phone number for Kelly, Bill & 2 yr. old daughter, Riley: 105 Rubin Ct, Apt B2, Cary, 27511; 234-3579. Their Shepherding Elder is Carolyn Allen. Kelly is the daughter of Ann & Jerry Hall and one of our regular Sunday childcare workers.

Sunday, January 27, we welcomed **Trey O'Quinn**, as he reaffirmed his faith. His address & phone number: 1809 Keokuk Ct, Apex, 27523; 363-9135. His Shepherding Elder is Derek Rutledge.

*Please offer all of them your own warm words of welcome...*

## Prayer Concerns

**Our Love & Prayers are with:** Patricia Mills, in the recent death of her cousin; **Liz Grennan** in the recent death of her cousin, William Nadelson; **Michael & Mary Alice Murphy** in the recent death of his mother. Michael is Executive Director of Christmount; **Renie Palmer** in the recent death of her brother in Nevada.

**Congratulations to:** **Drew Kidwell**, Cary HS Sr. and son of Boyd & Kathy Kidwell, who was chosen as one of the Scholar/Athletes for January by "850 the Buzz" radio station and Coastal Federal Credit Union.

**Recent:** Amy Gaffney's grandfather, Frank Kennedy; Mothers of: Larry Linguist: Linda Wakefield; Melanie Bunn; Dave Deardorff & Sharon Frost. Don Downs' father; Peggy Sezna, friend of John & Jeanne White; Alysha Ray, friend of Robin & Jeff Miller; Laura Doll, friend of the Hall's...

**Continuing Prayers for:** Denise Loughridge (surgery Feb. 4); Mary Toney; Betty Johnston (Heartsfield); Hannah Stiles; Amarvi Thompson.

**Parents of:** Ann Hall. **Mothers of:** Betsy Mebane; Ann Washington; Renie Palmer; Sandi Velez;  
**Fathers of:** Jeremy Hopkins; Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller & Sharon Frost. **Daughter of:** Monteith's.  
**Sons of:** Mike Joyce; Jim Johnston. **Grandmothers of:** Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen; Bill Rivers.  
**Sisters of:** Clelia Fry; 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-niece and Great-Great niece of:** Joanne VerBurg. **Great-Nephews of:** Jody & Jay Barish; Joanne VerBurg. **Cousins of:** Bob Kennel; Barbara Crumpler; Elaine Fry; Larry Linguist;  
**Sisters-in-Law of:** Hazel Brothers; Rocio Anderson; Mary Lou Jackson.

**Remembering Others:** Sulay Mansaray; A. C. Dawson; Agnes Chavis; Judi Shubert; David Mills; Betty Beckwith; Danny Prochazka; Julie Mitzelfeld; Jackie Diberto; 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@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net) if you wish the names listed in "Remembering Others" to remain on the current list after 2 weeks...**

### Changes in contact information:

Home phone # for Rev. VerBurg: 720-4309

Home phone # for E. Carole: 720-4311

## Church Membership Class for Children & Youth

A class is being formed for any of our children and youth who desire to learn more about what it means to become a Christian and a member of the church. Together we will explore: the teachings of Jesus; the meaning of making a Confession of Faith; understanding Baptism; learning about the Church universal, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) & Covenant Christian Church. In addition to these sessions, we will also participate in a service project; a fun activity; and be paired up with a member of Covenant as his/her Sponsor. Due to the distances some will have to travel, we will try to meet on Sundays at noon, beginning March 2. The date for Baptism of those who choose to do so, will be determined soon after the first class  
**Contact Rev. VerBurg by February 10** to enroll your child or to answer any questions: 481-4715 (Church); [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net) or [jverburg@nc.rr.com](mailto:jverburg@nc.rr.com)

<> <> <> <> <>

## 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 am.

*From the desk of Melanie Bunn:*

"From the impossibly thin to the unbelievably voluptuous, people today are constantly bombarded by images of what their bodies 'should' look like. No wonder that when comparing ourselves to these ideals, we feel lacking and spend millions of dollars each year improving, enhancing and sometimes destroying our health towards these—for most—unobtainable goals. This seminar will offer participants the opportunity to reflect on their personal relationship with their own bodies, consider the positives about their physical beings, and establish reasonable strategies to move towards a healthier life: physically, emotionally, and spiritually."

**February Women's Ministry Bible Study** –Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 pm. at the church - the first classroom on the left in Education Wing. This is a great opportunity to have fellowship, pray with other women and learn about this year's theme, "Come to the Table." Every session stands alone, so come to one or come to all – and bring a friend!

### **We Need Your Recipes!**

The women's ministry is putting together a cookbook, "Come to the Table," to sell at the 2008 Fun Raiser/Craft Fair. All men, women, youth & children are encouraged to submit a recipe or two; consider including a sentence or two about why you chose that particular recipe(s). The purple fuzzy basket outside Mary Lou's office awaits your recipes...in fact it's a bit empty right now...Questions? Contact Lisa Yanchunas (656-7078) or Patty Cole (388-2556).

<> <> <> <> <>

## Disciples Men's Plan Eventful 2008 Calendar

At our January Meeting the men began planning events for 2008 and then helped cut trees and brush so that "Covenant Christian's light would be out from under a bushel" and could be seen by all who pass by on Cary Parkway. We identified several programs for the year:

- Service projects: "Warmth for Wake"(wood delivery to those in need) in mid February; Additional tree/brush cutting; helping those in need within our own congregation; Storage shed enhancement.
- Attending Regional Disciples Men's activities
- Attending Sports events: Hurricanes game; Wolfpack Baseball;
- Programs to include: tax information; internet games; Bible and World Religions study; Young Adults;
- Fundraising at the annual "Fun-Raising Day" Yard Sale and Antique Sale...
- ...and other exciting events around which all of our men can bond as well as introducing guests to our church family.

The first program will be a "Send-off dinner & Roast" for Jacob Sisson, as he prepares to leave for the Navy; Saturday, February 9, 6:30p at the church; Questions? Contact Mike Joyce (395-8746/Michael\_joyce@ncsu.edu) or Bob Kennel (557-0847/Bkennel@aol.com). *Bob Kennel, Secretary*

## ***Adult Education Opportunities Abound!***

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Covenant has wonderful education opportunities for all adults. Three different classes meet on Sunday Mornings at 10a...they are all informative and promote lots of lively discussion. Childcare is available for infants & toddlers; classes for pre-school-youth meet during this time:

- **THE DISCIPLES CLASS** meets in the large classroom on the right (choir warm-up room) in the Education Wing. We are using ***The Present Word*** series; a Bible based study that helps learners apply scriptures to every day living and the world situation. ***The Present Word*** is a joint publication of the Disciples of Christ, UCC, Moravian, and Presbyterian (USA and Cumberland). The focus changes quarterly and goes through the entire Bible every 6 years. Everyone receives a study book that allows you to keep pace with the class even when you need to be absent. Bob Kennel is the primary teacher but members of the class also periodically share teaching responsibilities. We also have a special Hazel-baked cake once per month on an unknown Sunday.
- **SEEKERS CLASS** meets in the last classroom on left (Youth Room) in the Education Wing. During February and March we will be studying ***THE WAY OF FORGIVENESS***, an 8 week small group experience that explores Christ's call to live a forgiven and forgiving life. Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) provide the scriptural context for the study. All members, guests, and other "seekers" from the community at large are welcome. Come for the entire series, or join the group for one or more of the sessions.
- **HOT TOPICS** meets in the 2<sup>nd</sup> classroom on the right in the Education Wing. Are you looking for a safe place to explore the current topics and events of this world? Wondering how your faith might address a certain issue? Looking for a group made up of a variety of ages and stages that is satisfied with **not** coming to any particular consensus about the issues of the day, yet leaving you wanting more? Then *Hot Topics* is for you. The class has explored weekly topics such as capital punishment; war and "just war," torture; global warming and most recently, immigration.

Soon the class will read and discuss the book, ***Middle Church: Reclaiming the Moral Values of the Faithful Majority from the Religious Right*** by Bob Edgar. Edgar is a former congressman (D-PA) and former general secretary of the National Council of Churches USA. His book is written for Christians who identify not with the "right" or the "left" but with the "middle church". He challenges his readers to connect spiritual values to political issues and to be heard. Come join us...you'll be glad you did!

### ***Adult Studies are also offered on Wednesday Evenings...***

**Wednesday Evenings, 6:30-7:30p, the adult study group** meets in the large classroom on the right in the Education Wing. Through February the study is based on the work of Steven Covey, ***The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Christians***. The study has been adapted by our own Don Downs, who is leading the group in developing a personal or family mission statement and learning how to keep your life in check. Childcare is provided for infants-school age children. We hope you'll drop by and join us for this exciting study on Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm. A 30 minute Taize service (contemplative worship) immediately follows. Need more information? Contact Darla Baldwin: 846-0090; [DarlaBaldwin@nc.rr.com](mailto:DarlaBaldwin@nc.rr.com) or Don Downs: 462-1521; [d.downs@computer.org](mailto:d.downs@computer.org)

### ***...and Soon on Thursday Mornings***

...beginning February 14, 10a-11:30a, in the large classroom on the right in the Education Wing, we will gather for a 6 week study during Lent, led by Rev. VerBurg. The study is based on the book, ***Unbinding Your Heart-40 Days of Prayer and Faith Sharing***, by Martha Grace Reese, the author of ***Unbinding the Gospel***. The study promises to be mutually beneficial to us as individuals and together as the Church, as we explore our faith, begin to deepen our prayer life with an opportunity to pray during each of the 40 days of Lent and to learn how to be more comfortable with sharing our spiritual journey with others as we build a stronger foundation for our faith.

I have already heard from several women and men who are planning to make this weekly study a part of their spiritual commitment during these 6 weeks leading us to Easter. Will you be among them? Contact the church office and reserve your book today (\$13): 481-4715 or [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net)

***The Good Book*** by Peter Gomes, preacher to Harvard University

Peter Gomes decided after many years, it was time to write a book for Christians and non-Christians who have only a passing knowledge of the Bible. He found in his work that there is much misunderstanding and frustration experienced when reading or discussing it with others.

He begins with what the Bible is about, how to use it, what to believe, what you need to know, its structure and to whom it belongs. Then he moves into interpretation.

Interpretation is difficult and can be dangerous, yet we all do it based on our understanding of life, experiences in Sunday school or with other Christians. It requires knowledge of the culture and history of the times in which the Bible was written as well as other theological information. When we have questions we can turn to a book like this, ask our Pastor or some other person we trust and respect.

The next section of the book called "The use and abuse of the bible" illustrates how some texts are used to alienate people rather than be inclusive. The author deals with race, anti-Semitism, women and sexuality.

The final section, "The true and lively Word" concerns five questions: Am I the only one confused?, What can I trust?, Am I on my own?, Can I feel good about myself? and How can I face the future? The last seven chapters are each on individual topics like the Bible and suffering, the Bible and science, the Bible and evil and so on.

This is a wonderful book that is well written and filled with the author's humorous experiences on campus and in a congregation. Twenty-one pages of notes on each chapter and an index end the book.

*Sally Shelly, Reviewer*

<> <> <> <> <>

***No Idle Hands Round Here...***

Do you knit or crochet? Do you quilt or do other handwork or crafts? Would you like to learn? Do you have skills, patterns, ideas, and enthusiasm to share? Would you be interested in a Covenant group who gathers to share fellowship and skills while working on projects for personal use or donation? Several in our community make baby blankets, chemo hats, and other garments to donate to charities. Some have indicated an interest in forming a group. There will be a get-together for anyone interested in such a group on Tuesday, February 5, at 11:00 AM at Covenant. We will have a hot beverage to warm those who venture out. If a group is formed, meeting dates and frequency of meetings will be decided by the group. Eleven o'clock is not too early in the morning, but late enough so that anyone who wishes can go to lunch afterwards! If you cannot come that day but want to express interest or have questions, contact Jeanne White: 919-342-3713 or e-mail [jandjw@nc.rr.com](mailto:jandjw@nc.rr.com).

<> <> <> <> <>



**A Special Valentine Chocolate Sale**

The Outreach Ministry is sponsoring a Fair Trade Chocolate Sale just in time for Valentine's Day! Sunday, February 3 & 10 you will find an assortment of delicious and delectable chocolates available: Milk & Dark Chocolate; Dark Mint; White Chocolate & Hazelnut. Small bars are \$1 each; Large bars, \$2 each. The proceeds **go directly** to benefit over 40,000 Ghanaian farmers who actually own their own chocolate company. So you can feel good about buying your Valentine chocolates. Please support this divine chocolate sale. It's a sweet deal for you AND for the farmers...thanks, *Becky Stiles*

**February Meetings**  
**Elders, Tuesday, February 5 at 7pm**  
**Program Council, Sunday, February 10 at Noon**



# Youth & Children's Ministry



**Ready, Set, Let's Take Off to the... North Carolina Food Bank...Kids2Kids CAN Help!**  
**Saturday, February 9, 2:00 – 4:00pm**

Kids to Kids will be participating in a Kids Day at the North Carolina Food Bank. This should be a very informative and rewarding afternoon; they'll be a tour of the facility followed by helping to pack food boxes and putting food on the shelves. We have 25 slots to fill and we need to have an adult for every 3 children that wish to go. If you (you don't have to be a parent of a young child) and/or your child are interested in attending, please contact Jay or Jody Barish. Please remember to get your consent forms back to us by February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Questions? Contact Rev. Perry: 481-4715; [annaperry2@yahoo.com](mailto:annaperry2@yahoo.com) or Jody Barish 460-2820 or [jodylb23@yahoo.com](mailto:jodylb23@yahoo.com)

<> <> <> <> <>

## RU RDY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?!?!

Well it's that time of year again and Covenant Youth  
Will be collecting donations to raise money for the  
**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**  
**This Sunday, February 3**  
(Following both worship services)

### WHAT IS THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING?

#### Mission Statement:

Utilizing Super Bowl weekend to mobilize youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities.



#### Vision Statement:

Transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving.

### How can U help?

Be at church on February 3, ready to place  
your money in one of two pots:

**New York Giants**

or

**New England Patriots**

The money collected will go to support  
The Interfaith Food Shuttle

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

*Back by popular demand...*

Come hang out with friends and enjoy live music at:

Covenant's Coffee House

Friday, February 8

7:00-9:30pm

Featured Artists for the evening:

Chris Ruggero and David Healy

(Acoustic Style Jam)



Chris and David are members of Hillyer Memorial CC. As accomplished guitarists and vocalists, they will be performing a wide-range of music from Oasis to Nickel Creek

All Ages are Welcome!

Only \$2.00 at the door!

(Free admission with this flyer)

Coffee, tea, sodas, and a variety of snack items will be available for additional purchase.

Spread the word! Invite your friends!

<> <> <> <> <>



## **Week of Compassion Offering, Sunday February 17 & 24**

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have," says the writer of Hebrews to the community of faith. The call was personal, a reminder that our actions as Christians speak more loudly than our words and worship services. God desires our participation in the lives of others, an expectation made even more pointedly by Jesus when he tells his followers, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matt 25:40, NRSV)

Of course, the 'least of these' don't just live in our community anymore. As our world grows smaller, our lives intersect with so many more lives than they once did — and God's call to share what we have encompasses more people. The people fleeing violence in Sudan, suffering from AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, reeling from devastation in Indonesia, starving in poverty in India — we are called to make a difference in these lives, too. And Week of Compassion makes that possible.

Gifts to Week of Compassion support programs that help families and villages around the world build lives and communities that are healthy, safe and sustainable, changing the lives of millions of God's children. Accomplished by individual denominations alongside Church World Service, work made possible by Week of Compassion:

- helps rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters
- creates sustainable sources of income for rural villages
- provides micro-credit to women to start poverty-alleviating businesses
- teaches trades and job skills to people maimed by landmines
- offers children a chance to survive past the age of 5 and go to school
- and much more.

Week of Compassion gives each of us an opportunity to respond to God's call: to share what we have, showing the kindness, compassion and mercy of Jesus in every part of the globe.

***Pick up your WoC banks, calendar & devotional material in the church entryway!***

***“The River of God”  
2008 NC Regional Assembly  
April 18-20 in Washington, NC  
Watch for further details & registration Info***

<> <> <> <> <>

***December 2007 Financial Information***

<b>General Fund</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$ 1,959.16
Receipts	\$ 27,475.78
Transfer from Capital General	957.24
Disbursements	\$ (25,508.76)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,883.42</b>
<b>Capital Campaign General</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$ .00
Receipts	\$ 957.24
Transfer to General Fund	\$ (957.24)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ .00</b>

***2007 End of Year Financial Information***

<b>General Fund</b>	
Beginning 2007 Balance	\$ 9,757.00
Receipts	\$ 212,859.57
Transfer from Capital General	\$ 29,930.92
Total Disbursements	\$ (247,664.07)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,883.42</b>
<b>Capital Campaign General</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$ 26,068.36
Receipts	\$ 5,182.24
Transfer to General Fund	\$ (30,930.92)
Disbursements	\$ (319.68)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ .00</b>

***Thank you for your continuing financial support of the ministries & mission of Covenant Christian Church!***

***Last but not least...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!*** 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...We need to know when you're here for worship; church school; meetings and events. The names of our guests are important to Invitation Ministry too!

***AND, Please...one more thing...All Staff, Officers, Leaders and Ministry Chairs: Please...***have your March Newsletter articles to me by February 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! Thanks for helping make this possible... 