

## 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

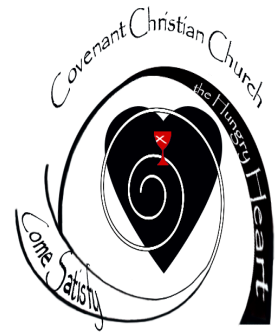
Worship: 9:00am & 11:00am

Sunday School: 10:00am

### Wednesdays

6:30pm Youth Groups & Adult Studies

Worship: 7:30pm



**Volume 22 No.3**

**February 29, 2008**

***Sunday, March 2, Promises to be a joy-filled day at Covenant!  
Beginning with The Gathering at 9am, Coffee Hour, Sunday School &  
Worship at 11am as we host the "M 'n' M Singers:"***

### ***The M'n'M Singers Will Once Again Grace Us with Their Presence in Song***



For the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year we are hosting the "M 'n' M Singers" as our guest musicians in worship, Sunday, March 2 at 11:00 am. This wonderful group of differently-abled adults always tugs at our hearts and bring such courage, laughter and smiles to our lives as they lift their voices in praise to God. Please plan to be here to extend a warm Covenant welcome to them. You will be blessed in immeasurable ways simply by being present in worship.

***Later on that same afternoon...***

***God sings to us through music... "A Celebration of Spirituals"  
Sunday, March 2 at 3:00p at the Holly Springs Cultural Center***

Our own Lanette Lind is the pianist for The Free Spirits of the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra who will present a concert with The Baptist Grove Chorus. It is a true celebration through music, dance and the spoken word; as they express the spiritual gifts that lead us through adversity. The program includes A Celebration of Spirituals by Lind; Romance by William Grant Still, Though the Way Be Dark by Faith, Elegies for cello and piano by Faure and others.

***And a bit later that same evening...***

Covenant's Dinner & a Movie  
Baked Potato/Salad Bar Supper &

"Babette's Feast" (rated G)

Sunday, March 2, 5:00pm

\$5 per person/\$15 max for families



Covenant CYF & Membership/Hospitality Ministry are co-sponsoring our version of Dinner & a Movie. Everyone is invited to join us for dinner and then to watch a great movie, **BABETTE'S FEAST**, about good food and meaningful relationships.

We need everyone to sign up by Thursday, February 28  
by calling the church office (481-4715) or emailing: [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net)

## *As We Journey to Jerusalem...the places we'll go...the people we'll see...*

The week we call "Holy" leads us along the parade route as Jesus enters Jerusalem, teaches and preaches in the Temple, celebrates Passover with his closest friends in an upper room; goes to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, is betrayed & arrested; is lead along the Via Dolorosa, to Golgotha to be crucified. We find ourselves at the foot of the Cross, and soon after we discover that the tomb is empty...as we celebrate God's miracle of Christ's resurrection...

What a week! And we will move through this week together, praying and singing as we go; listening and learning from Jesus' example; as we prepare for Easter Dawn. Below you will find the different times and experiences we will share in together as a community of faith:

**Palm Sunday, March 16**, includes special music, *"Hosanna,"* by Natalie Sleeth by our Chancel Choir at the 11a worship & the Procession of Palms.. *"How often we are like the children of Jerusalem. How easily we join a crowd to shout the fashionable slogans of the day and forget our individual responsibility a day later..."* (Gertrud.Mueller Nelson, *To Dance with God*, pg.156)

**Maundy Thursday Service & Tenebrae** (Service of the Shadows), **Thursday, March 20**, we will begin with a simple Agape Meal at 6:30p preparing us for worship (7:30p) as we allow the seasonal scriptures and candlelight to remind us of the wondrous love of Christ *who gathers us together for a great feast of love...when we are together let us not be divided in mind. Let there be an end to bitterness and quarrels, an end to strife...where there is charity and loving friendship, there God ever dwells..."* (Gertrud Mueller Nelson, *To Dance with God*, pg. 163)

**Saturday Easter Vigil, March 22**, begins with the lighting of the sacred fire at 6:30pm. Anyone who is interested is invited to stop by during the evening for great discussions and times for prayer and meditation. Bring your own tent and plan to camp out for the night as we prepare to greet the dawn of Easter morning. Contact Casey Perry for further information: [caseyperry2@yahoo.com](mailto:caseyperry2@yahoo.com)

### **Easter Morning, March 23**

7am Sunrise Service (officially, Civil twilight begins 6:38a / Sunrise 7:04a) ☺ followed by a potluck breakfast

#### **NO 9am Gathering Worship**

9am Easter Cantata Practice

#### **No Sunday School Classes**

11am Easter Worship with the Cantata, *"Christ the Lord, Is Risen Today."*

*The music invites you to feel the passion of Jesus; sense his power and hear his promise that God has come into your world to live..."*

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### ***A Bit of Easter Trivia***

George Brigham of Shipley, West Yorkshire, England sends this interesting bit of useless inspiration as the question is asked, "Isn't Easter Early?"

- Easter Day is March 23 this year and is almost as early as it can be.
- The earliest possible date is March 22, as Easter is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon, on or after March 21.
- This means that there are 35 possible dates, but Easter has not fallen on the earliest date since 1818, and will not do so again until 2285.
- It will not fall on 23 March again until 2160.
- Easter last fell on the latest possible date, April 25, in 1943 and will next fall on that date in 2038.
- However, it will fall on April 24, just one day before the latest possible date, in 2011.
- Someone has worked out that the cycle of Easter dates repeats after exactly 5,700,000 years, with April 19 being the most common date, happening 220,400 times.

***And now you know more than you ever wanted to know about the dates of Easter ☺***

## ***We are a community of faith...***

When I was new to the congregation, the church had a planning meeting where one group came up with a phrase that continues to resonate with me. That phrase, "We are a community of faith" summed up a lot of discussion. When we broke it down, it made sense to me-I hope it does for you as well:

**We**-it's not one of us, but all of us-each person who chooses to worship at CCC is a part of us-we are not exclusive;

**Are**-it's not a focus on the past or history, but a focus on the future;

**A**-not "the community" but one of many communities of believers, joined together in a common purpose;

**Community**-sometimes we need the church, sometimes the church needs us. As a community, we need each other as we pull together;

**Of Faith**-we don't have certainty in many things unknowable and in the future, but we do have faith-in God; in each other, in ourselves and in our community...

As Joanne frequently says as we share communion, "*All are welcome-come join the feast!*"

**Chris Hitch, Moderator**

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## ***Church-wide Spring Clean-up Planned Saturday, March 8 at 8:00am-Noon***

Let's come together and continue the good work already started to make our church more visible from the Cary Parkway. Bring your chainsaws, gloves, and hearty spirit. There will be a need for debris to be carried away after the cutting so all ages and abilities are invited to help in this effort.

Coffee, juice and pastries will be available to keep us going. Join us as we get started at 8:00am—come when you can and stay as long as you can!

***Thank you in advance, Property Ministry; Jim Johnston, Chr.***

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## ***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; beginning March 9, 2:30-3:30p. Many families have received a letter and postcard to return.

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. The date for Baptism of those who choose to do so, will be determined soon after the first class. Questions? Contact Rev. VerBurg: 481-4715 (Church); [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net) or [jverburg@nc.rr.com](mailto:jverburg@nc.rr.com)



**Daylight Savings begins March 9...  
Set your clocks one hour ahead on  
Saturday night,  
so you won't be late for Church!**

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## ***Covenant's "No Idle Hands"...***

"No Idle Hands" is a new small group in formation that welcomes and encourages any and all who are interested in a sharing and learning a variety of handwork--such as knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, cross-stitch, machine sewing or anything done with a needle and thread. Rev. Anna Perry wants to learn to knit! Others may want to learn to crochet or learn a new skill. We meet at the church on the third Tuesday of each month from 10:00a until... Some go to lunch afterwards while others bring their lunch; and some just drop in for a little bit. Please join us for the fun on Tuesday, March 18 and Tuesday, April 15. . All are welcome! Questions? Contact Jeanne White: 919-342-3713 or [jandjw@nc.rr.com](mailto:jandjw@nc.rr.com)

# Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart



Sunday, February 17, we welcomed **Jennifer Layton** into membership. Her address & phone number: P.O. Box 3339, Cary, 27519-3339, 417-0376. Her Shepherding Elder is Dick Reaves.

We also welcomed **Marilyn Williams**, into an associate membership. Marilyn's address and phone number: 7708 McQuire Dr, Raleigh, 27616-5652, 417-1021. Her Shepherding Elder is Pam Deardorff

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

**Congratulations to:** Dave & Sharon Garrett in the recent birth of their grandson.

**Our love & prayers are with:** Betsy Mebane in the recent death of her father, Don Ross, in Royston, GA; Rev. Joyceline Thompson in the recent death of her nephew in Liberia; Jeanne White in the recent death of her friend, Peggy Sezna...

**Recent:** Denise Loughridge remains at Duke; Cameron Jackson at home; Yates Eldridge at home; Martha Ann Ross (Betsy Mebane's mother) at Rex Rehab in Apex; Nicole Barr; Betty Souders; Clelia Fry as she takes the Bar Exam; Beaufort friend, Christina O'Neill; Kathy Smith's sister, Margie Williams, on a medical mission trip to Honduras.

**Continuing Prayers for:** Mary Toney; Betty Johnston (Heartsfield); Hannah Stiles; Amarvi Thompson...

**Parents of:** Ann Hall; Sharon Frost. **Mothers of:** Jennifer Layton; Ann Washington; Renié Palmer; Vicky Vanderford; Sandi Velez. **Fathers of:** Jeremy Hopkins; Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller. **Daughter of:** Monteith's.

**Sons of:** Mike Joyce; Jim Johnston. **Grandmothers of:** Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen; **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 White. **Niece of:** Patricia Mills. **Nephews of:** Melanie Bunn; Joe Busby. **Great-Nephew of:** Barishes; **Cousins of:** Bob Kennel; Barbara Crumpler; Elaine Fry; Larry Linguist;

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

**Remembering Others:** Trey O'Quinn's co-worker; Casey Perry co-worker; Laura Doll; James Kiernan; A. C. Dawson; Agnes Chavis; Jackie Diberto; Carrie Barnett; Hazel Schuller; Sharon Johnson; General & Regional Church Leaders; Disciples area new church starts.

**Contact the church office: 481-4715 or [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net) if you want any of the above names to remain on the current list after 2 weeks.**

**A Called General Board Meeting,  
Sunday, March 9 after 11am worship**

**A Called Congregational Meeting,  
Sunday March 16, after 11a worship**

**To consider being incorporated as a congregation.**

## DYNAMIC!

**MEET Valerie Melvin,  
Regional Associate Pastor of Christian Women's Fellowship & Pastoral Concerns  
Tuesday, April 22, 6:30-8:30p  
Church-Wide Pot-Luck Dinner for EVERYONE (men, women & children)...**

...sponsored by the Women's Ministry: Tuesday, April 22: 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Please join us in welcoming Valerie as she continues to fulfill her pledge of visiting every church in the region. She's an outgoing motivational speaker, plus a dynamic singer. She has a lot to say as she continues to pull our churches together and to promote diversity. We would love your support of our sister. She's definitely a speaker you don't want to miss. This will be the last regularly scheduled Women's Ministry program until Fall (it replaces our usual quarterly breakfast). So please join us!

**Women's Ministry Bible Study Continues** – Our next bible study is Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 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 to 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 – and bring a friend!

### **We Still 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. The purple fuzzy basket outside Mary Lou's office awaits your recipes for a church-wide cookbook, "Come to the Table. We want to be able to sell them at the October 2008 Fun Raiser/Craft Fair. The few recipes that have been submitted are a bit lonely...So, let's fill up that fuzzy basket ASAP with the favorite recipes of our church family(men, women & children); also consider including a sentence or two about why you chose that particular recipe(s). Questions? Contact Elisa Yanchunas (656-7078) or Patty Cole (388-2556).

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## Disciples Men Forge Ahead

This past month our Disciple Men we sponsored

- A Farewell to Jacob Sisson (Jacob the Sailor Man) as many folks enjoyed a spaghetti supper coordinated by Mike Joyce along with a Grace Notes redo, humorous visuals, gifts, and deeply meaningful words;
- Continue to clear brush and trim trees on our property;
- worked with Hillyer Memorial Christian on delivering wood for Warmth for Wake.

There is no formal meeting scheduled for March but we will join forces with Covenant's Church-wide Spring Clean-up Day, Saturday, March 8, beginning at 8am; and a Regional Men's Workday at Camp Caroline, Saturday, March 29. Questions? Contact Mike Joyce (395-8746/Michael\_joyce@ncsu.edu) or Bob Kennel (557-0847/Bkennel@aol.com).

*Bob Kennel, Secretary*

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## Greater Gift for All



Thanks to everyone who purchased chocolate bars at our fair trade valentine chocolate sale. We sold over \$200.00 worth of chocolate! You not only brought a smile to the recipient but also a smile on the faces of the Ghana coop farmers who benefit through your purchases by receiving fair wages, good working environments, and helping them to build sustainable communities. Your purchase is helping to end world hunger one community at a time. It's a sweet deal!

We will continue to sell fair trade coffee outside the church office year round.

Also, watch for our next chocolate sale coming up around Earth Day weekend in April.

*Thanks again, Becky Stiles*

# Children's Ministry



**Ready? Set?**

**Let's Go...to the Carolina House...**

where we can put a smile on all the residents' faces...☺

**Sunday, March 9**

We'll meet at the Barishes, just up the street from the church, 509 Heathridge Lane, at 1:00pm.

All children, Kdgn-5<sup>th</sup> grade & parents are invited to participate.

Questions?

Contact Jody Barish: 460-2820 or [jodylb23@yahoo.com](mailto:jodylb23@yahoo.com) or Rev. Perry: 481-4715; [annaperry2@yahoo.com](mailto:annaperry2@yahoo.com)

## It's Time for Covenant's Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, March 22

The fun starts at 10:00 am

Bring your friends and neighbors for a great morning celebrating the season!

We'll have crafts, games, stories, Easter eggs to color, and lots more!

See you there!



# Youth Ministry News



## NC Disciples of Christ Kickball Tournament Fundraising Event for Bethany Christian Church, Arapahoe, NC

All DOC churches within the state of North Carolina are invited to join Hillyer Memorial Christian Church for a kickball tournament fundraiser, Saturday, April 12 at Millbrook Exchange Park in Raleigh. This event will raise funds for Bethany Christian Church in Arapaho whose sanctuary burned down last summer.

So, let's get our game on and sign up to play! We can have teams of 10-15 with varying age categories. Just \$50.00 per team! What do ya say, K2K... ChiRho...CYF... Women's Ministry....Men's Ministry...Sunday School Classes? Sign up with Rev. Perry or Nicole Nystrom.

*Summer is just around the corner!  
Can Time for Camp & Conference  
be Far Behind?*



Did you know that the Christian Church in North Carolina has two camp and conferences centers right here in our own state? Camp Caroline is located on the beautiful coastal waters of the Neuse River and Dawson's Creek in Arapahoe. And Christmount is nestled among the trees and mountains of Black Mountain.

If you've never been, well, you're in for a treat! Camp Caroline and Christmount offers camps for all ages starting from Kindergarten all the way to 12th grade. Camp scholarships are available through the church office. Camp schedules and forms are on the bulletin board outside of the office. Ask Rev. Perry for more information.

## ***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.

The class has begun reading & discussing *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!

### **Wednesday Evening Adult Study continues...**

Wednesday Evenings, 6:30-7:30p, the adult study group meets in the large classroom on the right in the Education Wing. Through Lent 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. Questions? 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)

### **...Thursday Morning Bible Study continues through March 20...**

The study led by Rev. VerBurg 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 helps us explore our faith, deepen our prayer life with an opportunity to pray during 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.



## January 2008 Financial Information

<b>General Fund</b>	
Beginning Balance 01.01.08	\$ 4883.42
Receipts	\$ 12,773.37
Disbursements	\$ (19,326.92)
Ending Balance 01.31.08	\$ (1670.13)

From the Week of Compassion Office:

### **No End in Sight for Humanitarian Crisis in Darfur**

Thursday, February 21, A.D. 2008

There continues to be no end in sight to the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, even with the arrival of a strengthened UN force. Recent attacks in West Darfur have displaced more than 25,000 people, worsening a humanitarian disaster that has already killed an estimated 250,000 people and uprooted more than 2.5 million more. More than 2/3rds of Darfur's 6 million people now depend upon outside humanitarian assistance for survival.

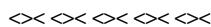
### **As of last Sunday, our Week of Compassion Offering stands at \$1412.72.**

If you haven't had a chance to make your donation, make your check out to Covenant Christian Church and earmark it, "Week of Compassion." Thanks for your generous spirit as we help to support those who are in need of humanitarian aid. Through our gifts to Week of Compassion, we respond to God's call by sharing what we have:

- offering the hospitality of a temporary home in a refugee camp or tent city, where people fleeing war or natural disaster find shelter and the support to begin rebuilding their lives
- doing good with our resources to provide a clean cup of water to a thirsty young girl, and to dig wells and sanitation systems that ensure her community lives in better health
- sharing what we have to bring food to the hungry, and strengthening programs that teach sustainable methods of agriculture that help families lift themselves out of poverty

***"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have." (Hebrews 13:16a).***

***Thanks for your continuing financial support of  
the mission & ministries 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 or email the church office 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!