

**Covenant Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
2911 S.W. Cary Parkway Cary, NC 27513  
Phone: 919-481-4715 Fax: 919-481-4016  
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Web: [www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org](http://www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org)



**Sundays**  
Worship: 9:00am & 11:00am  
Sunday School: 10:00am

**Wednesdays**  
6:30pm Youth Groups & Adult Studies  
7:30pm Taize Worship

**Volume 22 No.4**

**March 31, 2008**

### ***Is This All There Is?***

Here we are, a little over a week since Easter morning when we were able to say, "Christ is risen; Christ is risen indeed!" Family members & friends have returned home. Special holiday foods have gone from leftovers into in the trash. A few jelly beans remain hidden in the fake grass at the bottom of the baskets; the ears and other body parts of the chocolate rabbit have long since been eaten. Easter clothes are now side by side with the everyday clothes. It's over. Is this all there is? It's back to work; back to school; back to the routine of daily living. Is this all there is? In between life's highlights, reality comes creeping in and in the blink of an eye, the holiday celebrations are but a distant memory hidden in our digital cameras.

Can't you imagine in the ancient time of that first Easter day, similar reactions occurred among Jesus' closest friends? They were confused and forlorn; some of them had already applied for unemployment insurance with serious thoughts of returning to their former homes and jobs. Their leader was gone; they were afraid that the religious authorities would round them up and sentence them to the same fate as Jesus. What were they going to do now? Is this all there is?

And in the midst of their questions, fears, doubts and confusion...Jesus enters... "Peace be with you..." The time had come for the disciples to be in a new relationship with Jesus...to believe in the living Spirit of Christ... "To believe" literally means to "give one's heart to..." They were called to give one's heart to this new relationship. And in the midst of OUR questions, fears, doubts and confusion, Jesus enters...only to say to you and me, "Peace be with you" as we are called "to give our heart to" the post-Easter Jesus; the risen, living Christ who can be experienced by you and me, anywhere and everywhere.

Peace be with YOU as we make our way through our daily living—seeing, smelling; hearing; tasting and touching God's wonders and surprises that come with each new day...Is this all there is? Only if you dare to place limits on God's goodness and God's desires for your life...*Blessings, Joanne*



### ***Dr. Richard L. Hamm to Preach at Covenant Sunday, May 4 at 11am***

Richard L. Hamm was born in Indiana and raised in Florida. He returned to Indiana to attend Butler University (B.A. Religion, 1970) and Christian Theological Seminary (Dr. of Ministry, 1974). He is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), having served congregations in Indiana, Kansas & Missouri. Dick also served as Regional Minister in Tennessee (1990-1993) and as our General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. & Canada from 1993 to 2003.

He is the author of three books, *2020 Vision for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* and *From Mainline to Front Line* and *Recreating The Church: Leadership For The Post-Modern Age*. He lectures and teaches Disciples Polity at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

He is now serving as Executive Administrator for Christian Churches Together, a new and very broad ecumenical organization that includes communions from five "families": Mainline Protestants, Historic Black Churches, Evangelicals/Pentecostals, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox as well as several Christian organizations including Sojourners, Bread For The World and Habitat for Humanity. .

Dick and Mindy live in Indianapolis. They have two adult children, Laura, an ordained Disciples minister in Baltimore, MD; and David, who is a member here at Covenant. David and wife Mandy are the parents of Dick & Mindy's two grandchildren, Yavin & Jadzia (both of whom of course, are geniuses ☺).

Dick also enjoys astronomy. Plan now to be in worship, May 4, as we hear Dr. Hamm offer God's Good News for the Church.

**Join us for a Covenant Church-Wide Pot-Luck Dinner &  
Meet Valerie Melvin,  
NC Regional Associate Pastor of Christian Women's Fellowship & Pastoral Concerns  
Tuesday, April 22 at 6:30 pm**

*"What a joy it will be to have you worship with me at Covenant Christian Church as we recommit ourselves to being Disciples of the 21st Century!" – Valerie Melvin,*

By now, all Covenant members and guests should have received a personal invitation with information and details for this special program and covered-dish dinner. Call Lisa Yanchunas: 919-656-7078 or Patty Cole: 919-388-2556 if you can help with this event or if you have any questions. Childcare will be provided. It's an exciting time to be a Disciple! Plan now to be here to welcome Valerie and to learn more about what it means to be a part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**Cary Spring Daze is upon us...Saturday, April 26**

Where else can you get to know church family members, laugh a lot, prepare and cook delicious food and all the while, enjoy doing so? It's working at Covenant's food booth at Cary's Arts & Crafts Festival, Spring Daze at Bond Park on High House Road across from St. Michael's Catholic Church. It's one of our main fundraising efforts that helps support our General Operating Budget. Glenn Thornton continues to ably serve as our coordinator for this event. We serve Sausage biscuits; Polish Sausage sandwiches with peppers & onions; marinated chicken sandwiches & cold drinks & coffee. We also need good sturdy backs to help set up on Friday night & take down on Saturday afternoon. And in between we need people to work the different shifts: Early shift: 7 – 10am; 10am – 1:00pm; 1:00 – 4:00pm; 4:00 – 6:00p. We also ask for help when all the items are brought back to the Church.

You must be at least 10 years old to work. (Children 10-12 must be supervised by a parent or other assigned adult). Sign up for a shift in the entryway to the Sanctuary or contact the Church Office with any questions or to sign up: 481-4715 or [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net)

We always have a lot of fun...Come join us!

# *Join us on Wednesday Evenings for our Taizé Worship:*

*A Service of Silence, Song, Prayer and Communion*



## *Wednesday Evenings at 7:30 pm*

*Come, join us for this contemplative prayer service and find renewal as we unite our voices in songs of prayer to God.*

*The Table is also set every week, for you to join in communion with God as you are invited to partake in the bread and cup.*

*For more information about this time of worship, please contact Rev. Perry at [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net) or (919)481-4715.*

## *“Come and Fill our Hearts with Your Peace”*

Covenant Christian Church offers a unique opportunity for you to join in communion with God and others on Wednesday evenings. If you have never heard of or participated in Taizé style worship, than you should come and find out what it is all about.

On **Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30pm**, there will be an information session about Taizé. Rev. Perry and Renié Palmer will be teaming up to bring information about how this worship originated and what makes it such a powerful form of prayer. Having visited Taizé, France herself, Renié brings her rich experience of this contemplative setting to us. We hope you plan to join us for this time of learning.

Immediately following, you are welcomed to stay and participate in our 7:30pm Taizé worship.

### *The Value of Silence...*

*“At times prayer becomes silent. Peaceful communion with God can do without words. ‘I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother.’ Like the satisfied child who has stopped crying and is in its mother’s arms, so can ‘my soul be with me’ in the presence of God. Prayer needs no words, maybe not even thoughts.”*

*([www.taize.fr/en](http://www.taize.fr/en))*



### *“How is it possible to reach inner silence?”*

*Sometimes we are apparently silent, and yet we have great discussions within, struggling with imaginary partners or with ourselves.*

*Calming our souls requires a kind of simplicity: ‘I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.’ Silence means recognizing that my worries can’t do much. Silence means leaving to God what is beyond my reach and capacity. A moment of silence, even very short, is like a holy stop, a sabbatical rest, a truce of worries.”*

*([www.taize.fr/en](http://www.taize.fr/en))*

# Covenant's Community Garden 2008

## *Many Seeds, One Hope*

Have you heard the GOOD NEWS?

A group of Covenant folks has been working diligently this winter and early spring getting ready for summer growing. The best part of this ministry is that all food that is grown from our garden this year will go to the INTERFAITH FOOD SHUTTLE. What an awesome outreach project! Thanks to Tim Stiles, Casey Perry, Boyd Kidwell, Jennifer, Todd, Grayden and Jackson Beaufort, this mission is well underway! However, they still need your help! It's going to take lots of hands and time to tend the soil and plants during this growing season.

For more information, please contact Tim Stiles or Casey Perry.



Saturday  
March 15, 2008  
Church Cleanup  
Day



### *Something to think about....*

"Where does your food come from? This is a question the majority of American Christians cannot answer. And sadly, most aren't really bothered about their ignorance....More to the point for Christians, food is a theological issue. We believe that eating Christ's body and blood is one of our most important practices. Yet we don't give a second thought to the hamburger we eat after we eat the Lord's Supper, how that hamburger was produced, or what kind of wages its producer was paid. Indeed, the fact that I just referred to a person who raises animals for consumption as a "producer" is further evidence of how mired we've become in the linguistic trap of talking about food as commodity instead of *gift*."

From A Valparaiso Practice Grant  
Proposal written by: Fred Bahnsen

"He who works with the earth from whence he came and to which he will return gets healed of his wounds. In a strange way he is somehow deeply reconciled with God again and walks at eventide with God while they both look over the creation of their hands." Wendell Berry (*The Hidden Wound*)

### *"What about the drought and watering the garden during the heat of summer?"*

Well, thanks to **Ken Hoffman** and his ingenious design, Covenant Christian Church has its very own rain barrel system to catch water from the roof!

Be sure to check out this awesome design behind the church.

Talk to Ken Hoffman for more information on how you can do your part in going green and conserving water at home.



**Okay, here's *your* chance to get involved...**

On **Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**, grab your gloves and hat! Bring a hoe or trowel and plan to join this ministry team by helping plant seedlings after worship for our:

### **Earth Stewardship Celebration.**

Lunch boxes will be available. We'll let you know the cost by April 13. You may also bring your own lunch.



Thanks for installing the rain barrels: **Ken Hoffman, Dick Reaves, Art Brothers, Kevin Eldridge and Casey Perry!**

**Small Groups with YOU in mind:** (if you have other suggestions for additional small groups for any age, please contact Jeanne White: 342-3713 Or [jandjw@nc.rr.com](mailto:jandjw@nc.rr.com)).

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

Hats, and Scarves, and a Sweater, Oh, My!!

The new group, *No Idle Hands*, has produced several hats and a sweater for donation along with work on personal projects of scarves, baby items, and quilting. The group plans to meet for a session on Tuesday, April 15 at the church at 10:00 AM. Please consider joining the group for fellowship, sharing ideas and patterns, and honing your skills. Even if you don't do handwork, the lively conversation is enjoyable by itself. To share patterns, to join the e-mail list, or to get more information, contact Jeanne White at 919-342-3713 or [jandjw@nc.rr.com](mailto:jandjw@nc.rr.com).

### Are You a Movie Fan? Then Consider Yourself Invited...

...by John and Jeanne White to a movie showing in their home, 317 Felspar Way, Cary, 27518, Saturday night, April 26. If you enjoy watching and discussing movies while getting to know others in our faith community, please plan to join us. If there is enough interest, this might become an ongoing monthly or quarterly small group activity. The movie for April 26 will be announced at a later date. For information, please contact Jeanne & John: 919-342-3713 or [jandjw@nc.rr.com](mailto:jandjw@nc.rr.com).

### *Library Corner...*

***The Gift of Pain: Why we hurt and what we can do about it*** by Phillip Yancey & Dr. Paul Brand (1914-2003), c1993, 1997.

This is the best of all the books about which I have reported. I expected it to relate pain and scripture in some way. It turned out to be a biography of Dr. Paul Brand, a hand surgeon who worked with lepers or victims of Hansen's disease (the respectable name for it). Thus, began an education about pain in relation to nationality, disease, absence and attitude; plus, the results of dedicated doctors who found ways to give life back to people who suffer.

Paul Brand lived in India with his missionary parents until he was 9 years old. There he witnessed the suffering of leprosy patients from rejections and deformity due to the lack of pain and rejection. He returned to England (his parent's homeland) for his education; then worked as a carpenter for two years. He began to train for the mission field but switched to orthopedic surgery during World War 11. Then he saw horribly injured people succeed in aiding others causing an interest in pain.

The end of the war allowed him to enter the mission field in India where he began correcting clubfeet without surgery. He used pain to show him how far a foot could be adjusted without doing damage. Next stop was a leprosarium in Vellore where they cured leprosy with sulfide drugs and proved most people are immune to it. Dr. Brand realized dead nerve endings caused the patients to abuse their bodies because the body had no warning system. Thus, noses disappeared, fingers got burned, feet became useless and hands turned into fists that would not open. Healed patients count not return to their home because people feared them.

Dr. Brand realized he had to find ways to correct these conditions developing tendon transfers in hands to open them up and become usable. He grafted skin for a new nose and developed special footpads in shoes to protect the bones. This led to a move to a leprosarium in Louisiana where he found much of what he had developed would help diabetes patients with foot problems due to nerve damage and AIDS patients who suffered from the stigmatism that the lepers suffered.

Paul Brand lived an incredible life, makes a tremendous Christian witness and explains "pain the loneliest sensation – no one can share it with you."

This was a pleasant educational experience.

*Sally Shelly, Reviewer*

# Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart



## Welcome to Our Newest Members

Sunday, March 30, we welcomed Robin and Jeff Miller into membership by transfer from Hominy Baptist Church in Candler, NC. Robin is our pianist at 11am worship and Jeff sings in the choir. Their address & phone #: P.O. Box 458. Holly Springs, 27540, 557-0847. Their Shepherding Elder is Dick Reaves. Please offer you own words of welcome to Jeff & Robin.

**Recent:** Barbara Dalberth; Mary Lou Jackson's cousin, Carol Bell in Bermuda.

**Continuing Prayers for:** Flick Flickinger; Denise Loughridge; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston (Heartsfield); Amarvi Thompson; Cameron Jackson; Henry Bunn.

**Parents of:** Ann Hall; Sharon Frost. **Mothers of:** Betsy Mebane; Melanie Bunn; Dave Deardorff; Ann Washington; Renié Palmer; Larry Linguist. **Fathers of:** Jeremy Hopkins; Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller. **Sons of:** Mike Joyce; Jim Johnston. **Grandmothers of:** Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen; **Sisters of:** Pam Deardorff; Clelia Fry; Hazel Brothers. **Brothers of:** Art Brothers; Sharon Frost; **Aunts of:** Cathy Downs; Larry Linguist. **Uncles of:** Vicki Wilkinson; Melanie Bunn; Roxie White. **Nieces of:** Patricia Mills & Phama Johnston. **Nephew of:** Joe Busby; **Great-Nephew of:** Barishes; **Cousins of:** Barbara Crumpler; Elaine Fry; Larry Linguist; **Brother-in-laws of:** Pam Deardorff & Shirley Lucey **Sisters-in-Law of:** Hazel Brothers; Rocio Anderson.

**Remembering Others:** Betty Souders; Nicole Barr; Christina O'Neill; A. C. Dawson; 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.

## February 2008 Financial Information

General Fund	
Beginning Balance 01.31.08	\$ (1,670.13)
Receipts	\$ 15,818.30
Disbursements	\$ (21,423.51)
Ending Balance 01.31.08	\$ (7,275.34)

*"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!*

**General Board Meeting**  
**Sunday, April 13 following 11am worship**  
**Program Council Meeting**  
**Sunday, April 20 following 11am Worship**  
**Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday May 4, following 11a worship**  
**To approve the slate of officers for 2008-2009 and**  
**Bylaw changes which will be made available to all before this meeting.**

## COVENANT WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS...

**Women's Ministry Bible Study** – Our next bible study is Tuesday, April 8<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 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!

**Eye Opening Presentation:** Melanie Bunn gave an eye-opening presentation on Body Image during the February Women's Ministry breakfast. It was clear that each topic she hit could have easily been a day's presentation. One highlight (among many) was for each of us to concentrate on what our body is "able" to do rather than what we think others think of our bodies. Thank you Melanie and every other person who contributed!

### ***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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## DISCIPLE MEN AT WORK AND PLAY IN APRIL...

Buoyed by our good yard work in March, our Disciples Men are going to do it again in April. On Saturday, April 12 we will continue clean-up support for Covenant teaming with our own Kids2Kids, from 9:00-12:00 with Pizza served at the end.

The previous night on Friday April 11, we will have a sports outing with our church kids for the NC State-Duke baseball game at 6:30 PM. We'll have great seats at \$5 per reserved seat with a tailgate before the game. The women are invited too!(see Bob Kennel or Mike Joyce for details)

Finally...all Covenant men are invited to register and attend the NC Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), April 18-20, in Washington, NC. A Men's Ministry luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, April 19 at noon for all the men of our region. The meal reservations must be made by April 7. Contact: Bob Kennel, [557-0847/Bkennel@aol.com](mailto:557-0847/Bkennel@aol.com); or Ted Glasener, [557-9512/TPGONTEROAD@aol.com](mailto:557-9512/TPGONTEROAD@aol.com). GO, MEN, GO!

*Bob Kennel, Secretary*

## Children's Ministry



***Ready? Set?***

***Let's help the men of the Church...on  
Saturday, April 12 10:00a - noon***

**This will give us an opportunity to help the church and bond with the men in the congregation by helping to clear out the woods at the church. The children will pile up the sticks and brush that the men cut down. We'll work together and then have lunch - probably pizza.**

All children, Kdgn-5<sup>th</sup> grade 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)

# Youth Ministry News

*Summer is just around the corner!  
Listed below are the dates and cost for Camp Caroline.  
Contact Rev. Perry for more information*

## 2008 CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

**Christian Church in North Carolina, PO Box 1568, Wilson, North Carolina 27894  
(252)291-4047**

**Deadline: May 15 for all camps  
Late fee: \$25.00**

### CAMP CAROLINE

<b>Choose Camp by Grade Completed:</b>	<b>Date of Camp:</b>	<b>Fee:</b>	<b>Begins</b>	<b>Ends</b>
Sailing Camp for Grades 4-7	June 13-15	\$125	4:00 pm	11:00 am
Camp for Grades 1-3	June 13-15	\$125	4:00 pm	11:00 am
Camp for Grades 3-5 I	June 15-20	\$275	7:00 pm	11:00 am
Love Camp for Grades 6-7	June 15-20	\$275	7:00 pm	11:00 am
CYF Conference for Grades 9-12	June 22-27	\$275	7:00 pm	11:00 am
Horse Riding Camp for Grades 3-6 **See Below	June 22-27	\$410	7:00 pm	11:00 am
Uno Camp for Grades K-1 w/1 parent or grandparent	June 28-29	\$65	11:00 am	11:00 am
Coed Sports Camp for Grades 4-7	June 30-July 4	\$300	11:00 am	11:00 am
Horseback Riding II for Grades 3-6	July 7-11	\$400	11:00 am	11:00 am
Kayak Camp for Grades 5-8	July 7-11	\$310	11:00 am	11:00 am
Created to Be Me for Grade 8	July 13-19	\$310	4:00 pm	11:00 am
Camp for Grades 3-5 II	July 20-25	\$275	7:00 pm	11:00 am
Camp for Grades 6-7 II	July 20-25	\$275	7:00 pm	11:00 am
Sailing Arts & Stars for Grades 4-6	July 27-31	\$275	7:00 pm	11:00 am
Forensic Camp for Grades 6-8	August 4-8	\$310	11:00 am	11:00 am



## *THE RIVER of GOD*

**Youth Regional Assembly  
6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade  
April 18-20, 2008  
Washington, NC**



Be a part of our Regional Assembly this year by signing up to participate in the All Youth Assembly. The weekend is sure to be inspiring as we hear from Keynote: Amy Gopp, Associate Director for Week of Compassion. The event begins with registration on Friday at 7:00pm at First Christian Church, Washington and ends after the 10:00am worship on Sunday. On Saturday, we will spend time on a Community Mission Work project and hear our keynote speaker at the Youth Luncheon. There will also be group activities, games and worship. The cost is only **\$50.00** and this covers lodging for both nights at the church, the assembly registration, all meals and a T-Shirt.

Registration deadline: **April 7**

If you would like to register for this event, please contact Rev. Perry.

It's going to be a great weekend and I hope you decide to join us!

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### ***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!

If you have any changes in your address; email contact; phone number, college addresses of your son or daughter; or other important contact information, please let me know so we can keep everything current...

***Thanks, Mary Lou, Administrative Assistant***