

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

6:30pm Youth Groups & Adult Studies

7:30pm Taize Worship

Volume 22 No.6

May 30, 2008

What Me, Worry?

Every so often it seems I manage to hit the proverbial nail on the head with one of the Sunday morning messages. And such seems to be the case for this past Sunday as I encouraged us to take a closer look at Matthew 6: 24-34; a passage filled with all kinds of reminders about how we should not worry. Easier said than done ! To put your mind at rest a bit, Jesus isn't telling us to never worry; he's well aware that we are going to worry. He simply reminds us that we are not to fill our lives with constant worry and stress. Of course we know we need to find effective ways to plan for our future. But when those plans take total control of our lives; when fulfilling those hopes and dreams becomes the driving force in our lives; that's when we lose our way along the path that is meant to bring us to a fuller relationship with God.

Are the concerns of earthquakes, cyclones and tornadoes or high tuition costs; or relationships on the rocks; or decisions about our children or aging parents or what we are going to do with the rest of our life made any easier because we worry so much? So, why is it that we always resort to worry as the order of the day? What will it take for us to *REALLY* learn to trust God; the One who's always there with us and provides us with whatever we need and then some? Perhaps this poem puts it all in perspective:

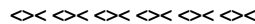
"Alterations, No Charge"

*Last night, I hung up my worries in the closet, hoping the wrinkles would smooth out by the next day;
I put my fears into the laundry, so they would be clean enough to wear again this week;
I made sure that pebble called stress was still in my shoe, where it has worn a hole into the heel.*

But this morning, when I opened the closet, I found a whole new outfit, woven out of Easter lilies and resurrection's sweet grass and sandals made out of sparrow's feathers.

Turning, I found you standing there, a tape measure around your neck, chalk in your hand, saying with a smile, 'try them on . . .so we can see if any alterations are needed. (c) 2008 Thom M. Shuman

Thanks be to God who stands ready to put our worries to rest. Blessings, Joanne



We Celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism

This Sunday, June 1

3pm at St. Paul's Christian Church (DoC)

3331 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh

After several weeks of exploring what it means to confess one's faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God and proclaim him Lord of your life, Grayden Elijah Beaufort and Jade Pauline Brown will come before our church family this Sunday during the 11am worship to make their Confession of Faith and to be baptized into the Church universal later that afternoon. Jade is the granddaughter of Rev. Essie Thompson and her sponsor is Renié Palmer. Grayden is the son of Jennifer & Todd Beaufort and his sponsor is Casey Perry.

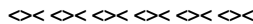
Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism isn't a private ritual reserved for close family and friends; it's a celebration for our entire community of faith as we let them know how happy we are that they have arrived at this important time of decision in their young lives and that we are there to support them as they join us on our collective journey of faith.

Please make every effort to be at this service of Baptism to extend your warm welcome to these young Disciples. If you cannot be with us at St. Paul's CC, please be with us in prayer as we seek God's blessings for Jade, Grayden and their families.

Mid-Week Worship-
A Good Way to Stay in Touch This Summer!

School's almost out or the children are about to track out for a while...and the pace begins to slow a bit even if you still have to work. Summer is fast upon us and around here that means you will be taking vacations or attending out of town weddings, birthdays, class reunions or simply a weekend getaway or two.

One of the best things about being a community of faith is that no matter who's here, we celebrate and praise God together in worship. And when you can't be here for worship on Sundays, we want to at least provide another time to be in touch with one another. That makes our mid-week worship all the more important. So for those weeks when Sunday isn't an option, take time out for Wednesday night worship from 7:30-8 pm. It's a quiet service of prayer, meditation and simple songs of praise. The Table is set every week and bids you welcome as we also share the Bread & Cup together. Childcare is provided.



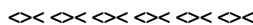
Race for the Cure
"Joanne's Covenant Connection"
9am, Saturday, June 14
Meredith College

Our team's name is, "Joanne's Covenant Connection!—originally named for Rev. VerBurg, but a team that always honors all of Covenant's survivors, friends and family members. Sherri Duryea is our team captain. Interested in walking? Running? Sponsoring the team or individual team members?

Go to www.komennctriangle.org (save \$5) to register or to be a sponsor or to check out the schedule of activities. Registration forms are also available in the church entryway.

Questions? Contact Sherri Duryea: sherriduryea@bellsouth.net; or Joanne: jverburg@nc.rr.com; or email the Church office covenantcc@bellsouth.net.

If you choose to walk, run or sponsor, please know you are doing so for all people affected by breast cancer including 8 women of Covenant . Thanks for your support.



Covenant Church Family
Picnic & Ice Cream Social
At Bond Park in Cary
Sunday afternoon, June 22
3:30pm-7:30pm

Celebrate summer and our great Covenant community with a picnic topped off by homemade ice cream for dessert! Please bring your favorite picnic food to add to the potluck meal. Dinner will be at 5:00 PM. Buehler Shelter near the lake has been reserved for us. You can enjoy the park facilities including boat rental and playground as well as visit with your Covenant church family. If you cannot come for the entire time, drop in when you can. Drinks, ice, paper goods and plasticware will be provided. Volunteers who like to make homemade ice cream are encouraged to contact Jeanne; and also let her know if you have any portable lightweight tables you could bring for the food and drinks: 919-342-3713 or jandjw@nc.rr.com! It promises to be a fun afternoon...



The M 'n' M Singers are celebrating 20 years
Monday, June 9
6:30-8:30pm
At The Wake Shrine Club
6015 Leadmine Road, Raleigh

Let's celebrate with one of our favorite musical groups! We have a limited # of reservations, so if you are interested, please contact the church office: 481-4715 or covenantcc@bellsouth.net by June 7. We can carpool if desired—checked gas prices lately? ☺

Congrats, High School Grads!

*And happy summer as you get ready
For your College Days!*



Melissa Bone- **Appalachian State University**
Ashleigh DeMartin- **East Carolina University**
Drew Kidwell- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
Nicole Nystrom- **Barton College**
Katie Sloop- **Appalachian State University**
Sara Warren- **St. Andrews Presbyterian College**

We will honor all of you Sunday, June 8 during the 11am worship!

Calling All Children, Youth & Adult Volunteers!

**Come to
Vacation
Bible School**

Save the Date Now!
Sunday, August 3 – Thursday, August 7
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Ages 3 years – 5th grade



We are inviting all children to be a part of the excitement at our Vacation Bible School,
Beach Party: Surfin' Through the Scriptures
Registration Forms are now available in the church entryway!

“GARDEN of HOPE”

Covenant’s Community Garden

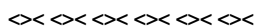
ADOPT the GARDEN...

Our Garden of Hope is aptly name and is coming along quite nicely. We continue to seek volunteers for our “adopt the garden” program which allows a person or group to take on responsibilities for the garden for a week. Depending on the time of the year, this might entail: watering the garden 3-4 times (every other day at least), picking and packing produce for Interfaith Food Shuttle (1-2 times per week), storing the produce in a safe place. There are also miscellaneous things like adding mulch, keeping the weeds out of the plant area, a tiny bit of mowing, continued beautification of the garden, etc. This is a chance for you to volunteer with minimal commitment even if you are super busy.

It is so personally enriching to dig in the dirt and provide sustenance for the plants. One of the most exciting things about our garden is that as it grows and produces various food, it offers hope for people in our community through the Interfaith Food Shuttle who will stop by and collect the food to share with those who are hungry—go to: <http://www.foodshuttle.org> to see how this all works. And an additional bonus is that orking in the garden is an opportunity for friends/families in our congregation to reconnect with each other, the earth and God.

We even offer “hands-on training” so you will feel comfortable about what’s expected. If you would like to participate in our “adopt the garden” program, please contact Tim Stiles (387-0737). We’ll also send you a reminder email the week before your committed time and instructions for that week.

*Thanks for considering this beautiful opportunity
as we find healing & reconciliation through this sacred ground.*

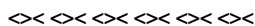


Small Groups with YOU in mind: Have any suggestions for Summertime activities?

Even if it you think it’s off the wall or you think you’re the only one who might be interested...don’t let that stop you! Test the waters by contacting Jeanne White: 342-3713 or jandjw@nc.rr.com Here’s the latest:

Covenant’s “No Idle Hands”...

This group will meet regularly on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM. This month, the meeting day is June 17th. Our work session is often followed by lunch together. Please join us. For more information, contact Jeanne White.



Covenant’s Movie Night! Food, Fun & Flicks!

The first Covenant movie night in May featured the showing of “Copying Beethoven” starring Ed Harris. It was an enjoyable evening for the nine of us who watched the movie and enjoyed the snack bar!

Stay tuned for the next planned showing this summer, probably in August when John White’s home is available. We hope to have “The Bucket List” since it is coming out soon on DVD. If you are interested in this small group activity or if you are interested in offering your home for a showing, contact Jeanne White for more information.

Library Corner...

***Check It Out! Come explore Covenant's Library!
There are many books to capture your imagination and
help you grow along your spiritual journey—like this one:***

Three Cups of Tea: One man's mission to promote peace...one school at a time
by Greg Mortenson & David Relin. C2006

This biography is based on ten years of Greg Mortenson's life when he set out to climb a mountain & failed but succeeded in building schools for girls in Pakistan & Afghanistan. His rescue by Shiite tribesmen in the poor villages of the Karakoran Mts. gave him some lifelong friends & working companions.

This is a tale of relationships, trust & needs fulfilled by a man dedicated to a promise in gratitude for saving his life. The people of Balti had no school for the girls; they met outdoors; so Greg went home, raised money & returned to build one. One school led to another as other villages learned of this American & his work.

As Greg describes his daily life with the people, the book becomes a lesson in geography, sociology & history. There is excitement as he comes in contact with the Taliban & Al-Qaeda. There is concern as he lives in two worlds, Montana & Pakistan with a wife & two young children in the states & his work in another world.

Out of all this grew the non-profit organization Central Asia Institute by the people who support his work & new ones who continue to do so. His story appeared in "Parade" magazine in 2003 & some believe he could receive the Nobel Peace Prize sometime in the future.

The book has an Introduction, maps, acknowledgement (with suggestions for helping) & an index. It is one that is hard to lay down once started.

"Here (in Pakistan & Afghanistan) we drink three cups of tea to do business;
the first you are a stranger,
the second you become a friend and
the third you become our family and we are prepared to do anything for you – even die."
Haji Ali, Korphi Village Chief

Sally Shelly, Reviewer

COVENANT MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS...

The Men's Group met on Saturday, May 17 for breakfast and an open conversation about how to better serve Covenant Christian Church. The Men's Retreat to Camp Caroline is scheduled for June 6-7 for which all men are invited to attend. Mike Shannon from Chapel Hill Christian Church will be the Keynoter. Details can be obtained from either Bob Kennel, ([557-0847](tel:557-0847)/Bkennel@aol.com) or Mike Joyce, (395-8746/Michael_joyce@ncsu.edu) if interested.

Also, David Hamm is scheduled to present the program at the Men's Breakfast Group on June 28th. This is expected to be a very interesting conversation as we talk about technology today and its impact on our lives. Work has progressed steadily on the clearing of the grounds next to Cary Parkway as have several other projects around the Church.

All men of the Church are invited to participate in these and any future activities. ***Faithfully, Mike Joyce***

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Our love and prayers go to:

Ann, Kevin & John Washington and family in the recent death of her mother and their grandmother, Alma Deane Cutler Parker of Washington, NC. Memorial Contributions may be made to The Christian Church (DoC) in NC, P.O. Box 1568, Wilson, NC to a fund in her memory;

The Members of Eastfield Christian Church (DoC), Charlotte (formerly Eastway CC) as they celebrated their final worship together on May 25.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to:

Lee Wakefield & Jessica Nixon, Allen, TX, who were married on May 19. Lee is the son of Linda and Nelson Wakefield;

Christopher Nystrom & Kathryn Winz who will be married May 31. Chris is the son of Andy Nystrom and Debbi Layko and brother to Nicole and Mike Nystrom & Becky Layko;

Elisa Yanchunas & Mark Huncik, who will be married June 14, in State College, PA.

Congratulations to: Drew Kidwell, for winning the 2008 Male Sportsmanship Award at Cary High School.

Recent: Liz Grennan's grandfather, George Grennan, Sr.; Denise Loughridge-surgery, June 6; Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister & President of the Christian Church (DoC) as she travels to the Congo; and at home: Ann Hall; Terry White;

Continuing Prayers for: Flick Flickinger; Barbara Dalberth; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston (Heartsfield); tornado victims in the Midwest; the people of Myanmar; the people in central China affected by the recent earthquake and its after-shocks.

Parents of: Ann Hall; Sharon Frost. **Mothers of:** Betsy Mebane; Melanie Bunn; Dave Deardorff;

Fathers of: Jeremy Hopkins; Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller. **Sons of:** Mike Joyce; Jim Johnston.

Grandfathers of: Trey O'Quinn **Grandmothers of:** Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen; **Grandson of:** Mary Lou Jackson (starts chemo June 8); **Sisters of:** Hazel Brothers **Brothers of:** Art Brothers; Sharon Frost;

Aunts of: Cathy Downs; Larry Linguist. **Uncles of:** Suzanne Hopkins; Melanie Bunn; Roxie White.

Niece of: Patricia Mills **Nephews of:** Melanie Bunn & Joe Busby; **Great-Nephew of:** Barishes;

Cousins of: Mary Lou Jackson, Barbara Crumpler; Elaine Fry; Larry Linguist; **Brother-in-law of:** Shirley Lucey;

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

Remembering Others: Sharon Johnson; Woody Liley; Bill Huncik; Betty Souders; Duane Swihart; Christina O'Neill; Hazel Schuller; General & Regional Church Leaders; Disciples area new church starts.

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

April 2008 Financial Information

General Fund	
Beginning Balance 03.31.08	\$ (8,894.25)
Receipts	\$ 17,557.08
Disbursements	\$ (20,218.67)
Ending Balance 04.30.08	\$ (11,555.84)

"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!***

COVENANT WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS...

BIBLE STUDY:

Come to the Table was the theme for this year, and we were delighted at how the New Day studies opened our eyes to welcoming people of different beliefs and races to our church home. We finished the year by looking at how Covenant fits the description of an anti-racist/multicultural church. The last study was a summation of all that we had studied and we dined on soup made by Sharon Garrett from a recipe found in our "New Day" study guide and Miss Hazel's ham biscuits; as we celebrated being Christians and learning to live as the fragrance of God: 2 Cor. 2:12-17.

COOKBOOK:

Recipe Deadline! June 30th is the deadline to get your recipes to the women's ministry for inclusion into the CWF cookbook, entitled "Come to the Table." Recipes can be dropped off in the purple, fuzzy basket on the chair outside of Mary Lou's office. Please let us know if you'd like us to print your name with your recipe and jot down any remarks you'd like to make about the recipe.

We are delighted to report that we have over 50 recipes, but we need more. Please rummage through your cookbooks, drawers, between cushions, under pillows, anywhere you hide them, to find your favorite recipes that you'd like to share with the folks at Covenant and beyond, as we prepare a cookbook to sell at next fall's Fun Raiser/Craft Fair. Call Patty Cole at 388-2556 or e-mail her at patriciacole@bellsouth.net with any comments, questions or feedback in general regarding the cookbook. Thanks. If you prefer, you can e-mail your recipes to Patty Cole at patriciacole@bellsouth.net before or on June 30th.

Cookbook Meeting: If you are interested, save the date, July 27 (time will be announced closer to the date) to plan who will work on the cookbook, determine what the chapters will be, look at pricing and set pre-orders, etc. Bring any and all creative ideas.

JOYFUL EVENING WITH REV. VALERIE MELVIN:

Rev. Melvin gave an inspirational talk on Tuesday, April 22nd, about how Covenant's mission work was being seen by our community and that we are making a difference. It inspired us all to want to do more. She continues to work hard and stay connected with us and sends frequent e-mails regarding Christian Church (DOC) events.

Nearly 40 people came and contributed centerpieces, tablecloths, and mountains of food! Thanks to everyone who came and made the evening such a success. So many people commented on how pot-luck dinners are their favorite type of church dinners.

HELP! (Please)

Covenant is delighted to host the Women's Ministry Cabinet Meeting on Saturday, June 21st. About 20 women from around North Carolina will be coming from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for training. Please call Patty Cole at 388-2556, if you can spare some time in the morning or that afternoon to help set up food and refreshments, and make sure the church is set up for worship on Sunday. We're also accepting donations of food for the continental breakfast and money to go towards food and supplies. (If writing a check please make it out to the church, and note in the memo that it will go toward the Women's Ministry Cabinet meeting).

CWF Christmount Retreat... Friday, August 9 – Sunday 10, 2008

**Registration Fee is \$20 if in by July 20... \$25.00 after July 20
Absolute deadline is August 1--Register as soon as you possibly can!
Covenant has 2 cabins reserved with room left for 10 more women.**

**Registration forms are available in the entryway to the Sanctuary or you can register
online: www.christmount.org
Questions? Contact Elisa Yanchunas (656-7078)
or Patty Cole (388-2556).**

Hide Your Light Under a Bushel? NO!

We all remember the song we were taught as children referring to the scripture in Matthew 5:15. "...No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel, but on the lampstand, and **it gives light to all in the house.**" Knowing what talent resides in each of us, I hope that you will begin to think about what you, your family, or a group of you can do to enliven and enrich our

Talent/Un-Talent Night coming up on Sunday night, September 7

Sharing your talent helps shine the light of laughter, joy, and pleasure in our Covenant community.

What a delight to hear Art Brothers play his harmonica or some of our choir members singing a jingle about recycling and free trade coffee. Did you miss the golf ball juggle or karate chop last year? Do you play an instrument? Start practicing now and you can perform your baton twirling (You know who you are)! ☺ The Talent/Un-Talent event is one of the best loved at Covenant. Put it on your calendar now and plan to participate as a performer or cheering in the audience. Let this be the show that's talked about for years to come!

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