

Covenant Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

2911 S.W. Cary Parkway Cary, NC 27513

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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.8

July 31, 2008

Do you have a messy desk?

In an editor's note in the *Millennial Harbinger*, Alexander Campbell writes: "The following communication should have appeared several months ago. It was laid aside unintentionally among a mass of other papers, and forgotten, until now..." Alexander Campbell, one of the founders of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) wrote this referring to his messy desk...I don't know about you, but somehow I find it quite comforting that even A. Campbell, at least sometimes, must have had a messy desk! I would be even more comforted if I thought that he might have even had from time to time, a messy horse & buggy or that the Old Meeting House where he preached on the campus of Bethany College, would have been messy at times.

If you could see our church building right now, you'd know that we're just as good at being messy as Alexander Campbell might have been; maybe better. And I say, "If it's good enough for A. Campbell, it's certainly good enough for us!" ☺ The mess I speak of is creativity in process--all in preparation for *Beach Party: Surfin' through the Scriptures*—our Vacation Bible School theme. What a treat we have in store; children, youth and adults alike, beginning this Sunday evening! Don't mess, I mean, miss out on any of it.

I also realize that sometimes our lives are a bit messy; and at times it may seem as if our church life is messy—so many things going on; new leadership; erratic summer schedules; and all the while as we make our way through this time of transition, we are vigilantly looking for clues as to where God is leading us next.

As I reflect on all this, I find greater comfort in something beyond the messiness. I trust and believe that God somehow always blesses our messy, chaotic lives and turns them into something far better than we could ever imagine. God enters whatever messiness we're in and moves us from chaos to creativity. Just you wait...we'll experience God's blessings at Vacation Bible School and most definitely in the months ahead as we faithfully discover all that God has in store for Covenant Christian Church—Let's share the joy together!

Blessings, Joanne



And Now a Word from Your Moderator...

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Moderator for this year. Our Vice Moderator, Brad Baldwin, led us through a very stimulating program planning morning on July 12 and our ministry groups are staffed with enthusiastic volunteer leaders who are moving us forward as we begin to implement these plans during the upcoming program year. You will be hearing more about these exciting plans as they unfold.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Anna Perry and her husband Casey for all the gifts they have shared with us over the last several years and wish them God-speed for this next chapter in their lives. At the same time we are sending them forth with mixed emotions, I want to assure the congregation that we are moving forward to insure that no programming "falls through the cracks." Children's and Youth ministries, the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Gathering and the Wednesday Taize service are all continuing with capable and creative volunteers who are hard at work already making this as smooth a transition as possible. I extend a big *THANK YOU*, on behalf of the whole church, to all who have stepped forward to assist Rev. Joanne with leadership responsibilities in these areas.

A Search Committee has been appointed and is already hard at work assessing our current ministerial and program needs through listening sessions with parents of young children and parents of youth, and others. The first formal meeting together will be Wednesday, August 20. Our Regional Minister, John Richardson, will be joining us for this meeting to assist us in the search and call process.

I am pleased to share with you that the following have graciously agreed to serve as members of the **Search Committee: Darla Baldwin, Chair; Don Downs, Carolyn Allen, Ted & Priscilla Glasener, Phama Johnston, Tim Stiles; and youth representative, Madison Rivers.** Feel free to share your thoughts with any member of the committee or with Rev. VerBurg, Brad Baldwin or me as we move through the search process and please join me in thanking them for giving of their time and energy for this important mission.

For we are all God's Servants, Working Together, **Karen Nolan, Moderator**

Disciples Men are STRONG AND GREEN!

The Disciple Men had a great program from David Hamm on computer "gaming", and we moved into the 21st Century. We also supported the District Men's Meeting at St. Paul's Christian on July 25.

Our next breakfast meeting is Saturday, August 2 at 8:15am. We plan to put together two benches and a new basketball goal provided by the Disciples Men. We will also spend some time brainstorming suggestions to share when the Outreach Ministry kicks-off The Greening of Covenant on Sunday, August 24. We continue to help improve the church grounds and help church members with home projects. We want to reach out to our guests and new members as well--**Bob Kennel, Secretary**

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News from the Gulf Coast...

The mission team had a great, successful trip to Louisiana. Again, we thank all of you for your financial support as your resources helped us to travel safely there and back. While there, our team divided, conquered, and helped move the process even closer so that two families can be back in their homes in Slidell, LA soon. On Wednesday, we worked half a day and then took a tour of the most devastated areas of New Orleans. We saw the levees that broke and as our van traveled through parts of the ninth ward, there was silence among us. We felt the sadness and grief in our own hearts and souls.

After touring the area, we went into the French Quarter where we walked around embracing the spirit of New Orleans. We had a fabulous dinner that included Jambalaya, crawfish, crab cakes and other Louisiana cuisine. After dinner we headed over to the Café Du Monde, the original French market coffee stand, where several of us bought cans of coffee to bring back home. It was a great evening in greater New Orleans!

The week was hot, and the air was humid. However, we were constantly reminded to drink 8-10 glasses of water a day so we didn't get dehydrated. It was hard work, but how satisfying knowing that you are helping someone rebuild their lives. Our faith has been strengthened as we witnessed the hope found throughout the Gulf Coast. **We hope that you will join us for worship on Sunday, August 3, 9am & 11am, as we bring back a part of what we learned and share the spirit that sings the song of hope!**

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AUGUST CHOIR NOTES

Thursday August 14 is the Adult Choir's Back-to-the-Future date. Let's gather that evening to hear tales of summer adventures and to welcome newcomers to the regular schedule of rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm. Let me know if you need childcare.

So, what does the future hold? Special music for worship every Sunday and music for special celebrations. For example, September 7 is kick-off Sunday for Covenant's new program year; October is Ministerial Appreciation Month; Anniversary Sunday is in November quickly followed by Advent, the Christmas Cantata (December 14) and other Christmas music.

We have a lot to celebrate and a lot of music to learn...Hallelujah, Amen!

NOTE (pardon the pun): There will be no rehearsal on August 7. It's Vacation Bible School week!

And now to introduce you to or to refresh your memories of the Choir's Mission Statement & Cardinal Rules:

The Mission Statement

To gather as a community of faith and celebrate, thru music, God's redeeming love for all people."

Cardinal Rules

In the ideal world, every person would be present every time the choir met. Since we do not live in an ideal world and are required to juggle a variety of demands, the following are offered as cardinal rules for choir members:

1. Attend choir practice as often as possible;
2. Be present for as much of the practice time as possible;
3. Sing with the choir when you are in worship – even if you were not present at the most recent rehearsal. All are needed to help lead the congregational singing;
4. Never get sick. It's contagious.

Invitation Ministry invites YOU to join us
as we Step Out in Faith to demonstrate that...



- **Together** we can make everyone who enters these doors feel welcome.
- Together **We** can use the gifts and talents that God gave each of us to promote the inclusive nature of this community of faith to as a means of growing our congregation.
- Together we **Can** covenant with each other to nurture and care for each other and the community.

The Invitation Ministry extends a heart-felt thank you to all of you who have worked to grow this ministry. There is still a lot of work to do. As the incoming chair of this Ministry, I am looking forward to working with those of you who have served in the past. I am also very **excited** about forming new relationships with those of you who will join us and share your gifts of invitation ministry on a project-by-project basis.

Anticipation is in the air and we need your help to generate ideas for inviting others to share the gospel with us here at Covenant! **Please join us Sunday, August 17, right after 11am worship for a One-Time Brainstorming Session.** We'll spend about 45 minutes generating as many ideas as we can. Please let me know by August 12 that we can count on your presence.

Even if you can't attend the brainstorming session, please contact me with your ideas and suggestions. Call me at 481-2121; or e-mail me: Rpalmer123@nc.rr.com, or just talk to me after worship this Sunday or next.

***Covenant needs YOU so that TOGETHER WE CAN!
Yours in Christ, Renié Palmer, Invitation Ministry Chair***



***Attention: ALL Covenant Members & Guests
Mark Your Calendars Now! Circle the Date!***

Cary Laze Daze

Saturday, August 23, 7:00a till 5:00p

Each year we participate in this popular community Arts Festival. 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(in the am); Polish Sausage sandwiches with peppers & onions; marinated chicken sandwiches & cold drinks & coffee. Here's how you can help:

- Good sturdy backs to help set up Friday night & take down on Saturday after 5pm.
- Sign up for a shift (or more) to help prepare & sell the food; greet the public & offer a Hungry Heart business card to customers. We need ?? people per shift:
Early shift: 7 – 10am; 10am – 1:00pm; 1:00 – 4:00pm; 4:00 – 6:00p.
We also need people to meet at the church after 6pm to unload items at the Church.
- Donate cans of Pepsi Products & Aquafina bottled water & bring to the Church by August 20

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 in the church entryway; or contact the Church Office with any questions or to sign up: 481-4715 or covenantcc@bellsouth.net Our booth is located in Ashworth Village(behind Ashworth Drugs at Chatham & Academy Sts.)

We always have a lot of fun working & sweatin' together...Come join us!

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

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. For those times you can't be here for worship on Sundays, we invite you to be here each Wednesday evening at 7:30-8p (childcare provided). Join us for a quiet service of prayer, meditation and simple songs of praise. The Table is set each week and bids you welcome as we also share the Bread & Cup together.

****NO TAIZE WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8—IT'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WEEK!****

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Hospital Art Foundation Dedication

Earlier this Summer during worship we dedicated the canvas paintings for the Hospital Art Foundation that some of us helped paint and blessed them on their way to the UNC Hospitals to be placed there at a future date. The date of the hospital dedication is Tuesday, August 12 at 10:30a. Anyone who has helped with this project or who is interested in attending is asked to meet in the Covenant parking lot at 9am on that day to carpool to Chapel Hill. Many thanks to Sharon Garrett for spearheading this project and arranging for the hospital dedication. Contact Sharon if you are planning to attend by Friday, August 8: 919-623-7450

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It's Time Again for Movie Night

Do you enjoy movies, fellowship, and discussion? Covenant movie lovers are invited to a showing on the evening of **Saturday, August 16**. We'll meet at the home of John and Jeanne White: (919-342-3713) or e-mail: jandjw@nc.rr.com. We'll announce the movie title soon...So for now, put the date on your calendar and plan to join us for food, flicks & fun!

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"No Idle Hands"

"No Idle Hands" is a group that meets together to work on hand-craft projects. We learn from each other and "ooh and ah" appropriately. Some of us bring our personal projects while many of our items are donated to local clinics and others in need. We meet regularly on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00am. **Our next meeting is August 19**. We work and chat; chat and work and we often go out to lunch together. Please join us or drop by with words of encouragement. For more information, contact Jeanne White: (919-342-3713) or e-mail: jandjw@nc.rr.com.

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COVENANT' WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS...

Collection Call for Campbell Soup/Product Labels!

Through the years we, along with every NC Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF), have been clipping the UPC codes from these products to help Christmount, our denomination's conference center in Black Mountain, NC, purchase a van. If you have been clipping labels, bring them to the church by August 7 so the women attending the Christmount retreat can take them at this time. You can bring the labels anytime throughout the year; just put them in the big Campbell's Soup Can in the entryway.

Fall Quarterly Breakfast

Mark your calendars now for our Women's Ministry Quarterly Breakfast...September 13 at 8:30a at the Church...Our speaker will be Janie Buck, our 2006 NC CWF Woman to Woman Representative to Korea. She will bring life to the Korea Studies that we have shared. Janie is a member of Timothy Christian Church (DoC) in Ayden, NC. She currently works with Samaritan's Purse as a coordinator for National Disasters.

How wonderful it will be to gather back together after our summer hiatus. See you in September!

**Your Outreach Ministry is Pleased to Announce:
Covenant is **Going Green!****

What do an organic garden and rain barrels, the recycling of batteries and paper, and the availability of Fair-Trade Coffee and chocolates have in common? A beginning! These are all projects that Covenant is already doing. They demonstrate our commitment to the “**green** movement” and to caring for God’s creation. It is time to elevate these from individual projects to a congregation-wide emphasis and part of the fabric of the church lived out in our thoughts and actions.

For the moment let’s call this “The **Greening** of Covenant”, however this important new focus needs a more creative permanent name. In the months to come there will be many opportunities for involvement as we identify the best ways to make this real! *In the meantime, there is a way for you to get involved immediately.... what should be our permanent name?*

IT’S A CONTEST!

This is your opportunity to get involved in creating a catchy, clever slogan that captures the **greening** of our church and church family. There is no limit to the number of entries you can submit. Put on your thinking caps and let us know your results—drop a note in the green box located in the church entryway. all entries must be submitted by August 15th. The winning slogan will be printed on our new recycling bags that will be available to everyone in the fall!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Church-Wide **Greening of Covenant Kick-Off:
During Sunday School (10a), August 24**

Save the date right now. On this Sunday all the adult classes will meet together in the sanctuary at 10:00a for a fun and educational introduction to the “**greening** of the church”. This will be a time for everyone, whether you normally attend Sunday school or not. Everyone will get the chance to share their thoughts and suggestions of good ways to go **green!** The children will have their own special “**green**” activities.

Green Sunday, October 19

You won’t want to miss this Sunday! This will be an informative and inspirational day! During the Sunday School hour at 10am there will be a workshop for adults led by our special guest for the morning, Alice Loyd, an expert on the **Green** Movement. As a leader of North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light, she has worked with congregations across North Carolina. A dynamic speaker, she will then be featured during the 11:00am worship. There will be special “eco-friendly” activities for children.

Both events on August 24 & October 19 are wonderful opportunities to invite guests to come to Covenant – it is their earth too! **GO GREEN!**

**Annual Book Bag Dedication
Sunday, August 24
9am & 11am**

We are inviting both year round and traditional school year students, teachers & school staff members to bring their book bags for a special time of dedication for the new school year during both worship services Sunday, August 24.

We are also encouraging all members and guests to donate school supplies and book bags to share with other children & youth in our community. **It's a great time to take advantage of the NC Tax-Free weekend this Friday- Sunday, August 1-3, to help with the costs of your donations.**

Bring your own book bags and other donations to worship Sunday, August 24

Here's a list of suggested items to choose from:

Book Bags (NO rolling book bags)	Plastic two-pocket folders
Crayons	Glue Sticks
Baby Wipes	Box of Tissues
Child's Fiskars Scissors	No. 2 Pencils
Pencil-top Erasers	Pencil Boxes
Wide-ruled Composition Notebooks	Large Pink Erasers
Wide-ruled Notebook Paper	Trapper Keepers
Pencil pouches	Elmer's Glue (liquid glue)
Colored Pencils	1" Binders
Notebook Dividers w/ Tabs	Small Pencil Sharpener
Highlighters (assorted colors)	Protractor – clear plastic
Post-It Notes (various sizes)	Hand Sanitizer
3 prong pocket folders	Fine point markers
Compass	Mechanical Pencils
Plastic sheet protectors	Index cards (3"x 5")
Graph paper	Whiteout
Spiral Notebooks (wide-ruled) (1-subject, 3-subject, and 5-subject)	
Red, Blue, and Black Pens (erasable and non-erasable)	
12 inch Ruler (includes centimeters on opposite side)	



" 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 working 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.*

*Congratulations, Sèkinah!
(check out the last line of paragraph #2)*



Disciples News Service

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Sèkinah Hamlin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW MINISTER OF RECONCILIATION AND ANTI-RACISM MINISTRIES CALLED TO SERVE WITH THE SOUTHEAST REGIONS

WILSON, NC – The eight Regions of the Southeast Regional Fellowship (SERF) have called the Rev. Sèkinah Hamlin to serve as Minister of Reconciliation and Anti-Racism Ministries, beginning on September 1, 2008. The Regional Ministers of these eight Regions (Alabama-Northwest Florida, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia) began a process of collaboration to share this full-time staff position at a SERF retreat in 2006. Since that time there has been a process of defining the position, seeking funding, and screening and interviewing candidates.

Rev. Sèkinah Hamlin has most recently served as Director of Multicultural Education, Chief Diversity Officer and First Year Experience Instructor at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, a position she has held for the past four years. Prior to that she served in various roles at Bennett College, Greensboro, NC, including Executive Assistant to the President, Instructor of Political Science, and Director of Program Activities for Recent Graduates. Rev. Hamlin received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Bennett College, a Master of Arts in Political Science from Howard University, Washington, DC, and a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC. **She was ordained to the ministry at Covenant Christian Church in Cary, NC.**

A native of North Carolina, Rev. Hamlin brings experience in administration, teaching, program development, fund-raising, research, and grassroots organizing to this new ministry. She has also served in positions of ministry in congregational settings, the most recent of which was as Associate Pastor with First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Greensboro, NC.

The North Carolina Region will serve as home base for Rev. Hamlin's work with the Regions of the Southeast; however, much of her time will be spent visiting in each of the Regions, building relationships with key leaders, and working with Regional staffs, Boards, and Anti-Racism Teams to develop strategies for each Region to move toward becoming a pro-reconciling/anti-racist expression of the church.

In addition to the financial commitments of each Region in the SERF cluster, made possible by the annual Reconciliation Offering, grants from the General Reconciliation Commission and the Oreon E. Scott Foundation are providing the necessary support for funding this position. It is envisioned that Rev. Hamlin will work in cooperation with the General Reconciliation Commission in her new role.

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart



Welcome to Our Newest Member

Sunday, July 20, we welcomed Patrick Mahaney into membership by transfer from Unitarian Fellowship of Durham. His address is: 12 Donnybrook Ct, Durham, 27713. His Shepherding Elder is Derek Rutledge. Please extend a warm Covenant welcome to Patrick.

Love & prayers are with: Dave & Pam Deardorff in the recent death of Dave's mother, Bonnie Rodenberger, in OH.

Congratulations to: Rev. Sekinah Hamlin, former Covenant member, who has been called to be the Minister of Reconciliation & Anti-Racism for our denomination...see related article in this newsletter.

Recent: Terri, Roxie & Katherine White as they await the arrival of an exchange student from China; Donald Strickland;

At home: Gerry Tokanel; Patricia Mills;

Continuing Prayers for: Denise Loughridge; Barbara Dalberth; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston (Heartsfield).

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

Fathers of: Ann Hall, Jeremy Hopkins; Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller; **Son of:** Jim Johnston.

Daughter of: Essie Thompson **Grandfathers of:** Trey O'Quinn & Liz Grennan;

Grandmothers of: Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen; **Grandson of:** Mary Lou Jackson;

Sisters of: Sharon Garrett; Hazel Brothers; Kathy Smith. **Brother of:** Sharon Frost.

Aunts of: Betsy Mebane, Dick Reaves; Cathy Downs; Larry Linguist. **Uncle of:** Melanie Bunn;

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

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

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

Remembering Others: Trisa Vernier; Cameron Wall; Betty Souders; Hazel Schuller; Woody Liley, 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.

June 2008 Financial Information

General Fund	
Beginning Balance 05.30.08	\$ 22,369.20
Receipts	\$ 20,233.97
Disbursement of Funds from RTP Loan Refinancing:	39,707.22
6 month CD	(\$27,707.22)
General Fund for mortgage payment reimbursement:	\$8,000.22
Annual Lawn Service:	4,000.00
Disbursements	\$ (18,889.46)
Ending Balance 06.30.08	\$ (3,993.51)

"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!

***Ah, The Time Draws Nigh...for Our
Annual Talent/Un-Talent Night
Sunday, September 7, 5:30-7:30pm***

The annual tradition of Talent/Un-Talent Night is set for Sunday, September 7 at 5:30 PM. A taco bar will be provided followed by the performance featuring an array of talent from our own community. Be thinking of what you, your family, or your group can do to add to the fun and entertainment. Last year we enjoyed a piano duet, poetry recitations, jokes, a photography exhibit, vocal and instrumental music, and a karate demonstration, among others. A lively group provided our own version of "commercials".

We need humor as well as serous talent. Join in the fun, either as a participant or as part of the audience. A sign up poster will be provided soon in the entry so you can indicate your interest in performing or helping with the set up or food. If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact Jeanne White at (919-342-3713) or e-mail: jandjw@nc.rr.com. Mark your calendar now for an evening of fun and lots of deep belly laughs! ☺

Here's a Word from Mary Lou...

Updated Membership Lists are always 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.

YOU Count! 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