

# Covenant Christian Church

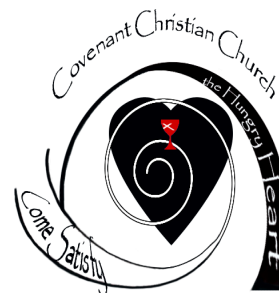
(Disciples of Christ)

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## Sundays

Worship: 9:00am & 11:00am

Sunday School: 10:00am

Volume 22 No.10

## Wednesdays

7:30pm Taizé Worship

September 29, 2008

## ***The Practice of Radical Hospitality***

We're about mid-way through the sermon series, "Practicing Our Faith," based on the book by Dorothy Bass, ***Practicing Our Faith—A Way of Life for a Searching People***. Bass lays out 12 different practices that allow us "to better understand what it means to become 'the Word made flesh'" (Parker Palmer) in the course of everyday life for us as individuals and together as church. As I reflected on the second week's practice, "Radical Hospitality," I happened to catch a segment of Good Morning America about John Thomas (JT) Robertson, age 12, of Niagara Falls, NY; who, without pretense, has come to know what it means to practice hospitality. JT loves trains very much and when he discovered some of the children in his school couldn't afford to ride the train, he began saving money from recycled cans and bottles to buy tickets for them on the favorite local attraction, the Arcade and Attica steam train. "Riding the train really takes people away from the regular stresses of life and lets them remember what it's like to have fun," he told GMA.

He went on to expand his understanding of hospitality; kicking it up a notch to "radical hospitality" when one day he also discovered there were many handicapped children in the surrounding area that couldn't ride the train because the 100 year old train was not equipped to handle wheelchairs. Dreaming of the train being accessible to all became his new mission. GMA learned of his mission and arranged to have the "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" folks dedicate their efforts to retro-fit the train for handicap access. And in 2 days, JT's mission had become a reality. Overwhelmed with emotion, it was hard to tell whose smile was the biggest and brightest—JT's or the children who were boarding the train for the first time, leaving on a trip filled with excitement and celebration, now with access to all. (ABC News Internet Ventures; 9/26/08).

So often as pastor, I have what some may call, delusions of grandeur about who we are as a community of faith—I can't help it! I'm so proud of you for taking seriously, the call to pursue what it means to live out our faith; and sometimes, many times, we actually get it right ☺!

And one of the practices we get right, is offering "*Radical Hospitality*" to all who enter our sanctuary—as we grow in our understanding that judgment truly is God's business and that we are called to help create a place of worship and spiritual growth that genuinely welcomes all people into a deepening relationship with God—the One who loves us no matter what. And while it is personally gratifying to experience the presence of God's Spirit at work among us as you extend radical hospitality to others, there's nothing quite like an outside observer acknowledging this practice of faith.

That's what makes the receiving of the "Jackie Ransdell Award for Outstanding Dedication to the M'n'M Singers" so rewarding. For 20+ years as a congregation, we have welcomed this wonderful group of people with developmental disabilities along with their families, to share their gifts with us in worship each year.

You have not neglected to show hospitality to strangers and in so doing, "you have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13: 2) Let's kick it up a notch as we extend radical hospitality to all...

*Blessings, Joanne*

## And Now a Word from Your Moderator...

2008 has been an active and productive year for Covenant Christian Church and the last three months of the year will continue that momentum. It never hurts to remember what we have accomplished together for the Lord's work both here at Covenant and in helping to spread the message of Christ's love at home and throughout the world. Just a few of the things that have happened this year are, we've:

- Added two worship services, for a total of 3 each week.
- Welcomed a record number of guests so far for the year.
- Provided Sunday School classes for all ages, 3 for adults.
- Concluded an exciting and successful Vacation Bible School.
- Provided a variety of small group studies, Bible studies and other activities.
- Enjoyed stimulating programming and many outreach activities through Disciples Men's and Women's Ministries.
- Cleaned up the undergrowth along Cary Parkway so folks can see our church from the road.
- Hired a lawn care service – our grounds have never looked so inviting and attractive.
- Hired Hunt Cassell as interim Youth Director for CYF and Chi-Rho.
- Planted, watered, weeded and harvested our community garden providing produce to the Food Bank.
- Sent a number of members and guests on a Mission Trip to Covington, LA to provide support and re-building efforts in an area devastated by Hurricane Katrina.
- Renegotiated our mortgage loan for a lower rate and greater savings for church programming.
- AND... given a total of \$14,249 (as of August) to various outreach causes through Disciples Mission Fund, Week of Compassion, Easter and Pentecost offerings, to the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, Project Linus, Race for the Cure and SERVE International. In 2007, CCC gave \$24,291 to these and other Outreach causes.

We have the annual CROP walk to stop hunger coming up this Sunday, October 5; Covenant is **"Going Green"** in a multiplicity of ways; Trunk or Treat is just around the corner; the Associate Minister Search Committee is underway; Kids 2 Kids are working on their Nothing But Nets service project; a new music program for K-5 is starting up; special offerings for Reconciliation, Thanksgiving and Christmas are being planned, the Week of the Ministry will soon be celebrated; the membership and hospitality ministry are providing creative fellowship opportunities; and our opportunity to make our estimates of giving for the work and ministries of CCC and beyond in 2009 is just around the corner.

WHEW!! And that's just a *sampling* of the activities and ministries that are taking place right here at Covenant. There's a place for YOU here and we invite each of you to join in as many activities, programs, service opportunities and worship experiences as your time allows and your heart desires.

***Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart!***

*It is a pleasure to be your Moderator, Karen Nolan*



## So, What's the Search Committee DOING?

The Search Committee has met several times in August and September as we work toward our goal of finding an Associate Minister by July 1, 2009. Having met with our regional minister, John Richardson, we learned that our first step is to complete a congregational profile. The profile describes Covenant, Cary, the Triangle, and our priorities. We have almost completed the profile for submission to the region and hope to have it complete by October 1.

Once we have submitted the profile, we are then able to receive information from the region about ministers who are looking for positions through the region's Search and Call process. We have been told that, because of the time of year, it is likely that applicant packets will be slow in arriving until after the Christmas season, but we're ready to start accepting resumes from candidates at any time.

*Darla Baldwin, Chr.*

# Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

**Congratulations to:** Suzanne & Jeremy Hopkins on the birth of their son, *Joshua David*, 6 ½ lbs.; born September 18. Amanda is the big sister...Elisa & Mark Huncik who are expecting a baby next Spring... Marilyn Williams, as she participates in the Woman-to-Woman mission trip to Palestine & Israel, through October 11.

**Our Love & Prayers are with:** Jack Reilly in the recent death of his sister, Edith Cloer...Donald & Sharon Strickland in the recent death of his mother, Betty Strickland.

**Recent:** Trey O'Quinn

**At Home:** Ro Thompson; Denise Loughridge.

**Continuing Prayers for:** Mary Toney; Betty Johnston

**Parents of:** Ann Hall, Sharon Frost. **Mother of:** Betsy Mebane **Fathers of:** Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller **Son of:** Jim Johnston. **Grandfathers of:** Amy Gaffney; Trey O'Quinn; Liz Grennan; **Grandmothers of:** Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen; **Grandson of:** Mary Lou Jackson **Sisters of:** Sharon Garrett; Hazel Brothers **Brother of:** Sharon Frost. **Aunts of:** Betsy Mebane, Cathy Downs; Larry Linguist. **Uncle of:** Jeremy Hopkins; **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; Betsy Mebane; Patty Cole.

**Remembering Others:** Judy Flaherty; Kara Crowell; Danny Prochazka; Rosie Stockbridge; Elizabeth Pawelka; Hazel Schuller; Woody Liley; 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



**CROP WALK 2008**

**Sunday, October 5**

Meet at 1:30pm at Cary High School—look for the Covenant CC sign!

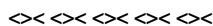


**WORLD COMMUNION DAY**

**Sunday, October 5**

We'll hear prayers in different languages!

We'll celebrate our Oneness in Christ with all Christians around the globe.



**Invitation Ministry Hosts**

**"Be Our Guest" Dinner**

for all our Covenant Guests

Sunday, October 5, at 5:30pm

at the home of Jerry & Debbie Miller

It's a great way to meet other guests and members &  
learn about Covenant Christian Church!

## Ask Away!

Who are these Disciples of Christ? What is Covenant all about?

Plan Now to Attend "Disciples 101"

Sundays at 10am, October 12, 19 & 26

(2<sup>nd</sup> Classroom on Right in Education Hallway)

Come and learn more about who we are as a denomination and what makes Covenant a special place to be, as Rev. VerBurg leads the discussion. It's a class designed for all guests and as a refresher for any members. Questions? Contact Rev. VerBurg at the church office: 481-4715; [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net)

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**1 Craft Fair + 1 Yard Sale +  
1 Bake Sale + 1 Antique Sale  
+ 1 BBQ Lunch =  
Covenant's "Fun-d" Raising Saturday!  
(sponsored by Women's Ministries)  
Saturday, October 18  
8am-2pm**

So start now by:

- Cleaning out the clutter for the Yard Sale—**NO CLOTHES!**
- Making a favorite craft for the Craft Fair;
- Planning for the homemade goodies you want to make for our wonderful bake sale;
- Selecting any items for the antique sale;
- Start bringing items Monday, October 13, from 9a – 1p; Wednesday evening, either before or after the 7:30-8pm Taizé service; and Thursday evening 7:30 – 8:30p during choir rehearsal.

We also need a lot of help:

- Friday, October 17—setting up tables & organizing the items you bring to the church. You can also bring your items to the Church all day.
- Saturday, October 18—we need food servers and delivery folks for the BBQ lunch; helpers with the Bake Sale, Craft Fair & Yard Sale.
- Help getting the sanctuary and classrooms back in order for Sunday morning!

Once again you will have the opportunity to purchase Fair Trade crafts, coffees & chocolates as we directly support third world artisans & their families. Kids2Kids and Youth will also have booths to support their Mission Ministries.

Proceeds will support: Women's Ministries; Disciples Men's Ministry; 2009 Youth Mission Trip; K2K "Nothing But Nets" project; Fair Trade/SERRV & the Fund Raising Ministry. Questions? Contact Elaine Kennel: 557-0847; [elkcm@aol.com](mailto:elkcm@aol.com)

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### **Supper & Movie Night at the Whites**

On Saturday, Oct. 11, John and Jeanne White will be showing the movie, "August Rush", at their home. The movie will begin at 7:00 PM like previous screenings, but you are invited to come at 6:00 PM for a pot luck supper and a chance to visit before the movie. Beverages and the usual movie snacks will be provided. Please call the Whites at 919-342-3713 or e-mail them ([jandjw@nc.rr.com](mailto:jandjw@nc.rr.com)) to reserve your seat and ask for directions. If you find that you can come at the last minute, or just for the movie, you are encouraged to do so. Just give the Whites a call to let them know you're on your way!

## Calling All Youth!

### Chi Rho (grades 6-8) & CYF (grades 9-12)!

This Fall and Winter we will be sharing in programs and projects that promise to be fun and ways to help others in need in our community. We are also planning for a 2009 Mission Trip. With so many people and places in need, we know we will find exactly the right place for us to go. So if you are interested in going on another mission trip, you need to come to Youth Group so your ideas can be heard! Bring your friends to any and all youth activities. The more, the more fun!

Here's our meeting schedule for October:

- October 5, annual **CROP** Walk—we'll grab some lunch & head on over to Cary High by 1:30p—we'll finish around 4pm...
- October 12 & 19, 6-7:30p Making plans for our best-ever Trunk or Treat for the kids!
- October 26, annual Trunk or Treat—plan to eat lunch following the 11am worship and then help set up for all the games and activities...

*Looking forward to seeing you...**Hunt***

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### ***Let's Get Started...***

Kids to Kids are eager to begin, and our first activity involves fundraising. Please join us on Wednesday, October 8 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and/or Sunday, October 12 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. to make thumbprint figures on note cards. We will package these cards and sell them for \$10 at the Craft Fair, October 18.

All money that is raised will go to the Nothing But Nets Project ([www.nothingbutnets.net](http://www.nothingbutnets.net)), which buys mosquito nets to protect families from mosquito bites while they sleep – thus preventing the spread of malaria. We look forward to working with your children on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Jay or Jody Barish at 460-2820 or [jodylb23@yahoo.com](mailto:jodylb23@yahoo.com)

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## **Want to Volunteer to Work at the State Fair?**

### **October 16-26**

While we no longer “officially work with St. Paul’s at the State Fair Booth, several Covenant individuals still want to help out. Covenant receives income as a fund-raising effort, for each slot that a Covenant volunteer fills. If you’re interested, contact the church office: 481-4715; or [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net) and state your preference for which day or days; which shift or partial shift: early morning 6:30-11a; mid-day noon-5:30p, or evening, 5:30-10:30p. Someone will contact you with further information and how to receive your passes. We already have people working the first and second shifts during the weekday.

# It's Time for Trunk or Treat!



***Sunday October 26  
4:30-7:30pm***

Trunk or Treat is our annual Halloween Celebration for Covenant, the MacArthur Park neighborhood and any one else you want to invite. There's something for everyone. What better way to celebrate Halloween than by spending a crisp fall evening playing games, face paintings, eating delicious food, and parading around in costumes.

Wear your costume, and plan to join our neighbors from MacArthur Park at 3:30p at the corner of Heathridge and Pennsbury to start the parade to Covenant. We'll have lots of games and fun events for the whole family, along with dinner (donations of \$3/person or \$10/family are appreciated).

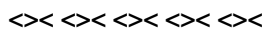
As always, there will be a Cake Walk. We'll end the evening with the traditional trunk or treating when kids go from trunk to trunk for Halloween treats in the parking lot.

How can you help?

- Invite friends, family, neighbor, co-workers
- Dress up in costume
- Bake Halloween goodies for the cake walk
- Decorate your trunk or truck bed & hand out treats
- Volunteer to help with setup, dinner and/or cleanup
- Or just be here to share in all the fun!

Contact Phama Johnston, Craig Paul & Hunt Cassell about helping with the games or Cake Walk ; or Jeanne White to volunteer to help prepare or serve the light supper or provide special treats for the children.

Bring your family, invite your friends and neighbors, and join us on October 26!



***It's beginning to look a lot like...***

...Okay, it's not Christmas yet! But it will be here soon ☺ So, it's time to start thinking about Covenant's Christmas Play for the annual Holiday Tasting Party, December 21, 5-7pm. This year the play will be written and directed by Rev. Carolyn Allen and her mother, Linda.

There are parts for children of all ages, from toddlers to teens. Parents, please encourage your child/ren to participate. Please let Carolyn, 453-2011, [nchornedfrog73@yahoo.com](mailto:nchornedfrog73@yahoo.com) know if your child is interested in being in the play in a speaking or non-speaking role.

## COVENANT WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS...

### Disciples Women in Ministry



Who's voice is it? Learning to Listen to God's voice. This is our theme for 2008 – 2009. How do you know when It's God Voice? Our 1st quarterly breakfast spoke to these questions. God speaks to us in the Thunder. He speaks to us in the Stars, even in the form of New Life. God also speaks to us through feelings.....like of touch of a butterfly. This year..."**Take Time to listen**, often times, the things we seek are right underneath our noses. Don't miss out on your blessings because it isn't packaged the way that you expect."...Anonymous

We began with a wonderful breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

Our speaker for this breakfast was Janie Buck. She served has our 2005 Woman to Woman NC represented to Korea. Janie displayed items she collected from Korea. We were also enlightened on our mission in Korea as a nation and as the church through a PowerPoint presentation.

One of our own, Marilyn Williams was commissioned to serve as a Woman to Woman representative to Israel and Palestine. The trip dates are September 28-October 10, 2008.

#### Looking ahead...

\***Monthly Bible Study meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month; beginning October 14; 7:30pm at the church**

\***Attention all good cooks, crafters, money handlers & stage designers! The Fall Fun(D) Raiser is slated for Oct 18th!**

*Blessings, Marilyn & Ann*      [marfrwms@yahoo.com](mailto:marfrwms@yahoo.com) ; [annpw@hotmail.com](mailto:annpw@hotmail.com)



### DISCIPLES MEN'S MINISTRY PREPARES FOR ANNUAL FUN-D RAISING DAY!

Our next activity is the annual Fun-d Raising Day **Saturday October 18, 8a-2p. We're in charge of the Yard Sale and Antique Sale.** So start collecting both new and old "**Junque**" for the big sale! Also plan to help with sorting and setting up the items; helping to take the leftovers to the Dorcas Shop after the sale.

Contact President, **Mike Joyce** ([michael\\_joyce@ncsu.edu](mailto:michael_joyce@ncsu.edu)) or Secretary, **Bob Kennel** ([bkennel@aol.com](mailto:bkennel@aol.com)) with any questions, to volunteer or to get more information.

*Bob Kennel, Secretary*

#### *Elders' Meeting*

*Tuesday, October 7 at 7:00 pm*

#### *Program Council Meeting*

*Sunday, October 12 at 7:00p*

#### *General Board Meeting*

*Sunday, October 19 at 7:00p*

## *The Greening of Covenant!*

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in “The **Greening** of Covenant”. Our goal is to put in place steps the congregation can take to better care for God’s creation, both as the Church and as individuals. We’re in the process of selecting the slogan and the design for the logo to be printed on the canvas bags. We hope you have taken the opportunity to choose your favorite slogan by either putting your vote in the green bag located in the entry way to the Sanctuary or you can vote on-line, please email your responses to Marian Hartman at [jimarian@nc.rr.com](mailto:jimarian@nc.rr.com).

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## **Green Sunday, October 19**

You won’t want to miss this! 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 and former director of North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light. Alice is a dynamic speaker and has worked with a variety of congregations all across North Carolina. She will also bring us the morning message at the 11am worship. There will be special “eco-friendly” activities for children. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite guests to come to Covenant – it is their earth too!

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## **August 2008 Financial Information**

<b>General Fund</b>		
Beginning Balance 07.31.08		\$ (7,936.47)
Receipts		\$ 25,277.25
Disbursements		\$ (20,551.23)
Ending Balance 08.31.08		\$ (3,210.45)

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

**Go to [www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org](http://www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org) to see photos of how your contributions support Covenant’s programs and ministries of the many programs your gifts help to provide.**

We would like to encourage members/guests to setup **automatic bill pay** with their bank so that a check is sent to us each week or month. The information that one needs when setting up an automatic payment is as follows:

Billor Name: Covenant Christian Church  
Account number: GENERAL FUND or whichever Fund you would like it to go to.  
Billor Address: 2911 SW Cary Parkway  
Billor City, State, Zip: Cary, NC 27513  
Billor phone number: 919-481-4715

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## ***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, just let me know so we can keep everything current.

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