

Covenant Christian Church

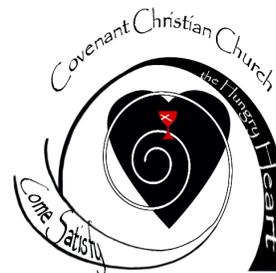
(Disciples of Christ)

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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

Volume 22 No.11

Wednesdays

6:30pm Adult Studies

7:30pm Taizé Worship

October 31, 2008

With Gratitude to God for All of Life...

Yes, it's that time of year when most congregations prepare for the many ways they will live out their ministry and mission in the new year and Covenant is no exception. While some folks get a bit uncomfortable when the church talks about the dollars it will take to do the ministry God is calling us to do, I am reminded of how many times Jesus spoke of being good managers of all that God has given us, and as he specifically addressed the issue of money. Maybe we can find comfort in knowing that we have so much in common with our ancestors in the faith. You will be reading more about God's call to stewardship throughout this newsletter.

Usually when you receive "the letter" inviting you to prayerfully and carefully consider your financial support of Covenant Christian Church, many of you simply look at the enclosed proposed budget, check out the desired allocations, glance at the total amount requested; decide what amount you are willing to give; fill out the estimate of giving card; and turn it in. Fini!

While the leadership of the church certainly appreciates each and every gift, I want you to know that Stewardship is much more than this once a year effort. It's way more than just meeting our monthly obligations of paying the mortgage and utilities or the salaries or any of our other ministries. Of course we need you to share your financial gifts with the church because through our collective giving Covenant is able to faithfully accomplish the ministry & mission of Jesus Christ within and beyond the walls of our church home as proposed in the annual operating budget.

But our gifts of money, like all our other God-given gifts, are best when they come from our heart—a genuine and grateful heart. —grateful that God loves you unconditionally; grateful that God blesses you each and every day in each and every way; grateful that God is with you in all the good as well as the challenging times of your life; grateful that God is the source of all that you have and to remember that without God, you are nothing.

Stewardship reflects how we live our lives—every aspect of our lives. Do we live our lives in gratitude to God for all of life? Or are we satisfied with simply offering God the leftovers of our time, talents, energies and money; getting by with offering nothing or as little as possible?

Stewardship is spiritual and as faithful sons and daughters of God, we are called to discern how we will share life in the Spirit with one another—including our financial resources. God is not asking for 100% of your income. God is simply asking you to give as you are *truly* able. And to remember, "...From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." (Luke 12: 48 NRSV)

So, are you willing to share life in the Spirit with one another and together as this community of faith called Covenant?

With a grateful heart filled with love and blessings...Joanne



One Hour--Before Bedtime this Saturday, November 1

And Now a Word from Your Moderator...

I have two words swirling around in my mind right now... *stewardship* and *responsibility*.

All Covenant members received a letter a few weeks ago asking us to consider our commitment of resources for the on-going mission of our church here at Covenant and beyond for 2009. One particular sentence in the letter stood out for me and has stayed with me: "Sharing what we have is how we accomplish what God calls us to do in this time and place." As Christians, we are called to be God's hands, feet and spokespersons in a hurting world. **If not us... then WHO?**

We have been good stewards of our 2008 gifts, for they have been carefully and wonderfully used - and multiplied! - to the glory of God as God's hands, and feet and mouth at Covenant, in our community and in the hurting world!! [See this space in the October newsletter for a partial listing of how our financial resources were used.]

I believe with all my heart that giving a portion my financial resources back to God through the church is above all else a spiritual discipline, an act that is required of me by God – not merely because the church needs my money – but because I NEED to learn to give. God wants me to know the pleasures of giving as God gives... God gives to us abundantly, with no strings attached, out of love for us. To give without expecting something in return is an act of faith resulting in personal spiritual growth. I believe that is what God wants for US!

On **November 9th** we have an opportunity to step out in faith – yes, in these uncertain economic times, it is truly in faith - to present and dedicate before God an "estimate" of what each of us will *give back to God* from the financial resources God has entrusted to us. God has blessed us abundantly. How can we do less for the community and world God has given us **stewardship** over? Please join me in worship that day as together we demonstrate our growing faith and trust.

And then, on **December 7th**, we have the **responsibility of attending a congregational meeting** where we will **adopt a budget**, based on our 'estimates of giving' that will guide our mission for 2009. The second item of business at that meeting will be to approve several **revisions to our Constitution and By-Laws**. It has been a number of years since we have reviewed this document to ensure it reflects accurately how we live out our mission together at Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). There are several updates and revisions that we need to consider together. The General Board has been studying these revisions for some months now and we will submit them to you for action.

Please be present for both Sundays if it is at all possible. These are important times in the life of our church and Covenant needs our collective GUIDANCE. *Karen Nolan, Moderator*



Marcus Borg Comes to Barton College, Wilson, NC

Monday, November 17

Afternoon Lecture 3:30-5:00pm in Howard Chapel

Dinner on your own

Evening Lecture 7:30pm at Hardy Alumni Hall

Interested in carpooling for one or both lectures?

Contact the Church Office: covenantcc@bellsouth.net or 481-4715

Check Out the latest photos from Trunk or Treat at our website:

www.covenantchristianchurch-cary.org

Thanks, Ann Taska

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Our love and prayers are with Patricia Mills in the recent death of her 13 yr. old cousin.

Recent: Roxie White.

Continuing Prayers for: Vicky Vanderford; Trey O'Quinn; Ro Thompson; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston

Parents of: Anna Long-Slade; Patty Cole; Ann Hall, Sharon Frost; **Mothers of:** Betsy Mebane;
Fathers of: Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller; Mark Huncik **Son of:** Jim Johnston. **Daughter of** the Garrett's.
Grandfathers of: Amy Gaffney; Trey O'Quinn; **Grandmothers of:** Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen.
Grandson of: Mary Lou Jackson **Sisters of:** Hazel Brothers. **Brothers of:** Art Brothers.
Aunts of: Melanie Fagert; 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. **Sisters-in-Law of:** Hazel Brothers; Betsy Mebane.

Remembering Others: The Luckadoo family; George Willoughby & family; Kara Crowell; Rosie Stockbridge; Elizabeth Pawelka; 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.

**Covenant Christian Church Choir
Presents**

**The Wondrous Story
A Christmas Cantata**

**Words by Nancy Price & Don Besig
Music by Don Besig**

**As part of the 11 am Worship
Sunday, December 14, 2008
Save the date**

Come Celebrate the Christmas Story



Important Dates

Pledge Dedication Sunday, November 9

Elders' Meeting, November 11, 7:00 pm (note date change)

General Board Sunday, November 16

Immediately following 11am Worship

**Agenda includes: the 2009 Operating Budget &
Proposed Changes to our Constitution & Bylaws**

The Greening of Covenant Continues



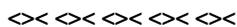
Caring for God's Green Earth:

- Don't forget to purchase your Covenant canvas bag! \$3 each or 2 for \$5! It's a great way to no longer use plastic bags from the grocery store and other places and advertise our church and our efforts to Go Green!
- Here's another special opportunity to put into action our commitment to care for God's **Green Earth**:

Disposal of hazardous waste is always a problem.....How do we responsibly get rid of old paint, lacquers, household cleaners and chemicals, antifreeze, batteries, motor oil, fluorescent light bulbs, kerosene and other fuels, mercury thermometers, pesticides, herbicides and poisons? Certainly we know they don't go in our recycling bins! And, we don't question that they're hazardous!

Wake County's Solid Waste Management Division offers scheduled days throughout the year to take these items to collection points in two locations in the county. It can be hard to remember when those days are, but during the months of October and November Wake County will have these collection points open EVERY Saturday from 8:00a until 4:00p. That gives you a great chance to do some safe fall cleaning.

- South Wake HHW, 6130 Old Smithfield Rd, (off Hwy 55 bypass between Apex & Holly Springs).
- North Wake HHW, 9037 Deponie Dr (off Durant Rd between Falls of Neuse & Capital Blvd.
(www.wakegov.com)



Looking for that perfect Christmas gift for someone?

How about a donation in honor of the person to Covenant's new **Green Fund**? It's the gift that will keep on giving--and will help Covenant achieve its goal of **Caring for God's Green Earth**. The **Green Fund** will be used to purchase eco-friendly supplies as well as items to help us conserve energy, such as ceiling fans. It's a great way to show your love for the person you are honoring and God's earth at the same time! Just put **Green Fund** on your check so it'll get to the right place.



Sharing our Bounty with the Hungry



Thanksgiving is right around the corner hopefully we "count our blessings" ev everyday but Thanksgiving is that special time when we focus on how much we have to be thankful for and just how blessed we are...in big and small ways. Friends & family gather around the table for special Thanksgiving meals. Isn't it an additional blessing that we at Covenant can help to provide a special meal for some families in the community?

Just bring your donations of traditional holiday non-perishable foods, i.e. sweet potatoes, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, etc. to the church entryway through November 22nd. There is also the option of donating funds to purchase turkeys and other fresh items. Any surplus food we collect will be given to the Food Bank. In an economic climate when everyone is conscious of "difficult times" it is especially rewarding to be able to make a difference for other families.

Marian Hartman and Ro Thompson, Co-Chairs of Outreach



Kids to Kids is Getting into the GREEN Action

We're planning to meet at the Bond Park Boathouse to pick up trash throughout the park

Sunday, November 9, from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Please bring work gloves to protect your hands. We're thrilled to do our part to take care of God's Green Creation. Any questions? Contact Jay or Jody Barish: 460-2820; jodylb23@yahoo.com



We're Thankful for Young Voices!



Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 23!

On that day, our preschool through 5th grade singers will be performing several songs at both services. Robin Miller & Jody Barish give thanks to be able to work with all of these children as we encourage them to share their wonderful young talents with our congregation. You won't want to miss it!



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 know if your child is interested in being in the play in a speaking or non-speaking role.



COVENANT WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS...

Our Next Quarterly Breakfast... Come join us on Saturday, December 6, 2008, 9:00-10:30a. Our guest speaker will be Carletha Ward of Wilson, NC. Come learn about being a Coach...not a sport's coach...an encourage...stay tuned for more.

In the New Year... a Women's Blitz Build will be held in Greensboro, NC, January 18 – 21, 2009. Disciples women from all over NC and beyond will help build a house for a family in need. Let's plan now to have a great turnout for this event...For more information please go to www.Discipleswomen.org or contact Marilyn Williams.

Our monthly Bible Study ...held on the second of each month at 7:30pm here at the Church. It's a great time for Covenant women to get together as we get to know each other better while learning more about the Bible...the theme for this year is "Whose Voice Is It?"

Volunteers Needed... The Women's Ministry coordinates many programs on an annual basis and we wish to provide programs that are pertinent and meaningful to Covenant women. Please refer to the recent email you received and consider the area(s) in which you can serve. Thank you in advance for giving of your time and talents to help make this ministry possible!

- Phone Callers using an assigned list to invite women to our events.
- Help with Quarterly Breakfasts: decorate, provide food; cleanup and setup
- Monthly Bible Study: leading, providing refreshments
- Parent's Night Out: activity planning; supervise the children; coordinate this event.

Blessings & hugs, Marilyn & Ann marfrwms@yahoo.com ; annpw@hotmail.com

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DISCIPLES MEN ARE STRONG!

The Disciples Men thank all the planners for our October Fun-d Raising Day. We supported the Yard Sale, Antique Sale, the BBQ lunch, and the setup & cleanup.

We have also applied for a \$500 grant from Sam's Club to purchase some outdoor equipment for the Church. And let it be known that we fully support going **GREEN** here at Covenant and will look for more opportunities to help.

Our next **Breakfast Meeting** will be **Saturday, November 15 at 8:15am** with shed painting, stair strips, and the basketball goal guaranteed to be completed. The November breakfast includes a deep spiritual study as well as planning for an early season college basketball outing.

Go God! Go Covenant! Go Disciple Men!

Bob Kennel, Secretary

Stewardship Moment

"It is everyone's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what they take out of it" Albert Einstein

September 2008 Financial Information

General Fund	
Beginning Balance 08.31.08	\$ (3,210.45)
Receipts	\$ 10,529.09
Disbursements	\$ (17,634.16)
Ending Balance 09.30.08	\$ (10,542.43)

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

Go to 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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As 2008 Begins to Wind Down...

Can you believe it? There are only 2 months left before we turn the calendar pages to 2009. Even in the midst of all our economic challenges, you may be beginning to look at end of the year decisions that will affect your 2008 personal income tax. If so, you may want to consider donating your appreciated stock to CCC. The tax benefits are hard to beat for a couple of reasons:

- 1) The full value of the appreciated stock is deductible as a charitable donation and
- 2) You do not have to pay capital gains tax on the value of the appreciation. Your personal tax advisor can help you assess specific benefits. Stock donations may be used to fulfill the balance of your unpaid 2008 pledge to Covenant or to make a special gift.

Contact the Church Office for procedural instructions: covenantcc@bellsouth.net or 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