

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



<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Wednesdays</u>
Worship: 9:00am & 11:00am	Living the Questions Study: 6-7:25 pm
Sunday School: 10:00am	Taizé Worship: 7:30pm
Childcare provided for Sunday Mornings & Wednesday Evenings	

Volume 23 No.4 **March 31, 2009**

How's It Workin' for Ya?

Our Journey to Jerusalem this Lenten season has called us to "Fast" from anything that keeps us from being in a meaningful relationship with God and each other; and to "Feast" on all the possibilities of a joy-filled life, seeking to experience the fullness of God's love, grace and mercy...

So with 12 days and counting until Easter morning, I ask you, "How's this workin' for ya?" Have you been able to find ways to bring joy into your life and to experience the fullness of God? Well, not to worry, as long as you have breath, you have time, as we prepare to accept Jesus' gracious invitation to continue with him and his closest friends to Jerusalem and beyond.

A mere 5 weeks ago...

- we began our Lenten journey accompanying Jesus in, through and out of, the wilderness.
- We were then called to take courage; to find ways to deny ourselves; to put our own agendas and selfish interests behind us and to turn away from destructive ways and to discover new and healthier ones that bring about God's way.
- We saw Jesus overturn the tables of injustice in the Temple and were challenged with answering, "What needs cleansing in the temple of your life?"
- We met Nicodemus as he encountered Jesus, bringing him the emptiness of his own life. And we heard Jesus inviting US to a time of spiritual self-discovery; and were assured that we too can actually have whatever will nourish us and fill up what is empty, in our own lives.
- Last week we met up with the prophet, Jeremiah, who reminded us of God's New Covenant that is permanently written, carved, etched, on the hearts of God's people, so that we can live out every aspect of our lives as God's people.

And now the journey continues as we prepare to experience the week we call, "Holy:"

- **Palm Sunday Worship: April 5**, as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.
- **Maundy Thursday Worship: April 9, 7:30pm** A deeply moving Candlelight Service of Communion & Tennebrae marking the events of Holy Week.
- **Good Friday: April 10 Noon-3pm. AND 6-7:30pm.** The Labyrinth is available for walking and meditation.
- **Egg Hunt & Activities for Children: Saturday, April 11, 10am** at the Church.
- **Easter Morning Worship, April 12: 6:30am:** Sunrise Service & 7a Breakfast; **11am:** Easter Celebration & Cantata, ***Christ is Risen, Alleluia!***

The journey to Jerusalem and beyond is a long and winding road; yet one filled with promise and hope, as we gain strength and courage with each hesitant step we take. We don't travel the path alone. We go with God and we go with each other as we commit to finding ways to bring about God's ways, not in the distant future, but here and now.

Come and make your way with all who will gather in the days ahead as we seek God's presence; as we seek to experience the familiar story of Christ's resurrection with fresh minds and hearts... *Blessings, Joanne*

And Now a WORD from Your Moderator...

An Update from the March 22nd Board Meeting

The General Board at its March 22nd meeting approved an electrical contract for lighting our church sign on Cary Parkway; considered delegate appointments from Covenant to the General Assembly in July in Indianapolis, IN; approved a process for determining our congregation's 10% commitment to Disciples Mission Fund for 2009; engaged an auditor to review Covenant's financial statements and procedures; and heard reports from our ministers, program ministries and fellowship groups.

A Nominating Committee was approved and they began their work on Sunday, March 29, to provide a slate of new church officers to be presented for election at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 17 following both services. Please prayerfully consider saying "yes" if you are called to serve Covenant by anyone on the committee: Elder: Dennis Duryea; Trustee: Kevin Sloop; Deacon: Catherine Sisson; and 3 At-Large members: Amy Rutledge, Chr; Ann Washington and Jerry Hall.

An Update on the 2009 Financial Plan and Call to Action

If you have not returned your **Grow with Covenant card** yet, please do so soon. If you need another one, call the church office and one will be sent to you. The participation of everyone – members and guests alike in whatever way you can – makes for more fun, increased fellowship, more community visibility and exciting programming for Covenant Christian Church..

- Twenty-six *Grow with Covenant* cards have been returned resulting in over \$7,000 in additional income for Covenant's programming, with two more 'over and above or gift-in-kind' gifts made, in addition. Efforts are on-going toward meeting the \$16,000 goal.
- Our Elders are redoubling their efforts to match up guests with a Shepherding elder to help them become acclimated more quickly into our congregation. In the last two months alone, we have had 85+ local, unduplicated guests worshipping with us.
- The Elders are also initiating an ongoing "What does Covenant Mean to You?" campaign.
- Efforts are underway to identify budget items that special designated gifts might cover and communication plans are being put into place to market these options. The budget is being studied carefully for non-critical items that might be eliminated for this year.

Numerous personal commitments have come in on the *Grow with Covenant* cards for many volunteer hours to be worked in support of our fund raising projects.

- The first fundraiser was a pig picking on Saturday, March 28, sponsored by Debbie and Jerry Miller. 118 tickets were sold at \$10 each. The Millers donated the food, so the income is totally profit. THANK YOU, Millers!
- Our second fundraiser will be for Spring Daze on April 25th. Glenn Thornton is heading up that project and many volunteers will be needed. Volunteer today!
- The Board approved a new fundraiser for summer or fall to be sponsored by Betsy Mebane and Mike Joyce – a pancake breakfast. They will donate the food, so the income will be totally profit. Thanks, Betsy and Mike!
- Another new fundraiser is currently being studied – stay tuned for more information!

The spirit of God is truly moving in this place – you can sense it in the activity, see it in the faces of children, hear it in the laughter and fellowship of all who gather here – we can feel it in our *Hungry Hearts!* *Thank you, Karen Nolan, Moderator*

Invitation Ministry Needs You!

We need volunteers to prepare for the opportunity we are offering our members, guests and the community at large, to walk the prayer labyrinth on Good Friday, April 10. The labyrinth is a path that leads via a circuitous route to the center of an intricate design and back out again. It is used to facilitate prayer and meditation. One walks the prayer labyrinth with others in silence, usually for a period of 30-45 minutes. Each person experiences the labyrinth differently, so come with no expectations, but with openness to whatever gift God sends your way. The labyrinth will be available for prayer on Good Friday from noon until 3:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. until 7:30 P.M.

So...what do we need?

- Thursday April 9th immediately after the 7:30p Maundy Thursday service we need as many people as possible to remove the hymnbooks/bibles & chairs from the sanctuary.
- Friday April 10th
9:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. 3 additional people needed to spread the 2-piece canvas labyrinth that covers the entire floor of the sanctuary.

We need also need 1 person for each time slot to simply be available to “keep watch” as members and guests walk and pray the labyrinth:

- Noon–1:00p
- 1:00p–2:00p
- 2:00p–3:00p
- 6:00p–7:30p
- 7:30p–8:00p --**3 people needed to fold up the labyrinth**

If you are willing to help, contact Renié Palmer: Rpalmer123@nc.rr.com, or 481-2121.
Thanks for your help... ***René Palmer, Invitation Ministry Chr.***

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Annual Easter Breakfast!
Sunday, April 12, 7:00am

Covenant has a tradition of having a pot-luck breakfast following the sunrise service. Plan on joining the community for this special service (6:30a) and breakfast (7a). Plan now to bring your favorite breakfast foods: breakfast casseroles; fruit; muffins/bagels; coffeecake, etc. Coffee & Juice provided. Contact Jeanne White: 342-3713 or jandjw@nc.rr.com, to let her know what type food item you plan to bring so we will be sure to have the variety we need.

Thanks, Jeanne White, Chairperson

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!
A medley of Easter hymns and anthems
Presented by the Adult Choir
Easter Morning at 11am
Easter is a time of great joy!
Come celebrate the God's miracle of the Resurrection!

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Congratulations to: Elisa & Mark Huncik in the birth of their daughter, Anastasia Helene, Friday, March 20.

Recent: Faye Snow, Teresa DeMartin's mother; The Glasener's son-in-law, John Donaghue; Phama Johnston's friend, Karen Keel; The Kennel's friends, Philip & Megan Lacey.

Continuing Prayers for: Vicky Vanderford; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston.

Parents of: Sharon Frost; Ann Hall, Mark Huncik. **Mothers of:** Vicky Vanderford.

Fathers of: Jeremy Hopkins; Patty Cole; Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller; Bob Nolan;

Daughters of: Ken & Glenda Hoffman; Sally Shelly. **Sons of:** Jim Johnston; Kathy Smith; Donna Jones. **Grandfathers of:** Trey O'Quinn;

Grandmothers of: Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen.

Sisters of: Gerry Tokanel; Hazel Brothers. **Brothers of:** Art Brothers; Catherine Sisson.

Aunts of: Melanie Fagert; Larry Linguist. **Uncle of:** Jeremy Hopkins.

Nephews of: Gerry Tokanel; Joe Busby; Melanie Bunn. **Great-Nephew of:** Barishes.

Cousins of: Glenda Hoffman; Mary Lou Jackson, Elaine Fry.

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

Remembering Others: Hazel Schuller; Rosie Stockbridge; Elizabeth Pawelka. General & Regional Church Leaders; Disciples 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.

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This 'n' That!

Take note of Joanne & Randy's private email addresses:

Joanne: joanne-ccc@bellsouth.net

Randy: randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

Also check out Randy's new blog: covenantkids.blogspot.com It's a great way to see all that is happening with our children, youth and their families. Just log on and click "subscribe to Covenant's Kids by email" and you will receive regular updates to the blog! Also scroll down in this newsletter to "Holste's Hello" pages to see the latest. Don't miss out!

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Disciples Men Work for Others!

Our late March meeting was delightful with a Tae-Kwon-Do demonstration by Timothy and Don Downs. Timothy showed us his moves, and Don gave us some of its history and philosophy toward life. We also voted to provide \$500 for Associate Minister's furniture and computer, \$500 for **Green** projects around the church, and \$500 for our young men to go to the Shelton Leadership Academy. We are also planning to help build shelving for our upcoming Children's Ministry program, Worship and Wonder.

Our next meeting will be Saturday April 18, 9-11am as we work with Kids to Kids in cleaning and removing brush and working with them in the Garden of Hope.

Mark your calendars now for the **NC Disciples Men's Retreat at Camp Caroline, April 29-30**. Our speaker will be Dr. Richard (Rick) Lowery, an outstanding and humorous Hebrew Testament scholar/professor; currently serving as the Interim Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Lexington Theological Seminary. He is also married to our General Minister & President, Dr. Sharon Watkins. Let Bob Kennel know of your interest in attending.

Bob Kennel, Secretary



Women's Ministries

From the Region...

Disciples Women's Luncheon Met on March 28th

Disciples Women from all over North Carolina gathered at Barton College in Wilson for a special ***Network Lunch*** as a part of the biennial Regional Academy. The program emphasis included our publications ***Just Women*** and ***New Day***, Quadrennial ***2010***, and the ***Woman to Woman Worldwide Program***.

NOW is the time to plan for our Christmount August Retreat!

Registration forms became available on March 28th and housing fills up quickly! You may contact Ann Washington or Marilyn Williams for registration information or you may go online at www.christmount.com This retreat is a highlight of our program year! Disciples Women from all over North Carolina gather at our Conference Center in Black Mountain. It's a great opportunity for fun, fellowship and self renewal as we gather at "our mountain".

Covenant Happenings...

Quarterly Breakfast meets on Saturday, April 4th.

9:00am-10:30am at the church A babysitter is available.

We are happy to announce that Rev. Misty Mowery, former Covenant intern and now serving as the Minister at Rocky Fork CC, will be our guest speaker. So far this program year, we have honed our listening skills and better understand why we may hear God's call differently. Now it's time to unwrap! Do I have your attention yet? It's going to be a great day. We look forward to seeing you there!

Women's Bible Study meets Tuesday, April 14, 7:30p at the church. All are welcome. Each session is independent of the other so just come when you can! Plan to join us for this informal study from the ***New Day*** magazine.

Continue to clip and save Campbell's soup labels for Christmount!

Listen closely. Do you hear your call to Women's Ministry?

Blessings, Ann & Marilyn, Co-chairs

Outreach Ministry News

Green Team Meeting

Everyone interested is invited to attend the Green Team Meeting Thursday, April 2; beginning with a light supper at 6p, ending by 7:30p. Your input is needed as we finalize plans for the Earth Stewardship Sunday Worship and Celebration (4/26) and the "Green" study that will begin in May. In order to have food for all, please RSVP to Marian Hartman (jimarian@nc.rr.com) or Ro Thompson (rthompsonct@aol.com)

This month Outreach Ministry spotlights **Urban Ministries of Wake** County, an interfaith organization working to alleviate the effects of poverty in Wake County by meeting basic needs for food, shelter and healthcare and by providing services that promote self-sufficiency. Another important aspect of their work is building awareness of poverty within the community. Urban Ministries actually has three active programs and a **Food Pantry** providing assistance to those in need:

- **Crisis Support** works to keep families stable by providing basic needs such as medicine and financial help for rent and utilities as well as emergency food supplies. They also work with folks by promoting solutions to long-term problems.
- **The Open Door Clinic** provides health care for uninsured & indigent people by providing comprehensive medical, pharmacy & ancillary care at no charge to patients.
- **Helen Wright Center for Women** works to reduce homelessness by providing temporary housing and support services in a program that promotes independence. They provide transitional shelter and meet basic needs as well as having special programs and workshops. All of these components of the center work towards independence and permanent housing.

Covenant has provided assistance to Urban Ministries through financial contributions, food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas and by making produce donations from our Garden of Hope. Go to their website www.urbanmin.org to learn more about this inspiring ministry & the ways you can get involved.

Also, let's help meet their pantry needs! **Bring your food donations during the month of April...let's fill the baskets in the entryway to overflowing with: Canned beans (black, pinto, kidney and pork & beans); Soups; Macaroni & Cheese.**



****Fresh Fair Trade Coffee Has Arrived****

We have just received a fresh shipment of fair trade regular & decaf coffee. If you are interested in purchasing this coffee, instructions are located in the basket with the coffee on the table outside the office. Thanks in advance for supporting a great cause! If you have a special request for a future order, please contact Becky at 387-0737. You can also find some of these items at "10,000 Villages" in Cameron Village: www.villagesofraleigh; or ordering from the SERRV Catalogue: www.agreatergift.org.

Other Fair Trade products to look for: Tea; Chocolate; Bananas; Sugar; Rice; Vanilla; Apparel; Wine; Olive Oil and of course, Coffee.

Also here are some other ways to "Go Green:"

Paint: look for Low or ideally, no VOC paint; **Paper:** look for paper products with a high post consumer recycle content; **Light bulbs:** Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs);

Appliances: with the Energy Star label. **Fruits & Vegetables:** try organic, local, in-season produce to avoid pesticide residue: apples, bell peppers, celery, imported grapes, cherries, nectarines, peaches, pears, potatoes, raspberries, spinach & strawberries.

Source: www.greenamericatoday.org.

Your Outreach Coordinators, Marian jimarian@nc.rr.com & **Ro** rthompsonct@aol.com



Holste's Hello!...

First of all, I would like to say "hello" to all of you and I am really looking forward to being a part of your church family. I can tell that you love this church! Being new, I'll need a lot of help from each and every one of you to feel like I fit in – so help a guy out PLEASE! I've put a few things in place that I hope will keep us all connected & well informed.

First, I have created a blog @ (covenantskids.blogspot.com) – Check it out! It will give you up to date information about events and the life of children/youth ministries at Covenant. It includes a calendar that will help everyone! Once you go to the blog, on

the left hand side below the Chalice, there's a link: "subscribe to Covenant's Kids by email" and you will receive regular updates to the blog! Don't miss out!

With this blog I want you ALL to be participants in keeping this thing updated – send me via e-mail: randy-ccc@bellsouth.net dates and times for your piano recital, soccer game, birthday party, special awards...whatever! Anything you are involved in (with your parents permission of course) so that it can be included in the blog and our family and friends can stay connected! I am truly excited to be a part of our church family and looking forward to getting to know each of you... Randy Holste, Associate Minister

Are you ready for "Camp Edge"?

This year's **Vacation Bible School** experience is on its way and we don't want you to miss this adrenaline pumping adventure!!! Make a note that July 12th through the 16th will be the dates for Covenant Christian Church's VBS (evening hours). We want to make this an awesome experience for our children and the Cary community. Everyone is welcome! If you would like to be a part of this sensational event, or you want to learn more, please contact Randy Holste at the church office @ 481-4715 or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net



Egg Hunt Anyone?

Covenant's annual Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Extravaganza is fast approaching! Go ahead and prepare yourself for lots of Easter crafts, egg hunting, and a special program for all children (members and guests) of Covenant Christian Church. Bring your friends, bring your neighbors, and your family to celebrate the Easter season with us! Festivities begin at 10 AM on April 11th and will conclude by 11:15 AM. **Parents wanting to know more about this event or want to inquire about volunteer opportunities don't hesitate to contact Randy @ 481-4715; or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net for further details.**

Kids to Kids - Giving Back to the Church!

Please plan to meet at the church Saturday, **April 18, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** to clean up brush and do some planting in the garden. We will be working with the Men's Ministry and the Gardeners of Hope. This is a time to work hard and have fun getting dirty. If you have any questions, please contact Jay or Jody at 460-2820. We hope to see you there!



Dates to Remember!

June 5-7th: Worship & Wonder Storyteller Training. Greenville, NC.

TBD: CYF Mission Trip (New Orleans, LA)

July 12-16th: Vacation Bible School (Evening hours)



“DAWG” Days of Summer! (Disciples At Work for God)



For those youth who are unable to attend this year’s trek to New Orleans to help with Disaster Relief, there’s something closer to home that might entice your taste buds. DAWG is a “mission trip” for those who don’t feel the urge to leave Raleigh! Hillyer Memorial Christian Church houses youth from all over NC to help individuals right here in our very own back yard. This year’s event will be from **June 28th- July 2nd**. Contact Randy if you have any questions or would like more information about this project! randy-ccc@bellsouth.net or (919) 481-4715.

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Summer Church Camp Anyone? All registrations due by May 25th—Fun for ALL Ages!

Be sure to check out the different camps! A weekend camp for K-1st grade to introduce them to church camp; Horse Riding Camp; Canoe Camp; Sailing Camp; a Camp for budding Crime Scene Investigator Kids! You can go to the Coast at Camp Caroline in Arapahoe, NC; or to the mountains at Christmount in Black Mtn, near Asheville.

Check with Randy for registration forms & information about scholarships & discounts!

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose Camp by Grade Completed:	Date of Camp:	Fee:	Begins	Ends
	CYF Conference for Grades 9-12	June 14-19	\$275	7:00 pm	11:00 am
	Horse Riding Camp for Grades 3-6 *See Below	June 14-19	\$410	7:00 pm	11:00 am
	Alpha Camp for Grades 1-3	June 19-21	\$125	4:00 pm	11:00 am
	Jr. Camp for Grades 3-5 I	June 21-26	\$275	7:00 pm	11:00 am
	Love Camp for Grades 6-7	June 21-26	\$275	7:00 pm	11:00 am
	Weekend Sailing Camp for Grades 4-7	June 26-28	\$125	4:00 pm	11:00 am
	Uno Camp for Grades K-1 w/1 parent or grandparent	June 27-28	\$65	11:00 am	11:00 am
	Canoe Camp for Grades 5-8	June 28 – July 2	\$310	4:00 pm	11:00 am
	Horse Riding II Camp for Grades 3-6 *See Below	June 29 – July 3	\$400	11:00 am	11:00 am
	Jr. Camp for Grades 3-5 II	July 6-10	\$265	11:00 am	11:00 am
	Forensic Camp for Grades 6-8	July 6-10	\$300	11:00 am	11:00 am
	SAS – Sailing Arts & Stars for Grades 4-7	July 13-17	\$275	11:00 am	11:00 am
	MAD – Music, Arts & Drama for Grades 4-7	July 17-19	\$125	4:00 pm	11:00 am
	Jr. Camp for Grades 3-5 III	July 19-24	\$275	7:00 pm	11:00 am
	Jr. High Camp for Grades 6-7	July 19-24	\$275	7:00 pm	11:00 am
	Canoe Camp Grades 9-12	July 24-26	\$140	11:00 am	4:00 pm
	Uno Camp II Grades K-1 w/1 parent or grandparent	July 25-26	\$65	11:00 am	11:00 am

CHRISTMOUNT

	CYF Conference for Grades 9-12	June 22-27	\$275	1:00 pm	11:00 am
	Jr. Camp for Grades 3-5	June 15-20	\$275	1:00 pm	11:00 am
	Jr. High Camp for Grades 6-7	June 15-20	\$275	1:00 pm	11:00 am
	Created to Be Me for Grade 8	July 12-18	\$325	4:00 pm	11:00 am

Here's a special calendar highlighting events for children & youth,
with birthday reminders and activities for the entire church family.

One more way to stay connected!

Let Randy know if we've missed a birthday!

April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday Kelly Thornton (B-day)	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 PM	10 Good Friday	11 Easter Egg Hunt 10 AM—11:15 AM
12 Easter Sunday (6:30 Sunrise & 11 AM ONLY)	13	14	15 Gus & Owen Rutledge (B-day)	16	17 Alex Dalberth (B-day) Steven Maret (B-day)	18 Kids To Kids (Work Day) 9—11 AM
19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25 Spring Daze@ Bond Park 8 AM—5 PM
26 Earth Day Celebration 11 AM (Garden Ded.)	27	28	29	30		

February Financial Information

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ (9,106.39)
Receipts	\$ 15,413.56
Disbursements	\$ 15,741.63 -
	\$
Ending Balance	\$ (9,434.46)

Thanks for your generous support for Covenant's ministries throughout the year.

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Automatic Bill Pay...A Convenient Way to Regularly Make Your Tithes & Offerings

We also want to encourage any members/guests to setup **automatic bill pay** with their bank so that a check is sent to us each week or month, whether or not you are able to be in worship. The information that you need when setting up an automatic payment is as follows:

Billor Name: Covenant Christian Church Account number: GENERAL FUND
Billor Address: 2911 SW Cary Parkway Billor City, State, Zip: Cary, NC 27513-8902
Billor phone number: 919-481-4715

The account number can be GENERAL FUND/NEW BUILDING FUND/or MEMORIAL FUND. Questions? Contact Betsy Mebane, Treasurer: betsy_mebane@hotmail.com.

Miss a Sunday? CDs are Now Available!

Many circumstances can prevent you from being here for worship. One way of staying in touch is through the CD ministry. If you would like a CD of any 11am service simply contact the church office: 481-4715; covenantcc@bellsouth.net to request it via snail mail or make arrangements to pick it up during regular office hours (Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm) or make special arrangements.

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Now Here's a Word from Mary Lou...

Updated Membership Lists are available via email... just call me and I will send you the attachment...or you can pick up a copy on the table outside the church office.

Attendance Counts! We need to know when you're here for worship; church school; meetings and events here at Covenant...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...The names of our guests are important to Invitation Ministry too!

AND...the usual, "one more thing"...**All Staff, Officers, Leaders and Ministry Chairs: Please, please...have your April Newsletter articles to me by **April 17, 2009** so I can get it posted on line and mailed to those without email in a timely manner. It **does** take us all to make this work!**