Covenant Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

2911 S.W. Cary Parkway Cary, NC 27513

Phone: 919-481-4715 Fax: 919-481-4016 Email: covenantcc@bellsouth.net

Web: www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org

Sundays

Worship: 9:00am & 11:00am Christian Education for All Ages: 10:00am Childcare provided for Sunday Mornings & All Programs & Activities

Volume 23 No.6 May 29, 2009



To Nurture Belief or [Inbelief...is that the question?

Recently an article on the front page of the N & O, *Parents gather to nurture nonbelief*, described how on Sunday mornings, when many other people are gathering in various places of worship, a group of parents of young children gather in the living room of a host family while their children play games. They call themselves, *Parenting Beyond Belief*, and it's "growing faster than any religious group on the US religious landscape; as they offer each other support for rearing children without religion. Their numbers have doubled in the past 20 years and now account for 16% of the US population." My take on the rest of the article is that many in this group have grown dissatisfied with how the ancient biblical texts and religious understandings do not speak to their lives today. So they reject any expressions of the traditional faith with which they grew up and go in search of new answers to whatever questions they or their children have outside of any community of faith. Many others concede that they are content to have no faith at all.

I of course was reading this article through the lens of Covenant Christian Church and was saddened that they knew nothing of our particular faith community where all adults, youth & children are encouraged to ask the faith questions, especially those we have taken for granted since childhood; where we can discern our own understandings; to figure out those nuggets of Truth that bring our life and faith the meaning and purpose we long for. And then to also realize in the process, that there is much about faith that is left up to "Mysterium Tremendum" (The Great Mystery we call, God); and then to be content with those unanswered questions.

What a blessing it is to be a part of a community of faith that welcomes all-regardless of where you find yourself on the path that leads you to know and love God and others; that offers an invitation for all to come and grow stronger in your calling to be faithful and at the same time help Covenant grow stronger in our calling to be the church in today's world.

To nurture belief or non-belief...that really is the question, isn't it? Blessings, Joanne

Welcome Church Membership Class!

After several weeks of classes, we welcomed the Church Membership Class as our newest members, Pentecost Sunday, May 31:

Rebecca Evelyn Layko, daughter of Debbí & Matt Layko; Sponsor, Jody Barísh; **Andrew Wesley Stiles,** son of Becky & Tim Stiles; Sponsor, Dick Reaves; were received into membership by Confession of Faith and were baptized.

Samuel Thomas Evett, son of Ginny & Sam Evett; Sponsor, Renié Palmer; **Katherine Carl Xiaoting White,** daughter of Terry & Roxie White; Sponsor, Carol Carson were received into membership by Confession of Faith, completing their infant baptism.

And Now a WORD from Your Moderator...

Here are the highlights of our May 17, 2009 Congregational Meeting:

The following *Resolution of Thanks* was adopted by the Congregation:

WHEREAS Covenant Christian Church convened a Faithful Planning team to review our mission and goals and to build a strategic plan in 2006-07; and

WHEREAS the Basic Belief Statement and Statement of Calling with specific goals and recommendations for achieving those goals came out of the Faithful Planning process; and

WHEREAS a Pre-Building Committee was appointed as an outgrowth of these recommendations to determine next steps for our capital facilities; and

WHEREAS an approved recommendation of the Pre-Building Committee was to install a new, more visible, two-sided church sign on Cary Parkway; and

WHEREAS Debbie Miller and others in our church with connections with the Town of Cary set about to achieve the necessary approvals from the Town of Cary for the new sign; and

WHEREAS Debbie spent untold hours in getting these approvals and working with the General Board on an approved design for the sign, bids for construction of the sign, approving a company to build and erect the sign, and overseeing the project; and

WHEREAS the completed sign was installed in the spring of 2009;

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, this 17th day of May, 2009, that Covenant Christian Church give a unanimous vote of thanks to Debbie Miller for her commitment and dedication to seeing this project successfully through to completion.

New officers & leaders unanimously elected to begin serving July 1, 2009:

Moderator	Karen Nolan	<u>Elders</u> <u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Vice-Moderator	Derek Rutledge	Darla Baldwin	Renié Palmer
Clerk	Robin Miller	Dennis Duryea	Craig Paul
Historian	Sally Shelly	Ted Glasener	Bill Rivers
Treasurer	Kathy Smith	Kevin Sloop	Alan Wilkinson
Assistant Treasurer	Ann Hall	Honorary Elders: Art & Hazel Brothers;	Revenol Duryea

Deacons

2010: Amy Gaffney; Jon Gaffney; Ann Hall; Jerry Hall;

Jack Reilly; Catherine Sisson; Terry White Megan Larsen

2011: Rocio Anderson; Ginny Evett; Sam Evett; Jim Hartman;

Marian Hartman; Beth Kearney; Jeff Miller; Alex Rivers

<u>Trustees:</u> 2010 Kim Rivers; 2011 Carole Tyler; 2012 Bob Nolan; 2013 Kevin Sloop; 2014 Debbie Miller

Personnel Committee 2010 2011 2012

Ken Hoffman Bob Nolan Rocio Anderson Elgin Fry Melanie Bunn Darla Baldwin

Thank you to the new officers and leaders for your careful and prayerful consideration and agreeing to serve Covenant for the coming year.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Amy Rutledge, chair; Dennis Duryea, Catherine Sisson, Ann Washington, Jerry Hall and Kevin Sloop.

Continued on next page

And, *thank you* to the outgoing officers and leaders for your term of service and the many great accomplishments you have led the church in this year:

Vice-Moderator: Brad Baldwin; Clerk: Roxie White; Treasurer: Betsy Mebane; Elders: Carolyn Allen; Dick Reaves; Derek Rutledge; Kathy Smith;

Deacons: Carol Carson; Patty Cole; Ken Hoffman; Jeremy Hopkins; Suzanne Hopkins; Craig

Paul; Essie Thompson; Madison Rivers;

Trustee: Dick Reaves; Personnel: Dave Deardorff; Dennis Duryea.

2009 Financial Plan Update

Action 1: Increase pledges from within the Congregation by \$16,000.

As of May 10, a total of \$7,088 in pledges and gifts has been received from 19 people for the Grow with Covenant campaign with additional \$2,330 non-pledged dollars contributed (a total of \$4,344 in cash received to date).

Action 2: Unbind the Gospel and GROW our congregation

Action 3: Raise \$6,500 with Additional Fund Raisers

\$3,023.50 total (4/30) from Spring Daze fund raiser – thanks to the leadership of Glenn Thornton and the many volunteers.

\$1,200.00 total from the great barbeque donated by the Millers

\$4,223.50 TOTAL as of 4/30/09 - With more fund raisers planned for the fall.

Action 4: Find appropriate ways to cut the budget and promote designated over-and-above giving to approved programs of the church for a total of \$8,000:

- Board approved a total of \$4,050 in budget cuts 4/19/09.
- You have "bought" 32 out of 36 stories and made additional gifts for Children's Worship and Wonder for a total of \$2348.50 (as of 5/29/09)
- A \$1,000 private gift has been made to underwrite the music budget

This is a great start. We're about half-way to our goals and almost to the half-way point in the year! THANK YOU for your outpouring of generosity and commitment to the programs of Covenant Christian Church!

I'm looking forward to the remainder of 2009 with new ideas and new commitment which will come out of the All Church Planning Day on July 25, 2009. Hope to see you there.

Thank you, Karen Nolan, Moderator

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Hear

Our Love & Prayers are with Karen Nippert, in the recent death of her uncle;

Recent: Jerry Miller, Sr. surgery June 2; Carol Carson at home; Nelson Wakefield, at Rex; NO visitors; Phama Larsen-Johnston's mother, Carolyn Mullen; Craig Paul's stepfather, Randall Luzader;

Continuing Prayers: Betsy Mebane; Chris & Nathan Grennan; Don, Cathy & Timothy Downs; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston;

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

Fathers of: Jeremy Hopkins; Patty Cole; Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller; Bob Nolan; **Daughters of**: Ken & Glenda Hoffman; Sally Shelly. **Sons of:** Marian Crowe; Jim Johnston; Kathy Smith; Donna Jones.

Grandfathers of: Jon Gaffney; Trey O'Quinn. Grandmothers of: Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen. Sisters of: Jack Reilly; Gerry Tokanel; Hazel Brothers. Brother of: Art Brothers; Aunts of: Melanie Fagert; Larry Linguist. Uncle of: Jeremy Hopkins. Nephews of: Joe Busby; Melanie Bunn; Terry White .Great-Nephew of: Barishes; Cousins of: Lynn Wright; Glenda Hoffman; Mary Lou Jackson, Elaine Fry. Brother-in-law of: Patty Cole; Sisters-in-Law of: Renie Palmer; Hazel Brothers; Mary Lou Jackson...

Remembering Others: Tony Egitto (Mike Joyce); The Certain family (Mary Lou Jackson); Karen Kiel (Phama Larsen Johnston); Gary Burton (Pam Deardorff); Dr. Jim Seale; Kaira Wagoner & Renaldo Diaz; Rosie Stockbridge; General & Regional Church Leaders; Disciples new church starts.

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

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Upcoming IMPORTANT Dates

Mark Your Calendars NOW!

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 FOLLOWING 11am Worship

Combined General Board Meeting
All Outgoing & All Incoming
Officers & Leaders

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SUNDAY, JULY 19 DURING 11am Worship

Special Recognition of Outgoing Officers & Leaders and Installation of All 2009-10 Officers & Leaders

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SATURDAY, JULY 25, 8:30a-12:30p

ANNUAL CHURCHWIDE PLANNING EVENT ALL Covenant Members & Guests are invited to help plan for the upcoming program year!

Continental Breakfast/Childcare provided

Children & Youth Ministry Programs

Covenant Christian Church

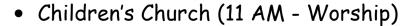
What Do We Do?

• 9 AM Worship

- Infant/Toddler care provided



- -Infant /Toddler Nurseries (Newborn 3 yrs. old)
- -Preschool (Ages 3 K)
- -Early Elementary (Grades 1 3)
- -Late Elementary (Grades 4 5)
- -Chi Rho Sunday School (Middle School Youth Coming this Fall)
- -CYF Experience (Sr. High Youth)



- -Infant/Toddler Nurseries (Newborn 3 yrs. old)
- -Bible Buddies (Ages 3 K)
- -Young Disciples (Grades 1 3)
- -Children's Worship and Wonder (Coming this Fall!)

Additional Activities:

- -Kids 2 Kids Monthly Activities involving the children in local service projects for $K-5^{th}$ graders.
- -Chi Rho Activities for all Middle School Youth (Scheduled Events)
- -CYF Activities for all Sr. High Youth. (Scheduled Events)
- -Vacation Bible School (July 12th- 16th)





Announcing Summer Programs © Covenant!



Trying to think of ways to beat the Summertime heat - Check out what's in store for the children and Youth @ Covenant! There's a new face in town and he believes there needs to be a face-lift with regards to Summertime activities!

All Fun - All the Time!

New for the Summer of 2009

- "Chi Rho Lite" Looking for Middle School Activities during the Summer? We can help! I know there are current and up-coming middle schoolers who would love to have some fun! "Chi Rho Lite" is for you!
- "CYF Lite" Trying to find ways to have fun this Summer? Here's your chance! Outside of end of Summer Mission Trip we'll have some other things going for high school youth that you won't want to miss!
- "Summertime Kids" So school year has ended and what's next? You don't want to stay at the house all summer do you? Summertime Kids is here to keep you connected! All current and up-coming elementary kids WELCOME!!!

Check out the next page for the Covenant's Children & Youth Calendar to see what's in store for THIS SUMMER!

June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 W & W Training - Greenville	6 W & W Training- Greenville
7 W & W Training- Greenville	8	9	10	Summertime Kids Movies by Moonlight – Kung Fu Panda –Coco Booth Amp. Cary	12	13
14	15	16	17Chi Rho Lite — Putt-Putt Frankies-6 PM *Birthday - Michael Stelmack	18	19	*Birthday – Megan Larsen
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 <u>CYF Lite</u> – 2009 Mission Trip Orientation – THE BEACH!!	30 <u>CYF Lite</u> – 2009 Mission Trip Orientation – THE BEACH!!	July 1st CYF Lite – 2009 Mission Trip Orientation – THE BEACH!!			

Upcoming Events:

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

July 27th—August 2nd: Disciples General Assembly/Heritage Tour for all <u>CYF</u>

August 1-8th: <u>CYF</u> Mission Trip (New Orleans, La.)

September 13th: Kick-Off Sunday!!!!



More About VBS



Dear Parents & Families.

We're inviting all children to be a part of the excitement at our Vacation Bible School, CAMP E.D.G.E.: EXPERIENCE + DISCOVER GOD EVERYWHERE.

At CAMP E.D.G.E., your children join an extreme camp adventure where they will come to know that their strength and might come from God.

Extreme Bible treks will introduce them to Bible characters who have experienced and discovered God in many ways. Kids will learn an E.D.G.E. Pledge with each story to encourage them to live on the E.D.G.E. every day.

Your children will extend their learnings through every activity: making their own special memories at the Art Apex, singing new music at Music Max, experiencing science activities at Exploration Ridge, participating in recreational activities at the Rec Plex, and enjoying tasty snacks at the Snack Express.



Where:

Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dates:

July 12th through <u>July 16th.</u>

Times:

Sunday (July 12th): <u>2:30 PM</u> to <u>5:00 PM</u> Monday - Thursday (July 13th - 16th) 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

To register or to find out more about CAMP E.D.G.E. call the church office at

(919) 481-4715 or visit the church website at

covenantchristianchurch-cary.com

Sincerely, Your CAMP E.D.G.E. VBS Director





Covenant Christian Church is seeking a volunteer Handy-man/woman to assist with the development/supervision of the Children's Worship & Wonder shelves! General laborers and funds to purchase materials are present, but a truly gifted designer/woodworker is still needed!

If you or anyone you know is woodworking suave - WE NEED YOU!

The shelving needs are basic, however, the fact that we need multiple pieces and sturdy construction makes this a project for a professional! Please contact Randy in the church office if you are willing to help! (919) 481-4715 or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

What a Hit! What a Hit!

Thanks to the love and support from all of you, Our Children's Wonder stories are almost gone! At this time we only have a few

If you have been holding out and want to purchase one of the remaining stories <u>in honor</u> or <u>in memory</u> of a loved one - you had better hurry because they won't be around long! If you just love the ministry and want to simply pledge your financial support, donations/gifts for program support are always gladly accepted and put to good use.

In just over a month, you rallied around this ministry and purchased 32 of the 36 available stories - WOW! To all of you who purchased a story - THANK YOU. Through your generosity and support this well designed and theologically sound program can and will transform the lives of our children.

A Simple Shout-Out...



Worship &

stories left.

Most of you may not know but we are blessed to have 7 Covenant members/guests attending the Children's Worship and Wonder

Storyteller Training in Greenville, NC (June 5^{th} - 7^{th}). These individuals have dedicated their time and energy to become "Storytellers" for the Worship and Wonder ministry set to be unveiled in the Fall of 2009. To become a Worship & Wonder Storyteller one must attend and participate in a 3 day training! Covenant's inaugural class of storytellers are as follows:

Amy Rutledge; Amy Kiser; Phama Larsen-Johnston;

Kathy Smith; Mary Lou Jackson; Betsy Mebane & Randy Holste

Be sure to say "Thank You" because without these dedicated and loyal Covenant members this program would not be possible!



Women's Ministries News...

There is still time to plan for our Christmount August Retreat! Friday, August 7th - Sunday August 9th

You may contact Ann or Marilyn for registration information or you may go online at www.christmount.com. It's a great opportunity for fun, fellowship and self-renewal as we gather at "our mountain".

ClaySure-An Affordable Means of Providing Safe Water

The Disciples Women adopted ClaySure as one of their outreach projects for the 2008-2009 program year. Clean water, something we take for granted each day, is not available to many.....but ClaySure is making a difference! A large ceramic pot made with treated clay can remove up to 99.9 % of the bacteria in unclean water. This portable affordable product is life changing. Want to learn more? Visit www.claysure.com

Looking Ahead...

Just Women - Mind Spirit and Body is the theme for our 2009-2010 program year. Our new quarterly magazine, **Just Women**, is available for review at www.discipleswomen.org

Continue to clip and save Campbell's soup labels for Christmount. We look forward to delivering these personally in August!

Ann Washington and Marilyn Williams, Co-chairs

Invitation Ministry Dinner
Saturday Evening, June 27
At the home of
Ted & Priscilla Glasener
616 Walapai
Fuquay-Varina

Disciples Men Still Exist!

Our Disciples Men are getting their summer planning underway. This weekend some of us are participating in the Regional Men's Retreat at Camp Caroline. Others of us are taking a "chainsaw" operation & safety course as part of the Wake Interfaith Disaster Relief; while still others are on the mend...

Our June monthly breakfast meeting
Saturday, June 20 at 8:15a
Our own Drew Kidwell will present the program.

Bob Kennel, Secretary

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Wake Interfaith Disaster Team...

In cooperation with the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources, North Carolina Baptist Men; Cary, Morrisville, and Raleigh-Wake Community Emergency Response Team is pleased to offer a class in Chainsaw Operation and Safety. Our Wake Interfaith Disaster Team has been invited to take part.

In time of disaster, volunteers will be needed to clear trees from roadways and driveways so ambulances and fire trucks can get through. Hurricane season begins June 1. Sign up now so you can learn how to do to operate a chainsaw safely.

- Learn the basic parts of a chain saw.
- Learn how to inspect a chain saw before operating it.
- Learn how to safely start and use a chain saw.
- Learn how to maintain a chain saw.
- Learn or review chainsaw safety.
- Learn how to recognize and avoid dangerous situations.
- Practice cutting and dragging felled trees under the guidance of an instructor and safety officer.

The class will be held June 6, with classroom instruction in the morning and practical field work in the afternoon. Your \$15.00 enrollment fee covers refreshments and lunch.

Enrollment is limited to 40 seats, so enroll promptly. Please pay special attention to the required equipment (boots, gloves, hard hat, goggles or face shield, chaps if you have them). You must sign the waiver of liability to participate. If you are interested please contact the Church office (481-4715); covenantcc@bellsouth.net

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Garden of Hope...

Help Tend the Garden...

Wanna play in the dirt?

Sign up in the church entryway if you can help weed, harvest & clean-up the garden...

How 'bout YOU?

Outreach Ministry News

Local Outreach

This year we are taking a "newsletter tour" of the ministries your contributions help to support. We have learned about the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, N.C. Interfaith Power & Light and Urban Ministries of Wake County.

This month we are visiting The Carying Place (pronounced "the caring place"). This organization uses the sub-text "Caring, Helping, and Equipping People for Living" to describe itself in its logo. In a "short and sweet" way that tells you what they do!

Their mission of teaching homeless families with children life skills to attain self-sufficiency is enabled by the communities' financial contribution and volunteered hours. They have worked with more than 335 families with a success rate of 87%, an amazing statistic.

Each family accepted into the program is paired with a volunteer team which works with the family to develop a personalized plan for self-sufficiency. Short term housing and support service are provided as well as counseling in managing a budget and life skills. They serve as many as eight families at a time and the families stay in the program up to four months.

Just some of the ways volunteers have the opportunity to help are on a family support team, help with furniture moving, and tutoring. Donations of gift cards (gas, grocery stores, etc) as well as supplies needed to set up "home making" are always needed. Want more information? www.thecaryingplace.org

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THE **GREEN** FUND

Are you looking for a special way to honor a friend? Maybe you want to celebrate an important occasion ...an anniversary or graduation. Or you want to give a gift in memory of a loved one. THE GREEN FUND is an excellent way!

A special **GREEN FUND** was established to help Covenant begin to reduce our carbon footprint as well as our energy costs. (Thank you to the Men's group for their initial grant of \$500.) This fund allows the Green Team to take our slogan "Caring for God's Green Earth" from just words to action steps that truly make a difference!

Please indicate your support by remembering the fund c/o Covenant Christian Church and earmarking regular or special contributions for "THE GREEN FUND."

GREEN TIPS OF THE MONTH

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Turn Off Your Electronics

Take the step: If you're going to be away from your computer or other appliance for more than an hour, turn it off as you leave the room.

Why: Some people mistakenly think it takes a giant burst of energy to power up a television, computer, or game console, and so they leave these electronics on

continuously. However, even on an "energy-saver" setting, a computer, game console, or television wastes much more energy when it's on all day than if you really turn it off.

Eliminate "Phantom Load"



Take the step: Many electronics use electricity even when they're turned off—so your best bet is to unplug electronic devices and appliances when they're not in use. Or, plug your TV and accessories into one power strip and switch off the whole strip to eliminate this "phantom load."

Why: At least five percent of the average household's monthly utility bill goes towards powering devices that are turned off. TVs, DVD players, computers, printers, and cell phone chargers are just some of the devices that leak power even when they aren't on—in fact, a quarter of the energy used by your TV each year is consumed when the TV is off.

Green Team Update

The Green Team has been busy this spring carrying out the recommendations from the energy audit we had last fall. Last month, Ken Hoffman and Jim Johnston cleaned all four outside condenser units and indoor evaporator coils and replaced the indoor air filters on our heating and cooling system. We should see a big difference in the comfort levels of our building, and the amount of our electric bills too! They also repaired four roof leaks that were letting rain water in on heavy rains. Thanks, Ken and Jim! Also, Reverend Joanne should be much more comfortable in her office now, thanks to the reflecting window film Jack Reilly and Ted Glasener installed on the windows in her office

Another recommendation from the energy audit was to install ceiling fans in the sanctuary to help keep the temperature more consistent throughout the room. Thanks to Men's ministry and their generous donation to the Green Fund, two fans have been purchased and will be installed within the next week or two. There are other items on the Green Team "wish list" so please feel free to make a donation that will help us continue to make Covenant more energy efficient. Donations can be made in honor or memory of a loved one, or just because you want to support this important work!

Remember to Bring Your Food Donations for Urban Ministries...

The food pantries in Wake Co. are depleting at record amounts. Let's fill the baskets to overflowing in the church entryway with:

Canned beans (black, pinto, kidney and pork & beans)
Soups; Mac & Cheese

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

March Financial Information

General Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ (6,433.01)
Receipts	\$ 18,630.51
Disbursements	\$ 18,956.06 -
	\$
Ending Balance	\$ (6,758.56)

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:

Biller Name: Covenant Christian Church Account number: GENERAL FUND Biller Address: 2911 SW Cary Parkway Biller City, State, Zip: Cary, NC 27513-8902

Biller 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.

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

Updated Membership Directories 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 have your July Newsletter articles to me by June 18, 2009