

Covenant Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

2911 S.W. Cary Parkway Cary, NC 27513

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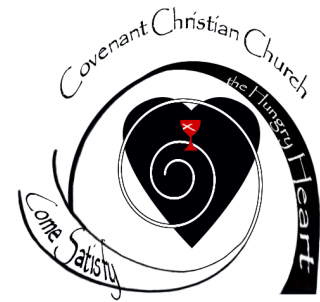
Sundays

Worship: 9:00am & 11:00am Christian Education for All Ages: 10:00am

Childcare provided for Sunday Mornings & All Programs & Activities

Volume 23 No.11

October 30, 2009



"Saints Preserve Us!"

In ancient days on All Hallow's (Saints) Eve, people would dress up in all kinds of scary costumes to literally scare away the evil spirits, cleansing one's soul and making way for the celebration of All Saints Day. I really appreciate Barbara Brown Taylor's take on All Saint's Day. She claims it as a family reunion for those in the church—a day for pulling out the old family photograph albums and remembering from whence we have come.

It's a day to remember people like St. Francis, the Patron Saint of Animals or St. Christopher, the patron Saint of travelers or St. Joan of Arc, who received the voice of God in her head and went into battle as a faithful servant of God. But more times than not when we begin to delve more deeply into the lives of those who have been deemed as saints, we discover that they were everyday people, not necessarily distinguished for their goodness, but mostly because of their extravagant love of God which seemed to shine brighter than anything else about them.

Saints do exist among us today and we may not see them immortalized in stained glass windows. We mostly see them living in our hearts and memories. They may be those who have gone before us who responded to the call to do great things for God. Who are the people you have known who fit this description?

Name these saints for you...and offer prayers of thanks for the ways they have touched your life...

Then there are everyday kinds of folks who have also gone before us; who lived among us for a while—that great cloud of witnesses who have blazed a trail of faith for us to follow. Our memory of them serves to cheer us on to faithfulness.

Name these saints for you...and offer a prayer for courage to follow...

But there are still other saints among us quite ordinary and regular; those who are seeking to be faithful and holy in the here and now; walking beside us in every day experiences and challenges as examples of faithful living.

Name these saints for you...and offer a prayer for the ability to recognize the saints among us; to be able to see the light that shines through their goodness...

And while we may never be comfortable with thinking of ourselves as saints, by The Apostle Paul's usage, we are just that—not because we're perfect, but because we're called by God to live a life of faith; and in our goodness the Light of Christ shines through. So, look in the mirror today or any day; catch a glimpse of a saint...and be grateful; take courage. But don't say you haven't been warned. Walk gently into this life of a saint, but as you do, go forth remembering: People just might expect a miracle!

Blessings, Rev. Joanne

PS. This Sunday we will celebrate All Saint's Day as we remember the saints in our lives and in the life of Covenant who have gone before us and those who live among us, right here, right now...Let us gather and remember...



One Hour--Before Bedtime this Saturday, October 31

And now a word from our Moderator...

This is the season of thanksgiving *and* opportunity. It is a designated time to give special thanks for God's abundant gifts to us and to remember no matter what our personal circumstances, we have been greatly blessed in so many ways. It is also a season when we are given many opportunities to support and help *others*.

It is therefore appropriate that the church also sets aside this time of the year for its stewardship emphasis. You have received updates in the form of your individual church contributions statement and a letter from your elected officers informing you of Covenant's financial forecast for the remainder of 2009. It is no secret that 2009 has been a challenging financial year in every walk of life and Covenant was not immune to those challenges.

We are watching income very closely, monitoring expenses and making sure that we are maximizing every dollar that is entrusted to us – that we are transforming lives and doing ministry with it. We have a collective responsibility to underwrite the mission and programs for Covenant that we set out and agreed to undertake together for 2009. I trust each of us will examine our hearts and resources and give what we can to meet our church's and others' needs.

You should also have received another letter and proposed budget by now outlining Covenant's plans for 2010 and inviting you to take advantage of the *opportunity* to – as the choir sang about Sunday – *be the eyes and hands of God* in our world for 2010. Please give prayerful consideration to your estimate of what you can give to help the church body in this place we call Covenant seize this opportunity to be *a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world [the Disciples General Church's new identity statement]* throughout 2010.

To quote Rev. Dr. Todd Adams, associate general minister and vice-president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), "The message is... we believe that we serve a God of abundance who has provided us with more than enough for what we need. Rather than succumbing to a mentality of fear, driven by scarcity, we need to live into the reality of the abundance that we have." Enough said.

Meet you on November 15th -- pledge dedication Sunday and Covenant's anniversary Sunday -- around the Lord's Table to give thanks for our blessings and to embrace our opportunities!!

Prayerfully yours, *Karen Nolan, Moderator*



Blessing of the Animals...



The bond between owners & pets is like no other relationship and we want to give thanks for this relationship with a Blessing of the Animals Celebration on All Saints Day **THIS Sunday, November 1st @ 3:30 PM** to recognize and bless all families and households who have pets. *Bring your cat, dog, hamster, rabbit, snake, etc. to the church yard and we will acknowledge and pay tribute to their undying love and commitment to you and bless them. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

****All pets must be leashed or contained in cages, fishbowls, boxes, etc. at all times so that we might promote peace among the creatures and caretakers! Water & treats will be available for ALL Creatures Great & Small; humans and pets alike. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Welcome New Members!

Susan & Gary Hunter.: 4008 Frontenac Ct, Apex NC 27539. Darla Baldwin is their Shepherding Elder

Karen Nippert: 202 Foliage Circle, Apt E, Cary NC 27518. Craig Paul is her Shepherding Elder.

Anna Boone: 421 Spartacus Ct, Cary NC 27518. Craig Paul is her Elder.

Please extend a warm Covenant welcome to All!

Recent: Hazel Brothers; Dan Castle & family; Robert Lott & family; Joe Busby's niece, Amanda; Delano Wilson; Rev. Essie Thompson; Betty Souders.

At home: Sharon Garrett; Susan Hunter; Vicky Vanderford, Nelson Wakefield; Mary Toney; Betty Johnston; Deb Nystrom;

Continuing Prayers: The Downs Family; Clai Bland;

Husband of: Shirley Sanders; **Parents of:** Mark Huncik. **Mothers of:** Jenny Miller; Betsy Mebane; Cathy Downs; Ann Hall; Phama Larsen Johnston; Teresa DeMartin; Vicky Vanderford.

Fathers of: Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller; **Daughters of:** Ken & Glenda Hoffman; Sally Shelly.

Sons of: Jim Johnston; Kathy Smith; **Grandfather of:** Jon Gaffney **Grandmothers of:** David Hamm; Vicki Wilkinson; Greg Stelmack; Carolyn Allen; **Sisters of:** Jack Reilly; Gerry Tokanel; Hazel Brothers. **Brother of:** Art Brothers. **Aunts of:** Melanie Bunn; Ann Washington; Larry Linguist.

Uncle of: Jeremy Hopkins. **Niece of:** Joe Busby; **Nephews of:** Melanie Bunn; Gerry Tokanel; Terry White. **Great-Nephew of:** Barishes; **Cousins of:** Terry White; Jeff Miller; Glenda Hoffman; Mary Lou Jackson, Elaine Fry **Sisters-in-Law of:** Hazel Brothers; Mary Lou Jackson

Remembering Others: Chris Body; Stephanie Derby; Magen Rollins, Kelly Canady, Pam Wood & Mildred Davis; General & Regional Church Leaders; NC Disciples new church starts.

Remember to contact the church office: 481-4715; covenantcc@bellsouth.net if you want any of the above names to remain on the current list after 2 weeks.

A special Thank you....

I truly appreciate all the support of my Covenant family in the recent death of my father. I especially want to thank you for the beautiful plant that you sent us...Bob & Karen Nolan

Covenant's On Facebook -- Check Us Out!

Become a Fan! Check out "CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org" and "Our Life" page; scroll to the bottom and 'become a fan' if you want more info about Covenant & what's going on!

Pecans for Sale!

Buy some today for your holiday recipes!!!

\$8.00 per bag

Checks payable to Covenant Christian Church

Memo Line: Pecans

Calling All 20 & 30 Somethings...

Do you LOVE Covenant?

Are you looking for ways to get to know each other better?

Have we got a group for you!

This year Covenant wants to engage its young adults by offering activities and classes that cater to our specific needs. One of our first events will be a **"Casting Crowns"** concert @ the RBC Center -THIS Thursday, November 5th.

We need at least 15 people to secure group pricing (\$17.50/pp). If not, the price jumps to (minimum of \$23/pp). Please contact the church office for more info/reservations:

covenantcc@bellsouth.net or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net.

Invite your family & friends - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Be on the lookout for future Young Adult events...

Covenant Christian Church Choir Presents "Child of the Light"

As part of the 11am Worship

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Save the date

Come Celebrate the Sacred Story

JOIN THE CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS...

Put the following Christmas music rehearsal dates on your calendar:

Thursdays, 7:30-9pm:

November 5, 12, 19; (Thanksgiving Break)

December 3 & 10

Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m. – Noon

(Continental Breakfast provided)

Sunday, December 13, 9:45-10:30am—

We're Thankful for Young Voices!



Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 15

COME AND BE AMAZED...and thankful for our Covenant children. On Sunday, November 15, during the 11 a.m. service, the Children's Choir will share their singing and dancing with you. They will make you smile and want to sing along - please don't miss it!



KIDS TO KIDS - SHARING OUR THANKS

On Sunday, November 15, please plan to stay for lunch after the 11 a.m. service (it's build your own sandwiches). We will be making 'thankful turkey' cards for the Carolina House residents. We will walk to and visit at the Carolina House from 1:30-2:00 p.m. (The children from the Children's Choir can share a couple of songs as well.) If you have any questions, please contact Jay or Jody Barish at 460-2820 or jodylb23@yahoo.com. Hope to see you then!

Hanging of the Greens...



The holiday season is quickly approaching and the worship committee has decided to make some slight adjustments to this year's advent activities. Our annual "Hanging of the Greens" service will be replaced with a Hanging of the Greens work session & fellowship! All Covenant members and guests are invited to join us at 3 PM on Sunday, November the 29th as we come together and decorate Covenant for this year's Advent/Christmas season.

Bring your family and friends and chime in this holiday season with us! There will be a light dinner served and plenty of time for spiritual renewal and holiday cheer. For more information or if you have any questions please contact the church office at (919) 481-4715 or e-mail Randy at randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

November 2009

Calendar for Children & Youth

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|--|--|---|
| 1 Birthday – Sara Maret 3:30 Blessing of the Animals | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Birthday – Tommy Evett 6:30 PM -Chi Rho – Lock-In | 7 9 AM Lock-In Pick-up |
| 8 12– 1:30 PM – Christmas Play Practice | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Birthday- Madeline Fry & Isabella Fry 12– 1:30 PM – Kids 2 Kids Carolina House Chi Rho/CYF: 5 P -6:30 P | 16 | 17 Birthday – Keaton Barish | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 12– 1:30 PM – Christmas Play Practice Chi Rho/CYF: 5 P -6:30 P | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Birthday- Peyton Barish <u>Thanksgiving Day</u> Church Office Closed | 27 Church Office Closed | 28 |
| 29 12– 1:30 PM – Christmas Play Practice 3 PM Hanging of the Greens-Light Supper | 30 | | | | | |

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 13th: Christmas Cantata

Dec. 20th: Holiday Tasting Party & Children's Play

**Dec. 27th: W & W INVADES
Adult Worship (11 AM)
Blessing of the Toys & Gifts**



We Had A Goolishly Good Time... THANK YOU!



Trunk or Treat was a HUGE success! Thanks to all of you who volunteered, participated, & fully supported this event. Without you it would have been impossible! A special thanks to Liz & Chris Grennan for their vision, expertise and their desire to make this best Trunk or Treat ever! It was a big event that has produced "rave" reviews from those in attendance! From the food, activities, games, and unbelievable display of decorated trunks.

THANKS TO ALL!

Who's ready for a LOCK-IN...?

Chi Rho - Who's ready for some FUN?!? On Friday- Nov. 6th @ 6:30 PM, meet at the church for a good ole-fashioned youth lock-in. Before we lock ourselves into the church - we'll take a hiatus to the bowling alley in Cary for Pizza & games. We'll make our way back to the church by 8:30 for snacks and movies the rest of the night! Pick up will be around 9 AM on Saturday. For more information contact the church office or e-mail Randy at randy-ccc@bellsouth.net



It's Begining to Look a Lot Like Christmas...



Who's ready for snowflakes, hot apple cider, caroling, and Christmas pageants? If you love this time of year, then we want you to be a part of our Christmas Play. Beginning Nov. 8th, just after 11 AM Sunday worship, all children and youth interested in participating in Covenant's annual Christmas play are invited to join us for play practice. This year's message has been written and produced by Covenant's very own Carolyn Allen & her mother and will be directed by our resident drama expert Mrs. Tracy Brown. The Christmas play is slated for Dec. 20th at Covenant Christian Church. For more information or if you have any questions please contact the church office at (919) 481-4715 or e-mail Randy at randy-ccc@bellsouth.net



Fun-d Raising Day was a Great Success! ***Thanks to All Who Helped!***

What a day! Seeing the culmination of all of our time and talents come together on the 17th of last month was really something to behold! The charming and creative handmade crafts and the delightful taste bud ticklers in the "Bakery" generated multiple "oohs and aahs" and the exclamations of "Gotta have this!" over the course of the day. Combine this with a delicious BBQ chicken lunch, great yard sale bargains, re-gift treasures, items from yesteryear, SERV chocolates and coffees, the Green Team incentive, the Youth's Butter Braid/Cookie sale, and Fun(d) Raiser truly held a recipe for success.

In the midst of all of this, what is our greatest reward? The close fellowship and community that evolves from working & playing together! Can't you still hear the laughter?

QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY (QA) June 23-27

**** Register online at www.quadrennial.org ****

North Carolina is the host for the first time ever! This international event will take place at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. Scholarship funds are available at both the local and the regional levels.

The Women's Ministry Bible Study examines the book of Joshua

Our 2nd study meets November 22nd directly after our 1100am Service as a (BYOL)-bring your own lunch. This month's lesson, ***A Leader is Called***, is based on Joshua 1:2-18;

24:1-15. Study programs are still available if you want your own personal copy. We look forward to having you join us!

Ann Washington and Marilyn Williams, Co-chairs

Here is a breakdown of the Craft Fair....

The Women's Ministry wants to thank everyone for your help, your donations & your purchases to make this years "Fun(d)" Saturday a huge success...

Here are the final figures...

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---|----------------------------------|
| Youth | 684.00 | | |
| Pecans | 200.00 | | |
| Christmas Decorations | 59.00 | } | General Fund |
| BBQ | 835.61 | | |
| Doll Raffle | 59.00 | | |
| Craft Fair | 1,302.00 | } | Women's Ministry with 12% to DMF |
| Bake Sale | 608.80 | | |
| Yard Sale | 494.85 | } | Men's Ministry with 12% to DMF |
| Antique Sale | 158.00 | | |

Again, Thank you & praise the Lord for a great day, Elaine Kennel, Chair of "Fun(d) Day"



DISCIPLES MEN OUTSTANDING !

Our Disciples Men at Covenant are doing some really good things! We supported the recent Fun-d Raising Day in a number of ways but Glen Thornton and Ken Hoffman were magnificent in their chicken cooking and meal preparations including supplying 45 plates to the entire NC State Baseball team and coaches. We made \$600 through the yard sale and antique sale. Some of that money will go to support Drew Kidwell's summer ministry and the Camp Caroline kitchen upgrades.

Thanks also to those who worked with Kids to Kids clearing the brush so that our church can be seen better from the Cary Parkway.

We will have a Men's Breakfast on Saturday, November 14 with election of officers and a raffle for 2 tickets for the State-Clemson football game that afternoon. PS: If you don't think the Men are outstanding just ask us. **God Bless, Bob Kennel, Secretary**

Outreach Ministry News



GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH....FROM THE GREEN TEAM

Did you know...

Nike gathers up old athletic shoes and turns them into a new material that they use in certain styles of shoes and also to make soft, bouncy surfaces for kids' playgrounds. Inquire at an athletic shoe retailer near you.

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A BIG **THANK YOU** IS IN ORDER!!

Week after week faithful Covenant members respond to the call for donations. Whether food items, school supplies or grocery store gift cards – you can be counted on to provide help to those in need. It is time for a formal thank you! Here are two notes we received:

The first note is from Urban Ministries, our primary partner in local outreach this year.

"You made the choice to step up and help out. Sometimes it is hard to believe that 1 in 8 of your neighbors lives in poverty. A client who reaches out to the Urban Ministries' Food Pantry for assistance may be a disabled veteran, a person who has been laid off, or an elderly woman forced to choose between groceries and rent. Your in-kind donation to our Pantry has done much to alleviate the stress and ease the pain of hunger for residents here in Wake County. We are currently providing vital nourishment for 25-40 families a day. Thank you for your support and compassion, and for believing in the mission of Urban Ministries."

Next, a note from a Cary elementary school:

"Thank you so much for your donating book bags and school supplies. All the items have found homes! The students who received them were absolutely delighted. I wish you could have seen their faces! Your donations have allowed these students to start the 2009/10 school year off with what they really needed."

Sharing our Bounty with the Hungry



What a difference you have made in these folks lives! The holidays are just around the corner and your help is still needed. Actually, it is needed more than ever. Once again we will provide Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets with grocery store gift cards (in the amount of \$25) to families in the area. They will be distributed by Urban Ministries.

Please bring the traditional items: green peas and beans, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, etc. The gift cards can be used for the families to purchase a turkey or ham.

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 birthday. 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.**"

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

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

A Note from Your Treasurer –

| For the period | August 2009 | September 2009 | Year to Date |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund Receipts | \$ 18,777 | \$ 12,323 | \$ 149,716 |
| General Fund Disbursements | <u>\$ 19,258</u> | <u>\$ 20,705</u> | <u>\$ 163,390</u> |
| Net increase (decrease) | \$ (481) | \$ (8,382) | \$ (13,674) |

Please keep in mind that Covenant's ministries continue when you're not here! Please consider mailing your contributions when you are going to be absent. Better yet, arrange for an automatic draft to your bank account (see below); and you won't have to trust to memory to write that check!

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

Kathy Smith, Treasurer

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:

Billers Name: Covenant Christian Church Account number: GENERAL FUND
Billers Address: 2911 SW Cary Parkway Billers City, State, Zip: Cary, NC 27513-8902
Billers phone number: 919-481-4715
The account number can be GENERAL FUND/NEW BUILDING FUND/or MEMORIAL FUND.
Questions? Contact Kathy Smith, Treasurer ekathys@gmail.com

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

Updated Membership Directories are always available via email... just let me know 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 December Newsletter articles to me by **November 13**, **due to the holidays**.