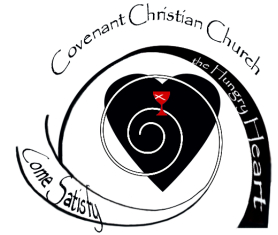


**Covenant Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
2911 S.W. Cary Parkway, Cary, NC 27513  
Phone: 919-481-4715 Fax: 919-481-4016  
Email: [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net) Web: [www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org](http://www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org)



**Sundays:**  
9:00am & 11:00am Worship  
10:00am Christian Education for All Ages  
(Childcare provided for All Programs & Activities)

**Volume 24 No.2**

**January 29, 2010**

***Let Us Journey to Jerusalem Together...***

It's hard to believe that it's only been 5 weeks since we celebrated the birth of the Christ Child. According to the gospels, Jesus has grown up rather quickly before our very eyes: he was dedicated in the Temple; visited by the Magi; read scripture in the synagogue at age 12; baptized by John and led into the wilderness to encounter the Tempter, by the same Spirit that appeared at his baptism.

And we are soon to begin the season of Lent, that leads us to the wonder and joy of Easter morning! Lent lasts for 7 weeks; 40 days & nights (not counting Sundays, the day we celebrate Christ's Resurrection). We'll begin with Jesus' time in the wilderness and in the weeks ahead we are invited to walk the path of faith learning from this Jesus as he teaches, preaches, heals and as he dares to question and rebel against the status quo and powers that be.

We will begin our Lenten journey to Jerusalem with an Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:30pm (childcare provided); as we receive the ashen sign of the cross, reminding us of our common humble beginnings and our common end. During the weeks that follow, Jesus bids us follow; promising to be with us giving us strength and courage to grow in faith and daring us to take a closer look at how you and I choose to live our lives; wrestling with what we are willing to die for; but even more important, what we are willing to live for.

Let us begin this journey together... **Blessings, Joanne**

<< << << << << <<



**Join Our Youth as we FIGHT HUNGER!**

Covenant's youth are transforming Super Bowl weekend, with youth from around the country, into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving through the Souper Bowl of Caring to help feed the hungry. Here's what's going to happen: Sunday, February 7, the youth will have 3 soup pots ready to receive your donations to help feed the hungry in our community by voting for your favorite Super Bowl team (or not):

1) Indianapolis Colts; 2) New Orleans Saints and 3) "I really don't care who wins!"

Everyone is also encouraged to bring cans of soup to put in the basket in the church entryway. Every dollar Covenant raises and every can of soup will be given to Urban Ministries of Wake County. Souper Bowl of Caring is endorsed by NFL owners and has seen over \$50 million given to neighbors in need.

***Join us as we work hard to fight hunger in the Cary and surrounding areas!***

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

### ***Good News about Year-end 2009 and Exciting Days Ahead for 2010***

I write to you with much sincere appreciation for your support for the ministries of Covenant Christian Church throughout 2009 in ways too numerous to mention here. I'm reminded of the children's finger play: "Here's the church; here's the steeple; open the door and see the people." Hillary says *it takes a village*. I would add that it takes all *the people* to make our church THE Church God is calling us to be.

You have only to read any Thursday email Calendar of Events or this newsletter to know there are multiple opportunities for fellowship, outreach, personal and spiritual growth at Covenant because of the commitment of dozens of people *who make it happen*.

#### ***First, the Good News about Year-end 2009:***

Because of prudent budgeting and spending policies, extra fund-raising projects, and the generosity of all of you throughout the year; as well as some very special over and above gifts in the last months of 2009 – we ended 2009 with General Fund income exceeding expenses by about \$6,000! This allowed us to decrease the deficit from prior years to only (\$1,265) in a year of national and international economic woes.

Recently we learned that our generosity in support of our Disciples Mission Fund, Covenant is among the top 250 of all Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in the US & Canada! And we rank #4 out of 9 among Disciples congregations in our NC region. We gave a total of \$24,840 to Disciples Mission Fund through our monthly Outreach contributions, Week of Compassion Ministry (general and designated); Reconciliation Ministry and the Special Day offerings: Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving & Christmas.

***And there's more....***We also gave \$4,485 for local outreach causes (see Outreach Ministry article pg.4; exceeding a tithe (10%) of our total budget which the Old Testament suggests as a starting point for giving back. *From our Statement of Calling: We believe outreach and service to others ... is an essential response to God's love and care for each of us. Thank you for your commitment to others.*

***Thank you for your commitment to Covenant and to serving others beyond our walls!***

#### ***And finally there are Exciting Days Ahead for 2010!***

The F.E.A.P. (Facilities Evaluation and Planning) Team is ready to present their preliminary findings and recommendations to the congregation, **this Sunday morning, February 7, during the 10:00am Sunday School hour**. Please plan to attend as we receive their report and building recommendations and see concept drawings of what "could be;" and to offer your feedback as well.

***There are also two additional Focus Groups*** at the church, scheduled for the week following this presentation: ***Wednesday evening, February 10 at 7:00pm; and Thursday morning, February 11 at 9:30am.*** Your participation at the congregational gathering and one of the Focus groups is important and crucial to living out our ministry & mission as we prepare to move into God's future in the decade ahead. ; striving always to be a faithful, growing, dynamic faith community.

I look forward to sharing with you in these exciting days and months ahead as together we strive to be the faithful, growing, dynamic faith community God calls us to be...

***"Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. (through Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Cary, NC); It's bursting out! Don't you see it? (Isaiah 43: 19).***

**Karen Nolan, Moderator**

# Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

## Welcome New Members!

With great joy, we received into membership:

Sunday, January 10:

**Karen Kelly:** 4008 Frontenac Ct, Apex 27539; 919-803-0466; kkelly021@gmail.com.

Shepherding Elder: Ted Glasener.

**Jen Miller:** 202 Foliage Circle, Apt E, Cary 27518; 317-750-6851; jm4246@yahoo.com.

Shepherding Elder: Dennis Duryea.

Sunday, January 24:

**Sean Lowers:** 421 Spartacus Ct, Cary 27518; 919-795-1857; sean-pbo@nc.rr.com .

Shepherding Elder: Darla Baldwin

**Thomas Magliocca:** 1310 Boxwood Lane, Apex, 27502-4722; 919-303-4722.

Shepherding Elder: Alan Wilkinson

Please extend a warm Covenant welcome to All!

**Our Love & prayers are with: Cathy, Don, Timothy & Christopher Downs** in the recent death of Cathy's mother, Alice Sanslone in Washington, DC; **Jim Siers & Lanette Lind** in the recent death of Jim's mother, Audrey Siers, earlier this month, in New Bern, NC

**Congratulations to: Bob Kennel**, 2010 recipient of the NC State Wolfpack Club's Ronnie Shavlik Award; the highest honor for a former student-athlete; **Jeff Miller**, who will present his research paper in New Orleans, LA; **Fatima Lucia Falcone** (formerly Ana Chavez-Rocio Anderson's mother) in becoming a US Citizen, January 15; **Kathy Smith** in birth of her grandson, Logan Noah Smith, January 25, in N. Hollywood, CA

**Recent:** Eskelund family; Don Styles (friend of Mary Lou Jackson); Nick & Gwen Mangione (friends of Angie Ballard); Rev. Lois Artis, Silver Springs, MD; Amarvi Thompson; Linda Stone (Laura Holste's mother); Mary Toney & Susan Hunter upcoming surgeries, February 1

**Continuing Prayers:** Sharon Garrett; Marian Crowe at home; Nelson Wakefield; Deb Nystrom; Betty Johnston; Martha Ross at home...

**Parents:** Phama Larsen Johnston; **Mothers:** Vicky Vanderford; Ann Hall; **Fathers:** Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller; Mark Huncik. **Sons:** Jim Johnston; Kathy Smith; **Grandson:** Essie Thompson; **Grandmother:** Vicki Wilkinson; **Sisters:** Jack Reilly; Gerry Tokanel; Hazel Brothers. **Brother:** Art Brothers. **Aunts:** Melanie Bunn; Ann Washington; **Uncles:** Vicki Wilkinson; Jeremy Hopkins, Chris & Liz Grennan. **Niece:** Joe Busby; **Nephews:** Gerry Tokanel; Terry White. **Great-Nephew:** Barishes; **Cousins:** Sharon Garrett; Terry White; Jeff Miller; Glenda Hoffman; Mary Lou Jackson; Elaine Fry. **Sisters-in-Law:** Alan Wilkinson; Mary Lou Jackson; Terry White; Hazel Brothers.

**Remembering Others:** Eve Griffith, Denise Pilkington; Susan Shadle; Rev. Leonard Smith; co-worker of Renié Palmer; Chris Westbrook; Caren Carver; Leonard Scott; Jerry Bowser; Bo Skough; Clai Bland; Robert Lott & family; Betty Souders. Delano Wilson; 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](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net) if you want any of the above names to remain on the current list after 2 weeks.**

## Outreach Ministry News

### There is great rejoicing here at Covenant!

Check out what WE were able to do together by serving those in our community and region during 2009:

Support for a Burmese family; CROP Walk; Habitat for Humanity; Helen Wright Center; Interfaith Food Shuttle thru our Garden of Hope; Project Linus; Urban Ministries; Food Pantry; Disciples Men's campus project & Camp Caroline Kitchen fund; Lutheran Family Services; Heifer Project; Green Fund...for a grand total of \$4485! Wow!

Last November & December, Covenant has been very generous in helping people with emergency needs through our support of Urban Ministries. During the holiday seasons providing assistance to those in need is often at the front of our minds.

But we know the same need is present year-round! So, although we need you to continue to bring food each week throughout the year, during 2010, your Outreach Team will also be working with Urban Ministries to meet special needs through their emergency assistance programs. We'll be letting you know the different ways we can pitch in together and help all year through. Our first project involves the donation of gently used children's books at our "**Love Your Mother Earth**" lunch—details below...

### LOVE YOUR MOTHER EARTH



### CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY WITH COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH(Disciples of Christ)

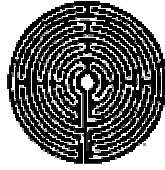
**FEBRUARY 14, after 11:00a Worship**

**The Green Team is sponsoring the party! Everyone is invited!  
Lunch will be provided!**

There will be fun activities for the children and adults will have the opportunity to learn more about how global warming actually affects all of us right here in North Carolina. **Your cost to attend this event?** Gently used children's books! (new books or donations to buy books will work too!)

Urban Ministries collects these books to be used in their Crisis Help waiting room, their Clinic waiting room and in emergency food boxes. At Covenant the Green Team is always eager to find ways to re-cycle...and collecting gently used books is a wonderful way to provide them for children who would otherwise not have any. We're always interested in new to re-cycle too!

**Your Outreach Coordinators, Marian** [jimarian@nc.rr.com](mailto:jimarian@nc.rr.com) & **Rob** [rthompsonct@aol.com](mailto:rthompsonct@aol.com)



## Covenant's Worship Ministry Invites YOU to Travel the Labyrinth of Lent...

Labyrinths are found all around the world in many cultures and civilizations. Often used as a symbol of the path of the soul through Christian life, a labyrinth has only one path that twists its way to the center and back out again. There is only one entrance and exit, there are no dead ends, and the paths never intersect.

Lent is a time when we look inward, taking stock of our shortcomings, foibles, and flaws. Much like walking into a labyrinth, it is the season in church life when we go deep into ourselves and reexamine our values. It is also the time leading up to the most holy of days, as we celebrate Easter and claim our identity in Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection give us hope and remind us to move outside ourselves and share the good news with the world.

Join us as together we journey into Lent's labyrinth, and emerge from this time of introspection to find the promise of Easter waiting.



### Chocolate for Lent...A Creative Approach to Your Lenten Journey

Who says you have to give up chocolate for Lent? Who says you cannot enjoy the challenges that call us to look deep within our very souls? Who says you cannot indulge the cravings of your soul? By popular demand, all members, guests and friends are invited to participate in the Lenten study, **Chocolate for Lent**, by Hilary Brand; led by Rev. VerBurg.

"Using themes from the 2000 Academy Award nominated film **Chocolat**, this unique approach offers us the opportunity to explore deeper insights into self-discipline, self-giving, conversion, acceptance and maturing in Christ. Delving into the delicious depths of humanity, **Chocolate for Lent**, is like no other study!" (back cover, *Chocolate for Lent*).

To get us started, we'll have a movie night, in the sanctuary, Sunday, February 21, 4-6p to view **Chocolat**. Everyone is invited, no matter if you plan to share in the study or not. It's a great way to begin our Lenten journey...Then there will be 2 options for the 5 week study that follows:

*Sunday afternoons, 4-6pm beginning February 28- March 28; and  
Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30a, beginning February 25-March 25  
Childcare & Chocolates provided ☺*

We'll conclude our study by sharing in a yummy Chocolate Feast soon after Easter Sunday!

*Plan now to take up Chocolate for Lent—no calories and none of the guilt!*

### ***Seekers Sunday School Class Relocate Temporarily***

Beginning Sunday, January 31 through February 21, the Seekers Sunday School class will meet in one corner of the Sanctuary to make room for the Disciples 101 class. Also note that Karen Kelly, a seminarian and a new member of Covenant, will facilitate the classes' discussion of the lectionary scriptures for three Sundays: February 14, 21, and 28. Meeting time is 10am. Come one and all to welcome and enjoy Karen's leadership, insights & questions for discussion.

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### ***Just a Reminder...from the "Hot Topics" Class***

Adults of any age are welcome to join the class in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. We alternate our discussions between "Living the Questions" and "hot topics" from the media and individual's suggestions. Don't miss this opportunity for some thought-provoking exchanges on perspectives of God and Christianity in today's world.

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## **RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD & Covenant's Kids**



It's not a stretch to say that at Covenant, we strive to be active participants in our community and world. We encourage our families to look at the "BIG picture" and fully understand what it means to be Christian and what it means to ACT like a Christian. As Disciples we don't stop at a textbook definition of what it means to believe – we ask the hard questions and strive to find the answers.

At Covenant we believe our children would benefit from similar practices therefore our Kids 2 Kids (elementary aged children) program is dedicating 4 months of it's up-coming programming to focus on various Religions of the World. During the months of January, February, March, & April our children will be traveling to other places of worship to not only tour their facility & learn about the their faith tradition/beliefs (& vice versa), but to participate in a joint service project that will benefit the Triangle, NC community as well.



Our Kids to Kids director Jody Barish has been hard at work to put this plan into action and the bodacious project is well underway.

**The goal of this project is simple:**

- 1) to educate our children to the truly diverse nature of this world &**
- 2) to expound upon their understanding of their own faith/Christian beliefs.**

In February, our journey continues as we trek west to Morrisville's Hindu Temple and together participate in a "Project Linus" service project to benefit children in local hospitals by providing them with warm, comfy blankets while they endure physical hardship and stress.

While visiting our neighbors in the Morrisville Temple, our children will learn that most Hindus worship one or more deities, believe in reincarnation, value the practice of meditation, and observe festive holidays like Diwali and Holi.

# February 2010

## Calendar for Children & Youth



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Birthday- Jadzia Hamm	6 Birthdays- Magaina Hamm Garrick Hamm
7 Birthday – Tessa Rutledge  11 AM – SOUPER BOWL OF CARING  5:30 to 7:00 PM – CHI RHO	8	9	10	11	12 Birthday – Timothy Downs	13 Birthday – Noah Kiser
14 Birthday- Jasmine Cowan	15	16 Birthdays- Christopher Hinton Charlie Linguist	17 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> (Service – 7:30)	18 Birthday – Andrew Stiles	19 Birthday- Hannah Kennel	20
21  5:30 to 7:00 PM – CHI RHO	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

## Upcoming Events

February – TBD: K2K – “World Religions” Service Project

April 3rd: Easter Egg Hunt

March – TBD: K2K – “World Religions” – Service Project

April 16-th – 18<sup>th</sup>: Chi Rho Regional Assembly (Wilmington)





## ***Women's Ministries Quarterly Breakfast***

***Saturday, February 6 8:30-10:30 AM***

***Guest Speaker: Reverend Carol Steffa***

***MIND BODY and SPIRIT***

***All are Welcome!***

***Childcare will be available...call the Church office***

***Cookbooks Are Still Available! Come to the Table*** is comprised of "tried and true" recipes from our own Covenant families! Don't miss this chance to pick up a copy for yourself & several to share with friends! The cookbooks are \$10.00 per copy.

***QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY (QA) June 23-27***

***Koury Convention Center Greensboro***

***This international event is coming to North Carolina! All are invited!***

- ◆ Meet Disciples Women from across the globe!
- ◆ Enjoy Workshops, Music, Worship, Study, Mission and Fellowship
- ◆ We are 50+ years young. 2010 is our 14<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial!
- ◆ Our own Melanie Bunn and Robin Miller are Workshop presenters!
- ◆ One-day events are available!

***Please check out our website: [www.quadrennial.org](http://www.quadrennial.org) & See what the excitement's all about!***

## ***Women's Ministries Bible Study***

Join us on February 28<sup>th</sup> as we continue to explore the book of Joshua!

We meet directly after the 11:00am service as a BYOL(bring your own lunch). Program material is still available for all. This month's lesson, ***Entry Into the Land***, is based on Joshua 3-5. We look forward to seeing you there!

## ***Looking Ahead...***

***Regional Assembly for The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)***

***April 16-18 Wilmington NC***

Don't pass up this opportunity to attend our NC Regional Assembly. It's a chance to meet Disciples from all over our state, to learn more about our denomination as well as play on our North Carolina coast! Want to know more? Website: [www.ncdisciples.com](http://www.ncdisciples.com)

***The Regional Women's Ministry Luncheon Meets April 17<sup>th</sup>***

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on Saturday! In addition to great food and fellowship, we will receive updates on the Regional happenings in Women's Ministries. All local WM church groups (including us!) will present information on all mission and service projects that were accomplished during our 2009-2010 program year. Let's make Covenant proud!

***Thanks for all that you do to help make Women's Ministries a success!***

***Ann Washington & Marilyn Williams, Co-chairs***





## Disciple Men Energetic in the New Decade

The Covenant Disciple Men met in December and elected new officers: President: Ted Glasener; Secretary: Bob Kennel. In 2009 we provided \$200 to Campus Outreach Ministries through Drew Kidwell and \$500 to Camp Caroline for kitchen repairs.

We had a January 16 Planning Breakfast at Ted Glasener's home with 12 present and then went to the NC State-Clemson Men's Basketball Game.

In 2010 we will be supporting :

- Warmth for Wake-chopping & delivering wood to folks who need it for warmth and cooking on Saturday, February 13 @ 8:30a
- Green Team projects:
- "Love Your Mother Earth Celebration February 14;
- The ongoing garden project;
- Earth Stewardship Day, April 25;
- Cleaning out of the underbrush between Cary Parkway and the church grounds.

We also discussed a new Bible study series in the near future.

*Bob Kennel, Secretary*

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### **January Financial Report**

***The final figures for December, 2009 and year end will be submitted at a later date in the bulletin and February newsletter***

**Kathy Smith, Treasurer**

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### ***And Now 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 submit your articles by Wednesday, February 17...***