

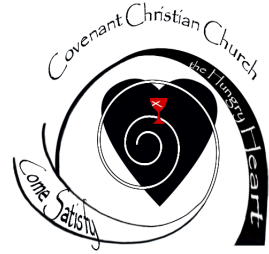
## Covenant Christian Church

(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.3**

**February 26, 2010**

### ***Tell Me a Story...Please...***

If you are around young children for any given time, it doesn't take long before you hear, "Tell me a story" or "Read me a story." Children of all ages just love stories. Last Sunday while viewing the film, *Chocolat*, there was a scene where Anouk begs her mother, Vianne, "Tell me the story of grandpère and grandmère...Please..." (Tell me the story about my grandparents); obviously a story that delighted Anouk and that her mother has told her over and over again during her young life.

Effective storytelling is an art form, even though one doesn't have to be a preacher or teacher or professional storyteller to tell a good story. Some of the best stories I have ever heard have been shared by mountain people living in the hollers of Appalachia; or tales told by older family members and friends. Stories are what connect us to our past and bring meaning to our present. Stories deepen our cultural experiences and help us relate to historical times.

Recently I had the privilege of participating in a small group experience, "*Sustaining Pastoral Excellence*," where the 6 participants during a 2 year period learned the power of story as we shared bits and pieces of our own life stories. What a great way to learn about one another. Richard Hester and Kelli Walker-Jones, the leaders, remind us that we "live in story;" We understand ourselves and our world by means of story. Our personal stories hold together the past, present and future. Our memories come to us in story...(Know Your Story and Lead with It, Hester and Walker-Jones).

God is a great storyteller...God's story is a story of action, romance and intriguing mystery; unfolding right before our very eyes. Tales of long ago holding meaning and purpose since time began... ageless; timeless; built upon God's relationship with God's own people. Scriptures are filled with these stories as we see God at work in the people of the First Testament as well as God at work in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus and the stories and letters that follow in the New Testament. God's story has been unfolding for over 2 millennia and to make it a bit more personal, God's story has been at work in the lives of those whom we love and have loved among our family and friends.

And God's story is in you and in me...we too have our memories and traditions and life experiences filled with God's presence; God at work in our lives as God reveals God's own self, ever-present; ever-faithful; creating stories within us; stories waiting to unfold...here and now...

The quiet, meditative season of Lent is moving along and moving us along as we make our way to Jerusalem, the cross and beyond to God's miracle of Jesus' resurrection...and we return to the stories of faith over and over again...attempting to hear them afresh.

As we travel our Lenten journey, may we not only seek to hear the old, old stories, made new; may we also be attentive to God's story being woven with divine care and compassion in our own stories. Let us take some "holy time out" of our frantic and frenetic lives to say, "Tell me a story, God...Puhleeese..." And then dare to sit and listen and grow in our relationship with the Divine Storyteller...

**Blessings, Joanne**

# Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

**Recent:** Christopher Downs; Rev. Essie Thompson; Deb Nystrom; Paul Kessel; Mann Mullin (Phama Larsen Johnston's brother); Linda Stone (Laura Holste's mother); The Davis family (friends of Kathy Smith); Danny Prochazka (friend of the Kennel's)

**Continuing Prayers:** Sharon Garrett; Nelson Wakefield; Betty Johnston; Mary Toney

**Parents:** Phama Larsen Johnston; **Mothers:** Vicky Vanderford; Ann Hall; Betsy Mebane;  
**Fathers:** Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller; Mark Huncik. **Sons:** Jim Johnston; **Grandmother:** Vicki Wilkinson;  
**Sisters:** Gerry Tokanel; Kathy Smith; Hazel Brothers. **Brother:** Art Brothers. **Aunts:** Melanie Bunn;  
Ann Washington; **Uncles:** 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; Terry White;  
Hazel Brothers.

**Remembering Others:** Rev. Nan Cheek; Chris Westbrook; Bo Skough; Clai Bland; Betty Souders; Don Styles; Magen Rollins, Kelly Canady, 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.**

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## Women's Ministries Bible Study Meets Twice

All Covenant women members & guests are invited to gather together for a bible study based on the Book of Joshua, Sundays March 7 AND March 28. We will meet directly after 11am worship. BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch) We look forward to seeing you there!

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Annual Lecture Series Offered at Barton College in Wilson

**E.G. Purcell, Jr. Lecture: Sunday, March 7**

3:00pm: “Saint Job,” and 4:30pm: “What Would Job Do?”

Lecturer: Dr. Samuel E. Balentine, Professor of Old Testament; Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA

**Thedford G. and Woodrow W. Sprinkle Lectures:** *Literature and the Pastoral Imagination*

Monday, March 8, 7:30pm

"Stories for a Fearful Time: Ian McEwan's *Saturday*& Laura Kask's *In a Perfect World*"

Tuesday, March 9, 11am

"Visions of the End: Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* & Margaret Atwood's *The Year of the Flood*"

Lecturer : Dr. Stephanie Paulsell, Houghton Professor of the Practice of Ministry Studies Harvard Divinity School

A luncheon follows Dr. Paulsell's morning lecture. Cost for the meal is \$5.00 per person.

**If you are interested in attending either/both Sprinkle Lectures, contact Rev. VerBurg:**  
**[joanne-ccc@bellsouth.net](mailto:joanne-ccc@bellsouth.net)**

**Covenant's Worship Ministry Invites YOU to Join Us  
As We Continue 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.

Next time you're in worship, Look Up! You'll see a symbol of the Labyrinth. Join us as together we continue the journey into Lent's labyrinth, and emerge from this time of introspection to find the promise of Easter waiting.



## Our Own Home & Garden Workshop at Covenant!

Want to learn how to raise your beds? Garden beds, that is...Ken Hoffman has invited a garden expert to teach us how to build raised bed garden boxes on Saturday, March 6 @ 10am. As in the recent past, the sale of the yield from our Garden of Hope will be given to the Interfaith Food Shuttle. Now we are looking for folks who will do the same with your home gardens—satellite gardens. So, along with growing produce for yourself, we are also encouraging you to grow produce that can then be brought to Church, purchased by our members & friends and giving the money to the Interfaith Food Shuttle. Come learn more about it and *“take up your bed and walk”* home and start planting! ☺

## Chocolate for Lent Continues...

## A Creative Approach to Your Lenten Journey

This study is based on the movie *Chocolat*...we will meet for the 5 week study each Sunday, February 28- March, 4-6pm. Even if you cannot make all 5 sessions, come on anyway! *Childcare & Chocolates provided* 😊

***Note: the daytime class has been cancelled.***

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

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



## Looking Ahead to Lent & Easter:

Chocolate for Lent Study, Sundays:	February 28-March 28, 4-6p
Holy Thursday Worship:	April 1, 7:30p
Easter Morning	April 4: Sunrise Service/Breakfast; 11am Worship/Cantata

**NO Sunday School; No 9am worship**

**Childcare available for all services except Sunrise Worship**



## Announcing Covenant Christian Church's New Scrip Fundraiser Program!

We're pleased to share some exciting news about a new fundraising program for Covenant Christian Church. It's called "Scrip", and it's the fundraising program that works while you shop.

Scrip is simply a word that means "substitute money" – in other words, scrip is gift certificates and gift cards from national and local retailers. They're the same gift certificates and gift cards that you buy at the store. Many popular retailers participate in our scrip program including J.C. Penney, Bath & Body Works, The Gap, Shell, Pizza Hut, Red Lobster, Carrabba's, Starbuck's, and many, many others.

You're probably asking yourself how these stores help us raise money. It's simple -- scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount. Member families like yours buy the certificates for full face value, they redeem them for full face value, and Covenant keeps the difference as revenue. And scrip is exciting, because everybody wins:

- The retailer gets cash up front and repeat business...
- You get a powerful fundraising alternative that involves no selling...
- Covenant gets a regular source of revenue.

The beauty of scrip is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for our church without spending a single additional penny. Just spend your regular shopping dollars with scrip at the stores that participate in the scrip program! And scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline, and even dining out.

So how do you participate? After each service, we will have a table set up with Scrip volunteers to help you place your order (you will need to pay for your order at this time). Once we have collected everyone's orders we will place one, large order from the Great Lakes Scrip Center. The following Sunday your order will be ready to be picked up! It really is that easy. We are planning on placing an order every week, so there are lots of opportunities for you to participate. You can use these gift cards and certificates for your own personal shopping or as gifts for other people.

We will be placing our first order Sunday, March 7. Visit [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) for more information and to view the full list of participating retailers. You may also contact Robin Miller, Covenant's Scrip Coordinator at 852-3986 or [doghowse@msn.com](mailto:doghowse@msn.com) if you have any other questions.

The Scrip Team  
Robin Miller, Kathy Smith, Ted Glasener, Priscilla Glasener

## KIDS2KIDS IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Join us Saturday, March 13, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. for Kid's Day at the Food Bank

For those of you who haven't participated before, they give us a tour of the warehouse (where the food comes from & all the people it helps); then they put us to work (filling boxes with food to help those in need). It's a wonderful learning experience & the kids love it!

We have 25 spots to fill so please let us know you can come!

Questions? Please contact Jay or Jody Barish at [jodylb23@yahoo.com](mailto:jodylb23@yahoo.com).

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



As we seek to discover more about our friends of other faiths, during March & April, our Kids2Kids ministry will be traveling to other places of worship to not only tour their facility & learn about the their faith traditions/beliefs (& vice versa), but to participate in a joint service project that will benefit the Triangle, NC community as well.

Our Kids to Kids coordinator, 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.**

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, at 1:30p, 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.





## Easter Extravaganza and Egg Hunt!

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 Saturday, April 3rd and conclude by 11:30 AM. Parents wanting to know more about this event or want to inquire about volunteer opportunities don't hesitate to contact Randy Holste @ 481-4715 for further details.

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



meet  
of

Chi Rho - Who's ready for some FUN?!? On Friday- March 12th @ 7 PM, at the church for a good ole-fashioned youth lock-in. We'll have a night full of food, movies, games, & worship! We will have a light breakfast on Saturday morning; pick up will be 9 AM. Bring yourself & bring your friends! You'll love it!

For more information contact the church office or e-mail Randy at [randy-ccc@bellsouth.net](mailto:randy-ccc@bellsouth.net). More info will be e-mailed to you at a later date!



## Regional Assembly Anyone?

Calling all CHI RHO! This spring (April 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>) The Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be meeting in Wilmington for a time of Food, Fellowship, & Fun! This will be my first trip and I am stoked about it - I hope you are too! We'll meet Disciples youth from all over North Carolina. We'll play games, worship, and eat together all weekend long. There will be a Keynote speaker for the weekend and plenty of songs and skits for all.

If you looking to try something new and are tired of the same-old, same-old **THIS IS THE TRIP FOR YOU**. You'll see friends you met at St. Paul's during our January Lock-In and make new ones as well! More information about this event will make its way to your "inbox" so keep your eyes peeled. Simply save the date for now so that you don't accidentally plan something for that weekend. For more information please contact Randy @ the church office or email him at [randy-ccc@bellsouth.net](mailto:randy-ccc@bellsouth.net)

# March 2010

## Calendar for Children & Youth



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Birthday – Alex Rivers	5 Birthday – Deja Francis	
7 Birthday – Stephen Wilkinson 2 PM -Kids 2 Kids –Hindu Temple 3:30 – 6 PM CHI RHO at St. Paul's CC	8	9	10	11	12 7 PM: CHI RHO Lock - In	13 9 AM: CHI RHO Lock-In Pick-up!
14 Birthday – Andy Ivanov	15	16	17	18	19	20 Birthday – Anastasia Huncik
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 5:30 – 7 PM CHI RHO	29	30 Birthday – Jade Brown	31			

### Upcoming Events

\*April– TBD: K2K – “World Religions” (Beth Shalom)      \*May-TBD:K2K – “World Religions” (Islamic Center)

\*April- 3rd: Easter Extravaganza & Egg Hunt      \*April-16-th – 18<sup>th</sup>: Chi Rho Regional Assembly (Wilmington)





## Women's Ministries News

### Let's Get Cooking!

Covenant's very own cookbook, *Come to the Table*, is comprised of our own recipe favorites! Pick up a copy for yourself and several to share with friends! The cookbooks are \$10.00 per copy.

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

*Koury Convention Center*

*Greensboro, NC*

*Meet Disciples Women*



*from across the globe!*

*Feeling creative? Check out **Bras for a Cause** on our website!  
This fun project truly is a means of support!*

*Made the decision to go to Quadrennial? Call the church office and let us know!*

*Not yet decided....curious? We want you to join us!*

*Visit our website and see what the excitement is all about!*

[www.quadrennial.org](http://www.quadrennial.org)

*We have scholarship funds to share with our Covenant women.*

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### *Looking ahead...**Women's Ministries Quarterly Breakfast***

*Saturday, April 10th 8:30-10:30 AM*

*A babysitter is available.*

*Plan now to join us as we continue to explore the theme*

***MIND BODY and SPIRIT***

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

**April 16-18 Wilmington NC**

Our Biennial Regional Assembly is a chance to meet Disciples from all over our state, to learn more about our denomination and play on our North Carolina coast! Want to know more? Visit our NC Regional Church website [www.ncdisciples.com](http://www.ncdisciples.com)

### ***The Regional Women's Ministry Luncheon Meets Saturday April 17***

Plan to join us for food, fellowship and updates on the regional happenings in Women's Ministries. Mission and service projects accomplished by each Women's Group within our state for the 2009-2010 program year will be presented at this time. Interested? Contact Ann or Marilyn or our church office for more information.

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

***Ann Washington and Marilyn Williams co-chairs***





## Disciples Men Are Good to Have Around!

Sounds boastful doesn't it? But what it means is that you'll just have to see for yourself. Come on out for the Warmth for Wake wood cutting/delivery Saturday, February 27; meet at the church at 8:15 to carpool or 9a at East Raleigh Yard  
Waste: 900 New Hope Rd.

We'll be following up with some more wood cutting on Saturday March 20 as we get the church "spruced" up for Easter and making us more visible from Cary Parkway. We'll return to our monthly breakfast meetings in April and May with several exciting programs planned. Let's make President Ted Glasener proud of us. ***God Bless, Bob Kennel (Secretary)***

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### Treasurer's Report

The financial reports for 2009 are complete and are available to anyone who would like this information. A few paper copies are in the entryway, but in the interests of being "earth friendly" our primary distribution method is via email. Please contact me at [ekathys@gmail.com](mailto:ekathys@gmail.com) or call me at 363-6313 if you would like either a paper or email copy.

Also, we will continue to provide a monthly summary of our income and expenses in the bulletins and newsletters. Board members automatically received full reports on a monthly basis, and anyone else in the congregation who is interested in receiving those reports can be added to that distribution list. Again, just contact me by email or phone!

#### Our summary report for January, 2010:

\*Needed Monthly Income: \$20,543  
Contributions Received for January \$13,046  
Other General Fund Income Received for January \$3

Total Year to Date General Fund Income: \$13,049  
Total Year to Date General Fund Expenses: \$18,245  
Net (\$ 5,196)

Week of Compassion Haiti Relief through Feb 15: \$4,660 WOW! ☺

\*The "needed monthly income" represents the average amount necessary to cover our budgeted expenses. That is, since we anticipate that our total expenses for the year will be \$246,512, we need to average \$20,543 on a monthly basis to break even at year end. **Kathy Smith, Treasurer**

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#### *And Now a Word from Mary Lou...*

**Updated Membership Directories** are always available via email; 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 Friday, March 19**