



Covenant Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Give Thanks with A Grateful Heart...

Recently I shared with you the favorite prayers of the writer, Ann Lamott:

"Help me, help me, help me!"

"Thank you, thank you, thank you!" (and she later added a third prayer):

"Wow!"

I don't know about you, but this works for me as a great way to move through each day...and there isn't one day that you and I experience, regardless of how it may unfold, that doesn't merit offering up each one of these prayers. Lately though, I find my "Wows" taking precedence over my cries for help and my thanks for everything in the midst of taking in the majestic splendor of these fall days.

As we move into the time of year when we seem to more deliberately emphasize offering our thanks, my grateful heart is filled to overflowing with "Wow!" for this community of faith we call Covenant Christian Church.

While we are in the midst of planning an exciting 2011 as we prepare to celebrate our 25th anniversary, we have so many reasons to celebrate THIS year:

As a church family, Sunday, November 14, we will first gather for worship at 9a and 11a, giving thanks to God for the myriad of blessings that we continue to receive; as we sit around decorated tables that will invite us to share Communion with those seated near us.

Immediately following the 11am worship we invite all members & guests to share in a traditional Thanksgiving meal:

- ***Hams & Turkeys, Breads & Beverages will be provided.***
- ***Each household is asked to sign up on the easel pad in the entryway, whatever food(s) you will be bringing.***

And the celebration doesn't begin and end with full bellies & great conversations...

Our recently chosen architects from ADW will be our special guests as they unveil for the first time, the drawings for our proposed new sacred space! All the more reason for you to be here and share in the excitement of this day!

So many blessings...so many prayers of thanks...so many "Wows!" God is good, all the time...all the time, God is good...Let us gather together to praise God with grateful hearts...

Blessings, Rev. Joanne



One Hour--Before Bedtime THIS Saturday, November 6

Covenant Work Day!



This Saturday, November 6, 8a-11a

We would love to have every available, man, woman, youth and children (Kids2Kids) join us for the morning! Property co-chairs Todd & Jennifer Beaufort, have great plans for sprucing up our building & grounds. It's OUR church home and the way we take care of it, shows how much it means to us to have a building and yard that enhances our worship, outreach & fun times. We all need to help keep the building and property looking great and functioning at its best all the time, but especially as we prepare for our Anniversary Sunday and the upcoming holidays. Plan now to help! Bring work gloves and garden tools!



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, **THIS Sunday, November 7@ 3:00 PM**. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

**Bring your cat, dog, hamster, rabbit, snake, etc. to the church yard and we will bless them & pay tribute to their undying love and commitment to you.

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 caregivers! ☺ Water & treats will be available for ALL Creatures Great & Small; humans and pets alike. **ALL ARE WELCOME!

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Important Building Committee Update!

The Building Committee has determined that we should use a "team build" approach for the new sanctuary. With this approach, the architect and builder are brought on board early in the process, and work together in the design. By having the builder on board early, we have more control over the building costs.

We have selected an architect (ADW Architects in Charlotte) and have been meeting with them almost weekly. We have also selected a building contractor: Clancy & Theys of Raleigh. Both ADW and Clancy & Theys are working together to develop preliminary schematic drawings, which will then be presented with pricing information to the Building Committee for review and discussion.

The Schematic Drawings will be available for your viewing pleasure at our celebration dinner following 11am worship on Anniversary Sunday, November 14th. You'll want to be present this day as the current plans and schedules will be discussed. **Don Downs, Building Committee Chr.**

JOIN THE CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS!

"Gloria!"

("Seasonal Singers" are needed!)

All current and past singers: Put the following dates on your calendar & be with us on:
Thursdays, 7:30-9pm:

The fun continues through November and early December:
11/4, 11/11; 11/18; (Thanksgiving Break); 12/2; and 12/9

Final Rehearsals: **Saturday, December 11, 10 a.m.-12 Noon**
Sunday, December 12, 9-10:30am

Childcare provided for all rehearsals UPON REQUEST: ectyler@nc.rr.com
and later that morning...

Sunday, December 12-The Cantata, "Gloria!" during the 11am Worship

Festival of Friends



Do you love Covenant? Well, share what you love!

Invite a friend (or friends) to

Covenant's Festival of Friends

Sunday, November 21, 9:45a-10:45a

There will be various breakfast pastries and treats, along with coffee and juice to recognize our guests & the gift of friendship. Help your friends experience Covenant and see the great things we can do when we work together.

Laura Holste & Sandy Kidd, Invitation Ministry Co-Chairs

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It's Been a Long Time Since Covenant's Last Pictorial Directory...



...and It Won't Be Complete without YOU!

Dear Covenant Members and Guests,

I am excited to announce that we're going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. This upcoming project, sponsored by our Membership & Hospitality Ministry, greatly benefits us all in a variety of ways:

- help us to connect names and faces with each other so we might continue to get to know each other better.
- helps capture the history of our congregation as we approach our 25th Anniversary;
- available at no cost to the church budget
- each participating person/family receives a complimentary 8 x 10 photo and copy of the directory; with no obligation to purchase any additional portraits;
- But if you desire, you may purchase portraits taken by a professional photographer for holiday gift-giving.

We hope to have 100% participation! You just make one appointment to have your photo taken *and* to select which one you want to appear in the directory. Dress formally or casually; it's up to you.

For the next several weeks, we will be making appointments at the church. You can also schedule your appointment online at <http://signup.olanmills.com> or contacting the church office:

covenantcc@bellsouth.net Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule on any of the following dates and times: December 6 – 9 from 2:00 – 9:20p

The Membership Ministry also needs volunteers to give a little of your time to help: staff the sign-up tables; check people in for appointments; or help make calls for appointment reminders. As with most everything here at Covenant, it will take a group effort to make this a success.

Questions? Contact: Suzanne Hopkins at 601-1768, Suzanne@hopkins-family.org; Ro Thompson at 367-0257, RTHOMPSONCT@aol.com ; or Mary Lou Jackson, 362-6506; maryloujackson@nc.rr.com

Say Cheese...☺

Blessings, Rev. Joanne

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Take note: This Sunday, November 7, we will celebrate All Saints Day as we remember those of our Covenant family, our own families and friends who have gone before us...

Congratulations to: Jenny Miller & Suki Sneed who recently became engaged.

Love & prayers to: Hazel Brothers in the recent death of her sister in Winston Salem, NC.

Recent: David Hamm's grandmother;

Continuing Prayers: Art & Hazel Brothers; Vicky Vanderford; The Duryea Family; Essie Thompson family; Nelson Wakefield; Chris Grennan; Cameron Jackson & family; Betty Johnston; Mary Toney.

Parents: Phama Larsen Johnston; **Mothers:** Teresa DeMartin; Ann Hall; Vicky Vanderford;

Fathers: Marilyn Williams; Megan Larsen; Don Downs; Debbie Miller; Vicki Wilkinson.

Step-father: Brad Baldwin. **In-laws:** Renié Palmer; Cindy Magliocca. **Sons:** Jim Johnston;

Grandmothers: Cindy Magliocca; Vicki Wilkinson; **Brothers:** Craig Paul; Chris Kidd;

Phama Larsen Johnston; Art Brothers. **Aunts:** Ann Washington; Melanie Bunn;

Uncles: Jenny Miller; Chris & Liz Grennan; **Niece:** Patricia Mills. **Nephews:** Melanie Bunn; Gerry Tokanel; Terry White. **Great-Nephew:** Barishes. **Cousins:** Carole Tyler; Terry White; Glenda Hoffman; Elaine Fry; **Sisters-in-Law:** Alan Wilkinson; Terry White; Hazel Brothers.

Remembering Others: Suzanne Newell; Ginger Manna; Matt Hooker & Lee Tosh; Barry Bard; Russell Killen; Brady Dauberman; Christine & Sara Bronson; Chris Westbrook; Patrick Westbrook; Raynell Cheek; Don Canady; Kelly Canady; Ron Walters; Mildred Davis; Sondra Chitwood

Contact the church office: covenantcc@bellsouth.net or 481-4715 to continue those under "Remembering Others" after 2 weeks.

Our Gifts & Expenses

Needed Monthly Gifts	\$20,543
October Gifts to Date	21,651,
September Gifts to Date	11,917
August Receipts	16,463
July Receipts	12,956
Income through 9.30.10	\$ 152,002
Expenses through 9.30.10	<u>176,211</u>
General Fund shortfall through 9.30.10	(24,209)
Proceeds from 2008 refinance transferred to GF	<u>19,613</u>
Net change to the GF through 9.30.10	\$ (4,596)

Also...please note when sending in your Capital Campaign donation make sure it is marked for Capital Campaign so it will be posted correctly.

Complete financial reports including all funds through September 30 are available at the main entrance to the sanctuary or upon request. Questions? Contact Kathy Smith, Treasurer, ekathys@gmail.com or 363-6313.

"...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also..." (Matthew 6:21)

"DISCIPLES DAY" @ Barton College!

Coming up on November 21st is Disciples Day @ Barton College, our Disciples of Christ college in Wilson, NC. All Middle & High School, Youth are invited to spend a day (3 PM – 7 PM) on campus with Disciples youth from all over our Region! We will learn about higher education, life @ Barton College, life on campus, life as a Christian on campus.

The college provides food and a variety of break-out sessions for learning, & time to engage & socialize with other Disciples youth from around our region! For more information contact Rev. Randy at 481-4715; or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

Gift Suggestions for the Holidays & Beyond:

Fair Trade News:

The holidays are fast approaching and we have some great ideas for special gifts this season! We want to thank everyone who purchased fair trade items at our Fall Fun Fair. We still have plenty of chocolate bars and some ornaments available. These are located on the table in the hall near the office as well as SERRV Catalogs and order forms.

There are many beautiful handmade items in the latest Catalog that would make wonderful gifts for family and friends. Since we are short on Catalogs, you can simply go to www.serrv.org to view the online Catalog as well as the clearance items.

If you decide to place an order, please fill out the order form on the table and either give this form to Becky Stiles at Church or give her a Call (387-0737). **The deadline for ordering is November 19.** As an extra incentive, we will be giving a 15% discount on all items (excluding chocolate) and if we reach the minimum \$300 order, an additional 5% discount will be given.

All orders should be ready for pick up no later than December 10. So, start shopping now and know that you're making a huge difference in the lives of artisans and their families around the world. Through your purchases, you'll be helping to build sustainable communities in third world countries and to end the cycle of poverty. Thank you in advance for your support...Becky Stiles

Covenant SCRIP Update:

The SCRIP program did very well in October – including passing the milestone of over \$1000 in earnings! That is over \$1000 Covenant has earned by using SCRIP to help make purchases we would have made anyway – gas, groceries, prescriptions, dining out, etc. It is November, and it is a great time to start planning Christmas presents and how you could use SCRIP to help with those gifts. Travelling over the holiday season? Don't forget that gas stations, hotel chains, airlines, and rental car companies also participate in the SCRIP program. And double check your calendar for November and December birthdays and anniversaries.

The SCRIP volunteers are available to help you place an order, purchase from inventory, answer any questions you may have about the program in general, help you figure out how you specifically can participate, check to see what retailers participate in the program and in what denominations. You can also contact Robin Miller, Covenant's SCRIP Coordinator at doghouse@msn.com or 919-852-3986. The SCRIP volunteers for the month of November are Jeff and Robin Miller.

Have you checked out the new SCRIP poster? It has up-to-date information on what retailers are running specials, new or discontinued retailers, how much Covenant has earned, and ideas on how you can participate in the SCRIP program. With the Christmas season approaching, many retailers are offering specials and increasing their contributions, so keep checking the display board and the Weekly Update email for the latest information.

Robin Miller, SCRIP Coordinator

Pecans for Sale:

Just in time for your holiday baking and gift-giving! \$9 for a 1# bag/whole or pieces! Pick some up the next time you're at church!

Tote Bags for Sale:

Covenant continues to **Go Green!** We have tote bags with our attractive "**Covenant Goes Green**" logo: Canvas bags: (\$3ea/2 for \$5); Nylon Bags: \$3.50ea/3 for \$10...Great for holiday shopping & giving! Get yours today in the entryway or outside the church office.

