



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.CovenantChristianChurchCary.org

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Covenant's Worship Ministry invites you to
A Time of Reflection
during Lent as we look deep into ourselves, engage in
self-reflection, and answer God's call on our lives.



Lent is the holy season of 6 weeks that bring us to the joy of Easter Day! During Lent we are asked to look inward, to engage in self-reflection. We take stock of ourselves and find the broken places, the rough edges, and the parts of us that have gotten too comfortable with the status quo. Lent calls us to be a little less comfortable, to stretch ourselves, to engage in a process of becoming that ultimately leads us to newness of life found in the Risen Christ of Easter.

This year, we have arranged our worship services to allow us to more fully experience the self-reflection of Lent. We will catch glimpses of ourselves here and there, and we will be reminded of our brokenness and the wholeness that can be found in Jesus Christ. We will worship, facing one another, seated in the shape of a cross; as we see the face of God reflected in those around us. We will experience worship differently, and it will make us think about the season and ourselves in a new way. Our perspectives will be changed, and we will be reminded that growth comes when we look at things from a new angle.

But before we enter this most sacred season of faith...before we commit ourselves to serious reflection...before we get ready to take on or give up something for Lent... Let us indulge! Let's Party!

It's A Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper!

Tuesday, March 8, 6:00-7:30p

At The IHOP 1301 Kildaire Farm Rd. Cary (Shoppes of Kildaire)

We've reserved the separate dining room/come & go/no program, just good fun & good food!

Email covenantcc@bellsouth.net or phone: 481-4715 to let us know if you want to eat at 6p; 6:30p; 7p; or 7:30p ; and # planning to attend...if you don't know for sure, come on anyway...

And then it's time to seriously get ready for our 6 week journey to Jerusalem. Stop by the church on

Ash Wednesday, March 9, 7:30p (childcare provided)

as we gather for worship and to be marked by the ashen sign of the cross, encouraging us to deepen our relationship with God through the disciplines of prayer and meditation.

We then continue our Lenten journey led by the Spirit as we enter and later emerge from time in the wilderness with Jesus; and then travel with him, meeting a variety of people along the way...until we arrive at the city gates of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and go with him through the events of Holy Week...stopping by the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday and gathering at the foot of the cross on Good Friday...as we await the joy of Easter dawn at the Sunrise Service and at 11am as we celebrate Christ's Resurrection in the music of the Easter Cantata, "On This Day of Rejoicing!" Six weeks and counting...better get packin! *Blessings, Joanne*

"The Lord of the Dance"-A Lenten Study for Adults

Led by Rev. Joanne

Wednesday mornings at 10a and evenings at 7p (childcare available)

Beginning March 16-April 20



The M'n'M Singers Will Once Again Grace Us with Their Presence in Song!

For the 22nd consecutive year we are hosting the "M 'n' M Singers" as our guest musicians in worship, Sunday, March 20 at 11:00 am. This wonderful group of differently-abled adults always tugs at our hearts and bring such courage, laughter and smiles to our lives as they joyfully lift their voices in praise to God. You will be blessed in immeasurable ways simply by being present in worship.

Please plan to be here to extend a warm Covenant welcome to them!

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Our Upcoming 25th Anniversary Events:

We've gotten off to a great start as we celebrate Covenant's 25th Anniversary Year! Below you will find the calendar of the remaining events celebrating our 25th Anniversary year. There's so much to celebrate that we have set aside 11 months to do just that. Each time we have a special guest for the 11a worship there will be a "Meet & Greet" time at 10a to learn more about the General Unit Ministry each represents.** In the months ahead we are simply planning as we gather together, to learn more about each other and about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

We have indeed come this far by faith, grateful for God's outpouring of grace, wisdom and forward movement as we have been formed into this community of faith, called Covenant – a safe place, a movement of faith, "a gathering of spirits and a festival of friends" (Carrie Newcomer song), who are committed to reaching out to all who are hungry for that missing "peace" in the puzzle of this thing called life.

Save the dates! Mark your calendars!

Simply being present in worship is most important as you help welcome others and offer your spiritual and prayerful support to all who have gathered. But of course this is also a great opportunity to invite your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to come with you as together we learn what it means to be a part of this "*movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.*" (from the Disciples of Christ identity statement)

- March 20: "M & M Singers"
- April 10: **Randy Johnson, Vice President for the SE Zone of the Christian Church Foundation
- May (TBD) Covenant celebrates Christian Family Month
- June 12: **Jim Powell, Sr. Advisor for Advancement for Church Extension
- July 31: Covenant's Summer Ice Cream Social
- September 11: **Ron Degges, President of Disciples Home Missions
- October 23: **Dennis Landon, President of Higher Education Leadership Ministries
- November 12 **AND** 13: THE Great Weekend Celebration!

There will be an early evening Saturday event, November 12, offsite, so that we can accommodate not only our current Covenant family of members & guests, but founding-era members, the many supporters and well-wishers from around the area and beyond. (We cannot reserve the space until May 12, so stay tuned!)

On Sunday morning at 11a we will give thanks and praise to God in worship with our special guest minister, for accompanying us thus far along this journey of faith and gratitude and hope for the future...

Any comments? Questions? Contact any member of the 25th Anniversary Committee:

Pam Deardorff & Marian Hartman, Co-Chrs; Ginny Evett; Sam Evett; Karen Nolan; Becky Stiles; Ro Thompson; Ann Washington; Rev. Holste; Rev. VerBurg

Calling All Young Adults!



Are you in your 20's or 30's and looking for a place to fit in @ Covenant?

Well, we have a class for you! We are about to embark on another "Where's The Faith" journey. It's second book "[Split Ticket - Independent Faith in a Time of Partisan Politics](#)" is just itching to be read and discussed.

It was written by young adults for young adults! Some of you may say this sounds daunting, questionable, or simply "a bad idea", but just as our editors were able to maintain objectivity in its first book "[Oh God, Oh God, Oh God](#)", we expect the same ideology and perspective from this book as well.

Regardless of who you are, what your political belief may be, or where you stand on the proverbial spectrum - ALL ARE WELCOME. It will be a time when each of us can be a teacher and a student, a time when we can come together and transcend the bickering & name-calling, & a time when we can act out our faith in love.

Sure political views on the surface may not be a matter of faith per se, but when our views translate into how we treat others and view the world's problems, the question of how we act out our faith becomes paramount! So come on out and fellowship with me and other young adults in the church as we tackle the hard questions about politics & faith!

Join us on Sunday evenings, starting March 6th & concluding on May 22nd, 4 PM to 5:30 PM (childcare will be provided for those who reserve a spot). Invite your friends!

Contact Randy Holste: randy-ccc@bellsouth.net or 481-4715 for more details!

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Covenant's SCRIP Update

2011 is starting out great for the SCRIP program. In January we earned \$129.59 – a really exciting way to start off the New Year. Our goal for 2011 is to raise \$2000 for Covenant Christian Church through the SCRIP program. Please be considering how you can use SCRIP in your household budgeting, regular purchases, gift giving, or for anything else you can think of! Remember that our inventory now contains \$750 worth of gift cards from 15 different stores, available each week on a first come, first served basis, and orders are placed every week for anything that we don't have in inventory.

Looking ahead, March means the beginning of Spring, which means Spring Break, Spring Cleaning, Spring Sports, and Spring outdoor projects. As you are planning for these events, keep in mind that gas companies, hotels, car rental agencies, airlines, hardware stores, sporting goods stores, and home improvement stores all participate in the SCRIP program. Check your calendars for any birthdays and anniversaries in March as well.

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, and to check to see what retailers participate in the program and in what denominations. You can contact Robin Miller, Covenant's SCRIP Coordinator: doghowse@msn.com or 919-852-3986 with any questions.

Robin Miller, SCRIP Coordinator

**Annual Lecture Series Offered at Barton College in Wilson
Purcell Bible Conference & Sprinkle Lectures
March 6-8**

The purpose of these lectures has been to provide the public with the finest in recent biblical scholarship each year. From its inception, these lectures have been planned with the laity of the church in mind. All lecture sessions are open to the public free of charge, and the community is invited to attend.

The Purcell Lectures: Sunday, March 6 in Hardy Alumni Hall

The Purcell Bible Conference will begin at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon with Dr. Stuckenbruck's lecture "The Exorcisms of Jesus: Putting Evil Into Perspective." Following the lecture, there will be a brief reception, and he will speak again at the 5 p.m. vesper service. Dr. Stuckenbruck's sermon is titled "Resurrection and Reality."

Dr. Loren T. Stuckenbruck, is the Richard Dearborn Professor of New Testament Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Stuckenbruck earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Milligan College in Tennessee. Continuing his studies, he completed a Master of Divinity degree and a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary, in 1986 and 1993 respectively.

He has established himself as one of the leading scholars in the area of early Judaism and early Christianity and has authored or co-authored several books, one of which is a recent commentary on 1 Enoch 91-108 (de Gruyter, 2007), as well as numerous articles and essays. Dr. Stuckenbruck is ordained in the Independent Christian Churches and also participates in the work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Sprinkle Lectures: Monday & Tuesday, March 7 & 8 in Hardy Alumni Hall

The Reverend Amy Gopp, Executive Director for Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will be the featured speaker for the Sprinkle Lectures.

Monday evening, 7:30pm: *"The Sermon: A Journey to the Unexpected."*

Tuesday morning, 11am: *"The Sermon: A Journey with the Unlikely"*

A buffet luncheon and discussion with the Reverend Gopp will follow at Noon on Tuesday. Those planning to attend the luncheon may pay at the door. For additional information about these events, please contact Dr. Rodney A. Werline: 252-399-6447 or email: rawerline@barton.edu.

The Rev. Amy Gopp, an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations at the American University School of International Service in Washington, D.C., in 1994, a Master of Arts degree in Conflict Resolution at Antioch University in 1998; and a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York in 2005.

In 1995, she began a four-year commission as a missionary with Mennonite Central Committee and Global Ministries to the war-ravaged former Yugoslavia, where she worked as a peace activist for refugee concerns and promoted interfaith dialogue. The Reverend Gopp later served as the Intern Coordinator for the Disciples Peace Fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As a graduate student at Union Theological Seminary, she worked with outreach ministries at Manhattan's Park Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and as a United Nations liaison for Wider Church Ministries.

The Reverend Gopp joined the staff of Week of Compassion in 2005 as Associate Director, and she was appointed Executive Director in 2008.

Questions or if you are interested in attending either/both Sprinkle Lectures, contact Rev. VerBurg: joanne-ccc@bellsouth.net or 481-4715.

Children & Youth Ministries News:



Inter-Faith Children's Program

March 13th!

The children & families of Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Cary, NC are about to embark on a remarkable journey. Sunday March 13th, 2-4 PM, our children (grades K – 5) will be traveling to the Hindu Society of North Carolina (HSNC), 309 Aviation Parkway, Morrisville, once again.

We will meet at their temple at to discuss each other's religions and make polar fleece blankets for Project Linus. For those who attended last year, it was a wonderful event. Next year, we will host HSNC at our church to make the blankets.

This is a wonderful learning experience and a great chance to work together as we share in this fun service activity, so we hope you can join us! Additional details will be coming, but if you have any questions, please contact Jody Barish at jodylb23@yahoo.com

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Covenant Youth
"Do The Famine"!

Covenant's Youth will be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine!
6:30p Friday, March 25 UNTIL 9:30a Saturday, March 26

WHY?

FACT: Hunger kills another child every 10 seconds. Every day, nearly 8,000 kids under age 5 die because of hunger-related causes. Some starve. Some get sick — and their hungry bodies are just too weak to fight. And that's not the half to poverty, deaths are



of it. In all, more than 24,000 kids lose their lives each day, most of them disease, and, yes . . . hunger. The biggest tragedy? Almost all of these absolutely, 100% preventable!

Every year, hundreds of thousands of students "Do the Famine". They go without food for 30 hours. They learn what it takes to stop hunger in its tracks. They raise funds to help feed and care for tens of thousands of kids all over the world. Their eyes are opened to a world of hunger and hope. Their minds are filled with the understanding needed to fight poverty and injustice. They experience hunger firsthand to help feed and care for hungry kids.

The result? Not only are students helping save lives by doing the Famine they are growing closer to God and each other while they change the world.

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Youth News - Calendar!

March 6th

BOWLING NIGHT!! 5:30 – 7:30 PM

\$10 should cover 2 games & shoe rental/bring \$\$ for snacks too!

March 13th-

Program @ Church! 5:30-7p

Continuation of Cyborg Youth! – Bring \$3 & a friend!

March 25th

30 Hour Famine Lock-In!

(Meet @ church around 6:30 PM Friday Night – Pick-up @ 9:30 AM Saturday Morning)

Important Financial Info:

Our Gifts & Expenses			
	<u>Monthly Needs</u>	Actual as of 01/11	Feb 2011 Gifts
	\$19,700	\$16,038	\$ 5,041
Fundraisers & Other	<u>\$ 1,100</u>	<u>\$ 177</u>	<u>\$ 91</u>
Total	\$ 20,800	\$16,215	\$ 5,132
Year to Date Actual:			
Total Income through 1.31.11		\$16,215	
Less Expenses through 1.31.11		<u>20,361</u>	
General Fund shortfall through 1.31.11		(\$ 4,146)	
Questions? Contact Kathy Smith, Treasurer: 363-6313; ekathys@gmail.com			

Final Report for 2010

Treasurer's reports always seem to be of the "good news/bad news" type. The bad news: for 2010, we were challenged by an operating deficit, as our general fund expenses exceeded general fund income by almost \$32,000. The good news: we were blessed with the resources to meet this deficit! That is, approximately \$20,000 of our expenses was covered by money that was reserved when we refinanced our mortgage in 2008. The additional \$12,000 we needed came from monies reserved from a stock donation that was given in 2009. (Not quite \$13,000 of that stock donation remains in reserve.)

The challenge continues! In January, expenses exceeded income by approximately \$4100. Under the leadership of our moderator, the Financial Task Force met on February 8 reported to the Board at our February 20 meeting. A plan is in process to address our immediate needs, as we continue to prepare for our continued growth. Please pray for both wisdom and courage on the part of Covenant's leadership and for all in our congregation. Also pray for God's guidance that YOU may know what YOUR part to the answer to these challenges will be!

Detailed final reports for 2010 are available at the sanctuary entrance, or may be obtained by email request to the church office, or to me at ekathys@gmail.com. Please feel free to call me at 363-6313 if you prefer to talk rather than write. Do not be shy about asking! Your questions tell me you care! **Kathy Smith, Treasurer**

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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:

Billor Name: Covenant Christian Church

Account number: GENERAL FUND

Billor Address: 2911 SW Cary Parkway Billor City, State, Zip: Cary, NC 27513-8902

Billor phone number: 919-481-4715

The account number can be GENERAL FUND/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/or MEMORIAL FUND, in the memo line

Questions? Contact Kathy Smith, Treasurer: ekathys@gmail.com