



Covenant Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Making a List and Checking It Twice...

...gonna find out who's naughty or nice...As a child, and probably if I'm honest, as an adult, I had good reason to worry about which list I would find my name on! And then as I entered Jr. High and High School, there were lists I scoured, hoping beyond all hope to find my name: final tryout selections for school dramas; or sports teams; honor roll; good citizenship (is there such a list these days?); and then in college the professors would post exam grades on a list outside his/her office door and you either breathed a sigh of relief or you knew it would be summer school for sure!

As I run the word "list" through my head today, I think of: shopping list; to-do list; check-list; listserve; play list; Franz Liszt ☺; Christmas gift list; Christmas card list; bucket list; birthday/anniversary lists; guest list; donor list; worst or best dressed lists...and on it goes.

When I made my first visit to New York City as a teenager, I remember visiting Ellis Island and seeing all the lists of names of those who had come to the United States, most of whom were seeking a better life; and then on family vacations I also remember seeing the lists of names etched in various war memorials and historic battlefields around our country and around the world. And then there's "Schindler's List" with the names of those who were saved from being put on the trains going to Auschwitz; while others read list upon list of those who died there and in other concentration camps during WWII.

Just this week, I saw a photo on the Week of Compassion website taken in one city in Japan that was hardest hit in the earthquake/tsunami of recent weeks. Families are searching for the names of loved ones on a list of missing and those confirmed dead...not unlike the lists throughout New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina; or after and immediately following the earthquake in Haiti...hoping beyond all hope, not knowing if you really wanted to find the names of your loved ones, unless it was among the survivors.

A conference I attended sometime ago began with the following instructions for our introductory small groups: "You are stranded on a desert island. A box washes ashore. In that box are 7 items. They are, much to your amazement, the very 7 things you need most to live. List those 7 items AND what makes them necessary..."

In addition to the more obvious things needed to sustain our physical needs, i.e. water; food; housing; chocolate...what else would be on your list and why? I would take this exercise a bit further and ask what things are needed to sustain our spiritual needs, i.e. peace of mind; prayer; love, etc. What would be on your spiritual needs list and why?

As we journey through these next few weeks of Lent; preparing to revisit the events of the week we call, Holy; and preparing yet even more to awaken to the joy of Easter dawn...we are reminded of God's miracle of Christ's resurrection filled to overflowing with the hope-secure of everlasting life...

From time to time in these last few weeks of Lent, I will stop and rest along the way to consider what spiritual needs would be found inside that box that has just washed ashore and is bobbing about my feet planted in the surf. And then I will go just a bit deeper and reflect on what exactly makes them the very things I need most to live...

How 'bout you? Isn't it time to be making that list and checking it twice?...

Blessings, Joanne

Women's Ministries Quarterly Breakfast
Saturday, April 9 8:30-10:30a
Guest Speaker: Eleanor Bradshaw
Member of the Disciples Woman to Woman Team to Turkey
Bring a guest with you! All are Welcome!
Childcare available--Call Church office to make reservations



Spring Fever Plant Sale
Spring has Sprung!

Please support our church by purchasing beautiful plants & flowers for your yard. Pre-order your plants by **MONDAY, APRIL 11** for PICKUP at the Church **SATURDAY, APRIL 16**, 8a-Noon. Each person who buys a plant is eligible to win a \$50 gift card from Homewood Nursery.

<u>Plant Type:</u>	<u>Quantity:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Boston Fern Hanging Basket \$20		\$
Knockout Roses (Pink) \$30		\$
Knockout Roses (Red) \$30		\$
Geraniums (Red) 3 gal. \$20		\$
Geraniums (Pink) 3 gal. \$20		\$
Geraniums (White) 3 gal. \$20		\$
Geraniums (Salmon) 3 gal. \$20		\$

Make your check payable to Covenant & in the Memo line: "Spring Plant Sale"



A Special Thank you from the Property Ministry...

A great big thank you to all who attended Saturday's building and grounds enhancement day. The response was terrific and we enjoyed the great fellowship.

Below are some of the tasks we tackled:

- Planted summer blooming flowers at the front door entrance; the sign on the Parkway;
- Trimmed the trees and bushes in the back parking lot.
- Scrubbed the toe-kick in the hallway;
- Washed the inside/outside classroom windows and prepped hallway walls for painting;
- Kids to Kids made bird feeders & cleared debris;
- There was also a lot of work going on in the garden & more...

Thanks to:

- Ken & Glenda Hoffman for painting the large classroom;
- Ken Hoffman & Jerry Hall for replacing the hot water heater;
- Jim Johnston, Ken Hoffman & Rev. Randy for replacing all sanctuary fluorescent bulbs.
- Jeff & Robin Miller and Jennifer Beaufort will be painting the hallway this Saturday.

Please note: If you need to put anything on the walls, use painter tape **ONLY**-located in the top drawer of the filing cabinets at the end of the hallway...**Jennifer & Todd Beaufort, Property Ministry Co-chairs.**

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Love & prayers are with: Don & Cathy Downs in the recent death of her Aunt, Ruth Ann Brown; Roxie White & family in the recent death of her Uncle Charlie Hudson; Jenny Miller & family in the recent death of her Uncle Steve Miller

Recent: At home: Hazel Brothers; Nathan Grennan; Paul Kessel; Gerry Tokanel, Oaks of Carolina, 2420 Lake Wheeler Rd, Raleigh NC 27603; Damon Hopkins (J. Hopkins' brother); Barbara Willis (Don Brooks' mother); Keith Gerarden (K. Smith); Michael & Caroline Woo (M. Mowrey)

Continuing Prayers: Cameron Jackson & family; Art Brothers; Vicky Vanderford; Deb Nystrom; Rev. Essie Thompson & family; Mary Toney; the people of Japan & others parts of the Pacific.

Parents: Phama Larsen Johnston; **Mothers:** Teresa DeMartin; Ann Hall; Vicky Vanderford; **Step-Mother:** Jeremy Hopkins **Fathers:** Jeremy Hopkins; Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller. **In-laws:** Renié Palmer; Cindy Magliocca.

Grandmothers: Cindy Magliocca; Vicki Wilkinson; **Granddaughter:** Joe Busby. **Sisters:** Cindy Magliocca & Roxie White; **Brothers:** Vicki Wilkinson; Don Downs; Jim Hartman; Phama Larsen-Johnston; Chris Kidd; **Aunts:** Jeff Miller; Glenda Hoffman; Melanie Bunn; Ann Washington. **Uncles:** Jenny Miller; Patricia Mills. **Niece:** Ann Washington.

Nephews: Diana Stelmack; Melanie Bunn; Gerry Tokanel; Terry White. **Great-Nephew:** Barishes.

Cousins: Jeff Miller; Ted Glasener; Carole Tyler; Terry White; Glenda Hoffman; Elaine Fry;

Sisters-in-Law: Terry White; Hazel Brothers.

Remembering Others: Dolores Reeder; Robert Sherwin; John & Debbie Rettew; Alecia & Mike Burnes; Troy Thacker; Rev. Dr. Kay Northcutt; Liz Delmer; Barbara Lawrence; Sonya Rustin; Dave Lloyd; Vicki Sasser; Ginger Manna; Jill Day; Glenn Stoffregen; Trey Snyder; Zeb Moseley; Bill Lewis; Christine & Sara Bronson; Chris Westbrook; Patrick Westbrook; Ron Walters; Nancy Stacey; Raynell Cheek; Kelly Canady; General & Regional Church Leaders; NC Disciples new church starts.

Contact the church office: www.covenantcc@bellsouth.net or 481-4715 if you want to continue to list anyone under "Remembering Others" after 2 weeks.

A Special Thanks... to everyone from Covenant who helped with Bob's service and reception. I was so proud of my church family and leadership and pleased to share you all with our friends from around the country who were here for Bob's memorial service. Everything looked beautiful...from the spring flowers leading to the entry way, to the sanctuary, to the newly painted large classroom.

Our family was so comforted by the meaningful service, your heartfelt condolences offered in such a variety of ways, the lovely special music and musicians, and all the warm hugs and offers of help and support... not to mention all that nourishing and delicious food that helped sustain us through several weeks. All this and the lovely Peace Lily the church sent truly did help bring peace to our souls and hearts. Thank you... *With love, Karen Nolan & family*

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The Journey Continues... We Make our Way by Walking

You are invited to continue our Lenten Journey as we prepare to shout Hosannas along the parade route; follow Jesus into the Temple; the Upper Room; the Garden; to accompany him through the arrest, the trial, the walk along the Via Delarosa, and to Golgotha. 2000+ years this side of the crucifixion allows us to experience God's last laugh on the evil in this world in the miracle of Christ's resurrection.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds as we walk together through the events of Holy Week & Easter weekend providing us with many opportunities for worship and meditation:

- **Palm Sunday, April 17** we enter the Holy City with our Palm Processional and "Hosanna," by Craig Courtney, presented by the Choir at 11am.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 21 @7:30pm** we will gather in the Upper Room to remember the Last Supper and share in the candlelight service of The Shadows (Tennebrae)...
- **Good Friday April 22, Noon-3p** the sanctuary will be open for communion & meditation.
- **Saturday, April 23, 10a-11:30a Easter Egg Hunt and Children's Activities**
- **Easter Sunday, April 24: 6:45a Easter Sunrise Service** followed by breakfast—bring a favorite breakfast food to share; beverages provided...**NO 9a Worship! NO Sunday School!**
- **Easter Worship at 11am** with the Easter Cantata, "On This Day of Rejoicing."

"ON THIS DAY OF REJOICING"

Easter Sunday, April 24, the Adult Choir will present its annual Easter Cantata, *"On This Day of Rejoicing."* They will be accompanied by instrumentalists Robin Miller, Lynn Lee and Don Downs as the congregation is led in a service of worship celebrating the life and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. The service reminds us that Jesus lived to revive our hearts, renew our minds, refresh our souls and revitalize our confidence in God, our Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer and Constant Companion.

This year's Cantata is dedicated to the loving memory of Dorothy Cornwell Erskine, mother of Elaine Fry. Dorothy moved to Cary in October 2000 and was an active member of the choir until April 2005, the year she celebrated her 96th birthday. She brought much joy and many beautiful notes to our community of musicians during her time with us. We are grateful for her life and to her friends and family who made possible the purchase of the music for this year's Easter celebration.

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Save the Dates! Mark your Calendars! Celebrate 25 Years with \$25!

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 most of 2011 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).

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."* (Disciples of Christ identity statement).

The Anniversary Committee invites you to help us get ready for

THE Anniversary Weekend Celebration, Saturday & Sunday, November 12 & 13

by making donations to Covenant's Anniversary Fund: \$25 for 25 years (or any amount you choose)- to help cover the upcoming expenses of travel fees for some guest speakers; a catered reception on that Saturday evening, not only for our congregation's members & guests, but other invited guests from across the region and beyond who helped form us as a fledgling new church start... Make your check payable to; Covenant Christian Church; earmarked: "Anniversary Fund."

Upcoming Events:

- 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!

Catered Reception on Saturday and then Sunday morning at 11a we will give thanks and praise to God in worship with our special, "soon to be announced" guest minister ☺, for accompanying us thus far along this journey of faith and gratitude and hope for the future...

Any comments/suggestions? 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



*Cary Spring Daze
Saturday, April 30
at Bond Park*

Cary's Spring Daze is one of our annual major fundraisers that puts Covenant out there in the community. As one of the event vendors, we cook & prepare sell sausage biscuits; marinated chicken sandwiches; Polish sausage sandwiches & drinks.

It takes a lot of folks to make this run smoothly. So please consider donating a minimum of 2 hours of your time & energy to help us maximize our efforts. All proceeds go to support the general operating budget.

You can help by signing up:

- to help setup on Friday night at the Bond Park site; time to be determine.
- to work for a few hours between 8am and 5pm; 7-10a;9:30-11:30a; 11a-1p; 12:30-2:30p; 2-4p; 3:30-5p; 4:30-6p
- or to take down the booth at 5pm; or
- meet at the church to help cleanup and put equipment in the trailer
- from 6-8p; AND
- donate canned Pepsi Products, including Aqua-Fina water

Signup to work or to donate Pepsi products in the church entryway beginning April 3 or contact the church office: 481-4715; covenantcc@bellsouth.net.



Outreach Ministry News!

Urban Ministry Food Bank

Thanks to all of you, we continue to provide food for the Urban Ministries Food Bank. Remember to bring your food donations on the first Sunday of each month. A list of needed items is located on the table in the entryway.

SERRV and the Salvation Army

We have received thank-you letters from SERRV and the Salvation Army. According to the Salvation Army, your donations to the 2010 Angel Tree program contributed to their ability to distribute almost 50,000 toys and gifts and served over 4000 Wake County families.

New Service Opportunity – Share Our Shoes

Share Our Shoes is a shoe charity dedicated to recycling shoes for those in desperate need. Covenant will be collecting new and gently used shoes (men's, women's and children's – all sizes and styles) from April 15 through April 30. A drop box will be placed in the narthex. All you have to do is tie the laces together or place a rubber band each donated pair and drop them in the box.

It's amazing to us that Covenant just keeps on giving! Thanks be to God.

Renie Palmer & Ruth Jordan, Co-Chairs

"The Amazing Grays" ☺
(Over 50 and willing to admit it)!

April Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, April 21 11:30a
At Brig's Restaurant,
1040 Tryon Village Dr, Cary, 859-2161

RSVP Church office by April 14



Covenant's SCRIP Update

Well, we have officially been using SCRIP as a fundraiser for Covenant Christian Church for one year. During that year we have sold gift cards to over 30 households, built up an inventory of \$750, and earned the church more than \$2000.

We have sold SCRIP for hotel rooms, Disney vacations, birthday and Christmas presents, care packages to college students, gas, prescriptions, thank you gifts for teachers, grass seed, landscaping, and painting supplies – the list goes on and on! Thank you to all who have participated and continue to do so.

Looking ahead, April means the continuation of Spring, including Spring Break, Spring Cleaning, Spring Sports, and Spring outdoor projects. May includes Mother's Day, graduations, end of school, summer clothes shopping, and Memorial Day celebrations.

SCRIP volunteers are available each Sunday following both services in the church entryway 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 also contact Robin Miller: doghowse@msn.com or 919-852-3986.

Robin Miller, SCRIP Coordinator

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Disciples Men on Furlough...

We'll pick up with new programming in May after our Disciples Men's President, Ted Glasener, returns from his trip. In the meantime, Disciples Men will put their shoulders to the wheel in support the overall work of the church. Spring Daze is a great opportunity to help! **Bob Kennel, Secretary**



Our next Kids to Kids Activity is Saturday, April 9, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Food Bank. We will be participating in Kid's Day with them and it is always a crowd pleaser. Remember to wear closed-toed shoes and dress for working at the warehouse located at 3808 Tarheel Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609.

If you have any questions or need a ride, please contact Jay or Jody Barish at 460-2820; or jodylb23@yahoo.com

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Covenant Youth – Schedule!

Mark Your Calendars...Now!

Sunday, April 3: Program @ Covenant 5:30-7pm. Bring a friend & \$3 for dinner.

Saturday, April 16: Work Day @ Camp Caroline – 7am – 7 am! (See related newsletter article)

Sunday, May 1: CAMP DAY @ COVENANT! 2-4pm (see related newsletter article)

Saturday & Sunday, May 14 & 15 – Camp Out @ Jordan Lake! 10am (Saturday) – 12 noon (Sunday)



Easter Extravaganza & Egg Hunt! Saturday, April 23, 10a-11:30a

Covenant's Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Extravaganza is fast approaching! Go ahead and prepare yourself for lots of Easter crafts, egg hunting, & a special program for the children. Bring your friends! Bring your neighbors! Bring your family! Celebrate the Easter season with us! Festivities begin Saturday, April 23 at 10a and ends at 11:30a.

Need more info? Want to know more about volunteer opportunities? Don't hesitate to contact Rev. Randy @ 481-4715; randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

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Work Day @ Camp Caroline!



Calling all middle & high school youth. Start packing your work gloves & outdoor/work attire for a day of cleaning & missions off the beautiful coast of North Carolina. On Saturday April 16th, we are headed to Arapahoe, NC to help clean up [Camp Caroline](#) (owned by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ in NC)).

We'll meet @ the church and plan to leave at 7 AM sharp! It's a 2 ½ to 3 hours trip. Therefore, we should be arriving at camp around 10a & will plan to leave for home around 3 PM. After stopping for dinner (bring \$\$\$) on the way back, our estimated time of arrival back at the church is 7 PM. For more information, or if you have any questions or concerns, contact Rev. Randy at church: 481-4715; or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

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Let's Go to Church Camp This Summer!

As Disciples in North Carolina, we have beautiful facilities in our very own state-each one in a different setting and offering different activities. [Camp Caroline](#) is located just off the banks of the Neuse River in Arapahoe, NC (just down the road from the NC Coast) & [Christmount](#) in beautiful Black Mountain, NC (18 miles E. of Asheville). A variety of camps, weekends and week-long, for all ages (K-12th grade) begin in mid-May and conclude in mid-August. Registration forms & more detailed information can be found in the church office. You can also go to the NC region's website www.ncdisciples.org

And you can learn more about Summer Church Camp up close & personal by coming to:

"CAMP DAY" @ Covenant!



**Calling all Kindergarteners through 12th graders! And Parents Too!
We're hosting our FIRST EVER "Camp Day @ Covenant", Sunday, May 1, 2-4p**

If you've ever wondered what it was like to go to summer camp – here's your chance! Our goal is to introduce (or re-introduce) families to the wonderful world of camping in our region! Come on out and enjoy some hot dogs grilled to perfection or try your hand at making a good old fashioned s'mores over an open flame.

We'll have stories of current & past campers (courtesy of Hillyer Memorial Christian Church & RCYW). We'll sing songs around a camp fire and fill you in on some of the things happening this summer in our region! Mark your family calendars now!

For more information or if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Rev. Randy @ the church: 481-4715; randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

VERY Important Financial Info:

Our Gifts & Expenses

	<u>Monthly Needs</u>	<u>March</u>
Gifts	\$19,700	\$15,009
Fundraisers & Other	<u>\$ 1,100</u>	<u>\$ 291</u>
Total	\$ 20,800	\$15,300

General Fund shortfall through 3.31.11 (\$16,567)

Questions? Contact Kathy Smith, Treasurer: 363-6313; ekathys@gmail.com

Let us remember these words offered by Jesus to his Disciples:

"...Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back..." (Luke 6: 38 NRSV)

Or Try this version on for size:

"Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity." (Eugene Peterson's, The Message)

Is your giving up to date? Thanks for your generosity!

Disciples Mission Fund

As we continue through Lent and approach Easter Sunday we will be collecting a special Easter offering that goes to benefit the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I wanted to provide an update on how the special offerings that Covenant collects tie in to our church's contributions to the General Church.

Our goal at Covenant is to give 10% of our congregation's gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, or DMF. Disciples Mission Fund is our denomination's common mission effort that supports ministries such as new church starts, Disciples educational institutions, camps, and Disciples general ministries to name a few. These ministries are done at the local, regional and global level.

Covenant's contribution to DMF is achieved by giving 100% of our congregation's donations to five special offerings collected throughout the year -- Pentecost, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Reconciliation. Historically these 5 special offerings have accounted for about 2% of Covenant's giving to the General Church. The remaining 8% of our giving to DMF comes directly from our General Fund budget.

In addition to the special offerings and General Fund contributions to the Disciples Mission Fund, 100% of the offerings Covenant collects for Week of Compassion goes to support disaster relief efforts led by our denomination. In the past two years Covenant has given over \$10,000 to Week of Compassion disaster relief efforts.

Your contributions to Covenant and the greater Disciples Mission Fund efforts help each of us to reach people beyond the immediate world around us. If you have any questions about Covenant's contribution to DMF, feel free to contact me.

Thank you, Derek Rutledge, Moderator

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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