



*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)

Volume 25 No. 5

April 29, 2011

### Well Worth the Waiting...

It's been a while since Easter Day happened so late in the year. *Usually* there seems to be little time to bask in the meaning and message of Christmas & the stories of Epiphany & the weeks that follow. *But not this year...Usually* the dogwood blossoms let me know that it's Easter...*but not this year...they were scattered on the ground last Sunday. Usually* the birds are busy building their nests as Easter arrives...*but not this year...the nests are beginning to bring forth the peeps and chirps of newborn baby birds.*

And so it is, especially for those of us who live by the Church's liturgical calendar. While it seemed as if Holy Week & Easter Day would never get here...all of a sudden, as if the calendar sabotaged me, I found myself just as busy with last minute details needing my attention.

And isn't that just the way? It doesn't really matter all that much when Holy Week & Easter Day are on the calendar. Like God, they seem to arrive according to God's own timeline and as always, God comes to us right on time--just when we need the HOPE of Christ's Resurrection the most in our lives: in the aftermath of natural disasters here and around the globe; in the midst of family struggles or health issues or financial concerns or relationship issues; or whatever isn't quite right in our lives...

Along comes God...with arms out-stretched to comfort grieving hearts; to mend broken hearts & broken lives...Along comes God dressed in muddy boots & rolled-up sleeves helping rebuild the destruction of communities...Along comes God casting a very large net that captures all who need to truly know of God's love for them...

There's really no rushing; no slowing down our need for renewal; rebirth; refreshment; new life...Easter is God's refresher course on how to live life...in Celebration! Full throttle! With great gusto! No matter what...God's Easter promise in Christ Jesus is well worth the waiting...Thanks be for GST...God's Standard Time...*Blessings, Joanne*

<>< ><< ><< ><< ><<

### **Congregational Small Group Discussions Begin May 1** **Don't Forget! Make Time to Attend!**

Covenant Small Groups are meeting during the next 2 weeks. The Financial Task Force has planned for a variety of times and locations to make it as convenient as possible for everyone to attend. Come ready to ask your questions and offer suggestions for ways to address the pressing issues before us as a church family.

Listed below are the dates and times and link for more information...Many thanks to our hosts...

Sunday	May 1	2:00p	hosted by Jim & Phama Johnston 200 Youngsford Ct. Cary (1 block from church)
Friday	May 6	7:00p	hosted by Brad & Darla Baldwin (N. Hills area) 513 Ortega Rd. Raleigh 27609
Friday	May 13	7:00p	hosted by Jerry & Debbie Miller (NW Cary) 805 Roanoke Dr. Cary 27513
Sunday	May 15	Noon	hosted by Kathy Smith at the Church
		6:00p	hosted by Bob & Elaine Kennel (Holly Springs) 4844 Sunset Forest Circle 27540

Please make every effort to attend one of these groups to discuss the next steps for continuing to move into God's future.

You may sign up online: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/financial6> or through the church office: 481-4715; [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net)

# Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Congratulations to our "soon to be" college grads: **Chris Kidd**, B.A. Business Administration, Barton College; **Kelley Richardson**, M.A. in Public Health, UNC-Greensboro; Jeremy Hopkins, B.S. Business Education, East Carolina University...

**Continuing Prayers:** Kayla Grennan; Cameron Jackson & family; Gerry Tokanel; Art & Hazel Brothers; Vicky Vanderford; Deb Nystrom; Rev. Essie Thompson & family; Mary Toney.

**Parents:** Phama Larsen Johnston **Mothers:** Lesley Richardson; Don Brooks; Teresa DeMartin; Ann Hall; Vicky Vanderford; **Step-Mother:** Jeremy Hopkins; **Fathers:** Jeremy Hopkins; Megan Larsen; Debbie Miller.

**In-laws:** Renié Palmer; Cindy Magliocca. **Daughters:** Mary Lou Jackson; The Hoffman's

**Grandmothers:** Kelley Richardson; Cindy Magliocca & Roxie White; Vicki Wilkinson;

**Grandfather:** Amy Rutledge **Granddaughter:** Joe Busby. **Sisters:** Clelia Fry **Brothers:** Don Brooks; Jeremy Hopkins; Vicki Wilkinson; Jim Hartman; Chris Kidd; **Aunts:** Jeff Miller; Glenda Hoffman; Melanie Bunn; Ann Washington. **Uncles:** Patricia Mills. **Nephews:** Diana Stelmack; Melanie Bunn; Gerry Tokanel; Terry White.

**Great-Nephew:** Barishes. **Cousins:** Mary Lou Jackson; Jeff Miller; Ted Glasener; Carole Tyler; Terry White; Glenda Hoffman; Elaine Fry; **Sisters-in-Law:** Terry White; Hazel Brothers.

**Remembering Others:** Cheyenne Craven-Crozier; Jeff Harrison; Zuka family; Evie Bright; Dolores Reeder; Robert Sherwin; John & Debbie Rettew; Alecia & Mike Burnes; Troy Thacker; Rev. Dr. Kay Northcutt; 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](mailto:www.covenantcc@bellsouth.net) or 481-4715 if you want to continue to list anyone under "Remembering Others" after 2 weeks.

## Our Gifts & Expenses

	<u>Monthly Needs</u>	<u>April</u>
Gifts	\$19,700	\$ 16,136
Fundraisers & Other	<u>\$ 1,100</u>	<u>\$ 924</u>
Total	\$ 20,800	\$ 17,060

Year to Date Actual:

Total Income through 4.30.11 \$62,463

Less Expenses through 4.30.11 \$81,158

General Fund shortfall through 4.30.11 (\$18,695) ☹

**Is your giving up to date? What can you do to help?  
Thanks for your generosity!**

Easter Offering: \$673

Week of Compassion Tornado Assistance: \$378.39

Questions? Contact Kathy Smith, Treasurer: 363-6313; [ekathys@gmail.com](mailto:ekathys@gmail.com)

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

"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."

*(Luke 6: 38: Peterson's The Message)*

## Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

May 22 following each service

For the purpose of electing the 2011-12 Officers & Leaders

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

## Membership & Hospitality Ministry Info



Thanks to everyone who supported the plant sale on April 16. Net income from this event was \$778. We had a wonderful turn out and ALL the plants/hanging baskets were sold! Congratulations to Roxie White, the winner of the \$50 gift card.

Update on picture directory: We're still working hard on this project & hopefully will be completed soon!

Also, make sure the church office has your birthdays & anniversary information so we can send you a card from your church family. We don't want to leave anyone out!

*Suzanne Hopkins, Mary Lou Jackson & Ro Thompson, Co-Chrs.*

## INVITATION MINISTRY

# Calling All Covenant Guests!

Invitation Ministry would like to cordially invite all Covenant guests to an evening of fellowship and good food on Saturday, May 21st at 6:00p. The evening will provide an opportunity to get to know other guests and members, as well as ask those burning questions and learn more about all of the exciting things Covenant has to offer. Stay tuned for specific location details. If you have any questions or are interested in attending, contact Laura Holste: 363-4831; [lauraholste@hotmail.com](mailto:lauraholste@hotmail.com) or Sandy Kidd: 387-3882; [it2mad@aol.com](mailto:it2mad@aol.com) **Thanks!**

**"The Amazing Grays"**  
(Over 50 and willing to admit it!)  
**Thursday, May 19 at 11:30a**  
**Olive Garden 1809 Walnut St, Cary**  
**Crossroads Shopping Area**  
**RSVP Church Office by May 16.**

*Save the Dates! Mark your Calendars!*  
*THE Anniversary Weekend Celebration,*  
*Saturday & Sunday, November 12 & 13*  
*And You're Invited to Help Us Get Ready to*  
*Celebrate 25/25!*

by making donations to Covenant's Anniversary Fund: \$25 for 25 years (any amount is appreciated) to help cover some of the expenses related to travel; the 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."**

And now for some very exciting news:

### *Drum Roll Please..*

We are excited to announce that the **Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins**, General Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. & Canada, will be here to help us celebrate during our entire Anniversary Weekend...from the catered reception on Saturday evening through Sunday morning at 11a as our pulpit guest.

*Please know what a privilege and honor this is for our congregation!*  
*Mark your calendar NOW for November 12 & 13*

...Yes, it's 6 months away, but we all know how quickly other activities can fill up our calendars...Let's help make it Standing Room Only! Additional details will be forthcoming this Fall...

Our next Anniversary Celebration is **Sunday, June 12, the Day of Pentecost**, when we welcome Jim Powell, Sr. Advisor for Advancement for Church Extension. Covenant has a 25 year relationship and friendship with Jim as he has helped guide our congregation from its earliest beginnings as we moved from our temporary places of worship to our current church location. Please plan to be here to show your gratitude for his ministry with Church Extension and his support and love for Covenant.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact any member of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee:

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



## Covenant's SCRIP Update

As of the middle of April, we have earned over \$800 with the SCRIP program this year! Thank you! As you are planning your summer vacations, wedding gifts, graduation gifts, and summer outdoor activities, keep in mind how you could use SCRIP. In the next few months we have Mother's Day, Father's Day, high school and college graduations, and May and June birthdays and anniversaries. If you have any questions about how you can use SCRIP for these or any other activities, please ask the SCRIP volunteers – they are in the Narthex after each service; or contact Robin Miller: [doghowse@msn.com](mailto:doghowse@msn.com) or 919-852-3986.

Some people love giving gift cards as presents – it is simple and it allows the recipient to purchase whatever they want. Some people dislike giving gift cards as presents – they prefer to pick out the perfect present for the recipient. Whatever side of the coin you fall on let the SCRIP program help you out. For those of you who love giving gift cards as presents, there are hundreds of retailers that participate in the SCRIP program.

There are even gift card wrappers that you can "wrap" the gift card in. For those of you who prefer to buy the actual gift, you can still use the SCRIP program. You can purchase SCRIP for the store where you will be buying the gift, pay for the gift with the SCRIP gift card, and then give your recipient the present that you have carefully chosen for them. Either way, Covenant earns money!

**Robin Miller, SCRIP Coordinator**

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

## Disciples Women's Ministry...

**Don't Delay!**

**NOW is the time to plan for our Christmount Women's Retreat in Black Mountain, NC!**

**Saturday-Sunday, August 12-14**

**Speakers: Rev. Joanne VerBurg; Joann Williams & Allie Lundblad**

**ALL Women of the Church are invited to participate in this fun event**

Preferred housing for the Women's Retreat fills up quickly. MILLIE and GEORGE (guest houses) are already booked but spaces in the main Guest House & Guest House East are still available. I encourage you to sign up ASAP...rooms fill up fast! Mail the completed form along with registration fee and cost for the 1<sup>st</sup> night's lodging to Christmount soon and very soon to ensure that you get the space that you want. Contact the office: 481-4715 or [covenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellsouth.net) if you need a registration form.

Questions? Many women within our church family are ready to share their story about the good times they've had at the Christmount's Disciples Women's Retreat!

Disciples Women from all over North Carolina gather at our Conference Center in Black Mountain for this event. It's a great opportunity for fun, fellowship and self renewal as we gather at "our mountain". Visit [www.christmount.com](http://www.christmount.com) and see what the excitement is all about!

- *Don't forget to continue to clip and save Campbell's soup labels for Christmount! Bring them to the church by August 7 so we can take them with us...the labels help Christmount purchase needed items for the conference center.*

***Come Discover Women's Ministry!***

***Ann Washington and Renié Palmer, Co-chairs***

# Youth News - Calendar!

**May 15th** – Program @ Church (5:30 – 7 PM) Bring \$3 & a friend!

**May 21st** – Youth Camping Trip to Jordan Lake (Meet @ church 10 AM)

**June 8th** – Food Bank Service Project (6-8 PM) CENC Food Bank – Raleigh

**June 27 to July 2** – Youth Summer Camp @ Christmount (Registration due May 25<sup>th</sup>)

<>< >>< >>< >>< >><

## Don't Forget...



During this very important time in Covenant's history,  
don't forget that we're on [Facebook!](#)  
You can stay current with all the latest information about  
Covenant's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: guests, events, & activities  
with just one click of the mouse!  
Check us out & Connect with us on Facebook!

<>< >>< >>< >>< >><

Want to H-E-L-P?



For those of you who want to know how to help the victims of this past month's tornadoes & flooding in NC, Alabama, & surrounding areas or the Tsunami/earthquake disasters in Japan, check out "[Week Of Compassion's](#)" website & donate!

Remember 100% of all dedicated disaster relief funds are used to help those in need! You can't get any better than that! Oh yeah, and tell them that Covenant sent you by listing Covenant as your congregation!



## Let's Go Camping!

Covenant Youth (grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) are invited to a  
Camping Trip at Jordan Lake!  
Saturday-Sunday, May 21 & 22

Bring your Camping gear/outdoor attire for a fun-filled day & night on the Lake!  
We'll cook hotdogs by the fire, roast marshmallows, make s'mores, tell scary stories, &  
HAVE FUN!

I Can't think of a better way to kick off the Summer of 2011!  
More information coming your way!

RSVP to Rev. Randy: [randy-ccc@bellsouth.net](mailto:randy-ccc@bellsouth.net) so that he can make sure there is room enough for all!

<>< ><< ><< ><< ><<



I would like to take a moment to say "THANK YOU" for all the adult & youth volunteers who helped make this year's "Easter Eggstravaganza & Egg Hunt" a HUGE SUCCESS! We had more 34+ children participate this year (members, long-time guests, & first-time guests as well)! The church was "rockin'" on that Saturday morning & all of you took it in stride!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for your time and commitment!  
Everybody had a "blast" because of you!

<>< ><< ><< ><< ><<

**Covenant Youth** →  
**It's Time To Help!**



**Wednesday Night, June 8 from 6-8 PM**  
**We're headed to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina!**

ALL YOUTH(grades 5 – 12) and, if possible, parents or older siblings, are encouraged to join us as we help others in and around our community! It is very important we take the time to give of ourselves to "make a difference" and this is one way we can do that.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a nonprofit organization that has provided food for people at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina for 30 years. The Food Bank serves a network of more than 800 partner agencies such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults through warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, the Sandhills (Southern Pines) and Wilmington. In fiscal year 2009-2010, the Food Bank distributed more than 41.5 million pounds of food and non-food essentials through these agencies.

We are trying to fill at least 10 slots for this evening, so ALL ARE WELCOME! Please notify Rev. Randy if you are willing to help OR if you have questions: (919) 481-4715 or [randy-ccc@bellsouth.net](mailto:randy-ccc@bellsouth.net)

## **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](mailto:ekathys@gmail.com)