



July 2011  
Volume 25, Issue 7

**Covenant Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**

2911 S.W. Cary Parkway, Cary, NC 27513

Phone: 919.481.4715 Fax: 919.481.4016

E-mail: [convenantcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:convenantcc@bellsouth.net) Website: [www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org](http://www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org)

# NEWSLETTER WINNING TITLE COMING IN AUGUST!

## **"We ARE the ones we've been waiting for!"**

The winds of the Holy Spirit came rushing upon us as we ushered in the Day of Pentecost. Rev. Jim Powell shared a message with us that morning that I truly believe was none other than God speaking through him to all of us here at Covenant: **"We are the ones we've been waiting for!"**

What a great way to approach our life together during these past 25 years; from the first glimpse of God's vision for a new church and through the many people and experiences we have shared and enjoyed far along the way...and the force of that Holy Wind & Fire of Pentecost is alive and well and continues to stir within our hearts and lives as we prepare to move into the next 25 years of ministry and mission.

**We are the ones we've been waiting for:** knowing that the percolating fertile ground beneath feels the Spirit's presence in the many new faces among us, uniting with us, bringing new energy & excitement as we pay attention to the Spirit's leading.

We see it in the faces of the newly baptized and in the smiles and twinkling eyes of the adults who now call Covenant their new Church home; and the gifts they are already gladly sharing!

**We are the ones we've been waiting for:** During June we celebrated the Spirit's invitation to some of our young people who attended church camp for the very first time:

Camp Caroline: Amanda Hopkins & Dad; Gabe & Dane Swanser; Nate McHarg;  
Christmount: Carmen Ballard, Tom Evett & Rev. Randy.

Hear now from **one we've been waiting for:** Amanda Hopkins, age 6, who attended Uno Camp for Kindergartners and their parents:

"I liked every part about camp. My favorite part was swimming, even though I scraped 3 of my toes. But it was still fun. I had a great time with my Dad. I met Ellagrace, Isabelle, and other new friends. I loved the stories and the movie about Jonah because it's kinda funny vegetables talk and they are healthy.

I learned that if you disobey God and don't say sorry and try to run away from God, it can get you in big trouble. Like there was a big storm and the only way to get away was to throw Jonah into the sea. And the last part about the movie Jonah thought God was going to sacrifice the town. I really like Camp Caroline so I am coming back next year!"

## **Inside This Issue**

Rev. Joanne L. VerBurg	1
Moderator Info	2
Membership & Hospitality	2
Come Satisfy the Hungry Heart	3
Summer Adult Studies	3
Financial Picture	4
Outreach News	5
Children & Youth Ministries	6

And now a word from Dad (Jeremy Hopkins) another **one we've been waiting for:**

"I'm not sure if Uno Camp was for Amanda or myself! I loved camp growing up and Uno Camp at Camp Caroline reminded me of those memories. It was a very special weekend for me as Amanda and I spent some quality time together and were able to experience God through camp. We met lots of new friends, went sailing across Dawson's Creek and went swimming. Twice. There was never a dull moment and it filled me with joy watching the kids with all their excitement and energy.

Our keynote topic for the weekend was the story of Jonah, and when looking at the story through the eyes of a child I heard the story in a different way. My main take away from the keynote was that God always puts us where we need to be, and isn't that the truth!

What I rediscovered that Saturday evening was that sometimes we find God exactly where we would expect. Sometimes God isn't hiding from us we just need to open our eyes and our hearts. Yes, God was there in the midst of it all as I watched the beautiful sun as it set... behind the water... behind the cross... and behind the communion table on which the words were inscribed,

"This do in remembrance of me..."

**We are the ones we've been waiting for:** as 13 adults & 7 children make their way to our General Assembly, July 9-14, in Nashville, TN; where we will celebrate the leadership of our own Marilyn Williams, conducting the Business Sessions as the 2nd Vice Moderator. We will meet new friends and renew old friendships; learn of new program opportunities that will add to our ministries here at Covenant; enjoy dynamic worship and engage in service; all the while discovering new understandings to build upon Covenant's already strong foundation of what it means to be Disciples of Christ...

**We REALLY ARE the ones we've been waiting for:** all of us together, "having been put where God needs us to be;" united by the power of God's Holy Spirit, anticipating what's next for us...can't wait to see what's just around the bend...

**Blessings, Rev. Joanne**

## Moderator's News

July brings with it many things: barbecues, fireworks, vacations, and the occasional sunburn! Here at Covenant, it also brings a new group of leaders and officers, as we thank those who have served and welcome those who are beginning and continuing to serve our congregation.

Many thanks to Derek Rutledge, our outgoing moderator, and to all of those individuals who have helped lead in the past year. Your time, talent, effort, and energy have been well spent and appreciated!

In recent months, we've read and heard a lot about the operating needs of Covenant. We've engaged in small group discussions and come away with great ideas for fundraising, awareness-raising, and fellowship.

As people of faith, we know that our resources are not our own, but sometimes we might wonder how we can help the church we love if we're already giving everything we can. Here are some easy suggestions:

- Pray for our church, making this faith community part of your conversation with God.

- Give thanks for fundraisers! The recent plant sale raised \$831—nearly enough to cover our budgeted administrative expenses for one month. Spring Daze raised \$2700, over half our annual education ministry cost. And our SCRIP program has raised about \$1300 so far this year; covering our annual budget for music and worship suppl
- Give thanks for fundraisers! The recent plant sale raised \$831—nearly enough to cover our budgeted administrative expenses for one month.
- Spring Daze raised \$2700, over half our annual education ministry cost. And our SCRIP program has raised about \$1300 so far this year; covering our annual budget for music and worship supplies.
- Use SCRIP. By purchasing a \$50 Exxon or BP card and using it to fill up your tank, you give \$.75 to Covenant. That doesn't sound like much, until you think about the number of times you might spend \$50 on gas in a month or a year... And \$50 at Target nets \$1 for Covenant. It all adds up!

There are new fundraisers coming too along with more opportunities for fellowship and fun, including VBS on July 27-30 and an Ice Cream Social on July 31.

I am truly honored to begin my term as moderator for our church and am looking forward to working together as we collectively shape Covenant's future! *Darla Baldwin, Moderator*

*"You scream...I scream...We all scream for ice cream!"*

*Church Family Ice Cream Social!*

*At the Church! Sunday, July 31*

*5:30 - 7:30p*

***Let's all get together for a Mid-Summer Church-wide Ice Cream Social!***

***Plan to beat the heat and join the fun...***

We can listen to tales of summer vacations, hear all about VBS, catch up with folks who have been away...and of course, create some awesome ice cream sundaes!

Put the date on your calendar NOW!

Let the church office know what you would like to bring:

A freezer of ice cream? A topping for the sundaes?

covenantcc@bellsouth.net or 481-4715) ...

Then we'll be all set!

We'll gather **AT THE CHURCH** for the fun, fellowship, and ice cream!



# Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

**Our Love & Prayers are with:** Ted Glasener and family in the recent death of his wife, Priscilla. A memorial service was held June 30; Bill & Kim Rivers in the death of his uncle.

**Congratulations to:** Jennifer Miller (Jenny) & Sugayama (Suki) Sneed who were married at Covenant, Saturday, June 25.

## Welcome our Newest Members for June:

### By Confession and Baptism:

Peyton Cole Barish, son of Jody & Jay Barish

Timothy Zhengzhong Downs, son of Cathy & Don Downs

Dane Ward Swanser, son of Lynn & Kole Swanser:

Re-affirmation of Faith: Jim & Kathy Gheen

By Transfer of Membership: Don & Lindsay Brooks; Sue DeVaul

**Recent:** Jerry Miller, Sr., surgery on July 6; Deb Nystrom; Huncik Family; Kayla Grennan;

**At Home:** Vicky Vanderford; Art & Hazel Brothers;

**Continuing Prayers:** Cindy Magliocca; Al Palmer; Cameron Jackson & family; Mary Toney.

**Parents:** Phama Larsen Johnston. **Mothers:** Melanie Bunn; Lesley Richardson; Don Brooks; Teresa DeMartin; Ann Hall; Vicky Vanderford. **Fathers:** Jeremy Hopkins; Megan Larsen;

Debbie Miller. **In-laws:** Renié Palmer; Cindy Magliocca. **Daughters:** Jack Reilly; The

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

**Grandson:** Sally Shelly. **Brothers:** Marilyn Williams; Don Brooks; Vicki Wilkinson; Jim

Hartman; Chris Kidd. **Aunts:** Vicky Vanderford; Jeff Miller; Glenda Hoffman; Melanie Bunn;

Ann Washington **Nephews:** Diana Stelmack; Melanie Bunn; 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:** David Lloyd; Bunnie & Bob Merckle: Musette McKelvey; Erin Hall family; Ted Johnson; Steve Browne; Susan Woodward; Liz Delmer; Cheyenne Craven-Crozier; Rev. Dr. Kay Northcutt; Christine & Sara Bronson; Chris Westbrook; Patrick Westbrook; Ron Walters; Raynell Cheek; Kelly Canady; General & Regional Church Leaders; NC Disciples new church starts.

## Hungry for Some Adult Conversation? Check out the Summer Opportunities! Sunday Mornings, 10-10:45a Everyone's Welcome!

### New Summer Study for Curiosity Seekers!

*THE JESUS DIARIES* is a collection of 9 entries by United Church of Christ clergy who call themselves the Stillspeaking Writers' Group because they believe God is still speaking today. In their short book, each describes a process of learning how to think about and talk about who Jesus is. All agree that the process is an on-going challenge and they invite others (you and me) to listen to their conversations and struggles.

So, come on down the Education hallway to the last room on the left; and join whoever's there waiting for YOU. Feel free to stop in or stop out at any point during the series, but do attend at least once, if for no other reason than to satisfy your curiosity...

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

### Disciples Class Continues to Explore the Scriptures through The International Lesson Series

We meet in the Library (off the Sanctuary entryway) each Sunday morning. Come enjoy exploring the books of the Bible as we dig deep and discover new meaning for our lives.

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

### New "Hot Topics" Study Coming in September!

Many "mainline" and "progressive" Christians are much clearer about what we do not believe than about what we do believe. The "Hot Topics" discussion group will begin a new book study in September 18. *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: A Guide to What Matters Most*, by United Methodist pastor, Martin Thielen.

Join us in the Sanctuary as we consider real life current issues from a Christian perspective. If you would like a book ordered (\$10-reimburse the church as you're able); or if you have other questions, contact Kathy Smith:

[ekathys@gmail.com](mailto:ekathys@gmail.com) or 363-6313.

**Covenant Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**

**Staff**

**Rev. Joanne L. VerBurg, Sr. Minister**  
([joanne-ccc@bellsouth.net](mailto:joanne-ccc@bellsouth.net))

**Rev. Randy Holste, Assoc. Minister for  
Youth & Children**  
([randy-ccc@bellsouth.net](mailto:randy-ccc@bellsouth.net))

**Dr. E. Carole Tyler, Director of Music**  
**Robin Miller, Pianist**  
**Mary Lou Jackson,**  
**Admin. Assistant/Financial Secretary**

**Financial Information Page**

**YOU REQUESTED ENVELOPES**

Check the pocket in the back of the chairs in the Sanctuary. Offering envelopes have been placed there for your convenience. Notice the options given on the front of the card about how you want your contribution to be used: General Fund, Building Fund. There's even a place to write in your desire to have your contribution used for some "OTHER" purpose.

Then, by putting your name on the envelope, your contribution will be noted as a part of your giving record which lists all of your tax deductible gifts to Covenant. Boxes of these envelopes can be made available to those who would like to use them on a regular basis. Just let us know you want them by contacting the church office: 481-4715 or [covenantcc@bellouth.net](mailto:covenantcc@bellouth.net).

**Our Gifts & Expenses**

	<u>Monthly Needs</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Gifts	\$19,700	\$ 22,731	<b>Current figures available in July 10 bulletin</b>
Fundraisers & Other	<u>\$ 1,100</u>	<u>\$ 3,173</u>	
Total	\$20,800	\$ 25,904	

Year to Date Actual:

Total Income through 5.31.11	\$88,183
Less Expenses through 5.31.11	<u>\$99,872</u>
General Fund shortfall through 5.31.11	(\$11,689)

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

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

**Here's what Jesus tells us about life & the stuff of life:**

"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)

**News from the Financial Task Force**

May was a strong month financially for Covenant. Our income exceeded expenses by nearly \$7,300 The income from Spring Daze was \$2700; and we received approximately \$5000 in over and above giving or from pledges being paid ahead of schedule. We've reduced the General Fund shortfall for the year to just under \$11,700, but we need to continue to press on and maintain momentum so we can continue to reduce our deficit and overcome our operating budget challenges. Thanks for all YOU are doing!

Let's Keep Up the Great Work! God is Good!

## Looking Back in Outreach

June was a very good month for Covenant's outreach ministry, of which you all play a great part. Did you know that during June we:

- **Tornado Relief**

Collected clothing for a family that lost all their belongings in the tornado that struck our community recently

- **Pentecost Offering**

Contributed \$548 to the Pentecost offering

- **Habitat for Humanity**

### "Abraham Build Interfaith Project"

Hosted Veronica Bitting from Habitat for Humanity during the Sunday School hour on June 26<sup>th</sup>. She spoke to us about the Interfaith Relations Committee and the Abraham Build project.

The Abraham Build project is a collaborative effort between members of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities to build a Habitat house in the Long Acres community in Raleigh.

There is something that people of all ages can contribute to this project. 16 year old will need parental permission to actually work on the construction of the house; however younger children (and those who don't want to do construction) can prepare and deliver meals to the construction volunteers.

Ground breaking for the house will take place on Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>. at 8:30 a.m.

The good news is that we can attend the ground breaking and get back to Covenant in time for Sunday School and the 11:00 a.m. service! You might also be interested to know that Habitat is opening a "Restore" facility in Cary at which you can purchase and/or donate material and goods to be used in the construction of the homes.



*Our Mission....Reaching out for others!*

## Looking Forward to July

- **Abraham Build**

On July 7<sup>th</sup>. a member of the Outreach Ministry will be attending a meeting of the Abraham Build project committee to gather more information and officially commit Covenant to the project. The group meets monthly at 7:30 p.m. at various locations. We are asking for a few volunteers to share responsibility for attending the meetings. Perhaps you can spare 1 or 2 evenings between now and the end of the year.

We already have 2 volunteers for the project and are looking for more volunteers. The scheduling is very flexible. Construction takes place on Saturdays and Sundays from approximately 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and you can volunteer for as many (or as few) days as is convenient for you. We can't think of a more effective and fun way for us to get to know people of other faiths and gain a better understanding of those faith traditions, in addition to sharing our faith traditions. If you would like to participate in this most worthwhile project, please contact Ruth Jordan, Cindy Magliocca, Renié Palmer or Becky Stiles.

- **Urban Ministries Food Bank**

For the remainder of this year, we are asking you to help us answer an urgent plea received from Urban Ministries. They are in desperate need of non perishable food items. Please bring food items to the church each Sunday. Wallet sized cards listing needed items have been placed on the table in the Narthex.

- **Vacation Bible School**

Outreach Ministry is collaborating with VBS from July 27 -30 to involve more people at Covenant and the community in donating food for the Urban Ministries food bank. We will be asking participants to bring certain items each evening such as canned vegetables one evening, cereal another evening etc. Look for promotional fliers in the very near future.

In closing, "Thanks be to God " for the loving people at Covenant Christian Church.

## Children & Youth Ministries

*Who's UP for an Adventure?... Covenant VBS is Coming!*



Covenant's Vacation Bible School is on it's way and you won't want to miss it. This year we are going to take an "ISLAND ODYSSEY"; let's Island hop with Jesus & learn about ancient (& current) island cultures. It's going to be "way-cool" & "jammin'-man"!

**Mark your calendars for July 27– July 30**

All children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to sign up for this awesome event, as well as adults wanting to tag along! There will also be an Adult Class, led by Rev. VerBurg.

Each year we enroll dozens of children, from around the community & Church & we

anticipate a bigger crowd this year. Come and see what the excitement is all about!

For more information regarding this event or our congregation please contact:

Church office: (919) 481-4715; Rev. Randy: [randy-ccc@bellsouth.net](mailto:randy-ccc@bellsouth.net)

Or check us out online: [www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org](http://www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org)

## Pool Party August 16, 6:30-9:00p

All Covenant Families Welcome!



Who's ready for a POOL PARTY? The Barish's are hosting a pool party @ the Scottish Hills Recreational Facility in Cary. There will be fun for everyone – parents and children! They have 2 slides & 2 diving boards. Festivities begin at 6:30 PM. For directions contact Scottish Hills Club directly at (469-8109)! There will be desserts and all the fixin's to make scrumptious ICE CREAM Sundaes!

Bring your friends/family and enjoy an evening by the pool – eating ice cream and desserts! Pool admission is \$3 per person and we would like to have a head count by Friday afternoon, August 12! Send RSVPs to Rev. Randy: 919-481-4715) or [randy-ccc@bellsouth.net](mailto:randy-ccc@bellsouth.net) ASAP!

**See you there!**



## THE BEACH!

Calling all CHI RHO YOUTH (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders)...Who wants to take a break from Raleigh?

Sometime in August we are going to THE BEACH to play in the sand/sun/surf! Date will be announced ASAP!

We'll be heading out around 4 PM Friday afternoon and returning on Sunday afternoon around 3 PM.

Registration forms will be e-mailed to you and are available in the church office. They will need to be returned to Randy no later than July 29<sup>th</sup> to reserve your spot on this trip! More information will be heading your way so keep your eyes peeled.

# Youth News - Calendar!

## CHI-RHO (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)

July 23<sup>rd</sup> - A Day @ Frankie's Fun Park! - (3 -6 PM) - (\$20)  
Beach Trip for August in the works, more info forthcoming!

## CYF (9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade)

July 16<sup>th</sup> - Paintball - ½ day of paintball fun...more info on the way! (\$30)  
August 7<sup>th</sup> - Bowling Night! - Let's put on some funny shoes, throw a ball, & eat pizza! (\$10)  
TBD - BEACH TRIP! - (More Info Coming Soon)

# Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Are you trying to find a way to "fit in"? Are you seeing all the cool things happening with children's ministry and saying "I wish I could be a part of that?" Here's your chance! WE NEED FAITH PARTNERS (AKA - Sunday School Teachers) to help with our Pre-School & K-1 classes beginning THIS FALL! As a teacher you will be right in the middle of all the action!

We're asking you to help with one or two shadowing sessions this summer and a scheduled rotation for Sunday mornings beginning Sept. 12th! Also, with our AMAZING curriculum the prep work only takes roughly 30 minutes to an hour per session!



Interested in becoming a SS teacher? Want more info?

Contact Rev. Randy at the church office: 919-481-4715 or [randy-ccc@bellsouth.net](mailto:randy-ccc@bellsouth.net)



## Latest SCRIP Update

At the halfway point of 2011, the SCRIP team is pleased to announce that we have earned 75% of our goal – we have exceeded \$1500 in earnings so far this year. We have also officially earned more in these six months than in all of 2010. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far, and I look forward to seeing how far we can go this year!

Even though it is summer, we are still selling SCRIP – and with the new online ordering system, it makes it easier than ever to order even when you are out of town!

Want more info about this new system, ShopwithScrip? Contact Robin Miller: [doghowse@msn.com](mailto:doghowse@msn.com);  
or

919-852-3986. Or stop by the SCRIP table after either service on Sunday mornings & talk to the SCRIP volunteers.

## Do We Have any Bargain Hunters at Covenant?

We are kicking off a new fundraising idea at Covenant.

But don't stop reading now! *This will not cost you any extra money* out of your already tight budget. And though it may take a few minutes of your time, this is something you can do from home, at your own convenience.

We are challenging every member to find some NEW way to save a few dollars each week or each month, and to contribute those NEW savings to the church. For instance, don't just clip coupons from the Sunday paper -- search the internet for extra coupons, and give the money you save when you use those coupons to Covenant. Or change your shopping day to take advantage of the local store's "senior discount" and give the 5% savings to coupon. Search for a restaurant that lets kids eat free, and put the savings in the offering plate. **This is all about doing something that you don't already do, and allowing Covenant to benefit.**

Of course, some of us are better at bargain hunting than others. So, to help each other along, we're going to be sharing our ideas. Please contact Kathy Smith (363-6313; [ekathys@gmail.com](mailto:ekathys@gmail.com)) with your favorite money saving tips: We'll pass on the info you provide, such as websites, stores that offer discounts, whatever . . . . If we combine our efforts, we can make a difference. And please be sure to mark your check or envelope "Covenant Bargain Hunters" so we can watch the results of our efforts grow and ease the budget crunch at Covenant.