



Covenant Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ)
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O Still Small Voice of Calm...

Perhaps you are familiar with the story of the prophet Elijah when he flees for his life, lest he be killed by ol' Queen Jezebel for killing the prophets of the pagan god, Baal, that she worshipped. Elijah first hides out under a broom tree, begging for Yahweh to kill him...and in return, Yahweh offers him food & drink and he gains strength to go 40 days & nights and makes his way to a cave on Mt. Horeb. And again he begs Yahweh to take his life.

Finally God's messenger tells him to go and stand on the top of the mountain for God is about to pass by...but stubborn, "I just want to die", Elijah, continues to hide out in the comfort of his cave. A great wind kicks up; then an earthquake, followed by a fire...but Elijah doesn't budge... Yahweh wasn't in the wind or the earthquake or the fire...but it was only in the sound of sheer silence that Elijah took courage; stepped outside his cave right into the arms of a loving God who then told him God had more work for Elijah to do...

Lately with all that's been happening around here, we have every reason to feel a whole lot like Elijah...an earthquake one afternoon, high winds and fierce rains and flooding thanks to Irene, all amid the ongoing summer drought and wildfires. This story speaks to us lo, these many centuries later as we too feel the need to flee for our lives...hopefully not because there's a price on our head; nor because we want God to take our life; but because the stresses of life seem overwhelming and never-ending.

As the lazy, hazy, crazy days of Summer are about to kick us into the busyness of Fall, some of us find ourselves in new, uncharted experiences of school or work or unemployment or retirement; loneliness or the death of a loved one; broken dreams; broken relationships; money worries at home and at church...And often we find ourselves just wanting to run away from it all, seeking some "cave comfort & security." And the more we hide out, the more unable we are to recognize God has come calling...maybe not in the winds & the rain or the earth moving beneath our feet...but once again God waits outside our cave...and in the waiting, God calls us out in faith and it isn't until we make ourselves stop long enough to hear the deafening sounds of silence; that we are able to hear God inviting us as partners in God's service; as living witnesses of God's unconditional love and endless presence" and so we pray..."speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still small voice of calm.." (Dear God Embracing Humankind, JG Whittier and FC. Maker; No. 594, Chalice Hymnbook).

Blessings, Rev. Joanne

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Our Anniversary Celebrations Continue!
 (Only 73 Days 'til our 25th Anniversary Weekend!)

Until then...our next Anniversary celebration is upon us. September 11, we will welcome Rev. Ron Degges, President of our Disciples Home Missions to share with us at a variety of times that morning; beginning at 9a during Gathering Worship; 10a when all adults & youth will meet with Ron to tell us more about Disciples Home Mission; and 11a when he will bring us God's Good News for the Church!

September 11 is **Festival of Friends Day**—all day long! (see page 3 of this newsletter) Invite someone to experience Covenant at its best; in Worship or at 10a Refreshments & Education Hour or later this same day, to our uproarious, renowned, side-splitting, all around enjoyable Talent/UNTalent Night! **You'll be glad you did...** ☺

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News from Our Moderator

There's a quote I love. I almost always get it wrong, so today I googled it. It's from theologian Frederick Buechner, and it goes like this:

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." (*Wishful Thinking*)

We can apply this idea in our careers, our interactions with others, and within our faith community. The right place for us is where we find happiness in meeting the needs of the world. So, ask yourself: What part of Covenant's ministry makes you deeply glad? Where do you see a need that you can fill?

Our Program Ministry Coordinators are working hard to plan exciting and faith-filled activities for us in the 2011-2012 program year, but it takes all of us to carry out our mission and ministry. I hope you'll answer the call for each of us to join one (or more) Program Ministries to help us care for each other and those who haven't found us yet. Together, we can find our way to the place God calls us to be, meeting the world's needs and experiencing great happiness!

Come find your deep gladness at Covenant! *Darla Baldwin, Moderator*

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Disciples Women's Ministry News



Quarterly Breakfast Meeting September 10, 8:30a

Some of us recently spent a marvelous weekend learning and communing with one another at the Disciples Women's Ministry Retreat at Christmount. I may be prejudiced, but I think we have a special group of women here at Covenant Christian Church. If you want to get to know some of these women and experience the fellowship that comes out of just being together, don't miss our quarterly breakfast on Saturday September 10 at 8:30 a.m.

Not only will you get to sample some really good food and conversation, you will also receive the benefit of hearing from our speaker Lynice Williams. Lynice is the Executive Director of NC Fair Share. She will be presenting on Health Care Reform and a faith-inspired vision for health care. There is so much incorrect information disseminated about the future of health care in the U.S. This is your opportunity to get the facts, so please join us. Contact Renié Palmer:

481-2121 or at Rpalmer123@nc.rr.com if you plan to attend. **You don't want to miss this!**
Renie Palmer, Chairperson

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And Don't Forget the \$25/25 Anniversary Fund (\$25 for 25 years)!

We're asking for a suggested \$25 donation (any amount is welcomed) from each Covenant household and anyone else who wants to help us celebrate this milestone in our church family's story. If every household would consider contributing to this fund we will be able to provide a catered reception and program that allows everyone to be freed up to truly celebrate this grand occasion.

Thanks to the 19 member/guest households and 12 Covenant supporters who have already responded to the call. There are special envelopes in the back of the sanctuary chairs for your convenience or you may mail your donation to the church office. Earmark your check, "\$25/25."
Thanks for your support...

Your 25th Anniversary Committee, Pam Deardorff & Marian Hartman, Co-Chrs.

A FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS MEETING FRIENDS!



Don't you think it would be fun to introduce your school, neighborhood, workplace, and family friends to your friends and acquaintances at Covenant Christian Church? Well, we would like to meet and even celebrate them at church on Sunday, September 11.

We're not just talking about people without a church home...This is a great chance to have your friends experience the joy of Covenant! We promise, there will be no embarrassing moments of introduction! This is simply a wonderful way to fill our worship space with many friendly faces!

There will be several interesting things happening on that day, so find a way to get these important people in your life to the church in time for one or more of the following:

9am Gathering Worship

10am Refreshments and a Community-wide Gathering of Adults & Youth as we learn more about Disciples Home Missions that Covenant supports thru our Disciples Mission Fund. Children, preK-5th grade will attend Sunday School.

11am Worship with guest minister, Rev. Ron Degges, President of Disciples Home Mission

5-7p Talent-UnTalent Night (read related article below)

This evening event is when our world famous TALENT-UNTALENT show reveals more than one could ever imagine about who can do what and how well or NOT! It's not too late to team up with some of your friends so ya'll can demonstrate your talent as a group. Just do it. I dare you.

But, if your friends are allergic to smiling, laughing, enjoying themselves and feeling the warm welcoming spirit of Covenant, don't dare bring them to any of these things. They would never forgive you for it. ☺

Carole Tyler, Invitation Ministry Chr.

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Dust Off Your Top Hat! Put on Your Dancin' Shoes!
It's Time for Talent-UnTalent Night!
Sunday, September 11 5-7:30p (childcare provided)

Please join us for an evening of family fun as we kick-off a great new season at Covenant Christian Church with our annual Talent/Un-Talent Night and Potluck Dinner.

We'll be showcasing some entertaining UNTalent as well as Performing arts (martial arts, singing, dancing, comedy) cooking, baking, photography, art work, wood work, crafts or any other talent you choose to share! Sign-up in the entryway or contact the church office: 481-4715; covenantcc@bellsouth.net to bring your favorite dish for our potluck dinner and/or to showcase your hidden and not so hidden talents!

Even if you think you've missed the Talent Train, being here is most important as we cheer others on; laugh a lot; be entertained; eat great food; enjoy one another's company & appreciate the many gifts among us...**Invite someone to come with you for an evening of great fun & food!**

"The Amazing Grays" ☺
September Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, September 15, at 11:30a
Olive Garden @ Crossroads
We'll also talk a bit about the
October 16-18 Fall Leaf Trip

Our Financial Picture

And now a word from our Treasurer...

Preliminary figures for August show a shortfall of \$6K for the month, following July's shortfall for \$5K. For both months, expenses were on budget, but income was less than budgeted. The weather certainly did not cooperate with us, when Irene caused the Town of Cary to cancel Lazy Daze our major summer fundraiser. We are looking forward to Fall, when income usually picks up a bit!! Please give generously to Covenant's ministries! Final August figures will be reported in the September 18 bulletin.

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

Our Gifts & Expenses			
	<u>Monthly Needs</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
Gifts	\$19,700	\$ 19,319	\$15,600
Fundraisers & Other	<u>\$ 1,100</u>	<u>\$ 338</u>	<u>210</u>
Total	\$20,800	\$ 19,657	\$15,870
Year to Date Actual:			
Total Income through 7.31.11		\$123,710	
Less Expenses through 7.31.11		<u>\$143,181</u>	
General Fund shortfall through 7.31.11		(\$ 19,471)	

YOUR REQUEST IS OUR COMMAND!

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. Contact the church office if you want a box: 481-4715 or covenantcc@bellouth.net.

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Bargain Hunters for Covenant

All members of Covenant are asked to join us in a fundraiser that won't cost you a cent! This fundraiser is all about *doing something that you don't already do to save money*, and then donating those new savings to the church. For example:

1. Kroger's gives seniors (born before 1954) a 5% discount on Tuesdays, and Harris Teeter does the same on Thursdays for those who are age 60 or over. There are likely others. Lots of fast food outlets give senior discounts, too. If you are a senior, know your favorite store's policy, and take advantage of it!
2. Shop from the convenience of home: check out www.Amazon.com grocery store for bulk shopping - most items qualify for free super saver shipping on orders over \$25.
3. Use your grocery store's "digital coupons" program -- you don't even have to remember to hand coupons to the cashier. Register on the store website with your shopper card number, and load "coupons" onto your card - when you purchase the items, the coupon value will be deducted from your total.

Please mark you donations "Bargain Hunters" **and be sure to pass your savings tips on** to Kathy Smith: 363-6313; ekathys@gmail.com

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Covenant's SCRIP Update

In January of this year, I challenged the congregation to raise \$2000 this year using the SCRIP program at Covenant. **I am incredibly happy to announce that as of our final order in August, we accomplished our goal!!** And we made it four months ahead of schedule. **Thank you** to everyone who has participated with the program this year. No matter the amount you purchased, every contribution has helped us reach our goal. And t is? We still have four months left! Now the question becomes, how far can we go? I look forward seeing how much more we can raise over the next four months!

September is here! Start your planning now as to how you can use SCRIP for your budgetary or gift-giving needs. September & October birthdays and anniversaries, school supplies, supplies for your final outdoor projects, even Halloween candy and decorations, are great ways that you can use SCRIP. Stop by and see the SCRIP volunteers in the church entryway after each service to place an order, purchase inventory, or get more information. Kathy Smith will be filling in as the SCRIP volunteer September 18. All orders will still be processed as usual, including inventory purchases, paper orders, and online orders. Thanks, Kathy! *Robin Miller, SCRIP Coordinator*

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Habitat for Humanity Abraham Build

Habitat Wake is launching our first Abraham Build, a collaborative, Interfaith effort to fund and build a home for a low-income family. Members of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities in Wake County are working together to complete our first Abraham Build project, and to learn more about one another in the process.

Read about the project from the point of view of David LaMotte, NC Council of Churches. "The most effective way to combat bigotry is to build community, and there is no better way to build community than to work together for the common good. The Abraham build embodies so much that I hold dear, and I am thrilled that this is happening in Wake County."

Fifteen members of our congregation have volunteered to participate in this project.

Consider a way that you and/or your family or group within our church can help. You must be 16 yrs old to actually help with the construction; but we will also be called upon to help in other ways. Contact Renié Palmer to sign up to help with construction or for other ways to help: 481-2121; or Rpalmer123@nc.rr.com The first build date is scheduled for Saturday, October 22, at 8:30 a.m. at 515 Parnell Dr. in Raleigh.

The first fundraiser (Jazz concert and silent auction) was a great success. The print pictured below is our next attempt to raise the \$75,000 needed to purchase building materials for the house. 300 copies are available for purchase for \$25. Let Renié Palmer know if you would like to purchase one.



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Do You Have a Little Extra Time?? Property Ministry Needs YOU!

Property Ministry is divided into 2 parts. I am coordinating the outside Property efforts this year; and Ken Hoffman is responsible for the inside the building needs. In addition to a couple of scheduled church-wide work parties and some small-group opportunities, I want to make sure everyone who wants to help, gets a chance. If you have free time any morning/afternoon/evening or an hour-or-so on the weekend and want to help, contact me: dreaves@troxlerlabs.com; 467-7712(H) or 485-2212 (W) and I'll let you know what needs to be done. If you prefer to work inside, let me know of your interest and I'll let Ken know and he'll get back to you...Thanks for your willingness to help us be good stewards of our property & grounds...*Dick Reaves, Property Co-Chr.*



What's New for Children & Youth this Fall?

Beginning Sept. 11!

Educational Hour: (10 AM)

- Toddler/Infant Nurseries (Newborn to 3 yrs. old)
- Preschool (Ages 3 - K)
- Early Elementary (Grades 1 - 2)
- Upper Elementary (Grades 3 - 5)
- Chi Rho - AM (Grades 6 - 8)
- CYF Experience (Sr. High Youth)



Children's Church (during 11 AM Worship)

- Infant Nursery (Newborn - 18 mos. old)- Paid Staff/volunteer
- Toddler Nursery (18 mos. & up) - Paid Staff/volunteer
- Children's Worship & Wonder (Ages 3 - 2nd grade)
- Transitional Worship [Sept - Nov.] - 3rd grade ONLY

And There's More:

- Kids 2 Kids - Monthly SERVICE activities for all Elementary students.
- Chi Rho - Activities for all Middle School Youth (Bi-weekly programs)
- CYF - Activities for all Sr. High Youth. (Bi-weekly programs)
- COMING SOON! - "Covenant Time" - Details to be revealed soon.
(Fellowship experiences for K-2nd & 3-5th graders)

Youth News - Calendar!

CHI-RHO (6th-8th grade)

- September 11 - KICK OFF-SUNDAY! Talent/Untalent Night (5 PM) - Bring the whole family!
September 25 - Chi Rho Program! Bring \$4 & a friend. (5:30 - 7 PM)

CYF (9th -12th grade)

- September 11 - KICK OFF-SUNDAY! Talent/Untalent Night (5 PM) - Bring the whole family!
September 30 - October 2- Regional CYF Retreat @ Camp Caroline!
(\$70 Registration Fee - pays lodging/food)
October (Date TBD) - Fishing Trip @ the coast! (Keep your eyes peeled for more info...)

Hungry for Some Adult Conversation? Check out these Fall Classes!

Sunday Mornings, 10-10:45a Everyone's Welcome!

Please Note: Sunday September 11, at 10a, all Adult Classes, along with other interested adults will meet together in the Sanctuary with Ron Degges, President of Disciples Home Missions, as we learn more about this important ministry of the Christian Church (DoC).

We will also plan to do the same Sunday, October 23, when we meet with Dennis Landon, President of Higher Education Leadership Ministries (HELM)...With these exceptions in mind, read further to learn what each Adult Class is offering for your educational and spiritual growth, beginning September 4 at 10a (childcare for Infants & Toddlers/classes available for Pre-school & Kdgn; Younger & Older Elementary age; Middle & High Schools):

The Seekers Class

September 4 & 18 we'll be finishing up our discussion on the last 2 entries of *The Jesus Diaries*, as we continue to grow in our understanding of how to think about and talk about Jesus.

Beginning September 25, we will return to lively & informative discussions of the Lectionary scriptures each week: assigned readings of the Hebrew Testament; The Book of Psalms; The Gospel Lesson and one of the Epistles. Everyone is invited to share in the on-going challenges of interpreting the scriptures as we incorporate the stories of scripture into our daily walk of faith. So, come on down the Education hallway to the last room on the left; and
join whoever's there waiting for YOU!

The Disciples Class

We explore the Scriptures through The International Lesson Sunday School Lesson Series, which follows a six-year plan for reading and studying the Bible. The series includes daily Bible readings as well. We'll begin the Fall Quarter, Sunday, September 4 with a focus on "Tradition and Wisdom" as we passages from Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and Matthew. We meet in the Library (off the Sanctuary entryway) each Sunday morning.

Come check us out!

"Hot Topics" Class

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 on September 18: *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: A Guide to What Matters Most*, by Rev. Martin Thielen.

Join us in the Sanctuary as we consider real life current issues from a Christian perspective.

We've sold the first order of books, so if you have yet to purchase your copy of the book (\$10-reimburse the church as you're able); contact the church office: 481-4715 or covenantcc@bellsouth.net by September 9 to do so. For other questions, contact Kathy Smith: ekathys@gmail.com or 363-6313.