



Covenant Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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October 31, 2011 **Volume 25 Issue 11**

**The Countdown Begins...Only 10 Days 'til
 Our 25th Anniversary Celebration Weekend!
 November 12 & 13!**

Inside This Issue

We've been busy planning & celebrating Covenant's 25th Anniversary all throughout this year. I invite you to travel with me down Memory Lane as we take a look at the past 10 months:

We began last January by welcoming Dr. Glenn Carson, President of the Disciples Historical Society as we learned more about how Covenant lives out the ministry & mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). And we welcomed those from our Founding Era who eagerly shared stories of faithfulness & courage as they remained faithful to God's vision for this community of faith.

Then in the ensuing months we welcomed many who came to teach us more of what it means to be a part of this denomination: Brandon Gilvin from The Week of Compassion; The "M & M Singers" 22nd visit with us; Randy Johnson, Vice President for the SE Zone of the Christian Church Foundation; Christian Family Month in May; Pentecost Day with Jim Powell, Sr. Advisor for Advancement for Church Extension; our July Ice Cream Social; Ron Degges, President of Disciples Home Missions; and just a few weeks ago, Dennis Landon, President of Higher Education Leadership Ministries. And I daresay, as the dust begins to clear from our whirlwind year, we're all a bit better for having spent this time together.

And now, here we are, just a few days away from the highlight of our Celebration Year, when we welcome Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US & Canada and her husband, Dr. Richard (Rick) Lowery, renowned Professor of Old Testament. What a great honor to have them here to help us celebrate!

With so much to celebrate, we decided to make it last for 2 days! It all begins on Saturday, November 12, 6-8p, when we will gather at the Cary Sr. Center on Maury O'Dell Dr. just inside Bond Park. As most of us know, Covenant has grown up on NC BBQ! So what better way to celebrate than to have a BBQ dinner complete with all the fixin's? It's a chance to meet Dr. Watkins and mingle among many friends & Covenant supporters; enjoy NC BBQ & Fried Chicken Dinner; savor the special surprise dessert; honor those from our past as we embark on our future together; and receive a specially designed 25th Anniversary keepsake.

Then Sunday morning we will gather back at Covenant for what promises to be a "great gettin' up mornin'!" It all begins at 9a while the children 3yrs old-5th grade meet for Sunday School and the Youth & Adults meet in the Sanctuary to listen to Rick Lowery's story-telling presentation based on Genesis 1-you'll be so glad to be here! Well pause at 10:15 for refreshments; only as a prelude to 11a worship when Dr. Watkins proclaims God's Word for such a time as this.

I promise you will be blessed and energized by this wonderfully planned celebration weekend. Being here is the biggest assignment you have been given. Your presence among us will help us offer a warm, Covenant welcome to the many guests who will travel from near & far, simply to help us celebrate and to encourage us in the journey ahead.

How good it is to arrive at the corner of Memory Lane & Imagination Avenue. I for one cannot wait to see YOU there as we prepare to move out into all that God has in store for Covenant Christian Church...How 'bout you? See you soon...*Blessings, Rev. Joanne*

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One Hour-Before Bedtime THIS Saturday, November 5

News from Our Moderator

“If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, “thank you,” that would suffice.” Meister Eckhart

I love Thanksgiving. The weather is cooler, there’s time to be spent with family and friends, wonderful food to be shared...and sometimes shopping to do and football to watch. It’s a single day for relaxing and counting our blessings before we plunge headlong into the hustle and bustle of Advent and Christmas.

This November at Covenant, we have even more to be thankful for, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of our congregation. We’ve had a great anniversary year, with special events, guest speakers, and reminders of how far we’ve come in 25 years. We’ll cap it all off with a celebratory dinner on Saturday, November 12 at the Cary Sr. Center; followed by hearing Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins preach at the 11a worship on November 13 here at Covenant. It will be an exciting weekend, so don’t miss it!

So, as we move through the month of November, join me in thanks-giving: for all we have, and all we are, and the church community we call home....for those who brought us to this 25-year mark in our ministry, the laughter of our children, and the warmth we feel when we are together....and for God, who cares for us in ways we can’t possibly imagine, provides for us, and is always with us...

Darla Baldwin, Moderator

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Work Day @ Covenant

**Saturday, November 5, 7:30a-Noon
Calling All Available, Men, Women, Youth & Children!**

It’s OUR church home and the way we take care of it, shows how much we appreciate how much it means to have a building and yard that enhances our worship, our outreach and our fun times. We all need to help keep the building and property looking great and functioning at its best all the time, but especially as we prepare for our Anniversary Sunday and the upcoming holidays.

Here are some of the items that need to be addressed on Saturday:

- Trim dead bushes from along the drive.
- Trim the bushes along the back of the building near the shed.
- Rejuvenate the mulch and pull any weeds in natural areas.
- Straighten all the parking stops.
- Plant flowers, etc.
- Clean out area where pipe goes under the parking lot.
- Cut any new growth that has come up in the buffer area along Cary Parkway.
- Haul any cuttings into the woods at the end of the parking lot.

Dick Reaves and Ken Hoffman, Property Chrs

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Diversity Lunch Group Meets Every First Sunday of the Month

Around here we find different ways celebrate the diversity among us as God’s people. On the first Sunday of each month, beginning November 6, everyone is invited to get together for lunch after 11am worship. Hang out at the piano following worship & meet up with Nancy Jones to decide where we’ll eat lunch. Questions? Contact Nancy: njones@castleworldwide.com or 919-542-1846.

And on those other Sundays when...

...your stomach growls all thru worship...and you just don’t want to go home and fix lunch...get together with other church folks and go out to eat. Meet around the piano each Sunday following 11a worship to see who also want to go out to eat. The same is true following 9a worship to go out for coffee; or brunch. Or after the Education Hour? Meet in the hallway outside the church office.

Celebrating 40 Years of Ministry!

Last Sunday as we closed out the Week of the Ministry, we honored Rev. Joanne for her 40 years in ministry, including the 32nd anniversary of her ordination. In addition to a new robe as a gift from family and friends, our Covenant family presented her with a gift as described in Darla's presentation:

When Joanne L. VerBurg was in college, she went on a spiritual retreat. While there, God invited her to consider minister as her vocation. What we know today is that, not only did Joanne accept God's invitation, but she embraced the call to ministry as a framework for moving into the future that God would unfold for her. That journey led her to the door of the first church she would serve in Nashville, TN. That event happened November 1, 1971 – 40 years ago, so last Sunday, the congregation recognized this milestone in her career by presenting her with gifts from family and friends and by offering prayers of thanksgiving for all she and God have experienced thus far on their journey together.

Moderator, Darla Baldwin made the following presentation from the congregation:

"The number 40 is a significant number in the Bible: The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years; Moses was on the mountain with God for 40 days; the great flood for which Noah built the ark was caused by 40 days and nights of rain; and Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days (Some scholars say this period is affiliated with probation and trial, followed by renewal and revival). WE ARE HAPPY TO SAY THAT YOUR PROBATIONARY PERIOD IS OVER!"

"We at Covenant Christian Church are fortunate to have had you as our minister, leader, confidant, advisor, teacher, listener, role model and friend for 23 years. God has used you well in this time and our prayer is that God will continue to bless your ministry for many years to come.

*To commemorate the 40th anniversary of your ministry,
Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Presents to Reverend Joanne L. VerBurg
This gift certificate for a custom-designed stole.
It will be one of a kind, just like you!*

Presented this 30th day of October, 2011.

"The Amazing Grays" ☺

**November Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 11:30a
El Dorado at Preston Corners**

RSVP Church office by November 14



One Hour--Before Bedtime THIS Saturday, November 5 ☺

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Let us Pray...

Join us as we gather each Thursday from 7-7:30p to pray at the church. We need YOU to be united in prayer with us even if you can't meet with us in person. So pray wherever you are at 7p. Time doesn't work for you? Then pause for a few moments of prayer during your lunch break each day. Let us be in prayer regularly as a community of faith for the joys and concerns listed below and as we unite our spirits together to discern God's leading for our congregation:

Welcome to our newest members:

Rev. Kevin, Karen, Nate & Ian McHarg: 3004 Rock Island Dr, Apex, 27502; 919-267-9776. Shepherding Elder is Rocio Anderson.

Please extend a warm Covenant welcome to The McHarg's!

Recent: Elaine Kennel; Al Palmer...

Continuing Prayers: Elaine Fry; Deb Nystrom; Cameron Jackson & family; Art & Hazel Brothers; Mary Toney; **Mothers:** Ann Hall; Vicky Vanderford; Patricia Mills; Lesley Richardson; Don Brooks; Teresa DeMartin; **Father:** Debbie Miller; **Daughters:** Hoffman's; **Grandmothers:** Jasmine & James Cowan; Kelley Richardson; Vicki Wilkinson; **Grandfather:** Dana Kropf; **Granddaughter:** Kennel's; **Grandson:** Sally Shelly; **Brothers:** Don Brooks; Jim Hartman; **Brother-in-law:** Marcus Miller-Hogg; **Sister:** Kathy Smith; **Aunts:** Vicky Vanderford; Jeff Miller; Melanie Bunn; Ann Washington; **Nieces:** Patricia Mills; Terry White; **Great Niece:** Nancy Jones; **Nephew:** Terry White. **Great-Nephew:** Barishes. **Cousins:** Vicki Wilkinson; Jerry Hall; Elaine Fry; Mary Lou Jackson; Terry White; **Sister-in-Law:** Terry White; **Son-in-law:** Misty Mowrey.

Remembering Others: Bettyann Christopher; Shirley Kennedy; Karen Fisher; Jordan Lewis (Magliocca) Nathan and Adam Rubin (Gheen's); Don Davis; Sherwin Chua; Cheyenne Craven-Crozier; Rev. Dr. Kay Northcutt; Sara & Christine Bronson; Kelly Canady; General & Regional Church Leaders; DoC new church starts.

Don't Forget: "Fall" BACK One Hour-Before Bedtime THIS Saturday, November 5! ☺

| Our Gifts & Expenses | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | <u>Monthly Needs</u> | <u>September</u> | <u>October</u> |
| General Fund | \$19,700 | \$12,331 | \$15,269 |
| | <u>\$ 1,100</u> | <u>243</u> | 514 |
| Fun-d Raising Day | | | <u>\$ 4894.50</u> |
| Total | \$20,800 | \$12,574 | \$20,677.50 |
| Year to Date Actual: | | | |
| Total Income through 9.30.11 | | \$150,436 | |
| Less Expenses through 9.30.11 | | <u>\$184,258</u> | |
| General Fund shortfall through 9.30.11 | | (\$ 33,822) | |
| Prayerfully consider what you can do to help reduce this deficit as you continue to support the ministries of our church family...there's power in pooling our resources. | | | |
| Questions? Comments? Contact: Kathy Smith, Treasurer: 363-6313; ekathys@gmail.com | | | |

The \$25/25 Anniversary Fund (\$25 for 25 years) Continues!

The Anniversary Fund is growing...but we continue to need YOUR SUPPORT. Our goal is to have 100% support from our own church family. And we know you want to play a part in celebrating this milestone in our church's story. So if you haven't had the chance to contribute \$25 or any amount you choose, please do so by putting your donation in one of the special envelopes in the back of the sanctuary chairs; or mail it to the church office. Earmark your check, "\$25/25."

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

Outreach Ministry News

CROP Walk

Thanks to all of those who walked in the Crop Walk either as a walker or a sponsor of a walker. Your commitment and generosity resulted in a \$185 donation to the Cary CROP Walk.

Habitat for Humanity Abraham Build Interfaith Project

The first Abraham Build sponsored Habitat for Humanity house is located at 515 Parnell St. in the Long Acres community in southeast Raleigh. Three members of Covenant will help grade the crawl space and waterproof the foundation on October 22nd. We will be working with members of a Muslim mosque, the Bahai faith, the Friends congregation and CSJ. The next date on which we will participate is December 3rd. Three members of Covenant have also signed up to volunteer on that date. We will be partnered with St. Paul's CC, UU and CSJ to do some tar paper work, back framing and shingling. Covenant will also be providing lunch for the volunteers on that date. There is still time to sign up to help with construction OR to provide lunch for some hungry volunteers on December 3!

Urban Ministries Food Bank

Urban Ministries is still in need of non-perishable food items. Please bring food items to the church each Sunday. Wallet sized grocery lists of the needed items are available on the entryway table.

And a few more things...

SERRV catalog orders MUST BE PLACED by November 11 (**see detailed SERVV article below**) Alternative Christmas Sunday, November 20, 9a-Noon.

Once again, Christmas Angel Ribbons will be available November 13, in the sanctuary entryway. Be an "angel" and provide a gift for one of our "angel children." Details forthcoming.

And Now a Word from SERV

What is SERV? And why are we encouraged to support it?

SERV International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, alternative trading organization operating in the United States, Africa, Asia and Latin America. The organization is credited to be one of the first fair trade initiatives worldwide whose mission is to promote "the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by marketing their products in a just and direct manner."

SERV follows the internationally recognized fair trade principles of fair wage, gender equality, long-term relationships, concern for the environment, democratic decision making, safe working conditions, respect for culture, and prohibition of child exploitation.

Covenant has been supporting SERV for many years by purchasing a variety of Fair Trade items like coffees & chocolates. Thanks to everyone who purchased fair trade items at our Fall Fun-d Raising Day. We still have plenty of chocolate bars and some ornaments on hand to buy.

Just in time for completing your holiday gift lists, there are SERV catalogs & order forms available on the table outside the church office; or you can go to: www.servv.org to view the catalog online including clearance items. We are taking SERV-Fair Trade catalog orders until November 11. Most items are 20% off the retail price. Your purchases help in two ways: providing wonderful holiday gifts; and also knowing that you are supporting artisans from around the world & helping build sustainable communities.

Alternative Christmas is scheduled for Sunday, November 20. That's when you can order fresh Christmas trees; purchase gifts of animals through Heifer International; holiday Urban Ministry cards; Fair Trade chocolates & coffees. Questions? Contact Becky Stiles: stiles.becky@gmail.com or 387-0737



One Hour-Before Bedtime THIS Saturday, November 5

Education Ministries News

Do you ever wonder about what Covenant offers Adults during the 10a Education Hour? We offer 3 classes from which to choose:

The Disciples Class meets in the library at the back of the sanctuary (opposite Randy's office). Bob Kennel leads this scripture-focused class based on The International Sunday School Lessons plan of the Uniform Series; and Jack Reilly is the substitute leader. Each quarter the class members explore a variety of biblical texts & background provided in the student book, but the interpretation and application to daily life come from the lively class discussion each week. Much of the Bible is presented during a 6 yr. cycle of readings.

The Seekers Class meets in the Worship & Wonder room at the end of the hall on the left. Carole Tyler facilitates the engaging conversations that follow the Lectionary. Lectionary scriptures are chosen readings based on the Church year, beginning each Advent; and includes readings from the Psalms; Old Testament; one Gospel; and one of the Epistles (Paul's Letters); with a special focus on the reading for the morning message that Sunday. A photocopy of the week's assigned readings is provided and also the Lectionary readings appear in Covenant's Thursday email.

The Hot Topics Class meets in a corner of the sanctuary often times to discuss current events and hot-button issues of the day and how our faith speaks to them. Sometimes discussions are based on book studies read by the class. Books that have been explored in the recent past include, *God is Not One, God is Not Great* and *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian*. Whether it's current events or a book study, the weekly discussions are always thought-provoking & informative. Participants take turns volunteering to facilitate each week's discussion.

All members and guests are welcome to join in these biblical and theological pursuits. Classes for children, 3 yrs- 5th grade; youth 6th-12th grade; and a nursery for infants & toddlers are also offered during the Education Hour. Please pop in and see which class is right for you!

For more information, contact: BETH KEARNEY (919)545-0052; bethanne805@hotmail.com; or REV. MISTY MOWERY: MissT75@alumni.wfu.edu; REV. RANDY HOLSTE-you know where to find him

Peace, Beth

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Women's Ministries News

Fun-D Raising Day Thanks

Thanks to all who volunteered to prepare and work on the day of the Yard, Craft, Bake and BBQ dinner on Fun-D Raising Day. You were very generous with your donations. Many of the donated goods were sold; however, we have quite a bit left to deliver to a charitable organization. We raised \$4,894.50 to donate to our ministries and the General Fund. We sold ALL 250 chicken dinners! Perhaps we can surpass that goal next year...But...we will need more chicken washers☺!

New Opportunity

All Covenant women, members & guests are invited to join us for our first evening **Dessert & Service Project Gathering, Friday, December 2, 7p-8:30p at the church**. Bring a favorite dessert to share and enjoy conversations & fun with the women of Covenant. After dessert, we will prepare gift baskets to be delivered to women at a local nursing home. See you there! RSVP by November 25 to Renié Palmer: 481-2121 or rpalmer123@nc.rr.com

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Disciples Men Good & Helpful... And Generous!

Thanks to all our Disciples Men who came out and helped in many ways on our **Fun(d) Fair** this past month. We supported the Yard Sale, Bake Sale, Chicken Dinners, and Antiques. All of the proceeds went to Covenant's **General Fund**.

We are meeting for a quick breakfast this **Saturday, November 5, at 8:00AM** and then working with Dick Reaves & Ken Hoffman, Property Co-Chrs. to spruce things up for our big **25th Anniversary celebrations** November 12 & 13; and the upcoming holiday seasons. See Property Ministry article, pg.2, for our "Job Jar" list! We've also purchased **two new entrance benches** to that need assembling & weather-proofing! Come on out and help!

Ted Glasener, President; Bob Kennel, Secretary

JOIN THE CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS!

Christmas is Coming...And We're Getting Ready for the Christmas Cantata!

"Sing the Songs of Bethlehem," by K. Lee Scott

Cantata Sunday, December 11, at 11am

Practices each Thursday, 7:30-9p (Childcare provided upon request)

Come and Sing with Us!

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Covenant's SCRIP Update

I am excited to announce a new retailer for Covenant's SCRIP program – Lowe's Foods! Starting Sunday, November 6, we will be accepting orders for Lowe's Foods gift cards. They come in \$25, \$50 & \$100 denominations, all with a 6% contribution. In addition to being able to place an order, we will begin carrying Lowe's Foods gift cards in our inventory on a first come, first served basis.

The 15 retailers we already carry in inventory are: Barnes & Noble, Bath & Body Works, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Best Buy, Outback/Carraba's, Olive Garden/Red Lobster, Chili's/Macaroni Grill, Lowe's Home Improvement, Mimi's Café, Panera Bread, Starbuck's, Regal Entertainment, Shell, Target, and Wal-Mart. Buying cards from what we have in inventory is a great way to get in the SCRIP habit.

Plan now to use SCRIP for the upcoming holidays for gifts and family vacations & customer appreciation gifts. Starting to think about your Spring Break travel plans for 2012? Airlines, car rental agencies, hotels, and even some resort destinations participate in the SCRIP program.

Contact Robin Miller at doghowse@msn.com or 852-3986 if you have any questions about the SCRIP program so you can figure out how you can use SCRIP in your household. Stop by the SCRIP table and check in with the SCRIP volunteers after each service – now located in the hallway across from the office.

Robin Miller, SCRIP Coordinator

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We Had A Goolishly Good Time... THANK YOU!

Trunk or Treat was a HUGE success! Thanks to all who volunteered, participated, & fully supported this event. Without you it would have been impossible! It was a big event that has produced "rave" reviews from those in attendance! From the food, activities, games & unbelievable display of decorated trunks. THANKS TO ALL!

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Youth News - Calendar!

CHI-RHO (6th-8th grade)

November 5-6 – District Wide Lock-In – Hillyer Memorial – "The Fast That Lasts"

November 12 & 13 – Covenant's 25th Anniversary Weekend – See related article for details

November 20 – Disciples Day @ Barton College (1:20 – 7 PM)

November 27 – Thanksgiving Weekend! No Youth Activities

December 5 – Chi Rho Christmas Party! (5 – 7 PM) – Home of Sam & Ginny Evett

CYF (9th -12th grade)

November 5-6 – District Wide Lock-In – Hillyer Memorial – "The Fast That Lasts"

November 12 & 13 – Covenant's 25th Anniversary Weekend – See related article for details

November 20 – Disciples Day @ Barton College (1:20 – 7 PM)

November 27 – Thanksgiving Weekend! No Youth Activities

December 10 – CYF Mission Experience – Food Bank of CENC (9 AM – 12 PM).

December 11 – CYF Christmas Party (5-7 PM) – Destination unknown

District-wide Youth Lock-In

The second Raleigh/Cary/Wake Forest Disciples Youth Lock-In will be taking place on **Saturday, November 5th!** Chi Rho and CYF from all over the Raleigh area will be "locked in" over night at Hillyer Memorial Christian Church in Raleigh. **We'll meet at Covenant Saturday morning at 8:30a** to trek over to Hillyer together; **and return to Covenant around 9a on Sunday morning.** It will be a BLAST and you won't want to miss it!



Our theme is "The Fast That Lasts" We're going to have games, music, mission experiences, programming, special speakers, & worship all centered around hunger & the spiritual act of "fasting"! Come on out and visit with the other youth around our region. You will see these guys and gals again at upcoming Regional events, retreats, ski trips, etc...So you had better get to know them now!

Check your e-mails for more information regarding this trip (i.e. what to bring and what NOT to bring). Registration forms have been sent, but if you need another, let me know and I'll make sure you get one. For more information or questions please contact me at the church office (481-4715) or e-mail me: randy-ccc@bellsouth.net --Rev. Randy

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"DISCIPLES DAY" @ Barton College!

Sunday, November 20 is Disciples Day @ Barton College in Wilson. All Middle & High School Youth are invited to spend the day (2:30 PM – 6 PM) on campus with Disciples youth from all over our Region! You'll learn more about life after high school; life @ Barton College; life on campus and life as a Christian on campus. The school will provide food and a plethora of break-out sessions for learning, & time to engage & socialize with other Disciples youth from around our region! We'll leave Covenant @ 1:20p & find our way back to the church by 7p. For more information regarding this event contact Rev. Randy: 481-4715; or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net.

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It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas...



Who's ready for snowflakes, hot apple cider, caroling, and Christmas pageants? If you love this time of year, then we invite you to be a part of our Christmas Play. This year in addition to Covenant's Children, all interested adults & youth are also encouraged to participate. Rehearsals are underway, but there's still time to let us know you want to be a part of it all.

This year's message has been written by & will be directed by Ellin Porterfield; Emily, & Hannah Porterfield-Winstead with assistance from Bob Winstead! So, just contact Ellin Porterfield: dramaweaving@aol.com or 919-303-8693; or Rev. Randy: randy-ccc@bellsouth.net Time's a'wasting... Hurry and sign up today!

The Christmas play AND our annual Church-wide Holiday Tasting Party will be presented early evening, Sunday, December 18. Questions? Contact Rev. Randy: (919) 481-4715 or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net