



**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

Website: www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org

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Happy 2012 to All!

In reflecting on the crossroads that every New Year brings, I came across a quote from the great Christian theologian, Karl Barth as he speaks of God’s faithfulness:

"No moment of human life; no thinking thought; no word spoken; no suffering or joy; no sincerity or lie; no secret even in heaven or too well known event on earth; no ray of sunlight; no note which has ever been sounded; no color which has ever been revealed; possibly in the darkness of oceanic depths where the human eye has never perceived it..

Everything and everyone will be present to God exactly as it was or is or will be; in all its reality; in the whole temporal course of its activity; in its strength or weakness; in its majesty or meanness...

God will not allow anything to perish, but will hold it in the hollow of God’s hand as God has always done, and does, and will do. God will not be alone in eternity, but with the creature. God will allow us to partake of God’s own eternal life..."

These words serve as a reminder of how God has been at work in our lives as individuals amid those with whom we share life personally, and as this community of faith called Covenant-a living reminder these past 25 years filled with God’s promises to love us no matter what; to shape and reshape us in God’s image and to never let go of us...

Indeed, God holds us in the hollow of God’s hand as God has always done; as God does right here and now; and as God will do, as we strive to faithfully move into God’s future...What a great reason to celebrate the brand-spankin’ New Year as it unfolds before us...Let’s travel the road together...

Blessings, Rev. Joanne

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With Grateful Hearts...

Thank you so much for our special Christmas gifts! We appreciate the generosity of your spirit! It is a joy to share in ministry with you and we look forward to a wonderful 2012 as we move forward together into God’s future. With love, appreciation and blessings in the New Year,

***Rev. Joanne VerBurg, Rev. Randy Holste,
Carole Tyler, Mary Lou Jackson, Robin Miller,
Patricia Mills & Sharon Rosen***

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Living the Questions Study Begins Wednesday, January 18

Living the Questions is a DVD-based 12-week discussion series that explores an understanding of who Jesus is for those of us living in this 3rd Millennium. For those who participated in the original series, you will find new contributors including: Brian McLaren, Diana Butler Bass, and Robin Meyers; who join Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, John Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, and a host of others, for a conversation around the relevance of Jesus for our day and time.

This study, led by Rev. Joanne, is designed for everyone-both men and women. The morning group will meet **Wednesdays, 10a-noon**; and an identical study **Wednesday evenings, 7-9p**; both groups will begin January 18 and conclude April 4. **Childcare available by reservation-contact the church office by January 13.** I just know it’s going to be a great study...can’t wait to get started!

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Welcome to our newest members: Maryanna Myers & daughter, Grace, who united with us on December 4. Their address and phone number: 108 Bogue Ct, Cary 27511, 650-2256. Their Shepherding Elder is Brad Baldwin.

Please extend your warm Covenant welcome to Maryanna & Grace

Recent: Elaine Fry, Rex #6038; Kelly Canady; Fabian Marquez; the Don Davis Family

Continuing Prayers: Art & Hazel Brothers; Mary Toney; Sharon Garrett;

Parents: Phama Larsen-Johnston; Jasmine & James Cowan; **Mothers:** Ann Hall; Don Brooks; Teresa DeMartin; **Fathers:** Jeremy Hopkins; Debbie Miller; **Daughters:** Hoffman's; **Grandmothers:** Dèjá & Dionna Francis; Vicki Wilkinson; **Grandfather:** Dana Kropf; **Granddaughter:** Kennel's; **Grandson:** Sally Shelly; **Brothers:** Phama Larsen Johnston; Terry White; Don Brooks; **Sisters:** Kathy Smith; Marilyn Williams; **Aunts:** Jeff Miller; Melanie Bunn; Ann Washington; Cathy Downs. **Nieces:** Sally Shelly; Patricia Mills; Terry White; **Great Niece:** Nancy Jones; **Nephew:** Misty Mowrey; Terry White. **Great-Nephew:** Barishes. **Cousins:** Jerry Hall; Elaine Fry; Mary Lou Jackson; Terry White; **Son-in-law:** Misty Mowrey.

Remembering Others: Suzanne Newell; Jeff Cheek; Adam Rubin; Don Davis; Cheyenne Craven-Crozier; Rev. Dr. Kay Northcutt; Christine & Sara Bronson; General & Regional Church Leaders; DoC new church starts...

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A Note from Your Treasurer

Thanks to the generosity of our church family and friends, it looks like we'll be "in the black" for December. General Fund contributions were over \$20K. We also received \$905 for Covenant members who worked shifts at the state fair. That's a wonderful way to bring the year to a close!

Of course, we continue to deal with the reality of the deficit for 2011. At this point, we expect that General Fund expenses will exceed income by almost \$30K for the 12 months. After much prayer and discussion, difficult decisions have been made in order to bring this into balance for 2012.

Detailed final year-end reports will be sent to the board by the middle of January. Anyone else who would like to review these reports can request a copy by contacting me directly.

I want to thank Mary Lou Jackson, Financial Secretary, for her hard work and attention to detail in recording our contributions, other income, and expenses. YOU CAN HELP. Be aware that when she is posting, *nothing on her computer screen shows your pledge amounts*. Please **mark EVERY check clearly**, indicating whether the check is for general fund, capital campaign, SCRIP, memorial, etc. This will help assure that your checks go to the proper account. (If you are using online bill pay, you can use the "account number" line to put this info into the check, if there is not a printable "memo" line in your bank's system).

Wishing you a happy and blessed 2012, as we continue to serve God together!

Kathy Smith, Treasurer ekathys@gmail.com 919-363-6313

Attention Disciples Men!

Last Saturday we enjoyed breakfast together with Jack Reilly's son-in-law presenting a program on Antarctica! And now, next Sunday, January 8, at 1p ALL Covenant Men, are invited to gather at Jim Johnston's home, one block from the church: 200 Youngsford Ct at the corner of Heathridge Ln. to enjoy good fellowship while watching the NFL playoff game. Guaranteed to be enjoyable! Come, one, come all!

Youth News - Calendar!

CHI RHO (6th-8th grade)

January 7 or 14 Homelessness Mission. Brown Bag Ministries: 11a - 1p!

January 15- Program @ Church - "Islam, What Do Muslims Believe?" 5:30-7p Bring \$4 & a friend!

January 29 - Bowling Trip! Meet at the Buffaloe Lanes in Cary @ 5:45p! \$10 per person.

CYF (9th -12th grade)

January 8- Program @ church - "World Religions" 5:30 - 7p Bring \$4 & a friend!

January 22 - Bowling Trip! Meet at the Buffaloe Lanes in Cary @ 5:45p! \$10 per person.

February 3- 5-Proposed **Ski Trip** to WinterPlace or Snowshoe, WV! (\$\$\$)-let me hear from you!

Rev. Randy: 481-4715; randy-ccc@bellsouth.net



Women's Ministry News

Many thanks to the Covenant women who attended our first evening gathering on December 3rd. We had a great time getting to know a little something about each other like the person (who shall not be named) who colored her Easter eggs **before** she boiled them! ☺ We also assembled holiday gift bags for 33 female residents of the Chatham Commons assisted living facility.

We also agreed that of the \$1143.60 earned from the October Fundraising event \$700 would be distributed to the General Fund. The distribution of the remaining \$433.70 would be split between the Disciples Mission Fund Blessing Box, Quadrennial scholarships and the Women's Ministry Operating Fund.

Our next meeting will also be an evening meeting to be held on Friday February 3rd. at 7pm. Our guest speaker will be a representative of the Caring Place.

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Outreach Ministry

Christmas Projects Update:

We outdid ourselves with the Christmas Angel Tree and donated clothing and toys valued at approximately \$1650! Thanks for your generous support of this outreach effort. Covenant also contributed to the well-being of others by donating food to the Urban Ministry Food Pantry; purchasing SERRV gift items, chocolates & coffee; and Christmas trees. We received around \$300.00 from SERRV; \$260 from the tree sales which will be used to help needy families in Ashe County. Also, through the growing season, the Garden of Hope raised around \$300 from sale of produce; proceeds going to the Interfaith Food Shuttle to help feed the hungry in Wake County.

Habitat for Humanity Abraham Build Project

Thanks to the Covenant members who have participated in the Abraham Build project to date: the Barish family and friends, Carol Carson, Jim and Phama Johnston, Patricia Mills, Renié Palmer and Catherine Sisson. Framing is almost complete. Trusses were raised to support the roof on Saturday December 17th. Patricia and Renié know how to assemble a truss...whoo hoo, and Phama can operate a circular saw! Look for photos soon on Covenant's web site. ☺

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Covenant's SCRIP Update

The final tally is in, and with the help of all who participated in the SCRIP program this year we have earned over \$3200 in 2011! Thank you to everyone who has used SCRIP for their household, business, church ministry, and/or gift-giving purchases. Whether you purchased from inventory, placed an order with a SCRIP volunteer, or ordered through shopwithscrip.com, we thank you for helping Covenant and its ministries.

If you have any questions about the SCRIP program, you can contact Robin Miller, Covenant's SCRIP Coordinator, at doghowse@msn.com or 852-3986. *Robin & Jeff Miller, SCRIP Coordinators*

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2012 Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC Scheduled to meet at the North Raleigh Hilton April 27-29

Regional Assembly is a big family reunion for all the NC Disciples congregations which meets every other year. This year all the DoC churches in the Coastal Plains District-from Durham to Macclesfield and all points in between, will serve as hosts for this event. A Vision Team made up of representatives from all the District churches have been hard at work for over a year now. Carole Tyler, is coordinating the musical experience for the entire event...and yes, there will be an All-Assembly Choir. Rev. Randy is working with the Associate Ministers at Hillyer & St. Paul's CC as they plan exciting youth events.

Covenant and Wendell Christian congregations are responsible for Hospitality for the expected 800-1000 NC Disciples. I thought it was a great assignment since we're known for doing such a great job at making people welcome! **One of our responsibilities is to secure a variety of items to fill 1000 donated cloth bags!**

Every Covenant member & guest is urged to put your thinking caps on and let Rev. Joanne know if you are willing to approach area businesses; agencies and institutions to ask for donations of 1000 items, ie. nail files; pens/pencils; coupons, etc. **The deadline for collecting these items is March 1.**