



Covenant Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Jesus' Version of Living the Questions

As we have done so in previous years, many of us are currently engaged in the mind & soul stretching study, *Living the Questions*; exploring the teachings of Jesus, seeking nuggets of truth; daring to ask our own questions about who this Jesus...all so that we might catch a glimpse of Jesus pointing us toward an even deeper understanding of who God is.

It occurred to me, as I considered what life might have been like for Jesus in the wilderness, that he just might be experiencing his own version of *Living the Questions*; asking his own probing questions. Frederick Buechner helped me recognize this as he penned the following in his book, ***Whistling in the Dark***: "...After being baptized by John in the Jordan River, Jesus goes off alone into the wilderness for 40 days; asking himself the question, **"What does it mean to be me...What does it mean to be Jesus?"**

Working through this one question, surely must have helped him see the bigger picture of what God was calling him to do and to be. During these weeks as we make our way to Jerusalem, you and I are also being challenged to live out this same question...in one way or another, **"What does it mean to be me?"**

This one question might be enough for us to ponder, but Buechner lists many other questions for us to gnaw on during this holy season: (may I suggest meditating & journaling about each one)?

- *If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?*
- *When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like? What do you see in it that you most deplore?*
- *If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you; what would it be, in 25 words or less?*
- *Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo?*
- *Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?*
- *Is there any person in the world, or any cause... that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?*
- *If tomorrow were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?*

If we listen intently to our attempts to answer these questions, more than likely we can hear a faint whisper about not only who we are and who we are becoming; but also who we might be failing to become.

As we carry with us some of these thought provoking questions and a few answers we might just bear witness to what it means to wear sackcloth and ashes...the "haute couture" of Lent...signs of repentance in search of forgiveness & reconciliation. And at the end of our 6 week journey, with God as our constant, attentive partner; we will be invited to exchange our worn-out, dingy wardrobes; for the bright and dazzling garments of the new life; and life eternal of Easter morn...Thanks be to God...**Blessings, Rev. Joanne**



Daylight Savings begins March 13 at 2am...
Set your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday night
So you won't be late for Church!

This month, as we journey through Lent, may our paths of introspection and self-reflection bring each of us to a new understanding of who—and whose—we are, as together we enter the path, and together we stay on the path...*Darla Baldwin, Moderator*

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We promise...You will be blessed in immeasurable ways simply by being present in worship. Join with us as we extend a warm Covenant welcome to the singers and their families!

RSVP Church Office by March 12

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Welcome our Newest Members:

Betty Nicholson: 106 Leacraft Way, Morrisville, 27560-7757, 481-2928. Her Elder is Jeremy Hopkins.

Susan Zerkle: 304 Bond Lake Dr, Cary, 27513, 460-5909. Her Elder is Phama Larsen Johnston.

Please extend a warm Covenant welcome to Betty and Susan!

Congratulations to:

Randy, Laura, Tate & Avery Holste on the birth of their daughter and sister: **Addison Leigh Holste**, born March 1; 6# 6oz.; 21" long;

Lee & Jessica Wakefield on the birth of **Molly Elizabeth Wakefield**. Nelson and Linda Wakefield are the proud grandparents!

Camilla Mills, daughter of Patricia Mills, who has been accepted to the Morehouse School of Medicine, beginning this July...

Love and prayers to: Melanie Bunn & family in the recent death of her aunt;

Debbi Layko & family in the recent death of her grandmother, Evelyn Brown.

Recent: Ellen Teto; Paul Kessel; Miller-Hogg family; Al Palmer's parents; Don Brooks mother; victims of the violent storms in the Midwest & Southeastern U.S.; people of Syria;

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

Parents: Phama Larsen-Johnston; **Mothers:** Patricia Cadle; Ann Hall; Rocio Anderson; Betsy Mebane;

Fathers: Jeremy Hopkins; Debbie Miller; Megan Larsen; **Daughters:** Hoffman's; Hall's; **Grandmothers:** Déjà & Dionna Francis; Vicki Wilkinson; **Grandfather:** Dana Kropf; **Grandchildren:** Sally Shelly; Hall's;

Brothers: Don Brooks; Phama Larsen Johnston; Terry White; **Sisters:** Kathy Smith; **Aunts:** Jeff Miller; Ann Washington; Cathy Downs. **Uncle:** Angie Ballard **Nieces:** Jeremy Hopkins; Sally Shelly; Patricia Mills; Terry

White; **Nephews:** The Stelmack's; Misty Mowrey; Terry White. **Great Niece:** Nancy Jones;

Great-Nephew: Barishes. **Cousins:** Jerry Hall; Elaine Fry; Mary Lou Jackson; Terry White; **Sons-in-law:** Misty Mowrey; Hoffman's...

Remembering Others: Ron Walters; Marjorie Moran; Hudson Mimplitch; Patsy Stone; Michelle Day; Dave Lloyd; Suzanne Newell; Dane Smith; Fabian Marquez; Cheyenne Craven-Crozier; Rev. Dr. Kay Northcutt; Christine & Sara Bronson; General & Regional Church Leaders; DoC new church starts...

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Our Financial Information

THIS MONTH:

General Fund Contributions Needed Per Month \$ 16,417

Actual General Fund Contributions as of Feb 19 \$ 11,451

YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL:

General Fund Contributions through Jan 31	\$16,018
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Fundraisers and Other Income through Jan 31	<u>210</u>
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Total Income through Jan 31	\$16,018
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Total Expenses through January 31	\$16,479
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Balance through January 31	(\$461)
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The Valentine's Day Fundraiser netted \$439. Thanks to all who made that possible!

Detailed financial reports are available from your treasurer upon request. Contact Kathy Smith: 363-6313 or ekathys@gmail.com

2022 Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC
Scheduled to meet at the North Raleigh Hilton April 27-29

Regional Assembly weekend will be here before we know it! It's 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 his counterparts at Hillyer, St. Paul's CC, FCC Rocky Mount & Wake Forest CC as they plan exciting youth events.

Covenant & Wendell Christian Church 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! Anyone and everyone (adults, youth & older children) are needed to help us fill 1000 cloth bags for registration—that's a lot of bags, for sure! There will be 2 sessions: one at Wendell CC and one at Covenant...details coming soon...

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Don't Say You Haven't Been Warned...Major Conflict Comin' Our Way!

Each year, Spring Daze, one of our important annual fund-raising events, is always the same weekend as the NC Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), but this year, the Regional Assembly is right here in Raleigh and many Covenant members & guests are already and will be, working hard as a host congregation. This conflict happened back in 2000 too; but we were able to have more than enough help at both events. So I know that you will rise to the occasion to make it happen again.

This needs to happen again this year. So...mark your calendars for Friday, April 27-Saturday, April 28. Spring Daze will need 6-8 volunteers Friday night to set up for the Saturday event; and then 6-8 volunteers per shift on Saturday, beginning at 7a; tearing down the booth, 5-6p; cleanup back at the church at 6p. Specific shift details will be provided with sign-ups beginning April 1. We need 30-40 people to make Spring Daze run smoothly.

We are also counting on many Covenant members & guests attending the Regional Assembly at the N. Raleigh Hilton and participating in worship & workshops. Which event you will support is of course your choice; and it's also possible to be a part of both events! All we ask is that as you are able, you will be willing and committed to making the events of this April 27-28 weekend a Covenant success! *Thanks...The Management* ☺

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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! As a teacher you will be right in the middle of all the action!



Your commitment is minimal – one or two shadowing sessions and a scheduled rotation for Sunday mornings! Also, with our AMAZING curriculum minimal prep-work per session required (roughly 30 minutes to an hour per week)! If you are interested in becoming a SS teacher, or want more information, contact Rev. Randy: 919-481-4715 or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

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Youth News - Calendar!

CHI RHO (grades 6-8)

Saturday, March 17 – Soup Kitchen @ Moore Square (4-8 PM)!

Saturday, March 31– Work Day @ Camp Caroline! (7 AM – 7 PM) – Bring \$\$\$ for Breakfast & Dinner!

Sunday, April 8– Easter Day – No Youth Events!

Friday-Sunday, April 27-29—REGIONAL ASSEMBLY! All youth invited! Registration forms coming your way!

CYF (High School)

Sunday, March 4- Game Night @ the church! Bring your gaming console and game – Pizza! (\$4) 5:30-7 PM!

Saturday, March 17– Soup Kitchen @ Moore Square (4-8 PM)!

Saturday, March 31 – Work Day @ Camp Caroline! (7 AM – 7 PM) – Bring \$\$\$ for Breakfast & Dinner!

April 8- Easter Day – No Youth Events!

Friday-Sunday, April 27-29—REGIONAL ASSEMBLY! All youth invited! Registration forms coming your way!

Who's ready for a MISSION Opportunity?



Chi Rho/CYF/ & All Members - Who's ready for some mission-minded FUN?

On Saturday, March 17, we will head out to Moore's Square in downtown Raleigh to feed homeless men, women, & families. We'll help to prepare and serve them hot meals. Bring yourself & bring your friends!

Join us and you can see/feel what it means to be a true Christian! For more information contact Rev. Randy:

481-4715 or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net. More info will also be e-mailed to you at a later date!

Work Day @ Camp Caroline!



Calling all Middle & High School youth. Start packing your work gloves & outdoor/work attire for a day of cleaning & missions off the beautiful coast of North Carolina. On Saturday March 31, we are headed to Arapahoe, NC to help clean up [Camp Caroline](#) (a camp & conference center associated with the Christian Church (DoC) of North Carolina).

We will meet @ the church at 7a sharp to depart for our trip. It's a 2 ½ to 3 hour trip to reach our destination. Therefore, we should be arriving on camp grounds around 10a & plan to leave for home around 3p. After stopping for dinner (bring \$\$\$) on the way home, our estimated time of arrival back at the church is 7p. For more information, or if you have any questions contact Rev. Randy: 481-4715; randy-ccc@bellsouth.net



Easter Extravaganza and Egg Hunt!

Covenant's annual Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Extravaganza is fast approaching! Go ahead and prepare yourself for lots of Easter crafts, egg hunting, and a special program for all Covenant children (members and guests). Bring your friends, bring your neighbors, and your family to celebrate the Easter season with us! Festivities begin at 10a, Saturday, April 7 and will end at 11:30a. Want to know more? Want to know how you can volunteer? Don't hesitate to contact Rev. Randy: 481-4715; randy-ccc@bellsouth.net for further details.



Regional Assembly IS ALMOST HERE!!

Calling all CHI RHO & CYF! This spring (April 27th-29th) The Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be meeting right here in Raleigh for a time of Food, Fellowship, & Fun! I am stoked about it - I hope you are too! We'll meet Disciples youth from all over North Carolina. We'll play games, worship, and eat together all weekend long. There will be a Keynote panel of speakers for the weekend and plenty of games & mission opportunities for all. If you are looking to try something new and are tired of the same-old, same-old **THIS IS THE TRIP FOR YOU!** You'll see friends you met at St. Paul & Hillyer lock-ins and make new ones as well!

More information, including registration, about this event will make its way to your "inbox" so keep your eyes peeled. Simply save the date for now so that you don't accidentally plan something for that weekend. For more information please contact Randy @ the church office or email him at randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

Covenant Proudly Presents ...



Church Family Movie Night Friday, March 23rd: 6-9pm
Featuring "The Muppets" and "The Help"

Please join us as we get together to enjoy an evening of fun, food and fellowship.

This is a great chance to invite someone to experience a Covenant activity!

Snacks and refreshments will be available for your viewing pleasure!

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Spring Plant Sale (Saturday, March 31st: 9am-12pm)

Spring is right around the corner!

Please support Covenant Christian Church by purchasing some beautiful plants and flowers for your garden. We will be selling Knockout Roses and Geraniums in 3 gallon containers, as well as Hanging Baskets with Boston Ferns, Million Bells, Torenias and Angel-Wing Begonias.

Please pre-order your plants no later than Sunday, March 25, 2012.
Order forms are available each week in the Sunday bulletin & in the Sanctuary entryway.
Share order forms with your neighbors; office workers; friends & family!

All plants will be available for pick-up at the church on Saturday, March 31, 9am-12pm.

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SCRIP Update: The Sequel

Yes, it is that time again when we highlight how SCRIP can enhance your life. March is almost upon us, which means that St. Patrick's Day is here! When you go to buy your green clothing or "Kiss me, I'm Irish" pins to proudly exhibit your festive spirits, remember that SCRIP is here to help. Many popular clothing retailers participate in the SCRIP program so you can dress head-to-toe in green if you so desire. If you already have your Irish greens, SCRIP has a variety of clothing retailers that can help you purchase your spring wardrobe or get you ready for a summer vacation; places like: L.L. Bean, Kohl's, Belk's, Land's End, JC Penny & Old Navy.

If you aren't in the festive mood, March is also National Reading Month. So if you need a book to help you relax from the helter-skelter of life, SCRIP carries Barnes & Noble gift cards in \$25 denominations in our weekly inventory. SCRIP can be ordered from Amazon.com in \$25 and \$100 denominations as well. The church weekly inventory also stocks \$25 Best Buy cards if you want to invest in any of the e-book readers to save household space for other necessities (such as green clothing for St. Patrick's Day).

As a final note for March, the Amazing Grays are going to the Olive Garden for their monthly luncheon, and your SCRIP team has stocked our weekly inventory with extra Olive Garden SCRIP cards for your convenience.

Regardless of your choice, Covenant Christian Church receives a percentage from every SCRIP card purchased. Remember, your friendly neighborhood SCRIP volunteers are ready, willing and able to help you after every Sunday service across from the church office to answer any questions or help you order.

Jeff Miller, Guest columnist and SCRIP Volunteer



Women's Ministry News

Many thanks to the Covenant women who attended our second evening gathering on February 3rd. A good time was had by all as we continued to get better acquainted with each other. We were blessed to have speakers from the Caring Place talk to us about that organization's mission and the services they provide to members of the Cary community.

Our next meeting will take place Saturday morning April 14. We hope to see all of our Covenant women at 8:30 a. as we share breakfast and complete our next service project:

We're assembling at least 30 packets (40 would be great!) to send to the boys and girls who will attend Camp Agapé for children who would otherwise not be able to attend a summer camp at Camp Caroline. We need the help of our entire congregation (men, women, youth & children) to complete this project. We need to collect 30-40 new bath towels, bug spray and sun screen. Look for containers to place your gift items in the entry way Sunday, March 25 & April 1. *Thanks, Renié Palmer, Women's Ministry Coordinator*

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Outreach Ministry

Urban Ministries Food Pantry

We continue to need your help to provide non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry. Why not make the Food Pantry part of your regular grocery shopping. Remember to pick up a few extra items to donate. You can bring your donations each Sunday or when you can stop by during the week, 9a-1p.

The Garden of Hope Plea

Do you like to get a little dirty? Do you enjoy watching God's creation at work? Do you want to make a difference in the lives of hungry families right here in Wake County? If so, we have the job for you!

We are looking for a new garden chairperson and 7 or 8 garden committee members. If we are unable to get enough help, we won't be able to have a garden this year. The garden season starts the end of March so we need to hear from you by March 20 in order to get the soil ready for planting in April. Let's fill all those raised beds with wonderful, productive plants to harvest.

Interested? If so, please contact Tim/Becky Stiles (stiles.becky@gmail.com or 387-0737) or the other Outreach Ministry members: Renié Palmer or Ruth Jordan. Thanks for your consideration!

Habitat for Humanity Abraham Build Project

We continue to work with the interfaith group of Christians, Jews and Muslims to construct the house at 515 Parnell in Raleigh. Members of our Chi Rho youth group prepared and delivered lunch to the volunteers on February 18th. Joining Carol Carson in participating in the building were Randy Holste and Carol's sister Lisa.

Our next build date is March 10th. We will be working with First Baptist church. If we remain on schedule, we should be working on the interior of the house. Let's pray for good weather, since the house won't be heated! Want more information? Contact Renié Palmer: 481-2121; rpalmer123@nc.rr.com