



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

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Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed!

This is how the early Christians greeted the dawn of Easter morn. But the first disciples who accompanied Jesus throughout his earthly ministry didn't wake up on that first Easter morning, excited or even hopeful. They were filled with despair; such overwhelming sadness. The One they believed to be the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Chosen One of God, was crucified right before their very lives; dead and buried in a borrowed tomb...what was there to celebrate on that third day?

But it wasn't long before there was dancing in the streets as they joyfully shared the good news in the breaking of the bread...He is alive! He lives! Christ is risen, indeed!

Some among us may be a bit jaded by it all, 20+ centuries this side of God's miracle of Christ's resurrection. And yet, who among us doesn't have reason to celebrate the presence of the Risen Christ among us. With eyes to see and ears to hear, we are able to meet the living Christ in our lives, bringing us hope even in the midst of deep sadness; bringing us joy in the midst of suffering and pain in our lives and in this world; bringing us comfort and healing for all that is broken.

Not Celebrate? How could we NOT celebrate the gift of the Living Christ who brings us life eternal?

So, come, let us celebrate and bask in the gladness of Easter morning with all who will gather to dance and shout as we sing our Alleluias! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! *Blessings, Joanne*



The Journey Continues... *...We Make our Way by Walking...*

You are invited to continue our Lenten Journey as we prepare to shout Hosannas along the parade route; following the steps of Jesus throughout this Holy week as we prepare to accompany him through his arrest and trial, the walk along the Via Delarosa and his execution at Golgotha.

But there's always the God's Good News 2000+ years after his death, allowing us to experience God's last laugh on the presence of evil in this world, as we celebrate God's miracle of Christ's resurrection.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds as we walk together through the events of Holy Week & Easter weekend providing us with many opportunities for worship, meditation & celebration:

Maunder Thursday, April 5, 7:30p

We will remember the gathering in the Upper Room & the Last Supper as we share in the candlelight service of The Shadows (Tennebrae). Childcare available.

Good Friday April 6, Noon- 9p Prayer Vigil

The Sanctuary will be open for prayer & meditation.

Saturday, April 7, 10a-11:30a Children's Easter Extravaganza & Egg Hunt!

Easter Sunday, April 8

6:45a Easter Sunrise Service

(followed by a potluck breakfast—Bring a favorite breakfast food to share; beverages provided)...

NO 9a Worship! NO Sunday School!

Easter Worship at 11am with the Easter Cantata, "Lord of the Dance!"

Easter Cantata
"LORD OF THE DANCE"
Sunday, April 8, during 11a Worship

"Lord of the Dance" is the title of a choral composition reminding singers and listeners of God's constant presence in, and transformation of, all that Jesus experienced. "Lord of the Dance," the cantata, is a collection of musical interpretations of the Easter story, assuring us that the possibilities for life being made new are endless. Come help us celebrate this Good News, pick up the beat, and join the dance...

"I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he (Jesus)."

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Welcome our Newest Member: Shirley Kennedy: 218 Riverwalk Circle, Cary, 27511-7248;
Her Shepherding Elder is Rocio Anderson.

Please extend a warm Covenant welcome to Shirley!

Recent: At home: Jerry Miller, Sr.; Suzanne Hopkins...

Continuing Prayers: Ann Hall; Miller-Hogg family; Art & Hazel Brothers; Mary Toney; Scott Larsen (M. Larsen)

Parents: Phama Larsen-Johnston; **Mothers:** Don Brooks; Ann Hall; Rocio Anderson; Betsy Mebane;
Fathers: Vicki Wilkinson; Jeremy Hopkins; Debbie Miller; **Daughters:** Hoffman's; Hall's; **In-Laws:** Renié Palmer;
Grandmothers: Anna Boone; Déjà & Dionna Francis; Vicki Wilkinson; **Grandfather:** Dana Kropf;
Grandchildren: Cathy Teague; Sally Shelly; Hall's; **Brothers:** Don Brooks; Phama Larsen Johnston; Terry White;
Sister: Kathy Smith; **Aunts:** Ann Hall; Jeff Miller; Ann Washington; Cathy Downs. **Uncle:** Angie Ballard;
Nieces: Sally Shelly; Terry White; **Great Niece:** Betsy Mebane; Nancy Jones. **Nephews:** The Stelmack's;
Misty Mowrey; Terry White; **Great-Nephew:** Barishes. **Cousins:** Jerry Hall; Elaine Fry; Mary Lou Jackson;
Terry White...

Remembering Others: Suzie Broddle; co-workers' spouses (McHarg); co-worker (Washington); Jeff Mandler;
Hudson Mimplitch; Dane Smith; Ryan Woodward; Nia Daye & family; Carolyn Lester; Vince Fox; Krista Johnson; Ron
Walters; Marjorie Moran; Dave Lloyd; Suzanne Newell; 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 Mar 25\$ 14,385

YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| General Fund Contributions through Feb 29 | \$31,571 |
| Fundraisers and Other Income through Feb 29 | <u>684</u> |
| Total Income through Feb 29 | \$32,255 |
| Total Expenses through Feb 29 | <u>\$33,528</u> |
| Balance as of Feb 29 | (\$ 1,273) |

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

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Automatic Bill Pay...A Convenient Way to Regularly Make Your Tithes & Offerings

We also want to encourage any members/guests to setup **automatic bill pay** with their bank so that a check is sent to us each week or month, whether or not you are able to be in worship. The information that you need when setting up an automatic payment is as follows:

Billor Name: Covenant Christian Church Account number: GENERAL FUND
Billor Address: 2911 SW Cary Parkway Billor City, State, Zip: Cary, NC 27513-8902
Billor phone number: 919-481-4715

The account number can be GENERAL FUND/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/or MEMORIAL FUND, in the memo line

Questions? Contact Kathy Smith, Treasurer: ekathys@gmail.com

"The Amazing Grays"
March Luncheon
Thursday, April 19, 11:30a
O'Charley's near WakeMed, Cary
RSVP Church Office by April 16

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. Check out the times and # of volunteers needed in the article below. Sign up for a shift in the church entryway or contact the church: 919-481-4715; covenantcc@bellsouth.net



Cary Spring Daze at Bond Park !
Saturday, April 28 8a-5p

This is one of our annual major fundraisers that helps Covenant to be known in the community. We cook, prepare & sell sausage biscuits; marinated chicken sandwiches; Polish sausage sandwiches & drinks. It takes a lot of folks to make this run smoothly. Please consider donating a minimum of 2 hours of your time & energy to help us maximize our efforts. All proceeds go to support the general operating budget.

Shift schedule & work assignments (Children 10 yrs+ may help with a parent; Cashiers must be 16 yrs +):

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Description of Work</u> | <u># of People</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <u>Friday 4/27</u> | | | |
| Set-Up Crew | 7-8:30p | meet at site or carpool from church Bond Park, High House Rd, Cary set up tents and equipment/ | 6 <u>able-bodies</u> |
| <u>Saturday 4/28</u> | | | |
| Shift #1 | 7a-10a | chop veggies/ice down coolers/ Stock shelves/Cook breakfast sausages/biscuits Brew coffee/marinade chicken/cashier | 8 people |
| Shift #2 | 9:30-11:30a | chop veggies/cook chicken/begin to cook Sausages and veggies/get ready for lunch crowd/cashier/drink orders | 8 people |
| Shift #3 | 11a-1p | Height of the lunch crowd/cooking & Preparing sandwiches/drinks/cashier Additional chopping veggies | 8 people |
| Shift #4 | 12:30-2p | same as above | 5 people |
| Shift #5 | 2-4p | same as above | 5 people |
| Shift #6 | 3:30-5p | same as above | 5 people |
| Shift #7 | 4:30-6p | begin to shut down & tear down booth | 5 <u>able-bodies</u> |
| Shift #8 | 6-8p | Clean up at the Church/washing utensils & equipment/putting it all away | 5 people |

You can also help add to our profits by donating some of the drink products listed below, now through April 26:

- PEPSI- 8 cases total
- DIET PEPSI- 8 cases total
- CAFFEINE-FREE PEPSI-4 cases total
- MOUNTAIN DEW- 8 cases total
- AQUAFINA BOTTLED WATER- 25 cases total

Thanks for making this year's efforts a success!



SCRIP Update

Do you do business with any of the following retailers: Gymboree, Kohl's, Amazon.com, Toys R Us, GameStop, iTunes, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dressbarn, Foot Locker, Men's Wearhouse, Boston Market, Cheesecake Factory, Cracker Barrel, Pizza Hut, Panera Bread, Quiznos, Q'doba Grill, Kmart, Marshall's, Sam's Club, Best Buy, Staple's, Office Max, Sears, Jiffy Lube? These are only 25 of the over 900 retailers that participate in Covenant's SCRIP program. SCRIP is a fundraising program that helps Covenant earn money with the items that you already buy – groceries, medications, gas, sporting goods, craft supplies, books, lawn and household equipment, etc. By purchasing gift cards ahead of time from the SCRIP program, and then using those cards to pay for your purchases, Covenant earns money.

We carry 16 retailers in inventory each and every week on a first come, first served basis. In addition you can place orders with the SCRIP volunteers on Sundays or through ShopWithScrip.com - the website that allows you to place your order online. Mother's Day. Graduations & Father's Day are both coming up in the next few months and are great opportunities to get your SCRIP feet wet. Ideas may include gifts from department stores like Belk's, Dillard's, and J.C. Penney's; Home and Gardening items from Lowe's Home Improvement or Home Depot; recent bestsellers from Barnes and Noble; going out to eat at a favorite restaurant (too many possibilities to list them all); or even just finding them that perfect card from Hallmark. All of these retailers (any many, many more) participate in the SCRIP program and are great ways for you to try SCRIP.

If you have any questions, please check in with the SCRIP volunteers after each service, located in the hallway outside the office, or contact Robin Miller at doghowse@msn.com or 919-852-3986.

In our first year, we earned over \$1400. Last year we earned over \$3200! Let's see how much we can earn this year!

Robin Miller, SCRIP Coordinator

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Women's Ministry April Breakfast Meeting + Service Project! Saturday, April 14 at 8:30a



We hope to see all of our Covenant women at 8:30 a.m. as we share breakfast and complete our next service project. We need the help of our entire congregation (men and women) in order to complete this project. We hope to assemble at least 30 packets (40 would be great!) to send to Camp Agape. We need 30-40 each of new bath towels, bug spray & sun screen. Place your gift items in the entry way this Sunday, April 1, or throughout the week, 9a-1p.

Thanks, Renie 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? Feeling the rich, dark, damp soil between your fingers? Do you enjoy watching God's creation at work? Do you want to make a difference in the lives of hungry family's right here in Wake County? If so, we have the job for you! We are looking for a new garden chairperson and 7-8 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 has started, so we need to hear from you soon in order to get the soil ready for planting. 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: Renie 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 & Muslims to construct the house at 515 Parnell in Raleigh. Members of our youth group prepared and delivered lunch to the volunteers on February 18 & March 10. Participating March 10 were Carol Carson, Carol's sister Lisa, Patricia Mills, Jay Barish & Kathy Smith; Jody Barish prepared the lunch.



Easter Extravaganza and Egg Hunt!

Covenant's annual Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Extravaganza is fast approaching! Go ahead and prepare yourself for lots of Easter crafts, egg hunting, and a special program for all children (members and guests). Bring your friends, bring your neighbors, and your family to celebrate the Easter season with us!

Festivities begin at 10 AM on April 7th and will conclude by 11:30 AM. Parents wanting to know more about this event or want to inquire about volunteer opportunities don't hesitate to contact Randy Holste @ 481-4715 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, perform mission projects, 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's & Hillyer lock-ins and make new ones as well!

Registration forms are available @ the church, simply ask Randy to email you one! For more information please contact Randy @ the church office or email him: randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

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, please contact Randy at the church office: 919-481-4715 or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net



"CAMP DAY"



Covenant!



Calling all Kindergarteners through 12th graders!

We're Hosting Our 2nd Annual –

"Camp Day @ Covenant"

May 6, 2:30-4:00p

If you've ever wondered what it was like to go to summer camp – here's your chance! Our goal is to introduce (or re-introduce) families to the wonderful world of camping in our region! Come on out and enjoy some hot dogs grilled to perfection or try your hand at making a good old fashioned s'mores over an open flame. We'll have stories of current & past campers. We'll sing songs around a camp fire and fill you in on some of the things happening this summer in our region! Mark your family calendars now! For more information or if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Randy @ the church office or email him at: randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

As Disciples in North Carolina, we have at our disposal 2 very unique and beautiful facilities in our very own state. [Camp Caroline](#) is located just off the banks of the Neuse River in Arapahoe, NC (just down the road from the NC Coast) & [Christmount](#) is located in beautiful Black Mountain, NC (minutes from Asheville, NC). Camps for all ages (K-12th grade) begin in mid-May and conclude in mid-August. Registration forms & more detailed information can be found in the church office.

Youth News - Calendar!

CHI RHO (Middle Schoolers)

April 8th – Easter – No Youth Events!

April 15th – Catholic Mass @ St. Michael's – 6 PM – 7 PM – Come see the difference!

April 27-29th – REGIONAL ASSEMBLY!!! All youth are invited!!! Registration forms coming your way!

May 6th – CAMP DAY @ COVENANT! Youth I need your help! (2:30 – 4 PM)

May 17th – Kadampa Center – Raleigh (Tibetan Buddhism) – "Meditation 101" – Thursday Night!

CYF (High Schoolers)

April 8th – Easter – No Youth Events!

April 15th – Catholic Mass @ St. Michael's – 6 PM – 8:30 PM – Come see the difference!

April 27-29th – REGIONAL ASSEMBLY!!! All youth are invited!!! Registration forms coming your way!

May 6th – CAMP DAY @ COVENANT! Youth I need your help! (2:30 – 4 PM)

May 17th – Kadampa Center – Raleigh (Tibetan Buddhism) – "Meditation 101" - Thursday Night!