

Website: www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org

April 30, 2012

Volume 26 Issue 5

“Couldn’t Be Prouder...”

Months before the weekend of April 27-29 I began praying that we could once again support two major events involving most of our membership. We were challenged 12 years ago in the same way. Saturday's Spring Daze, one of our annual major fundraisers involves so much preparation, thanks to the coordinating efforts of Glenn Thornton along with 50+ volunteers throughout the day; earning +\$3,000! And did you hear? Covenant won 2nd place as a vendor of healthy food for our new chicken wrap (look for our ceramic plaque and ribbon); and 4th place for our grilled chicken sandwich! Yum! **Couldn't be prouder!**

The Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC gathered at the N. Raleigh Hilton for the entire weekend with 600+ Disciples from all over NC. As one of the host congregations, there were 44 people affiliated with Covenant who participated in all or some of the related activities of the Assembly. Of those, several were in leadership: Bob Kennel led a workshop on Disaster Relief; Randy Holste helped plan the Youth activities and spent the weekend herding 40+ youth; Renié Palmer provided the display for our region's Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Commission; she and Jerry Hall also served as ushers; and Marilyn Williams served as an Elder at the Table. **Couldn't be prouder!**

Carole Tyler coordinated all the music throughout the weekend; recruiting a variety of musicians and music styles-a Native American flute; violinists, pianists; the Barton College Gospel Choir; traditional hymns; contemporary songs; gospel songs and "Imagine" by John Lennon thrown in for good measure! **Couldn't be prouder!**

Friday night, 10 of our Covenant children sang and danced to Andra Moran's "New Song," as the Children's Celebration of Unity, accompanied by The Graffiti Monkeys from Wake Forest CC; with original, creative & fun choreography by Jody Barish. Peyton & Jordan Barish and Jasmine & James Cowan were the lead singers with Fabrizio & Carmine Anderson; Déjà Francis; J.D. & Ella Sterling w/one of Ella's friends; who gave it their all as they sang and danced their way into the hearts of all who gathered for worship that night-a standing ovation quickly followed! Thanks to Katherine & Terry White for helping. And thanks to all the parents present: Shawn & Rocio Anderson; Becky & Michael Sterling; Major & Kisa Cowan; Antoinette & Dyrahn Francis...**Couldn't be prouder!**

The All-Assembly Choir Saturday evening, directed by Carole Tyler and accompanied by Don Downs(bassoon); Cathy Downs(flute) & Grayden Beaufort(African drum); included 13 Covenant singers: Marilyn Williams; Misty Mowery; Karen Nippert; Karen Nolan (soloist); Patricia Mills; Bob Kennel; Elaine Fry; Renié Palmer; Robin Miller; Jeff Miller; Jerry Hall; Antoinette Francis and myself. **Couldn't be prouder!**

And thanks to voting and alternate delegates and other Covenant folks I spotted throughout the weekend: Brad & Darla Baldwin; Jeremy Hopkins; Elaine Kennel; Kathy Smith; Elgin Fry; Todd, Jennifer & Jackson Beaufort... **Couldn't be prouder!**

As I write this, words from Proverbs 16:18 keep ringing in my ear: **"First pride, then the crash—the bigger the ego, the harder the fall..."** (The Message); or **"Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall..."** (KJV).

*Hmmmmmm...Guilty as Charged! And I **couldn't be prouder!** Tell me though, how can I keep from bragging? Could you? But just in case it all catches up with me, I've bought a crash helmet; elbow pads & knee protectors...not to mention added accident insurance! ☺*

The power of God's Spirit is a mighty force! And as God continues to bless us as this community of faith called Covenant with overflowing gifts and talents, may we always willingly share them; as together we help bring God's Realm closer and closer...thanks be to God! ***Blessings, Rev. Joanne***

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Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 6

9:50a & Noon (immediately following each worship)

For the purpose of electing the 2012-13 Slate of Officers & Leaders

Absentee Ballots available in the church office

News from the Moderator...

It seems like spring came early this year, doesn't it? Warm weather, blooming flowers, and even the dreaded green pollen are already here. It seemed like it happened overnight. We blinked, and everything was resurrected and transformed!

May at Covenant presents us all with opportunities to join in the transformation of this time of year. There are lots of ways to be involved, to reach out to others, and to breathe some new life into ourselves along the way... There are nine children in the Membership class, and they'll be looking for sponsors. We have a congregational meeting on May 6, for the purposes of electing officers and leaders for the 2012-2013 program year. Add in the energy of Camp Day, the excitement and spirit of Pentecost, and our other regular activities, and you get the picture: lots of ways to reconnect, to be renewed, and to be transformed!

You'll want to check out the other articles in this newsletter for more information on the many ways you can participate in events this month, as together we experience the transformation that comes from reconnecting to our shared ministry and mission...*Darla Baldwin, Moderator*

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Our Love and Prayers are with: Jim & Marian Hartman & family in the death of his mother, Mary Hartman of West Jefferson, NC; **Art Brothers & family** in the death of his wife, Hazel. Memorial Gifts may be made to Covenant's Building Fund.

Congratulations to: Joe Busby, recently promoted to Associate Professor at NCSU;

Rev. Patricia Cadle recently awarded Chaplain of the Year by the NC Chaplain's Association;

Claire Sisson and her volleyball team who qualified for the upcoming Special Olympics!

Recent: Carolyn McGregor (Tyler) Vicky Vanderford; Scott Larsen at Duke; Virginia Cadle; Mickey Waller (Vanderford) Angela Cerveney; (Baldwin)...

Continuing Prayers: Art Brothers; Wally & Ellen Teto; Mary Toney; Amarvi Thompson; Miller-Hogg & family...

Parents: Phama Larsen-Johnston; **Mothers:** Don Brooks; Ann Hall; Rocio Anderson; Betsy Mebane; **Fathers:** Vicki Wilkinson; Jeremy Hopkins; Debbie Miller; **Daughters:** Hoffman's; In-Laws: Renié Palmer; **Grandmothers:** Déjà & Dionna Francis; Vicki Wilkinson; **Grandfather:** Dana Kropf; Grandchildren: Sally Shelly; Hall's; **Brothers:** Don Brooks; Phama Larsen Johnston; Terry White; **Sister:** Kathy Smith; Aunts: Ann Hall; Jeff Miller; 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: Bill Dennen (Rutledge); Cheryl Ruda & family (Busby/Fagert); Co-workers of Suzanne Hopkins; Alice & Matthew Lammi (Busby); The Morton Family (Teague); Ellie Busby (J. Busby); Sandra Collins (Glasener); Suzie Broddle (Myers); Jeff Mandler; Hudson Mirlitch; Ryan Woodyard; 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...



Calling all Kindergarteners through 12th graders!
It's time for our 2nd Annual "Camp Day @ Covenant"
Sunday, May 6 from 2:30-4p

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 Rev. Randy @ the church office or email him: randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

As Disciples in North Carolina, we're blessed to have 2 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 (20 minutes from Asheville). 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.

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Help Needed for Our Children!

We're revitalizing our Nursery to make it warm and inviting for our own children and for our guests as well. We know you will want to help us do this, so...Do you happen to have: a **clean, gently used rug** to place on the floor?

Storage shelves? Age-appropriate toys in really good condition? A couple of swings and bouncers?

Contact Sandy Kidd: 919-387-3882; it2mad@aol.com or Suzanne Hopkins: 919-372-9353 or suzanne@hopkins-family.org. We would like to work on this as soon as possible. Please contact one of us by the middle of May.

Thanks, Sandy & Suzanne

Our Financial Information

THIS MONTH:

General Fund Contributions Needed Per Month	\$16,417
Actual General Fund Contributions as of April 29	\$19,811
Spring Daze Fundraiser	\$ 3,367.65

YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL:

General Fund Contributions through Mar 31	\$45,995
Fundraisers and Other Income through Mar 31	<u>1,058</u>
Total Income through Mar 31	\$47,053
Total Expenses through Mar 31	<u>\$51,639</u>
Balance as of Mar 31	(\$ 4,467)

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

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With Summer Vacations Upon Us Want a Great Way to be in Worship When You're Away? Consider Automatic Bill Pay...

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:

Bill Name: Covenant Christian Church Account number: GENERAL FUND
Bill Address: 2911 SW Cary Parkway Biller City, State, Zip: Cary, NC 27513-8902
Biller 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



SCRIP Update

As the old saying goes, "April showers bring May flowers." As you watch your May flowers grow, there are quite a few retailers that participate in the SCRIP program that can help you with your gardening and outdoor maintenance needs.: Ace Hardware, The Container Store, Home Depot, Lowe's Home Improvement, Sears, Target, and Wal-Mart all participate in the SCRIP program, and Lowe's Home Improvement, Target & Wal-Mart are carried in our weekly inventory. Planning a summer vacation? There are a number of hotels, motels, gas stations, car rental agencies, and even cruise lines that participate in the SCRIP program.

May and June also bring us Mother's Day, Father's Day, high school and college graduations, weddings, anniversaries& birthdays. Maybe you are one of those people who love giving gift cards as presents – it's simple and allows the recipients to purchase whatever they want. Or perhaps you dislike giving gift cards as presents – you prefer to pick out that perfect present for the recipient. Whatever side of the coin you fall on let the SCRIP program be part of the experience. For those of you who love giving gift cards as presents, there are hundreds of retailers that participate in the SCRIP program. There are even gift card wrappers that you can "wrap" the gift card in. For those of you who prefer to buy the actual gift, you can still use the SCRIP program. Purchase SCRIP for the store where you will be buying the gift, pay for the gift with the SCRIP gift card, and then give your recipient the present that you have carefully chosen for them. Either way, Covenant earns money! Stop by and visit the SCRIP volunteers in the hallway across from the office for assistance with all your SCRIP needs. *Robin Miller, SCRIP Coordinator*

"Amazing Grays" May Luncheon
Thursday, May 17, 11:30a
La Cocina, 100 MacGregor Pines Dr. Apex
(corner of Lake Pine Rd & Hwy 64)
<http://www.lacocinanc.com/>

RSVP Church Office by May 14

Christian Education Ministry...

The Christian Education committee has been working hard to offer the ministry of teaching to every age and every person. We are thrilled to have Darla directing Vacation Bible School this summer. It will be another great experience for all! Covenant Time is also finding support, with positive feedback from many who participated in the first two. The next one will be Sunday, May 20. Watch the bulletin for more details. And of course, our many wonderful Sunday School teachers, Worship and Wonder ministers, nursery workers, and Youth groups continue to bring the message of God every week!

If you have any ideas of things to do or want to add your "oar" to this boat, just let us know. Together we are the Body of Christ, God's hands, feet, arms, and ears.

Blessings, Beth Kearney and Misty Mowrey, Co-Chairs, Christian Education

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Sunday School Teachers Still 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)! Interested? Need more information? Contact Rev. Randy at the church office: 919-481-4715 or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

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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 of Urban Ministries. Summer is coming and with many children this means they will not receive the breakfast & lunch as they do during the school year. Please add "kid-friendly" foods to your donations EACH WEEK: juice boxes; individual microwaveable foods; PB & J; peanut butter or cheese crackers (Nabs); mac & cheese; etc.

Habitat for Humanity Abraham Build Project

The dedication for the Abraham Build House (Habitat) will be held on May 6 at 2:30 pm. The house is located at 515 Parnell St. in southeast Raleigh. If you are able, please join us as we celebrate the fruits of our labor. All who worked on this project were enriched by the experience. Take a look at a few photos in the photo album on our web site. Our own Phama Johnston bravely handling an electric saw!

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Women's Ministry

We held our final meeting of the church year on Saturday April 14. We assembled 30 care packages for Camp Agape. Each package consisted of a bath towel, 2 face towels, insect repellant and suntan lotion. Several decisions were made regarding our meeting schedule and format for the remaining 2012 and 2013 church year. We will continue to hold two Saturday morning breakfast meetings; however, the meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. and will end between 10:30 and 11:00. In addition, we will continue to hold two Friday evening meetings from 7-8:30 p. We feel really good about our service projects and will select one or two to support based on the N.C. region's emphasis.

In addition, we will spend at least one meeting learning and creating crafts for our fall craft sale. We thank you for your support during the past year. If you feel that Women's Ministry is a critical ministry for our church, please consider co-chairing the ministry during the remainder of this year and through June of 2013. If you feel called to do so (we need 2 people) and would like to have a conversation about what's involved in chairing or co-chairing this ministry, please contact Renié Palmer

Thanks, Renié Palmer, Women's Ministry Coordinator

Youth News - Calendar!

CHI RHO (Middle Schoolers)

- 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!
May 20th – Mission Trip Fundraiser Weekend! Time to get ready for the Summer!
May 30th – Alex Dalberth’s Baseball Game – Annie Jones Park (6 PM) – Wednesday Night!
June 10th – School’s OUT –LET’S PARTY! – 5:30 PM – 7 PM (Bring \$5 & a friend)- Game Night!
June 2012 – TBD – Camping Trip to Jordan Lake!!! – Keep your eyes peeled for more info!!

CYF (High Schoolers)

- 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!
May 25th – 26th – CYF Lock-OUT! Spend a night locked out with Covenant! (Bring \$20 & friend)!
June 3rd – School’s almost OUT –LET’S PARTY! 5:30–7p (Bring \$5 & a friend)- Game Night!
June 18th – Lake Johnson Jam 7-8:30p– (\$5 pp) [Raleigh Drum Circle](#) (RDC) Come on out & learn how to DRUM!– (*RDC is a community of drummers dedicated to using the universal language of percussive music for creative self-expression. In doing so, they encourage cultural awareness, embrace diversity, and promote harmony through rhythm.)



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

*Operation Overboard!
Dare to Go Deep with God!*

Monday, June 18 – Thursday, June 21
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

www.CovenantChristianChurch-Cary.org

Come join the fun as we dive deep with God!

The four Ocean Insights for the week are:

Depend on God: The story of Noah
Claim Jesus: The story of John the Baptist
Choose to Follow: The story of the Disciples
Change the World: The story of Paul