



Covenant Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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“Hello, Hello! I Don’t Know Why You Say, Goodbye, I Say Hello...”

Joyce Rupp, in her book, *Praying Our Goodbyes*, writes of a pattern of “Hello...Goodbye...Hello”...as a formula for life: saying “Hello,” as in “Hello World...” Then there comes the time to say “Goodbye” as one moves on to say “Hello” to whatever God has in store next.

As I thought about this pattern, out of the blue I began humming and then singing (be glad you weren’t with me at the time ☺) the Beatles’ classic:

**“You say Goodbye & I say Hello...” “Hello, Hello...I don’t why you say Goodbye, I say Hello...
I don’t know why you say Goodbye I say Hello...”**

And as always when things seem to drop out of the sky and into my brain, I pause to ponder, “OK God, so what’s up with this?” And soon the veil of secrecy was lifted: it’s as if this is an apt title describing my thoughts and perceptions about our life together here at Covenant these past few months. In May, after 22+yrs of serving Covenant as the Director of Music Ministries, Carole Tyler announced her retirement ...saying “Goodbye” to what once was, and turning the page to see what will cause her to say “Hello,” next.

Meanwhile a Search Committee was formed and they set out to discover the one whom we would greet by saying “Hello” as our next Director of Music Ministry...and so we get ready to say “Hello” as we welcome **Cameron Aiken**, who will be among us beginning with choir rehearsal on Thursday, September 6 and worship September 9—a great addition to our annual “Kick-off Sunday! Maybe we can encourage him to share in our Talent/UnTalent Nite! ☺

While there will be lots of time to get better acquainted with him, allow me to tell you a bit about Cameron:

He grew up in SC where his father served as a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He is busy packing for the move from Washington, DC to Hillsborough, NC; arriving September 5. In addition to his part-time work at Covenant, he will be completing some online pre-requisites in preparation for enrolling in UNC-CH to become a Physical Therapist.

He has received a Bachelor’s degree in vocal performance from the University of SC, Columbia; a MM in vocal performance from Rice University, Shepherd School of Music, Houston, TX; and a MA in music education from Hunter College in NYC, NY. And he has been a soloist in several classical performances including Haydn’s *Mass in a Time of War*; Mozart’s *Requiem* and Bach’s *St. John Passion*; Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville*.

Most recently Cameron has taught K-8 music to students with varied learning disabilities using guitar, percussion, xylophone in an ORFF based curriculum; as well as organizing and directing performances for all students in the middle and elementary grades at Kingsbury Day School in DC; He has directed concert choirs; taught vocal music, song-writing and improvisational theater.

Cameron brings a wealth of musical talent and experience to us and is excited about enhancing and growing the music ministry at both the 9a Gathering and the 11a worship. He is quite personable and YES, has a sense of humor—which was per the choir’s demands, the #1 requirement for this position ☺

Cameron stopped by the church earlier this week after closing on his new home, returning to DC to say “Goodbye” to his life & work there; as he gets ready to say, “Hello” to all of us as we welcome him to Covenant. Cameron begins this new chapter in his life and ours and is excited about sharing with us his love and passion for music and church music in particular... *Blessings, Rev. Joanne*

“HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?”

What a great celebration of Covenant's 22+ years of music ministry! The music-filled worship August 19 was a joyful experience for all who were within earshot of the Sanctuary that day, especially for me. I thank Joanne VerBurg, Karen Nolan, Marilyn Williams, Suzanne Hopkins, all who planned the surprise BBQ at the Millers, all who planned & shared in such an outrageous outpouring of love & spirit “under the influence” of the Rev. Dr. William Thomas, our guest musician (pianist, vocalist, composer, choir director, and proclaimer of the Word) for the day. And my deep gratitude goes out to all of you for the generous love offering.

I treasure the Miktam (Look it up-it's a Hebrew word) based on Psalm 16 and being sent forth with “Go in the Name,” both written by Bill for this occasion of remembrance. How privileged we were to hear the world premiere of this anthem sung so beautifully by Covenant's Reunion Choir. Somehow, the beauty of it all, took root in my soul as an anthem of thanksgiving for all that brought me into this community of faith and into this particular music ministry, so, I thank you as “My life flows on in endless song...”

Thanks be to God...Dr. E. Carole Tyler, Former Director of Music Ministries

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From The Moderator:

It's that time of year again, isn't it? School has started, it's getting dark just a little bit earlier every night, sometimes you can almost feel the end of the summertime heat...

So, what does September hold at Covenant? Lots of things, as always! Just take a quick look through this newsletter for information about our annual Kick-off Sunday, Talent/Un-Talent Night, and new programs for children, youth & adults. We have a new Director of Adult Music Ministries. The list goes on and on...

The 2013 Estimates of Giving have been sent out announcing the theme of our 2013 Stewardship Campaign: “Visualize Abundance” based on Ephesians 3: 20, “God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!”

One thing I want to call attention to is our Planning Event on September 23 after 11:00a worship. It's a time for sharing new ideas, collective brainstorming, and coming up with different and better ways of carrying out our ministries; and it promises to be a fun way to spend a couple of early afternoon hours! You won't want to miss the fellowship and creativity of this event, so please plan to be there and share your ideas and energy as together we shape the programs & activities of the coming months. Lunch and childcare will be provided-donations accepted.

Darla Baldwin, Moderator

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Have you purchased **SCRIP** lately?

The **SCRIP** program is one way we can all help out the church we love. It's easy! Just stop by the hallway outside the office after either service and purchase gift cards for things you already do: buy gas, get groceries, shop for clothes... Covenant makes a little bit from each gift card you buy. When you purchase a \$50 BP card and using it to fill up your gas tank, you give \$.75 to Covenant. And \$50 at Target nets \$1 for Covenant. It all adds up! **(See related article elsewhere in newsletter)**

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Dust Off Your Top Hat! Put on Your Dancin' Shoes!
It's Time for Talent/Un-Talent Night! & A Potluck Dinner!
Sunday, September 9 5-7p

Join us for an evening of great Church family fun to kick-off a great new program year here at Covenant!

All kinds of talent and un-talent are encouraged: Performing arts, i.e. singing, dancing, comedy, martial arts, magic tricks, sewing/needlework, cooking, baking, photography, art work, poetry, woodworking, Crafts or any other talent you choose to share! If you're offering your cooking/baking as your talent, don't forget to bring the recipe!

Sign-up in the entryway or contact the church office: 919-481-4715; or covenantcc@bellsouth.net to bring your favorite dish for our potluck dinner and/or to showcase your hidden talents!

Suzanne Hopkins, Co-Chr. Hospitality Ministry

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Welcome to our Newest Member: Colin Williams united with us Sunday, August 19:
1231 Newport Common Dr. #101; Knightdale, NC 27545; 336-817-8155; Karen Nippert is his Shepherding Elder.

Please extend a warm Covenant welcome to Colin!

Recent: Beth & Bill Bailey (K. Nolan); Geneva Strickland (Rivers); Cade Colburn (Hoffman's g'son); Andy Waldrop (Kennel's); Nina Garrett (Mills); Anna Myers (Myers); Rev. Raye Feltner-Kapornyai; Connie Johnston & mother (D. Miller); Kelli Cross (Mowrey); Robert Cheeseborough & Elaine Murray (Kessel); everyone in the path and aftermath of Hurricane/Tropical Storm, Isaac...**Want to help? Donate to the Week of Compassion...100% of your donation goes directly to disaster relief. Make your check payable to Covenant Christian Church/Isaac Relief...**

Continuing Prayers: Logan, Michael & Sarah Smith (K. Smith); The Grennan Family; Jeff Miller; Paul Kessel;

At Home: Deb Nystrom; Elaine Fry; Larry Monteith; Ann Messick; Vicky Vanderford; Suki Sneed.

Mothers: Ann Hall; Don Brooks; Vicky Vanderford. **Fathers:** Vicki Wilkinson; Debbie Miller; **In-Laws:** Renié Palmer;

Grandmother: Vicki Wilkinson; **Grandfather:** David Williams; Jasmine & James Cowan. **Grandchildren:** Cathy

Teague; Sally Shelly; **Sister:** Patricia Cadle. **Aunts:** Cathy Downs; Marilyn Williams; **Uncles:** Angie Ballard;

Marilyn Williams; **Great Nieces:** Betsy Mebane; Nancy Jones; **Nephews:** Stelmack; Misty Mowrey;

Great-Nephew: Barishes. **Cousins:** Jennifer Beaufort; Jerry Hall; Mary Lou Jackson;

Remembering Others: Rev. Patricia Talley; Crumpton family; Loretta Ramos; Becky Baker; Leary family; Boyd Lawrence; Pat Davis; Taylor Robinson; Hudson Mimlitch; Ryan Woodyard; Ron Walters; Jacob Stallings; Suzanne Newell; General & Regional Church Leaders; DoC new church starts...

Our Current Financial Information

YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL:

General Fund Contributions through July 31	\$114,055
Fundraisers and Other Income through July 31	<u>6,574</u>
Total Income through July 31	\$120,629
Total Expenses through July 31	<u>\$125,502</u>
Balance as of July 31	\$ (4,873)

Lazy Daze Fundraiser August 25:

Gross- \$5994;

Net - \$4269 - Best Ever! Thanks to all who helped!

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

Women's Ministry News

We are about to kick off our new program year in Women's Ministry, and I am excited to experience them all with you! Our next meeting is Saturday, September 15, for our early autumn breakfast at 9a. This year we will combine a potluck breakfast with a craft party - creating some fun items to sell at the upcoming Fun-d Raising Day Craft/Bake Sale & BBQ, Saturday, November 10, 8a-2p. (The Yard Sale will be a separate event.)

The breakfast will start at 9:00 a.m. this year, and I will ask that you please *RSVP email me:*

covenantccwomen@yahoo.com to let me know that you are joining us and if you plan to contribute something to our meal together.

There will be three craft projects to choose from - none of which requires particularly special skills - just bring your creativity and willingness to learn something new and fun to help support Covenant. The projects will be quick, and three SME (Subject-Matter Experts) will be on hand to teach and support us in our endeavors. In order to purchase the supplies for the crafts, I will need to know which craft(s) you would like to create at the meeting, so please include that information in your email to me. The choices are - 1) Mod Podge Clay Pots; 2) Button Bookmarks; 3) Macramé Dog Toy.

I look forward to September 15 and look forward to seeing you then!

Yours in Christ ~ Nancy Jones, Women's Ministry Coordinator

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Covenant's Casserole Ministry Update

The **Casserole Ministry** is an uplifting way to let our Covenant family know that they are loved and cared for especially during difficult times. Nancy Jones has agreed to be the coordinator of this important ministry. Casseroles are prepared with loving hands, by our ministry volunteers, and the food is stored in the church freezer for Elders to distribute. Contact Nancy Jones at home 919-542-1856 if you would like to learn how you can volunteer to become part of this ministry. We can make a difference - right here, in our own congregation.

"Amazing Grays" Luncheon
Thursday, September 20, 11:30a
 At the home of Ted Glasener
 616 Walapai Dr, Fuquay Varina 27526
 Want to carpool? Meet at the church at 11a
RSVP Church Office by September 16



Covenant's SCRIP Update

Where do you buy your groceries? Did you know we have several popular local grocery retailers available through the SCRIP program? Target, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Whole Foods, and Lowe's Foods are available to be ordered through our SCRIP program. Target, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Lowe's Foods are also available in our weekly inventory on a first come, first served basis. In addition, Target is now available in Reload! If you want more information, or if you would like to purchase from inventory or place an order, check with the SCRIP volunteers after either service, located in the hallway across from the office. You may also contact Robin Miller: doghouse@msn.com or 919-852-3986. *Robin Miller, SCRIP Coordinator*

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Program Alert!

(*Note Change of Meeting Day/Time)

We've got a unique opportunity for all up-coming 3rd graders beginning on Kick-Off Sunday September 9

Transitional Worship – All 3rd graders are invited during 11 AM worship after children's Moment to join Pastor Randy in the big Sunday School Class for Transitional Worship! This program is offered to help children who have graduated Children W & W, but yet need added guidance before entering adult worship.

***An Informational Session for PARENTS is planned for September 9, immediately following 11 AM worship**
 For more information or questions, please contact Randy @ the church office or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

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Children/Youth News - Calendar!

JYF (Rising 3rd-5th Graders)

September 9 – KICK-OFF SUNDAY - Talent/Un-Talent Night (5p)!

September 16 – JYF Advisory Board Meeting (4p)!

September 23– Church-wide Planning & lunch FOR ALL Noon–2p – JOIN US!

CHI RHO (Middle Schoolers)

September 9 – KICK-OFF SUNDAY - Talent/Un-Talent Night (5p)!

September 15 – Chi Rho Missions – Feed the Homeless – Moore Square –3-5p RSVP

September 23 – Church-wide Planning & lunch FOR ALL Noon– 2p – JOIN US!

October 5-7 – Chi Rho Retreat – Camp Caroline!

CYF (High Schoolers)

September 9– KICK-OFF SUNDAY - Talent/Un-Talent Night (5p)!

September 16– CYF Advisory Board Meeting (3p)!

September 23 – Church-wide Planning & Lunch FOR ALL Noon-2p – JOIN US!

Outreach Ministry News

Feeding the Hungry...

Urban Ministries of Wake County Food Bank

We continue our effort to feed the hungry in Wake County and the surrounding area. Please remember to pick up a few of the following items **EVERY WEEK** to put in the food baskets in the entryway:

- **Canned meats: tuna, chicken;**
- **Canned fruits; Canned vegetables (NO green beans/NO corn)**
- **Canned soups; Canned beans (black, kidney, pinto)**
- **Breakfast cereals; grits; Powdered or boxed milk;**
- **Dried beans; Mac & cheese; Peanut butter and jelly; Pasta: dry and canned pasta meals; Rice;**
- **Juice; juice boxes...**

CROP Walk

The CROP Walk is scheduled for early October. We are forming teams this year in order to increase our participation. If you can't walk...**GIVE**. I am coordinating a Covenant Choir Team and we are going to be the champions this year! To make sure we win, I am walking...yes...these old feet and back are going to get on out there! ☺

Choir members, get ready to join me! We will be competing against the Amazing Grays (coordinated by Shirley Kennedy), the Youth (coordinated by Randy Holste), the Men's Ministry and Women's Ministry (coordinators needed), and anyone else who wants to form a team. HOW ABOUT YOU??!!

Look for more information in upcoming Sunday bulletins and e-mail blasts.

School Supply Drive

Outreach collaborated with the Youth Ministry to co-sponsor a school supply drive. We'd like to thank those of you who donated supplies this year. The donations were given to Christian Community in Action of Cary, who were most appreciative. CCA will distribute them to children throughout our community.

Reconciliation Offering

The theme of the Reconciliation offering this year is "Planting the Seeds of Hope." The offering will be collected on Sunday, September 30 & October 7. "We are reminded in Romans 5 that our hope is in God, who gave us the good news in Jesus Christ. It is this Good News that we proclaim in the witness and ministry of Reconciliation."

(Reconciliation Moment for Mission)

Please prayerfully consider the amount of your gift and place in the special offering envelopes inside the Sunday bulletins on September 30 & October 7.

May you be filled with God's love and grace...Renée Palmer, Outreach Chr.

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Covenant Christian Church's Fall Plant Sale Saturday, September 29, 2011 (9am-12pm)

The Fall planting season is right around the corner! Please support Covenant Christian Church by purchasing some gorgeous MUMS and PANSIES for your garden or yard.

Pre-order your plants no later than Tuesday, September 25!

In order for this to be a successful fundraiser we need YOU to place your own order and to also start selling those mums and pansies NOW to all of your neighbors and friends.

Plant Type:	Quantity:	Total:
Pansies (mixed flats): \$15 per flat		
Garden Mums (8 inch pots): \$10 each Please specify color: <i>yellow, bronze, purple or white</i>		
Monster Mums (14 inch pots): \$20 each Please specify color: <i>yellow, bronze, purple or white</i>		

****All pre-orders must be received by: September 25****

Make your check payable to Covenant & in the Memo line: "Fall Plant Sale"