



Covenant Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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"In all things, give thanks..."

That's how the writer of I Thessalonians 5: 18 puts it. It's as if this time of year prompts these words to capture our attention as our artist-God mixes, dips and dabs the bright hues of red, gold and yellow on God's palette; while providing the dancing leaf showers against the background of a bright blue sky. Ah..."in all things, give thanks."

As we move through November and approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I always find myself pondering why we have just a season, a day, a long weekend for set aside for giving thanks; when, as people of faith, we are clearly reminded in these words of scripture, to live our entire lives giving thanks all the time and in all circumstances...

While we may not always remember to say "thanks" to God 24/7, I daresay when our eyes drink in the splendor of God's world, it's a whole lot easier say. It's as if we can't seem to help ourselves while in the presence of God's beauty. Yet consider Eugene Peterson's The Message, as he translates this same scripture:

"...Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live..."

Did you catch that? "...No matter what...Be cheerful." "Pray all the time..." "No matter what happens...thank God..." Is this really how God calls us to live?

As with many of you, my thoughts and prayers continue to ascend on behalf of all who were in the destructive path of Hurricane Sandy and are now in the aftermath just beginning to sense the reality of what it means to try to put their lives together... And this scripture keeps coming back to me time and time again...and haunts me to the depth of my very soul...

Sure, I get the part about praying all the time...And don't you know the abundance of prayers that were and continue to be offered by those most affected and by those who care and love them the most. Yet the real challenge in living out this scripture comes with God calling us to be cheerful and thanking God no matter what...

- even in the midst of finding food and clean water or a safe place to live, even for a little while: **Be cheerful-Thank God;**
- as you wait patiently for the electricity to come back on; and for modes of transportation and goods & services to be available again: **Be Cheerful-Thank God;**
- as you need continuing hospital care for yourself or a loved one; or birth babies in the midst of evacuation; or grieve the death of Sandy's victims: **Be Cheerful-Thank God;**
- as you await an eventual return to school and work: **Be Cheerful-Thank God...**

And all we have to do is listen deeply with our hearts to hear the quiet sobbing as well as the loud laments: **"How long, O Lord, how long?"**

Many will not be able to fully recover all that has been destroyed and it will be weeks and months, even a year or two for others; before they can claim any sense of normalcy in their lives...

As I reflect on all the destruction I see from the comfort of my safe & dry living room, one thing's for certain: God doesn't bring on the challenges of life that so many are experiencing from Hurricane Sandy or any other devastating circumstances; nor does God bring about the challenges you and I have already experienced or will face in the future ...when it's our turn at bat in this world, all God asks of us is *to be faithful; to trust God more; and to live as God calls us to live by being cheerful; praying always; and thanking God...no matter what...*

Blessings, Rev. Joanne

From The Moderator:

"If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice." --Meister Eckhart

I love Thanksgiving. The weather is cooler, there's time to be spent with family and friends, wonderful food to be shared...and sometimes shopping to do and football to watch. It's a single day for relaxing and counting our blessings before we plunge headlong into the hustle and bustle of Advent and Christmas.

This November at Covenant, we have even more to be thankful for, as we approach the end of 2012 and make new and exciting plans for 2013. For us, the beginning of our 2013 plans is actually on November 18, 2012. At this congregational meeting—held in two parts, one after each worship service—we will vote on the proposed operating budget for 2013. Please plan to attend this important meeting, as we continue to learn and understand what it means to be good caretakers of our God-given resources and look forward to 2013 with joy and optimism.

As we move through the month, I invite you to join me in thanks-giving: for all we have, and all we are, and the church community we call home...for the laughter of our children, and the warmth we feel when we are together....and for God, who cares for us in ways we can't possibly imagine, provides for us, and is always with us...*Darla Baldwin, Moderator*

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Annual Fun-d Raising Day!
Covenant's Craft Sale; Bake Sale; Pork BBQ Lunch
Saturday, November 10 – 9:00a to 2:00p

Our Fun-d Raising Day is fast upon us! And it takes a village to make it all happen! Here how you can help make this fun day be the best ever:

Sign Up To Help! The lists are in the entryway to the Sanctuary awaiting YOUR name! Or email Nancy Jones: covenantccwomen@yahoo.com or contact the church office. **We need YOU!**

- **Setting up the sanctuary** – starting Sunday, November 4 - Friday, November 9. Chairs will need to be stacked and tables will need to be assembled for the crafts and baked goods.
- **Create Craft items & Works of Art to Sell**– such as knitting, crocheting, sewing, embroidery, wood working, jewelry, cross stitch, items for the home, garden, office – use your imaginations!
- **Baked Goods** – we need cakes, pies, cookies (bagged by dozen/half dozen), cupcakes, candies (bagged and ready for sale), and breads.
- **Cashiers and Hosts;**
- **Clean up Crew** – the "Market Place" will need to turn back into our beloved sanctuary by Sunday morning, and lots of help is needed especially by those who have worked the sale all day.
- **BBQ Pork Plates & Raffles:** You've received BBQ tickets and Raffle Tickets to sell! More tickets for each are available thru the church office. If you know business owners who might want to feed their workers on Saturday, November 10, consider approaching them to buy our BBQ lunch plates...we deliver! **Contact Karen Nolan if you want to help deliver lunches or can help serve at the church: kdnolan@bellsouth.net; 919-467-4507.**

Don't forget to invite your friends & neighbors! Nancy Jones, Coordinator

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We Had A Coolishly Good Time... THANK YOU!



Trunk or Treat was a HUGE success! Thanks to all of you who volunteered, participated, & fully supported this event. Without you it would have been impossible! A special thanks to Ken & Glenda Hoffman for their food making expertise and their desire to make this best Trunk or Treat ever! It was a big event that has produced "rave" reviews from those in attendance! From the food, activities, games, and unbelievable display of decorated trunks.

THANKS TO ALL!

Outreach Ministry News

Thanksgiving Offering

We who have so much have another opportunity to share our blessings with those who need help in furthering their education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps Disciples educational institutions such as Barton College and Lexington Theological Seminary, provide a spiritual, nurturing environment for students. We will be receiving this special offering on Sundays November 11 and 18. Please place your offering in the special envelopes placed in your bulletins on those dates.

Feeding the Hungry...

Urban Ministries of Wake County:

"Stone Soup Supper," Wednesday, November 14

2 Times & 2 Locations: Lunch-11:30a-1:30p at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 121 Hillsborough St. Downtown Raleigh; Dinner-5:30p-7p at White Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1704 Oberlin Rd. Raleigh. Come enjoy homemade soup, bread & dessert! No charge...donations gladly accepted. Beautiful bowls created by the Triangle Potters Guild will be available for a donation of \$25 or more.

Food Pantry

We continue to need your help to provide non-perishable food items for the food bank, especially during the upcoming holiday season. Please place your non-perishable food items in the designated basket in the entry way. The following items are needed:

- Canned fruits and vegetables (no green beans or corn)
 - Canned soups and canned beans
 - Breakfast cereals; grits, powdered or boxed milk
 - Dried beans, Mac & cheese, peanut butter & jelly
 - Pasta, dry and canned pasta meals, rice
 - Juice, juice boxes
- **Cary Area CROP Walk**

These boots were made for walking!! Many thanks to our CROP Walkers: Timothy, Don and Christopher Downs, Maryanna and Grace Ann Myers, Karen Nolan, Renié Palmer, Dick Reaves, Claire and Catherine Sisson, Kathy Smith, Ann Washington and Vicki, Alan and Stephen Wilkinson. With your support, Covenant raised \$700 to fight hunger locally, nationally and in the world! **Go Covenant!**

• **Adopt a Shelf for the Dorcas Ministry**

In order to meet a growing need right here in Cary, we have committed to participate in the Dorcas Ministries' "Adopt-A-Shelf" project. This is a very ambitious project in which Dorcas Ministry has asked local congregations to provide items on an on-going basis to keep their shelves full.

We have been asked to provide: **DISPOSABLE DIAPERS IN ALL SIZES** Place your donated diapers in the designated box in the entryway.

• **Christmas Angel Tree**

Yes, We're thinking about Christmas already! You joyfully filled many bags of goodies for needy children last year via this project. The Angel Tree will be hung mid November. Covenant will be adopting 25 Angels and we are looking forward to experiencing your generosity once again.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving! Renié Palmer, Outreach Chr.



Covenant's SCRIIP Update

Now is a great time to start planning how you can use SCRIIP for your holiday travel plans and gift giving. The SCRIIP poster across the hall from the office has some great ideas to help you – stop by and check it out. A lot of retailers are increasing their contributions for the upcoming holiday season. Check the SCRIIP poster for the most recent list of retailers increasing their contributions.

You can also check in with the SCRIIP volunteers in their NEW location: in the church library at the back of the Sanctuary, following each service. They can answer your questions, help you place an order, or help you figure out how you can use SCRIIP this holiday season. Stop on by and see what is new with SCRIIP!

Robin Miller, SCRIIP Coordinator

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Welcome our newest member:

Cathy Teague who united with us on October 14: 332 Willow St, Cary, 27511, 980-622-4374. Her Shepherding Elder is Brad Baldwin. *Please extend a warm Covenant welcome to Cathy.*

Love & prayers to: Michael & Melissa Smith & family in the recent death of Michael's mother, Barbara Smith.

Recent: Keishonta Mills; Wally Teto, Visit/Send Cards: #317B, Rex Rehab: 911 S. Hughes St. Apex, NC 27502...

Continuing Prayers: Art Brothers: Magnolia Gardens of Warrenton, 930 Hwy 148 Bus. E, Warrenton, NC, 27589; Henry Kidd; Grennan Family; Robin & Jeff Miller; Paul Kessel; Bettyann Christopher; Deb Nystrom; Vicky Vanderford;

Family: Kathy Smith; **Mothers:** Karen Nolan; Don Brooks; Vicky Vanderford. **Father:** Debbie Miller; **Daughters:** Maryanna Myers; Cathy Teague. **Brother:** Joe Busby; **Sisters:** Carol Carson; Patricia Cadle. **In-Laws:** Renié Palmer; **Grandmother:** Vicki Wilkinson; **Grandfathers:** David Williams; Jasmine & James Cowan. **Grandchildren:** Bettyann Christopher; Cathy Teague; The Hoffman's; **Aunts:** Jeff Miller; Patricia Mills; Cathy Downs; Marilyn Williams; **Uncles:** Jeff Miller; Angie Ballard; Marilyn Williams; **Niece:** Misty Mowrey. **Great Nieces:** Betsy Mebane; Nancy Jones; **Nephews:** Stelmack; Misty Mowrey. **Great-Nephew:** Barishes. **Cousins:** Jennifer Beaufort; Jerry Hall; Mary Lou Jackson.

Remembering Others: Danielle; Corey Anderson; Sharon & Dave Garrett; Derrick Flowers; Birgit Patty; Rachel Brown & family; Sandy Richards; Westbrook family; Theodore Harvey; Joey Ernst; Brian Storck; Connie Johnston & mother; Andy Waldrop; Revs. Raye & Daniel Feltner-Kapornyai; Rev. Patricia Talley; Crumpton family; Loretta Ramos; Becky Baker; Leary family; Boyd Lawrence; Pat Davis; Taylor Robinson; Hudson Mimplitch; 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 September 30	\$150,127
Fundraisers and Other Income through September 30	<u>11,467</u>
Total Income through September 30	\$161,594
Total Expenses through September 30	<u>\$163,051</u>
Balance as of September 30	\$ (1,457)

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

Deacon Info...

We have 3 new deacons: Sean Lowers, Shawn Anderson, and Kelley Richardson. They will join our faithful group during the 11 AM worship with the preparation and service of communion; and receiving the weekly offering. We appreciate all of our deacons' offering of time and service to our church.

Thank you. *Diana Stelmack, Deacon Chr.*

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Job Seekers Support Group

Don Brooks & Tim Stiles are excited about forming and leading a support group for those who are currently seeking employment. It's a great opportunity to meet other job-seekers and to gather strength from them; compile and share resumes; practice with mock interviews; and to know that there are many others who walk this path with you. Job Seekers Support Group (JSSG) meets the 1st & 3rd Monday evenings at 7p at the church. The group is open to any and all among us and we welcome any friends and acquaintances outside of Covenant members & guests.

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Diversity Lunch Bunch

We meet on the first Sunday of each month. Plan now to join with us Sunday, November 4. Look for Nancy Jones and help choose a favorite spot to have lunch after 11a worship.

"Amazing Grays" Luncheon Thursday, November 15, 11:30a Paisan's Italian Restaurant

(Corner of High House and Maynard...next to Kroger's)

Web site: www.caryitalian.com

RSVP Church Office by November 12

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas...



Who's ready for snowflakes, hot apple cider, caroling, and Christmas pageants? If you love this time of year, then we want you to be a part of our Christmas Play. Come for an informational session THIS SUNDAY (11/4/12) @ 12 PM! See the play practice schedule below! All adults, children, and youth interested in participating in Covenant's annual Christmas play are invited to join us for play practice, but you need to hurry as space is limited. This year we are performing an encore performance of "Matt & Lucy's Version Births". A play written & produced for "Living The Questions" (an organization dedicated to producing materials specifically for progressive Christians). Our fearless directors this year are Becky Sterling & Robin Miller. The Christmas play is slated for Dec. 16th at Covenant Christian Church. For more information or if you have any questions please contact : Rev. Randy: 919 481-4715 or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net

Play Practice Schedule:

November 4th & 18th, 12 PM – 2 PM

December 2nd & 9th, 12 PM – 2 PM

December 15th – Dress Rehearsal & Pizza Party – 10 AM – 12:30 PM

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Youth Fund Raiser



Get yours today! Our Chi Rho (middle schoolers) are selling "Butter Braids" just in time for the Holidays! This fundraiser will conclude during the Women's Ministry Fun(d) Raising Day, Saturday, November 10. Be sure to contact the church office, visit one of Covenant's middle schoolers, or join us for the craft sale to place your annual order. For more information please call Rev. Randy at the church office; or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net.

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More Women's Ministry News

Monthly Bible Study For Women

We met in October and began a study focusing on **the New Testament books of 1 and 2 Peter, 1-3 John and Jude**--"Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles."

These letters were written:

- To be shared and read aloud in early Christian communities.
- To teach us what it means to live in community.
- To teach us what it means to belong to the household of God.

These letters were meant to inspire and comfort the faithful in first-century Asia Minor, and they continue to speak to us today as we grapple with how to live in community as Disciples of Christ. The monthly study is 9 weeks long.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 28 at 6:30p at the church.

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Disciples Men Begin Fall Programs

Disciples Men in Motion...

Our Disciples Men are moving again after a good breakfast, program, and planning session in October.

We have raised the money and are in process of buying **light-weight, five-foot, round tables** for hospitality events. We are starting a 12 session study on the History of the New Testament. We are helping the Disciple Women with the November 10 Fun-d Raising Day. We are planning a high class "Previously Owned Sale" in late Spring for fundraising. Stay tuned. Questions? Contact Ted Glasener, Bob Kennel, or Program Chair Jack Reilly.

Ted Glasener - Pres. Bob Kennel - Sec.:

Children/Youth News - Calendar!

JYF (3rd-5th Graders)

November – December –Christmas Play Practice (See above schedule)– No further activities.

November 22nd – THANKSGIVING – NO YOUTH EVENTS THIS WEEKEND!

December 7th – JYF Christmas Party @ the church! – 5 PM – 6:30 PM & Caroling @ Carolina House!

CHI RHO (Middle School)

November 2nd – 3rd – Chi Rho Camping Trip – Jordan Lake! Join us – 4 PM (Fri.) to 3 PM (Sat.)

November 17th – Camp Caroline Work Day! – 8 AM – 6 PM. (Sat.)

November 22nd – THANKSGIVING – NO YOUTH EVENTS THIS WEEKEND!

December 15th – Chi Rho Christmas Party – Home of Alex Dalberth! - 5 PM – 7 PM(Sat.)

CYF (High School)

November 9th – 10th – CYF Lock-In! Join us – 7 PM (Fri.) to 9 AM (Sat.)

November 18th – CYF Canoe Trip! 1 PM – Bring a Friend!

November 22nd – THANKSGIVING – NO YOUTH EVENTS THIS WEEKEND!

December 9th – CYF Christmas Party – Meet @ Church! 5 PM – 7:30 PM (Sun.)