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 (Disciples of Christ)
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Disconnect to Re-Connect!

You can probably guess by the title, that this involves our addictions to technology—our modern-day pacifiers—those electronic gadgets that, on the one hand, are so informative; so entertaining; keeping us in touch with each other, minute by minute; yet on the other hand, have us chained to them; afraid to turn lose of them even for a moment; as if we would simply die without them...

What exactly do you think might happen to us if we somehow become disconnected from our I-Pad; Mini-Pad; Tablet; I-phone; Droid; laptop, Mac or PC; I-pod; Game Boy; Play-Station; GPS pacifiers; tv remotes...which in turn instantly connect us to Facebook; Twitter; Google & Bing; our favorite music; video games; movies & tv shows...(whew...)??

While most of us are convinced that being chained to our gadgets keeps us better informed and connected; we still end up creating our own sense of false security or belonging...isolating ourselves from each other; creating such silence and distance between friends; spouses; partners; children; parents; brothers & sisters; neighbors; co-workers; teachers...And we're left all alone—unto ourselves; in the midst of a crowd...in our offices; during meetings; in our cars, trucks & SUVs; classrooms; on the streets; in a tree house; watching television; at mealtimes; bedtimes; sporting events; waiting rooms and yes, even worship...didn't think I noticed, huh? And we end up wandering around in our self-made; self-perpetuating electronic wilderness...farther and farther from one another and oh, yeah, not to mention farther and farther away from God...Only you can name and claim your wilderness and the temptations that meet you there...and only you can dare to meet God in the midst of it all.

On the first Sunday in Lent, I challenged all adults, youth & children to fast from our electronic wildernesses All Day, Every Wednesday; refraining from using all things electronic or computer-generated (see list in paragraph #2 above); to disconnect from all that distracts us thru our gadgets and parts of the internet that are NOT tied to our work; and take time to re-connect with God...

And then to take this same amount of time and sprinkle it throughout the rest of the week in prayer and meditation; seeking more of God's presence in your life; which can also lead us to spend more face to face time with friends; spouse/partner; children; or perhaps volunteering to help someone or an agency in

need of your help...In essence we are giving up something and taking on something at the same time—something that can lead to a deeper/fuller relationship with God and others we love; and how we are called to emerge from our wilderness to worship and to serve God more fully all the days of our lives...

In the 3½ weeks of Lent that are left, the challenge continues...Stay calm, cool and connected...Let me know how it's all workin' for ya as we continue our journey to Jerusalem and all that it holds, eagerly awaiting the joy of Easter morning...

Blessings, Rev. Joanne

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From the Moderator

Some years back, I went on a church retreat, and some of us visited an outdoor labyrinth at the St. Joseph Center in Wheeling, WV. It was my first experience with a labyrinth. Labyrinths are found all around the world. Often used as a symbol of the path of the soul through Christian life, a labyrinth has only one path that twists its way to the center and back out again. There is only one entrance and exit, there are no dead ends, and the paths never intersect. According to author Richard Rohr, there are only two decisions related to a labyrinth: the decision to enter the path, and the decision to stay on the path.

Much like walking the path into a labyrinth, Lent is the season in church life when we go deep into ourselves and reexamine our values. Sometimes the path seems long, but we know it will eventually lead us someplace wonderful: the resurrection of Easter, the hope of the future.

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. There's a resurrection right around the next turn, just waiting for us...

Darla Baldwin, Moderator

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The M'n'M Singers Will Once Again Grace Us with Their Presence in Song



For the 22nd consecutive year, we are hosting the "M 'n' M Singers" as our guest musicians in worship, **Sunday, March 3**, at 11:00 a.m. This wonderful group of differently-abled

adults always tugs at our hearts and brings such courage, laughter and smiles to our lives as they lift their voices in praise to God.

Please plan to be here to extend a warm Covenant welcome to them. You will be blessed in immeasurable ways simply by being present in worship.

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Covenant Time

**Sunday, March 3, noon-2 p.m.
Bread and Cracker Making!**

The Kingdom of God is like yeast... but what does yeast do? Come find out at the next Covenant Time. We will be mixing, kneading, and baking bread together. Bring a lunch or join us for pizza (\$1/slice). This activity will be fun for all ages. Explore one of Jesus' parables "up close and personal!"



*Rev. Misty Mowrey & Beth Kearney,
Education Ministry Co-chairs*

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Diversity Lunch Bunch

**Meets Sunday, March 3
After 11 a.m. Worship**

Gather 'round the piano, look for Nancy Jones, and choose a favorite spot to eat lunch together.



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Refreshment Weekend

Saturday, March 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
(childcare for infants & toddlers)

Calling All Adults, Children & Youth!

We're Having a Refreshment Weekend Right in the Middle of Lent With a Chocolate Dessert Buffet & Movies.



Adults & Youth will see "Chocolat" while the Kids see "Wreck-It Ralph."

Bring your favorite chocolate dessert to share; unless of course you happen not to eat chocolate

Invite your friends & neighbors.

We hope to see you there!

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Together We'll Go to Jerusalem...

Easter arrives early this year as Holy Week (March 24-30) ushers in the celebration of Easter morning.

We hope you will plan to share in the services that take us from "Hosanna!" to "Christ is Risen:"

Palm Sunday, March 24, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Mauddy Thursday & Tennebrae Service (Service of the Shadows), March 28, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sanctuary will be open for prayer, meditation & communion

Easter Day, March 31:

Sunrise Service, 7 a.m.;

Potluck Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.

Worship & Cantata, 11 a.m.

NO 9 a.m. Worship; NO Sunday School

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Covenant's SCRIP Update

Covenant's SCRIP program offers a variety of methods for purchasing SCRIP. More and more retailers continue to participate in these different options, so here is a clarification of some of these programs:



ScripNow! – ScripNow! means your scrip purchase is available to you shortly after payment is received. If you choose to pay for your order online, your scrip is available within minutes—you just have to print out the cards. There are detailed directions on these print-outs explaining how to use the gift card if making a purchase online and instructing cashiers how to ring up a sale using this form of gift card.

If you choose to pay for your order by giving the SCRIP volunteers a check, your order will be available for print out Sunday afternoon. Either way, you will receive an email informing you that your ScripNow! purchase is ready. The ScripNow! option also allows you to purchase E-gifts. As you order your scrip, mark that it is a gift. You will be walked through providing the recipient's information. The electronic gift card will then be delivered to your recipient's email on the date you choose.

Reload – If you have purchased a gift card from Covenant's SCRIP program and the retailer participates See **SCRIP**, p. 3

SCRIP, continued from p. 2

in Reload, you can go online and add money to that physical card. The new balance will be available on your card in 1-2 business days from the time that payment is received. Again, you will receive an email that says that your reload has been processed and your card reflects the updated balance. Please note, the program will only allow you to add balance to a card that has been purchased through Covenant's SCRIP program.

ReloadNow! – This option allows you to add money to your physical card, but the new balance is updated within minutes of payment being received. Similar to ScripNow!, if you pay online, your new balance is available within minutes, if you choose to give a check to the SCRIP volunteers, your order will be processed Sunday afternoon. You will receive an email that states your order has been processed and your card's balance has been adjusted.

These new options make it easier than ever to participate in the SCRIP program and help Covenant. If Questions? More Info? Visit the SCRIP volunteers in the library after either service or contact Robin Miller: doghowse@msn.com or [919-852-3986](tel:919-852-3986).

Robin & Jeff Miller, SCRIP Coordinators

Our Gifts & Expenses

FEBRUARY

General Fund Contributions Needed Per Month	\$ 16,909
General Fund Contributions	\$ 14,723
YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL:	
General Fund Contributions through January 31	\$ 11,911
Fundraisers and Other Income through January 31	<u>2,542</u>
Total Income through January 31	\$ 14,453
Total Expenses through January 31	<u>\$ 16,704</u>
Balance as of January 31	(2,251)

Detailed financial reports are available

Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Our Love & Prayers are with:

Carole Tyler & family in the recent death of her sister, Helen Lott, Kilmichael, MS;

Karen Nolan & family in the recent death of her aunt, Billie DeHart;

Diana & Greg Stelmack & family in the recent death of Diana's nephew, Tanner Lee White.

Congratulations to:

Bob Kennel recent recipient of the 2013 Watauga Medal, recognizing those who have made significant contributions to the advancement of NC State University; to be awarded in March.

Kevin Sloop, recent recipient of the Silver Beaver award, the highest award given to volunteers in the Boy Scouts of America; to be awarded Saturday, March 2 at White Plains United Methodist Church.

Recent: Bruce Lamb (Ruth Jordan's uncle);

Continuing Prayers: Nelson Wakefield; Kevin Eldridge; Larry Dailey; Deb Nystrom; Art Brothers; Robin & Jeff Miller; Mary Toney; Vicky Vanderford.

Family: Kathy Smith; Donna Jones;
Mothers: Jeff Carroll; Darla Baldwin; Patricia Cadle; Vicky Vanderford;
Fathers: Sharon Frost; Debbie Miller; Chad Moses.
Daughters: Cathy Teague; Misty Mowrey; Hoffman's; Maryanna Myers. Sons: Misty Mowrey;
Brother: Joe Busby; **Sister:** Patricia Cadle.
In-Laws: Renié Palmer;
Grandmothers: Darla Baldwin; Amy Rutledge; Vicki Wilkinson;
Grandfathers: David Williams; Jasmine & James Cowan.
Grandchildren: Bettyann Christopher; Cathy Teague; Hoffman's; Donna Jones;
Aunts: Kim Rivers; Amy Rutledge; Terry White; Greg Stelmack; Patricia Mills; Cathy Downs; Marilyn Williams;
Uncles: Angie Ballard; Marilyn Williams;
Niece: Misty Mowrey; Jeremy Hopkins.
Great Nieces: Nancy Jones; Betsy Mebane;
Nephews: Nancy Jones; Misty Mowrey.
Cousins: Jerry Hall; Mary Lou Jackson.

Remembering Others: Legette Greer; Ron Walters; Loretta Holt; Roy & Margaret Mitchell; Gary & Dotti Barr; Angie Bricker & Kristin Adams; "KK" Krawczyk & her service dog, "JJ"; Barry Crawford; Mitch Rice; Marty Scrivens; Shawn Kocopi; Susan Shadle; Judy Balotte; Sharon & Dave Garrett; Hudson Mimlitch; General & Regional Church Leaders; DoC new churches



Disciples Men Studying & Working!

Disciples Men Planning for BIG Yard Sale

Disciples Men will be holding a big yard sale on **Saturday, April 13**, at the church. We are collecting only "Good" items for resale (no Junk) unless you might think it is an antique. Please store your donated items at home until we set up the **collection system starting mid-March**. We will need plenty of help setting up and taking down within the sanctuary on Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Questions? Please contact Ted Glasener (557-9512 or tpgontheroad@aol.com) or Bob Kennel (557-0847 or bkennel@aol.com).

In the meantime, we are finishing our study on "**History of the New Testament**" in a variety of places including the Disciples Sunday School Class. To catch up, contact Jack Reilly (469-2277 or jreill2@aol.com).

Ted Glasener, President, Bob Kennel, Secretary

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Women's Ministry News...

Hello Covenant Women,

Please plan to join us for the next Friday evening gathering on April 12th at 7pm. We will have the opportunity to share time with one another, along with enjoying desserts and coffee. In addition, we will join forces, and put our best efforts forward for a new (and possibly ongoing) service project. Watch your bulletin and newsletter for forthcoming information about how you can help with this service project.

You may have noticed the increasing press recently about Human Trafficking...modern day slavery. The need for education and awareness about this issue is extremely important in preventing as many new victims as possible. To bring us greater awareness and knowledge, we have invited Abbi Tenaglia, Founder/Director of the Durham faith-based nonprofit Transforming Hope Ministries to be our speaker. In 2012 THM opened Emma's Home, a restorative, safe home for US born NC female victims of Human Trafficking between the ages of 12 and 17 - one of the few safe homes in our country. Join us to learn more about this fast-growing world-wide and local NC threat. You may be surprised at just how widespread this issue is...especially right here in NC.

Please let the church office know if you will need child care to be able to attend. And, as always, feel free to bring a friend - and a dessert to share.

My year's tenure is wrapping up, in April, for chairing CCC's Women's Ministry. It has been a privilege, and I have gotten better acquainted with so many terrific women in our congregation. Please consider chairing this worthwhile ministry; co-chairing with another is also a possibility. See me after church on Sunday or contact me at home (919-542-1856), if you are interested. Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly, Nancy J. Jones, Chr.



Women's Bible Study

Our March study will be held on **March 27 at 6:00 p.m.** We are studying the books of 1 and 2 Peter, 1-3 John and Jude.

Invite a friend to join you...**all are welcome.**

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Youth News March Calendar!

JYF—3rd-5th Graders

- March 3** - "Covenant Time" Bread/Cracker Baking 12-2 p.m.
- March 17** - Program at Church, 4-5:30 p.m.
- March 30** - Easter Extravaganza & Egg Hunt, 10- 11:30 a.m.
- April 6** - ZOO Trip! Carpool from church 9 a.m., return home by 5 p.m. More info coming.
- April 21** - Camp Day at Covenant, 2-4 p.m.
All are Welcome!

CHI RHO—Middle Schoolers

- March 1-3**- Chi Rho Retreat @ Camp Caroline!
- March 10** - Bullying & Self Defense - Officer Michael Macario! Time: TBD
- March 23rd** - Camp Caroline Work Day, 7 a.m.- 7 p.m.
- March 30th** - Easter Extravaganza & Egg Hunt, 10-11:30 a.m. **Youth Help Needed!**
- April 7** - Program at Church, 5-6:30 p.m.
- April 13** - Morning at Frankies! Bring \$20 & a Friend! Meet 9 a.m. at church, back by 1 p.m.
- April 20** - Moore Square Missions. Meet at church around 3 p.m., back by 6:30 p.m.
- April 21** - Camp Day at Covenant, 2-4 p.m.
All Are Welcome!

CYF—High Schoolers

- March 10** - Bowling at Buffalo Lanes, Cary. 6-8 p.m. Bring \$10 and a friend. RSVP!
- March 23** - Camp Caroline Work Day! 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- March 30** - Easter Extravaganza & Egg Hunt, 10-11:30 a.m. **Youth Help Needed!**
- April 7** - Program at Church: Anti-Theism & the Church. Bring \$4 and a Friend, 6-7:30 p.m.
- April 20** - Moore Square Missions. Meet at church around 3 p.m., back by 6:30 p.m.
- April 21** - Camp Day at Covenant! 2-4 p.m.
All Are Welcome!

Easter Extravaganza and Egg Hunt!



Covenant's annual Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Extravaganza is fast approaching! Prepare yourself for lots of Easter crafts, egg hunting, and a special program for all Covenant children (members and guests). Bring

your friends, your neighbors, and your family to celebrate with us! Festivities begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 30 and will conclude by 11:30 a.m. Want to know more? Want to find out how you can help? Don't hesitate to contact Rev. Randy @ 919-481-4715 for further details.

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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 is required—roughly 30 minutes to an hour per week.

If you are interested in becoming a Sunday School teacher, or want more information, contact Rev. Randy at the church office: 919-481-4715 or randy-ccc@bellsouth.net.

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Outreach Ministry News Updates...

Church World Service



There are many ways to get involved in Church World Service. Covenant Christian Church has already taken a stand against hunger by supporting the Urban Ministry Food Bank, the Dorcas Ministries Food Pantry, and the CROP Walk. We can also get involved by providing:

- Blankets
- Funds to help people around the world with basic necessities and resources
- Supplies that are shipped to people in need here in the U.S. or around the world when disaster strikes

If one of the above noted items strikes your fancy, please let Shirley Kennedy, Renié Palmer, or Becky Stiles know of your interest. Outreach is interested in partnering with another ministry or Sunday school class to coordinate such an event.

Disciples Mission Fund Easter Offering

Easter arrives early this year and along with it the DMF special Easter Offering. The offering will be collected from March 24 through March 31.

The Easter Offering of the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) supports the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)—the Church in the world! Your financial gifts help sustain the missional outreach of ministries around the world. Your gifts make a difference, so please generously support this year's Easter Offerings as we seek to walk with others in God's abundance.

Dorcas Ministries

As we focus more on local outreach, Covenant is strengthening our support of the Dorcas Ministries. Dorcas Ministries was started in 1969 to provide kindergarten services to under-privileged children and has expanded to provide:



- Crisis Ministry
- Food Pantry
- Educational Assistance
- Childcare Assistance
- Joblink

In 2012, Dorcas Ministries served 7,000 people. We can continue to help meet this need by donating disposable diapers size 4. We have also learned that they have a great need for sugar, so as you do your grocery shopping this month, instead of donating canned goods and other items, please bring sugar. We will contact the Ministry each month to learn what the greatest need is and will ask for donations of specific items.

May God continue to bless you during 2013 so that you can continue to be a blessing to others...

Renie Palmer, Outreach Ministry Chair