



**Covenant Christian Church**  
 (Disciples of Christ)  
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**April 30, 2013**

**Volume 28 Issue 5**

**April Showers Bring May Flowers...**



*...and now I am gathering these May flowers and offering them to YOU as the biggest bouquet of thanks ever!*

Saying thanks takes little or no effort compared with whatever brings forth our thanks. Whether we say, "Gracias" "Xie Xie" "Danke" "Merci" "Toda Raba" "Grazie" "Tack" "Arigato" "Spasibo" or "Thanks;" in all places and all times, it holds the same meaning as we offer thanks from the heart.

Given all that has been asked of us as this community of faith over the past few weeks, words seem so inadequate as I attempt to say thank you for all that you do and have recently done. Every fourth weekend in April Covenant faces the same dilemma: some of us needing to attend The Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC at its annual meeting; usually involving several adults & youth from our congregation; and also needing 40+ adults & youth to help at Spring Daze, one of Covenant's major fundraisers; Friday evening and all day Saturday. And such was the case again for us this past weekend.

And just when some thought we wouldn't have nearly enough help at Spring Daze, so many of you stepped up to the plate to set up, prepare, serve, meet & greet, tear down and clean up during Spring Daze, making it a huge success—even winning first place for the healthiest sandwich in all of Spring Daze. ☺

And if this wasn't enough for us to do, death came to our church family. And your best efforts were called forth again as you provided meals for Andy Nystrom & family a few days following Deb's death; then food for the reception following the memorial service for 175+ who were in attendance; as you helped serve as greeters & ushers, gophers & hosts before and after the service; to set up, serve and cleanup for the reception; and still others who provided the family meal later Sunday evening. And to top it all off, many of you began Sunday morning with us for worship and church school. Whew! All of this makes me tired even as I write these words...

But God is so very good! YOU did it Covenant! And you did all of it in such grand style! Yes you did and I am so proud of each and every one of you! You responded as a community of faith who knows how to be there when needed with exactly what is needed. Throughout the entire weekend at every event, God gave you all that you needed at every turn as you so generously shared your gifts of time, energy, smiles, stamina, patience, humor, offering hugs and a shoulder to lean on. It truly was a weekend filled with God-moments scattered throughout.

*With a grateful heart filled to overflowing, I thank God for all of you. What a privilege it is to learn from you and share in ministry with you...*

**Blessings, Rev. Joanne**

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**From the Moderator**

Spring finally got here, didn't it? For a while there, I thought we were skipping it altogether and heading directly from winter to summer! But God had other plans, and the natural progression marches on. Flowers are blooming, the weather is beautiful, and everything has been transformed!



The natural progression of the life of our congregation marches on, too, as we meet on May 5 to consider revisions to our Constitution and Bylaws and to select leaders for the upcoming program year. May at Covenant also presents us with opportunities to join in the transformation we see all around us. There are lots of ways to be involved, to reach out to others, and to breathe some new life into ourselves along the way. From Intergenerational Worship on May 5, to Pentecost on May 19, and beyond, our community of faith presents us with 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*

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**Inter-Generational Worship!**

**Sunday May 5**, during 11 a.m. worship, our Covenant family invites you, your family, and your friends to join us as we celebrate diversity, inclusion, and openness. Our goal is to ensure the message "All Are Welcome" rings true at Covenant. Our children, youth, and supporting members and volunteers for children and youth ministries are coming together this Sunday to share their message of love and wholeness! We hope you can join us!

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**Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, May 5**  
**Immediately Following 9 a.m. & 11 a. m. Worship**  
**to Consider Approval to the Constitution & Bylaws and**  
**the 2013 slate of Officers & Leaders**

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# Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart

**Our love & prayers are with: Andy, Chris, Mike, and Nicole Nystrom** and families in the recent death of Andy's wife Deb Nystrom. The Memorial Service was April 28; and with **Sean Lowers** in the recent death of his uncle.

**Welcome to our newest members: The Netzband Family:** Derek & Lauren and daughters, Kayleigh & Kara; **Rev. Susan Addams**  
*Please extend a warm welcome to the Netzband's & Susan!*

**Congratulations to: Melanie Fagert** who was accepted at NCCU Law School; **Rev. Kathy Smith**, recently elected to serve as Treasurer for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC.

Recent: Marian Crowe; Christian Falconi, Rocio Anderson's brother in Ecuador; Tara Hartman-Gud (Hartman's); Rhonda Hinnant (Downs); Whitney Wiggins (Anderson's); Christina Philbeck (Hall's);  
 Continuing Prayers: Art Brothers; Robin & Jeff Miller; Mary Toney

Family: Don & Julie Hoffman; Jeremy Hopkins; Donna Jones; Mothers: Roxie White; Angie Ballard; Patricia Cadle; Vicky Vanderford; Fathers: Kim Rivers; Karen Nippert; Daughters: Misty Mowrey; Maryanna Myers. Son: Misty Mowrey; Brother-in-law: Joe Busby; Sisters: Roxie White; Patricia Cadle; In-Laws: Renié Palmer; Grandmothers: Amy Rutledge; Vicki Wilkinson; Grandfathers: David Williams; Jasmine & James Cowan. Grandchildren: Hall's; Cathy Teague; Bettyann Christopher; Aunts: Melanie Bunn; Kim Rivers; Amy Rutledge; Terry White; Greg Stelmack; Patricia Mills; Cathy Downs; Marilyn Williams; Uncle: Marilyn Williams; Niece: Misty Mowrey; Great Nieces: Nancy Jones; Betsy Mebane; Nephews: Nancy Jones; Misty Mowrey; Cousins: Jerry Hall; Mary Lou Jackson.

Remembering Others: Taylor Wade; Elaine Lang; Susan Shadle; Dick Peterson; Scott Snyder; Sue Carson; Debbie Moore; Ron Walters; Susan Seaward; Loretta Holt; Roy & Margaret Mitchell; Gary & Dotti Barr; Angie Bricker & Kristin Adams; "KK" Krawczyk & her service dog, "JJ"; Barry Crawford; Marty Scrivens; Shawn Kocopi; Judy Balotte; Sharon & Dave Garrett; Hudson Mimplitch; General & Regional Church Leaders; DoC new churches.

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## Our Gifts & Expenses

<b>April</b>	
General Fund Contributions	
Needed Per Month	\$ 16,909
General Fund Contributions	\$ 13,625
<b>YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL:</b>	
General Fund Contributions	
through March 31	\$ 43,932
Fundraisers and Other	
Income through March 31	<u>3,001</u>
Total Income through March 31	\$ 46,933
Total Expenses through February 28	\$ 55,694
Balance as of February 28	\$ (8,761)

**Is your giving up-to-date? Thanks for your generosity!**

Detailed financial reports are available  
 Questions? Contact Kathy Smith: 919-363-313;  
[ekathys@gmail.com](mailto:ekathys@gmail.com)

## Covenant's SCRIP Update

As always, thank you to everyone who has participated in the SCRIP program so far this year. The nice thing about an on-going fundraiser like SCRIP is that it is never too late to participate. The on-site inventory is a great way



to get started, but you can also place an order that will be ready for pick up by the following Sunday. To see the full list of retailers that participate in the SCRIP program, you can go to [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com). To see the options available for online SCRIP ordering and usage, check out [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com). You can also ask Robin or Jeff Miller, the SCRIP volunteers, and they will be happy to answer any questions you may have. They are in the library after each service to help with all of your SCRIP needs. In the next few months we have a number of opportunities to use SCRIP: the Amazing Grays luncheon at Olive Garden, Mother's Day, Father's Day, high school and college graduations, weddings, anniversaries, and Memorial Day, just to name a few. See if you can use SCRIP for household purchases or for your gift-giving needs and help Covenant at the same time!

If you have any questions, please contact Robin Miller at [doghowse@msn.com](mailto:doghowse@msn.com) or [919-852-3986](tel:919-852-3986).

*Robin & Jeff Miller, SCRIP Coordinators*

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## Covenant Women's Ministry Project

Hello Women of Covenant!

Thank you to all who came to our service project meeting on Friday, April 12. We had a record number of participants from Covenant alone, and I am happy to report that many wonderful items were donated to Emma's Home, through Transforming Hope Ministries. The desserts provided were terrific too!

It has been an eventful year, and I am happy to write that I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you, because of our quarterly events in 2012-2013. It is time for me to pass on the position of Chair for the Women's Ministry. Please contact me at home, 919.542.1856, if you have any interest. If two women want to chair the ministry together, that can be a possibility too. The women's ministry has an awesome steering committee that will guide and assist you through it all!

*Blessings, Nancy J. Jones, Chr.*

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**"Amazing Grays" Luncheon**

**Thursday, May 16, 11:30 a.m.**

**Olive Garden**

**Crossroads Plaza, Walnut Street, Cary**

**RSVP Church office by May 13**

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## "Reclaim the Garden" Workday



The Property Ministry plans to hold a workday to "Reclaim the Garden" one Saturday in the near future. Sharpen your tools, get out your gardening gloves, and stay tuned for a date and time.

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### Step Right Up...Come One, Come All!

**Invite your family, your friends, everyone.**  
Join us as God's World comes together at Covenant's VBS, "Everywhere Fun Fair" -- June 12-15  
Wednesday-Friday, 6:00-8:00  
Saturday, 10-1, including a picnic for all families



Yes, that's right...VBS is just around the corner. This year, VBS is a little earlier, but it still promises to be packed with fun, learning, and new surprises. We need your help to make that possible though.

First, if you are willing to volunteer in any capacity, please let Laura Holste know either by email or telephone ([lauraholste@hotmail.com](mailto:lauraholste@hotmail.com) or 919-363-4831). Secondly, invite...invite...INVITE! With your help, we can make this year's VBS the best!

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## Youth News - Calendar!

**May 5**—Intergenerational Worship—11 a.m.  
*We Need Your Help!*

**May 25**—Trip to Fort Fisher Aquarium—8 a.m.-6 p.m.

**May 26**—JYF Advisory Board Meeting—4-5:30 p.m.

### CHI RHO—Middle Schoolers

**May 5** – Intergenerational Worship—11 a.m.  
*We Need Your Help!*

**May 17-19**—"Big Day of Caring" Mission Trip  
Roanoke, Va. *More info coming.*

**May 26**—Chi Rho Advisory Board Meeting—5:30-7 p.m.

### CYF—High Schoolers

**May 5**—Intergenerational Worship—11 a.m.  
*We Need Your Help!*

**May 17-19**—"Big Day of Caring" Mission Trip  
Roanoke, Va. *More info coming.*

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## Sunday School Teachers Needed!



There are a TON of things happening at Covenant with our children/youth and not enough volunteers! **We need Faith Partners** (AKA Sunday School Teachers) to help with our Pre-School and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes. Volunteering as a Sunday School teacher is simple, your commitment is minimal—one or two shadowing sessions and a scheduled rotation for Sunday mornings! Also, with our AMAZING curriculum, "Grow, Proclaim, Serve," minimal prep-work per session is 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](mailto:randy-ccc@bellsouth.net).

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## Who's Ready to Help Others – Covenant Youth!

To our Covenant Christian Church families, members, and guests: Our middle schoolers are about to embark on a unique journey! May 17-19 we will be heading to Roanoke, May 2013 Newsletter

Va., to work along side children, youth, and adults from across the United States for "One Big Day of Serving." We will be working with hundreds of others from around the Southeastern U.S. to clean up an area that requires much attention. I bring this up because none of this would be possible without the continued support of the Covenant community. Thanks to all of you, and your financial support through the purchase of "Butterbraids," we now have the opportunity to show our youth what it means to be positive and productive "Christians."

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## Outreach Ministry News Updates...

### Church World Services

Each year, CWS touches the lives of thousands of immigrants through direct service, and many more indirectly through its work for public policies that recognize the value of immigrants to our nations and communities. Direct assistance includes:



### Legal Services

A growing number of CWS offices and affiliates provide immigration legal services, assisting immigrants and refugees to apply for a broad range of immigration benefits.

### Religious Services

Through the Religious Services Program, CWS provides culturally and religiously pluralistic spiritual care to detainees in three government-administered immigration detention centers.

### Hospitality

The Bible addresses hospitality in terms of "welcoming the stranger": (F)or I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, **I was a stranger and you welcomed me**, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me....Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. *Matthew 25:35-36, 40*

### Dorcas Ministries

Last month we donated 160 disposable baby diapers and fifteen 5 lb. bags of sugar. Be on the lookout for an upcoming "Sugar Sunday."



### The Caring Place, Inc.

The Caring Place relies on the efforts of compassionate people who volunteer their time and efforts to help families in need. They provide support partners to meet with families



weekly, caring sponsors to make informal contact with families, child care providers, moving team members

and "jacks-of-all-trades to fix whatever breaks. They also provide housing for those families who need it. We have the opportunity to participate in a service project by spending a few hours painting the inside of one of the apartments, probably a Saturday in June or July. Once we select a date, we will place sign-up sheets in the entryway.

*May God continue to bless you, as you reach out to the community.*

*René Palmer, Outreach Ministry Chair*