



**Covenant Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
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**August 1, 2013**

**Volume 27 Issue 8**

**"Lord, Teach Us to Pray..."**



The theme of our General Assembly in Orlando a couple of weeks ago was, "**Lord, Teach Us to Pray...**" A great theme for a spirit-filled family reunion of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. & Canada. And spirit-filled it was in our worship with joy-filled music and challenging messages; around our tables of Communion and other meals; and Yes, spirit-filled with the power and presence of God's Spirit—the Holy Wind of God—as it blew through the convention center during our business sessions...

One of those business resolutions called us to consider the word, "ALL"—where we understood again and again, that this small three-letter word means just exactly that...**ALL**...which led us to overwhelmingly pass resolution GA 1327 that celebrates our entire denomination as a welcoming and grace-filled Church...

And I thought to myself...hmmm...how good and right it is for the whole church to follow Covenant's lead! ☺ For we are and have been just that...a welcoming and grace-filled community of faith taking our direction from God in Jesus Christ...

"We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us..." (Disciples of Christ Identity Statement) "**Lord, Teach Us to Pray...**"

"**Lord, Teach Us to Pray...**" a request directly from the mouths of Jesus' disciples who had begun to sense the importance of prayer and even having witnessed the power of prayer as they accompanied Jesus, still didn't know exactly how to pray. Perhaps like some of us, they needed to begin by asking God for the courage and strength to step outside their comfort zone when it came to having a two-way conversation with none other than God. And so Jesus offered them the prayer that the church has come to call, The Lord's Prayer; which was part of last Sunday's Gospel reading (Luke 11: 1-13) as Jesus gave us a pattern for praying.

The lesson then went on to include the parable of the Nagging Neighbor as yet another lesson about prayer: Keep on keepin' on...be persistent...never give up...be relentless & vigilant...At first glance it's easy to interpret this as a story about God who answers our prayers, especially when we nag God until God gives in. Making *US* persistent; *US* as the ones who never give up; who are relentless...right?

But...what if we could see and understand *God* as the one who keeps on keepin' on...the persistent one; the one who never gives up; the relentless God? It invites us to see God, and not ourselves, as the one who never, ever gives up on us or on being in relationship with us...Especially when it comes to God answering our prayers...yes...ALL our prayers as only God can; in God's own wisdom; in God's own time...and sometimes the answer to our prayers is a resounding, "NO!"

And in those dreadful, disappointing times when God, like a loving mother and father comes back to us with that

resounding "NO," Frederick Beuchner reminds us, "Even when God does not bring you the answer you want, *God will bring you God's very presence.* And maybe at the secret heart of all our prayers, this is what we are really praying for!" (Beuchner, *Wishful Thinking*, pg. 71).

...*God's very presence*...That's it, isn't it? And Jesus says, "Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened." And it's this open door that reveals the very presence of God...

**"Lord, Teach Us to Pray...as we move into your future... Blessings, Rev. Joanne**

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**From the Moderator**

I am so very torn as I take pen to paper, or keyboard to screen as it may be, for this month's "From the Moderator" segment. I struggle with topic selection. Do I bring you a message of hope as we plan for the coming year; a message of thanks as we prepare to celebrate Rev. Joanne's retirement; or a message begging for help for the Lazy Daze event later this month. Still yet, I could write a message of comfort filling you in on the progress the search committee has made in calling an Interim Senior Minister.

Instead of any of those, I think I'll share a story with you. I was asked very recently, "Tell me what you love about Covenant?" My response, to myself, and probably aloud also, was, "Oh, THAT Question!" It's a great question and one that we all should be able to answer. I thought for a moment trying to decide the best way to put it in words. My response was better, in my opinion, than I had hoped for. What do I love about Covenant? "I love how Covenant is here for me and my family when I need it. Even when I don't know that I need it."



For me personally, it's that last piece that rings the most truth. I've experienced the love of Covenant when I didn't know I needed it. It was many years after the fact that I realized how much this Church Family supported me through a rough patch in life. It was people that probably didn't even realize they were making a difference in my life that helped the most. The people of this congregation helped me to reclaim my faith and to display it in ways that helped others see the glory and grace God offers us through Jesus Christ.

As we sit in the congregation on Sunday mornings, or participate in a potluck supper, God works through us sometimes without our knowledge. We may think, and believe, we are worshiping to continue the path of our own journey of faith, but God works through us in ways we can't imagine, and our presence may be God's way of helping someone else.

May the Lord bless you and give you peace as God works miracles through you and with you.

*Jeremy Hopkins, Moderator*

**With a Grateful Heart,  
We Thank You Rev. Joanne**



With a grateful heart we say Thank You, Rev. Joanne. We thank you for your 40 years of ministry, over 24 of which were here, with us, at Covenant. What a faithful child of God you have been as you led this community of faith through the years.

As our organizing pastor you encouraged us and helped ensure we didn't lose the vision and excitement needed in a new congregation. You led us as we transitioned into a sacred worship place, and a permanent home for Covenant. In this place, all of God's children are welcome. It is a place where we have thrived in our journey of faith, been nourished by the hospitality of the congregation, and grown closer to each other and God. It is a place that is getting too small for us now, and your leadership has begun the process of moving forward towards what God has in store for us. For this leadership and guidance, with a grateful heart, we thank you.

As our pastor, you have been there to support us in pastoral care. Whether it is for a prayer prior to surgery, waiting outside the delivery room to hold our newborns, to simply provide the ministry of presence, or to comfort us while dealing with death, you have been there for us. During times of joy, you've been there to support us, to celebrate at graduations, to share in the relief of newly found employment, and cheer us on as we conquer life together. In sickness and in health, you have laughed, cried, and celebrated with us, with a grateful heart, we thank you.

Rev. Joanne, you have worked so hard over these years to shape both the congregation and the leadership of this church to work to bring glory to God. You have set an example for all of us to be loving children of God, to be welcoming to all, and to carry on despite the bumps in the road. With grateful hearts, we thank you for shaping Covenant into a church that is highly regarded within our region, and within the denomination.

We will cherish these last few sermons you deliver to us and listen for what God is trying to tell us through your words. We are thankful to have had such a wonderful preacher here at Covenant. Your sermon quality has been excellent and we have enjoyed finding that nugget of truth within each piece of scripture. We will miss your presence in our pulpit, and with grateful hearts, we thank you for delivering God's messages to us.

We look forward to celebrating with you this month of August. We will celebrate together on August 18 with guest minister Rev. Randy Johnson followed by a retirement celebration in the afternoon where it's rumored there will be NO chocolate (LOL). Then on your final Sunday with us, August 25, we will worship together again and say our goodbyes by participating in a Litany of Closure.

We cannot say thank you enough for all that you have done for us as individuals, for us as Covenant, for us as a community, and for us as a denomination. Our hearts are filled with gratitude, thanksgiving, and love for your ministry. We have truly been blessed to have you serve here for nearly 25 years. We wish you all the best in retirement! Reverend Joanne VerBurg, from the bottom of our grateful hearts, we thank you!

*The Congregation of  
Covenant Christian Church*

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**Come, Satisfy the Hungry Heart**

**Congratulations to:** Chris & Kathryn Nystrom on the birth of their daughter, Spencer Reese Nystrom, born Wednesday, July 24. Proud grandparents are Andy Nystrom; Debbi & Matt Layko.

**Love & prayers to:** Terry White & family in the recent death of her uncle, Frank White.

**Continuing Prayers:** Shirley Kennedy at home; Alex Rivers, WakeMed Raleigh, Room 6B 28; strict visiting times: 4-8p M-F and 12-8p Saturdays; for "Alex updates" go to his website at [caringbridge.org](http://caringbridge.org); Robin & Jeff Miller; Bettyann Christopher; Mary Toney; Barry Crawford; Covenant Interim Search Committee

**Family:** Leslie Richardson; Roxie White; Donna Jones; **Mothers:** Anna Boone; Teresa DeMartin; Chris Kidd; Dick Reaves; Patricia Cadle; Vicky Vanderford. **Father:** Darla Baldwin **Daughters:** Misty Mowrey; Maryanna Myers. **Son:** Misty Mowrey; **Brother:** Rocio Anderson; **Sisters:** Patricia Cadle

**In-Laws:** Renié Palmer; **Grandmothers:** Amy Rutledge; Vicki Wilkinson; **Grandfathers:** David Williams; Jasmine & James Cowan. **Grandchildren:** Cathy Teague; Bettyann Christopher; **Aunts:** Melanie Bunn; Kim Rivers; Amy Rutledge; Terry White; Greg Stelmack; Patricia Mills; Cathy Downs; Marilyn Williams; **Uncles:** Angie Ballard; Marilyn Williams; **Nieces:** Jeremy Hopkins **Great Nieces:** Nancy Jones; Betsy Mebane; **Nephews:** Darla Baldwin; Nancy Jones; Misty Mowrey; **Cousins:** Mary Lou Jackson; Anna Boone.

**Remembering Others:** Eleanor Kuss; Treina Blackmon; Mallory & Josh Booker; Rita Bennett & daughter, Kristine; Tina & Avery Kalk; Brandy Rhue; family of Jo McCanty; Elaine Lang; Susan Shadle; Dick Peterson; Scott Snyder; Sue Carson; Ron Walters; Susan Seaward; Gary & Dotti Barr; Angie Bricker & Kristin Adams; Sharon & Dave Garrett; Hudson Mimplitch; General & Regional Church Leaders; DoC new churches.

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**Our Gifts & Expenses**

**July**

General Fund Contributions	
Needed per Month	\$ 16,909
General Fund Contributions	\$ 14,271

**YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL:**

General Fund Contributions	
through June 30	\$ 90,755
Fundraisers and Other	
Income through June 30	<u>8,209</u>
Total Income through June 30	\$ 98,964
Total Expenses through June 30	\$ 111,171
Balance as of June 30	\$ (12,207)

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

Detailed financial reports are available  
Questions? Contact Kathy Smith: [919-363-6313](tel:919-363-6313);  
[ekathys@gmail.com](mailto:ekathys@gmail.com)



**You're Invited...**

After nearly 25 years of ministry at Covenant Christian Church, Rev. Joanne VerBurg is retiring. Please join us as we celebrate her ministry and send her off into retirement.

**Sunday, August 18** ☐

**NO 9a Worship**

11 a.m. - Worship Service with Rev. Randy Johnson ☐

4 p.m. - Retirement Party

4:30-5:15 p.m. - Tribute to Rev. VerBurg

Please RSVP by August 10, 2013, to [hospitality@covenantcc-cary.org](mailto:hospitality@covenantcc-cary.org).

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**Cary Lazy Days**

**Saturday, August 24, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.**



One of Covenant's major fundraisers is our food booth at Lazy Daze. Over the years we have gained a fine reputation for serving delicious sausage biscuits for breakfast, Polish Sausage sandwiches and chicken breast sandwiches.

In more recent years we have begun to be known for our award winning Chicken Wraps. At Spring Daze in 2012 we took 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and at Spring Daze 2013 we were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in the FIT food category.

This event is a great way for each of us to support Covenant's annual operating budget without digging deeper in our pockets.

It takes a lot of effort to organize and run this event. For many years, Glenn Thornton has coordinated this event, and we truly thank Glenn for his service and hard work for the many years of service and dedication.

This year, our Lazy Daze booth will be coordinated and organized by Brad Baldwin and Jeremy Hopkins. We thank them in advance for the willingness, and guts, to tackle this huge undertaking!

We know the August heat and crowds at Lazy Daze may keep some of you from helping at the actual event, but don't worry, there are other ways to contribute.

Shifts this year will remain, for the most part, two hours long and overlap so we have the optimum number of people on hand at all times. The shifts during the peak lunch rush will be a little longer so as not to create hiccups during the busy times.

We need at least 50 people to make this event run smoothly. Please consider working a shift (or two) and helping Covenant continue to make this event fun and profitable for our church.

Sign-up sheets will be in the church entryway and on our website. You may also contact the church office: [919-481-4715](tel:919-481-4715) or [office@covenantcc-cary.org](mailto:office@covenantcc-cary.org)

**You can also help cut our expenses by donating PEPSI drink products:**

- Pepsi – 8 cases
- Diet Pepsi (Diet/Max/next) – 8 cases
- Caffeine Free Pepsi – 3 cases
- Mountain Dew – 6 cases
- Diet Mt. Dew – 3 cases
- Aquafina Water – 25 cases

**SHIFT SCHEDULE & WORK ASSIGNMENTS**

See the next column for a listing of shift opportunities and Maps will be available soon, so you can find our booth!

Children ages 10-13 yrs may help with a parent; Cashiers must be at least 16 yrs old.

Date	Time	Job Description	# Needed
<b>Fri. 8/23</b>	<b>Set-Up Crew</b> 6:30-8:30 p.m.	set up tents and equipment	minimum 8 Able-bodies
<b>Sat. 8/24</b>	<b>Shift #1</b> 7-10 a.m.	chop veggies/ice down coolers/stock shelves cook breakfast sausages/biscuits/brew coffee/marinade chicken/cashier	8 people
	<b>Shift #2</b> 9:30-11:30 a.m.	chop veggies/cook chicken/get ready for lunch crowd cook sausages & veggies/cashier/drink orders	8 people
	<b>Shift #3</b> 11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Height of the lunch crowd cook and prepare sandwiches/drink orders/cashier	9 people
	<b>Shift #4</b> 1:30-4 p.m.	same as Shift #3	6 people
	<b>Shift #5</b> 4:00-6 p.m.	begin to shut down and tear down booth	minimum 5 Able-bodies
	<b>Clean-Up Crew</b> 6-8 p.m.	Clean up at the Church/washing utensils & equipment/putting it <b>ALL</b> away (some goes in trailer)	6 people

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**"Amazing Grays" Luncheon**  
**Thursday, August 22, 11:30 a.m.**  
**O'Charley's**  
**101 Asheville Avenue, Cary**  
**RSVP Church Office by August 19.**



### Women's Ministry: Quadrennial Assembly

The Disciples Women's Ministries group is taking a few months off for the summer, but look for more information in the fall when programming starts back up.

In the meantime, start saving now to go to Quadrennial Assembly. We had **lots** of our

Covenant women attend the 2010 Assembly in Greensboro. It is not always held so close to us, so let's enjoy it while it is on our side of the U.S. Perhaps we can take several carloads or a van or two!

Starting in September, we will be hearing from some of our women who have attended in the past so ladies who have not been before will have an idea of what to expect. There is a limited amount of scholarship money available at CCC for this event.

### Quadrennial Assembly is a Disciples Women's Event

sponsored by

### Disciples Women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Plan to gather with old friends, meet new friends and share together at QA 2014.

**Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel ♦ June 25-29, 2014**

### Our Daily Themes:

I see you through **Eyes of Grace**

I see you through the **Voice of Compassion**

I see you with **Hands of Justice**

I see you with a **Heart of Joy**

I see you **Whole**

### QA Mission Statement

Awakened by Christ's compassion and love, Disciples Women extend the hospitality of the table to all sisters to invite them to join us in celebration and mission. We stand together in solidarity of mind, heart and spirit proclaiming "I see you" to one another and to sisters and brothers in domestic and global communities who often are unseen.

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### SCRIP Update

Year-round schools have just begun, and we are inching ever closer to the beginning of the traditional school year. Now is a great time to consider how you can use SCRIP to help



purchase new clothes, shoes, and school supplies for the upcoming school year. Staples, Wal-Mart, Target, Office Depot, Dillard's, Gap, J.C. Penney, Kohl's, LL Bean, Zappos.com, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and Tanger Outlet stores all participate in the SCRIP program (just to name a few). You can help Covenant earn money while shopping for the supplies you will need for the new academic year! Robin & Jeff are available after both services to answer your questions or help you place an order. They will be in the Church Library...on the right as you leave the Sanctuary.

*Robin Miller, SCRIP Coordinator*

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# Youth News - Calendar!

## JYF (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Graders)

**August 18:** Joanne's Retirement Party (4 p.m.)

**August 25:** Pool Party – Lochmere Swim Club (5–8 p.m.)

**September 8:** Youth Kick-Off Sunday – Talent/Untalent Night (5 p.m.)

## Covenant Youth (Middle & High Schoolers)

**August 17:** Chi Rho trip to Wet 'N' Wild, Greensboro (8 a.m. – 8 p.m.)

**August 18:** Joanne's Retirement Party (4 p.m.)

**August 25:** Pool Party – Lochmere Swim Club – (5–8 p.m.)

**September 8:** Youth Kick-Off Sunday – Talent/Untalent Night (5 p.m.)

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## Pool Party!

**August 25, 6-8 p.m.**

*All Covenant Families Welcome!*



Who's ready for a POOL PARTY? The Sterling's are hosting a pool party at the Lochmere Pool in Cary on August 25! There will be fun for everyone—parents and children! Festivities begin at 6 p.m. For directions contact Lochmere directly at **919-859-2152**.

There will be desserts and all the fixin's to make scrumptious ICE CREAM Sundaes! Bring your friends and family and enjoy an evening playing in the pool and eating ice cream and desserts!

Pool admission is \$4 per person. We would like to have a head count by Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 21, so please RSVPs to Randy via phone (919-481-4715) or e-mail ([randy@covenantcc-cary.org](mailto:randy@covenantcc-cary.org)) now! **See you there!**

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## Calling All Covenant Parents!

Hello to all parents of Covenant Christian Church. Are you asking yourself... "What's happening at Covenant this year?" If so, have I got a proposition for you!

On **Sunday, August 25**, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service there will be a brief (30 minutes or less) meeting with all interested parents to inform them of the activities and events happening at Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) this school year.

At this meeting, we will discuss our "stable" or routine programs, as well as our newest programming adventures. It will also be a time where you can voice your concerns or opinions about certain programs or learn more about calendars, schedules, etc., for each program, event, or activity. You will learn about...

\*Children's Worship & Wonder

\*Sunday School (Children & Adult)

\*Chi Rho & CYF (Youth Programs 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades)

\*JYF (3-5<sup>th</sup> graders)

\*Special Events/Activities for Children/Youth (VBS, Trunk/Treat, Christmas Play, etc.)

\*Transitional Worship

\*and A WHOLE LOT MORE!

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## Blessing of the Backpacks

Just a simple reminder...School is back in session, so it's time for us to BLESS THOSE BACKPACKS! On August 25, make sure all children, youth, and families bring their book bags/backpacks to church during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services so that we can recognize individuals attending school and bless them on their journey! If there are any questions, please contact the church office or email Randy at [randy@covenantcc-cary.org](mailto:randy@covenantcc-cary.org).



### Help Our Community Go "Back to School"



We know it is time to head back to school; which means it is time for back-to-school supplies. For some of us this is a simple trip to Target or Wal-Mart, but for those in our community who may be dealing with physical, mental, &/or financial hardship, a trip to one of the "big box" stores is near impossible. So for the entire month of August, we will be accepting donations of school supplies to be donated back to our community. The following is a simple list of items needed for our local students...

- \*book bags   \*rulers   \*paper   \*pencils
- \*color folders   \*glue sticks   \*crayons   \*scissors
- \*composition books   \*color pencils   \*dry erase markers
- \*tissues   \*zip lock bags   \*hand sanitizer

### Kick-off Sunday is Just Around the Corner!

The summer has come and gone and it's time for us to blaze into a new year! **September 8** is our church-wide kick-off Sunday, when our new program year begins with our annual Talent/Un-Talent Night, and we won't look back until we hit Summer 2014!

We've got so much planned for you this year! From Worship & Wonder to Covenant Youth, and the dozens of things in between, Covenant is prepared to be a part of your spiritual formation and journey!

Stay tuned for all the details about this year's events and how you can be involved! For more information or questions, don't hesitate to contact the church office (919) 481-4715.

### Program Alert...Transitional Worship

We've got a unique opportunity for all up-coming 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, beginning September 15, the week after "Kick-Off" Sunday: **Transitional Worship**.



All 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are invited during 11 a.m. worship (after the 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's Worship and Wonder but need added guidance before entering adult worship.

**An Information Session will be available for parents on Sept. 8, immediately following 11 a.m. worship.**

For more information or questions, please contact Randy @ the church office or [randy@covenantcc-cary.org](mailto:randy@covenantcc-cary.org).

## Sunday School Teachers Needed!



**WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF 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, but have limited responsibilities! 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 scheduled week)! If you are interested in becoming a SS teacher, know of someone who may be, or want more information, please contact Randy at the church office: 919-481-4715 or [randy@covenantcc-cary.org](mailto:randy@covenantcc-cary.org).

### Get Those Registers Filled Out!!

**Notice to all Sunday School Teachers...**It is very important to fill out the attendance registers in your classroom on Sundays. Attendance numbers are passed on to the Region, and if they are not marked, the Region will not know how active our Sunday School is! So, please record attendance each and every Sunday!



*Thank you in advance, Mary Lou*

## Outreach Ministry News Updates...



### Church World Service Emergency Cleanup Buckets

Thanks to you, our CWS Emergency Clean-up Bucket drive was a success! **We set a goal of filling four buckets, and we have enough for seven.** Yea!!!



### Dorcas Ministries Adopt-A-Shelf

We continue to supply disposable diapers and food to Dorcas Ministries. Please remember to bring size 4 disposable diapers and non-perishable food products. They have enough green beans to last a year so they have no need for more green beans.

*Thanks for your continued support.*

*Renie Palmer, Outreach Ministry Chair*