

Covenant Life Link

APRIL 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from Pastor Steve

Does God love me or us?

I used to have an ongoing argument with my college roommate about Sunday mornings. I argued that it was our duty as Christians to attend a church each Sunday morning, while he argued that it was our duty as Christians to grow closer to Jesus whether we attended church regularly or not. Today, he is a missionary in southern Mexico and I am a pastor, and we both have realized that we were both right – and wrong.

In our Christian walk, we strike a tricky balance between the individual and the corporate. Lean too far toward either extreme and we lose huge parts of our theology. As part of our current-day culture, we tend to lean toward the individual. The image of the Lone Ranger, the Hero - the one fighting against all odds is one that has been impressed on us for generations and still is every day. When we let this idea affect our theology, the idea that being a Christian is an “individual” thing, we affirm that God loves each of us for who we are, not what group we belong to. We recognize that faith is not something anyone can have for us but rather that it is ours. We acknowledge that we are not born into our parent’s relationship with God, but are born again into our own. Unfortunately, we also tend to lose sight of the corporate nature of our faith. We forget that few, if any of the books of the bible were written to an individual. Most were written to churches and groups of people. We ignore that Jesus called us to be part of a group, whether “the people of God” or “Israel” or “the Church”. We lose sight of the chance we have to find and give support to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

When we commit ourselves to God and become disciples, God calls us to become part of His family, the Church. We are a collection of individual Christians with individual faiths who unite (boy, I like that word!) our lives to become one with one another. The bible uses many different images for the Church, and all of them are about uniting. Whether a flock of sheep, a body, a bride and Groom or a family, we are all together in Jesus Christ. My roommate and I never really finished the argument, because we both realized that taken to either extreme, we would both lose. So we stay in touch, a part of each other’s lives, brothers united by Christ. May it be so with each of us, too.

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Fellowship and Hospitality Committee

The FHC is planning to meet on Monday, April 14, at 7 p.m. Discussion will include: evaluate recent activities, establish goals and dates to co-ordinate with the 125th Anniversary, prepare Summer Coffee Hour guidelines and schedules, designate a cleaning date, etc.

Noni Jones, FHC chair (815) 758-8789



Church Chair Message

Dear Friends and Members of Hillcrest,

The Executive committee held its annual retreat on March 15th at Geneva Bay Centre. We spent a good portion of our day discussing each of the boards we represent and what the roles are for each of our boards at Hillcrest Covenant Church. Then we took all the different responsibilities / functions/ events that our church does and began to assign this to the various boards based on the roles of each board that were presented earlier in the retreat. This was a great exercise for the group. It was amazing to see how much is going on at our church, but it also is pointed out to the group that these events, functions and other responsibilities of our church just don't happen. It became clear that each of our church boards need to take on leadership roles, but also how important it is for each board to be communicating with the other boards and what their needs are to the entire congregation. I would like to challenge each of us a members and nonmembers who attend Hillcrest Covenant Church on a regular basis to look for ways to serve in one or more of the various boards or committees by using the gifts that God has given you to serve each other and our community.

The committee also explored and discussed all the wonderful Fellowship ideas that came from our annual meeting in January. The most mentioned ideas were; Family Night, Weeknight, Sunday Coffee Hour- year

round, dinner/dessert out during the week, Outing- Family Outdoor activities, Golf outing, Softball Team-coed. The Executive Committee has committed to helping to get organized and to support through the church boards the following fellowship items:

- Road Rally – Deacons
- Christmas Caroling – Music & Worship
- Coffee Hour – Year Round-- will be doing a 4 week test work out the details. Each board will be taking on the leadership roles for these Coffee hours. More Details in the church newsletter.
- Dinner/Dessert night out – Mission & Steward Ship
- 125th Anniversary Picnic – June at Hopkins CE Picnic in August.

Remember we have a whole list of other fellowship events planned as we celebrate our 125th Anniversary.

We also spent some time dreaming/brainstorming about the future for Hillcrest Covenant Church. Some of these ideas were short term (1-2 years), and others were more long term (5 years or more). We are planning to share some of these ideas with the congregation at our mid year meeting on Sunday May 18th, 2008.

Please continue to pray that the Lord will continue to bless our church family and that we grow together as one body so we can reach to others in our communities who are in need.

Your Brother in Christ,
Robert Ferguson, Church Chair

Coffee Hour!

During the Annual Meeting this past January in our brainstorming for our year of Fellowship, one of the most frequently mentioned item was a “Year-round Coffee Hour”. The church Executive Committee has recognized this suggestion and has planned to do a 4 week test for a year-round type of coffee hour. The first Sunday will be April 20th. The location will be the multipurpose room down stairs. The time will be 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM. We are working with the Sunday school teachers and Choir to try to let everyone out at 10:20 am so everyone can come and have some time for fellowship.

Time: 10:00 am – 10:30 am

Location: Multipurpose Room (Down Stairs)

Come enjoy a cup of coffee and some time of fellowship

Date	Board Leading Coffee Time
Sunday April 20 th	Mission & Stewardship
Sunday April 27 th	Deacons/ Music & Worship
May 4 th	Trustee /
May 11 th	Outreach

New Adult Sunday School Class

How would you describe God? Awesome? All-powerful? Creator? While we cannot know God exhaustively, we can know Him truly. And God longs for all of us to see Him as He truly is.

A new six-week adult Sunday school class, beginning April 13, will explore the attributes of God as He has revealed them to us in the Bible. Titled “God as He Longs for You to See Him,” the class will be led by Don Potts and use a DVD series by Chip Ingram. The sessions are designed to help us understand the attributes of God and see Him for who he really is and what He desires for our lives. When we truly understand who God is, it will change the way we pray, the way we live, the way we think about God and the way we think about the world around us.

Topics for the class include *The Goodness of God, The Sovereignty of God, The Holiness of God, The Wisdom of God, The Justice of God, The Faithfulness of God, and the Love of God.*

April Birthdays

Robert Ferguson
Tom Klopfenstein
Brian Egerman
Aaron Rasmussen
Sarah Larson
Ron Naylor
Anna Friedlund
Ethan Guio
Loris Wiltberger
Lucile Reynen
Edie Wisdom
Lissa Sander
(daughter of missionary)
Brian Bickner
Shawna Kauffman
Jake Wales
Melissa Vines
Kathy Hallgren
Betsey Adams
Carol Naylor
Victoria Young
Scott Severson
Dianne Donaldson

April Anniversaries

Dale & Carolyn McBride
Ozzie & Velma Davis
David & Ruth Ann Livingston

Knit 'n' Chat group

Any women interested in getting together to (learn how to) knit and chat are invited to join Sherri Howells and Victoria Young Thursdays at 7 pm at Victoria's house, 190 Buena Vista Drive, DeKalb. Beginners and experienced knitters welcomed. Work on a group patchwork blanket or your own project. See Sherri or Victoria if interested.

Retiree's Luncheon

Date: Sunday, April 13, 2008

Time: 1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m.

Place: River Heights Golf Course

Cost: \$10.00

The deacons are planning a "retirement" luncheon Sunday, April 13. **If you are retired or near retirement (or even want to be retired)**, please don't miss this fellowship opportunity. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. The deadline for signing up is Monday, April 7.

Monterrey Mission Team 2008

Please pray for the mission team as they prepare to go to Monterrey, Mexico June 14 - 21st. The people who are presently scheduled to go are Manny Diaz, Blaize Diaz, Colton Diaz, Joel Howells, Josh Howells, Olivia Kevin, Pat Kevin, Samantha Kevin, Haley Kuschman, Steve Larson, Josie Rasmussen, Stefanie Wesel, Nolan Erdman, Lois Miller and Cara Sisler.

125th Anniversary Cookbook

We need recipes! Make a plan to complete and submit your best! To download the recipe form for the cookbooks, visit: www.cookbookpublishers.com (Blank paper copies are also available in the narthex.) Deadlines for submission will be set later. Ask your friends to submit them too. Questions? Please call Becky Sisler

Men's Breakfast/Bible Study

The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study continues to meet every Saturday morning from 7:15 to 8:45. We are currently studying the Beatitudes, as part of our year-long study of the Sermon on the Mount. This is a great time to enjoy fellowship with other men and dig into God's Word. All men of the church are invited! (Note: on April 5 the men will be going to Covenant Harbor for a work day).



Bi-Monthly Craft Day

Hurray, it is time again for another craft day! All women are welcome to come whether to work on a craft or just to chat! Lunch will be bought from Sweet Dreams! Yum! Please see Wendy Kuryliw (758-4709) or Heather Larson (517-0554) before Sun., April 20th to place your order. If possible, please pay when you order. The cost is \$6.25. Please bring the following:

1. your craft that you choose to work on & the materials that you need for it;
2. a snack to share;
3. your own drink(s) for the day.

Hope to see you & any of your female family/friends on Saturday, April 26th from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at church!

Attention Hillcrest Women...

The Grace's Girlfriend Bible Study group invites all the women of Hillcrest to join them for a couple of community outings. On Thursday night, **April 10**, we are planning to attend the "Taste of Home" Cooking School at the Egyptian Theater. Tickets are \$10. There is a sign up sheet on the welcome counter. See Lois Miller for details.

The following Thursday night, **April 17**, we invite you to join us for the Altrusa Club annual flower show also at the Egyptian Theater. This is a wonderful spring community event featuring 100s of flowers in wonderful arrangements. All of these arrangements are given away to the audience. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. The sign up sheet is on the welcome counter. See Noni Jones for more details.

Food Collection

Please continue to bring items to the church for our local food pantry. Some of the items needed are: flour, sugar, diapers, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, dessert mixes, one-can meals (Spaghetti O's, ravioli, hash) and personal hygiene products. Thank you for helping us help our community.

Mission Moment by Sherri Howells

Reasons to “bless and be blessed” in Monterrey 2008

WHY GO??

- To be humbled by those who have so little, but yet, GIVE so much. –Manny Diaz
- To see God’s smile shining through the faces of His children. –Manny Diaz
- To experience the act of giving and the act of receiving at the exact same time. –Pastor Steve
- For the awesome experience of seeing and feeling God at work in and through His people. –Jo Swan
- To change your perspective on what matters most. –Josh Howells
- To appreciate more what we have, be humbled by those who have much less, but give and love others more. –Joe Bothe
- To receive heartfelt hugs from Miriam, Lupita, Isabel and Pastor Flor. –Sherri Howells
- To feel God’s real presence as you worship with the people in Mexico. –Sherri Howells
- To work beside my brothers and sisters from Hillcrest, hot, dirty and tired, and yet, experiencing the most satisfying days of my life because it is all about God and His glorious Kingdom on earth. –Diane Kevin
- Going on a mission trip is a lesson in humility – I go believing I am being sent because God wants to use me, but what I find, every time, is that God uses them to change me. –Diane Kevin
- Lupita, Isabel, Pastor Flor, Erasmo, Susie and Juan, Chuy, Flor Lucita, the Restrepo’s, the Clauson’s and the women and children at Escabado. –Diane Kevin
- To experience being a part of God’s family by the relationships built with the people in Monterrey, surpassing all boundaries of language and culture. –Stefanie Wessel
- To interact with the children in the communities who are happy just because you smiled and said “hola” to them. –Stefanie Wessel
- To know that you can fulfill God’s purpose in many ways and in many places. –Mark Rasmussen
- To see big smiles from the children just because we were there. –Greg Howells
- To have a great cross-cultural experience: stay in people’s homes, experience how a church in Mexico worships and serves, eat great food, practice Spanish, serve others and be loved in return. –Victoria Young
- To see the unwavering faith of the people of LaRoca, and of course, the joy in the faces of all the children. –Joel Howells
- To learn to be flexible and remember God is in charge. –Lois Miller

If you are interested in this ministry please talk to the Mission Committee. A team from Hillcrest will be going to Monterrey in June. Support and prayers are needed! Monterrey 2008 - we are ready!

Fun in the sun!

Have you had your fill of snow this year? Are you tired of the cold? Are you really just ready to have some fun in the sun? Well, that is just what Hillcrest Covenant Church is going to give you this summer. VBS is back and we are having a Beach Party! The dates are August 11th – 15th. We are so excited to be doing this wonderful children’s ministry again. We are already in the planning stages and are working on lots of cool ideas. We want to make a big splash with VBS this year so we will need your help. The more help we have, the more exciting and fantastic things we can do for our youth. We are calling all adults, Senior High and 7th and 8th grade students to jump in and volunteer. So, make sure you wade through your calendar and plan on surfen’ through the scriptures with us. Please call Tracy Egerman at 895-0020 to dig in.

Men’s Work Day at Covenant Harbor

The men’s group is sponsoring a work day at Covenant Harbor on Saturday, April 5, to help renovate Triplet #1, the cabin we sponsor at the camp. Much of the work will involve tearing out the old bathrooms, which will be the first step in a much needed renovation of the cabin. But there will also be several other projects, including repairs to the exterior of the cabin. All men (and women) of the church are invited to join us.

We will meet at the church at 7:25 a.m., and plan to arrive at Covenant Harbor by 9:00a.m. Lunch will be provided free of charge, and we should be back in DeKalb no later than 6:00 p.m.

If you are planning to participate, please let either Mark Cordes or Pastor Steve know by April 2, so we can give Covenant Harbor a head count for lunch.

April 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Confirmation 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm	3 Knit 'n' Chat group 7pm @ Victoria's	4 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00am	5 Men's Breakfast & Bible study 7:15 a.m. Covenant Harbor work day 7:25am - 6 pm
6 Communion Sunday Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.	7 Christian Education meeting 6:30pm	8	9 Confirmation 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm	10 Deacons mtg 6:30pm @ the Born's Knit 'n' Chat group 7pm @ Victoria's Outreach mtg 7:00 pm GG's to <i>Taste of Home</i> Cooking school	11 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00am	12 Men's Breakfast & Bible study 7:15 a.m. Harbor Point Friends dinner in Rockford 5:00pm
13 Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Retirees luncheon @ River Hgts 1:00pm	14 125th Anniversary Committee mtg 6:30pm FHC mtg 7:00pm	15 Trustees mtg 7:00 pm	16 Confirmation 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm	17 Knit 'n' Chat group 7pm @ Victoria's Executive Committee meeting 7:00pm GG's to Altrusa flower show	18 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00am	19 Men's Breakfast & Bible study 7:15 a.m.
20 Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Coffee hour 10:00am Worship 10:45 a.m. 125th Potluck & Sing-spiration 5:00pm	21 May newsletter deadline	22	23 Confirmation 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm	24 Knit 'n' Chat group 7pm @ Victoria's	25 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00am Central Conference Annual mtg in Iron River, MI →	26 Men's Breakfast & Bible study 7:15 a.m. Craft Day 9 am - 4pm
27 Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 Coffee hour 10:00am Worship 10:45 a.m.	28	29	30 Confirmation 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm			

Missionaries We at Hillcrest Covenant Church Help Support

Gary & Mary Lou Sander

Apartado Aereo 55276
Medillin, Colombia
www.pactocol.org
pactosand@yahoo.com

Lisandro & Patricia Restrepo

Serving in Monterrey, Mexico
Mailing address:
P.M.B. 147
1001 S. 10th St. Suite G
McAllen, TX 78501
lisrestrepo@yahoo.com
prestrepo2002@yahoo.com

Eric & Kristi Peterson

(InterVarsity Christian Fellowship)
1048 Reasor Ave.
Louisville, KY 40217
peterson97@peoplepc.com



Sander Family Missionary Letter

Dear Covenant Church Family,

Since the Colombian Covenant is always talking about the “First” time that they have done something, we wanted to share with you another “first”, the “First Gathering of Covenant Social Projects.” There are currently 33 Covenant Churches in Colombia and more than 33 Covenant Social Projects whose ministry is justice, compassion and mercy. These social projects and ministries target all age groups and are located in every city and town where there is a Covenant church. Representatives of the social justice, compassion and mercy projects and ministries gathered together in Bogota for three days of interaction and the first annual meeting of a new Covenant Social Work Association. The attendance was fantastic as over 50 people came and shared what they were doing in their communities through social ministries and projects to share the love of Jesus Christ. Each ministry had an opportunity to present itself, its vision and its challenges. Some projects asked for prayer and advice for their current projects, some projects shared how they had adapted to the current needs of their communities, and other projects took this opportunity to introduce themselves to the Colombian Covenant as new projects that had just gotten started. Since this gathering actually was a “first” for the Covenant, many people met each other for the first time. It was a delight to see the companionship and fellowship of Colombian Covenanters who were there because of their community involvement. Everyone was impressed by the vision and impact of the Covenant in Colombia. Only a handful of people were acquainted with the projects represented during these few days, but everyone knew each other by the closing meal and prayers shared together.

Jose Emilio Izquierdo shared, perhaps, the most surprising testimony. The Izquierdo family are members of the El Hato Providence Covenant Church, in a very small, poor neighborhood outside of San Carlos, Cordoba. Jose Emilio stood in front of the gathering, as one of the most humble and unassuming representatives in

attendance, and told of a conversation that he had with a friend of his about the needs of the El Hato community. He said, “I was talking with my friend Mr. Uribe the other day, and said to him ‘Mr. President, (he was talking with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, who owns a ranch right next to the El Hato neighborhood) our neighborhood has some needs that I think you can help us with. You know that I want the best for our El Hato neighborhood, as you do. You know that when we are helping out our neighbors here that I am also taking the opportunity to share Jesus with them. I think that you, Mr. President, can help us.’” Needless to say we were all duly impressed that Jose Emilio knew President Uribe and that he got him to promise to help the community out. You see, the end result of his conversation was that El Hato is going to finally get running water, the government is going to build a school for the children and youth of the community, and the President is going to revive the El Hato Health Clinic, that is currently not functioning. Jose Emilio, and the Covenant Social Association of El Hato, are hoping to build a computer center in El Hato for the students to use to for their studies and are hoping to be able to help manage the health clinic. After hearing the testimony of Jose Emilio and the need in El Hato, the Cartagena Covenant Church offered the counsel and advice of its Health Brigade ministry which is coordinated by two hospital administrators. In fact, within two hours of Jose’s testimony, a plan was set up to help the El Hato neighborhood out in making sure that they were well prepared for what the President was promising to do.

It is those kinds of connections that took place during this special gathering of Colombian Covenant social ministries and it is the relationships between the people that will continue to help the Covenant of Colombia to make a difference on a personal and local level throughout the country.

Love,
The Sander Family

?WHY Youth Notes

Life is full of choices—as simple as "What should I wear?" and as complicated as "How far should I go?" Peer pressure, relationships, family dynamics, friends, self-esteem—they all influence the choices we make. But only with God's power can we recognize what the world would have us do and choose instead to do what pleases the Lord.

I'd like to invite all high school teens to join us for a 6 week series that addresses the issue of making Christian choices.

We'll be meeting at the church beginning April 6 on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00. We'll meet on all 4 Sundays in April and the first 2 Sundays in May.

The series is called [UP] Volume One: Choices. It uses video and Christian music by BarlowGirl, Stellar Kart and The Turning to explore the topics of "Right vs. Wrong" from Rom. 12:12, "Eternal vs. Temporal" from Phil 1:21, and "God's Plan vs. Your Plan" from John 21. Each topic spans 2 sessions.

The sessions will have plenty of time for fun and fellowship. Bring your friends! We have also invited a couple of other DeKalb church youth groups to join us, so this could be a great opportunity to get to know some of the other Christian teens from our area.

You can see previews and promos for the series by visiting this link:

<http://www.bigshinyplanet.com/eInvite/eInvite1.php>.

If the high school teens enjoy this series, we can continue with the next 3 [UP] volumes, which feature some great music from GRITS, Building 429, Jessie Daniels, SONICFLOOD, Superchick, Anthony Evans, Sanctus Real, Krystal Meyers and Todd Agnew.

In Him--

David

Deacons' Corner: 2008 – Our Fellowship Year

On September 30, 2007, in his sermon titled "The Work of the People", Pastor Steve introduced us to the five engines of the church and used the next four Sundays to continue the explanations of each engine: 1) Worship, 2) Evangelism, 3) Discipleship, 4) Fellowship, and 5) Service/Outreach.

As our 125th anniversary year was approaching, it was decided that we would focus on our fellowship engine in 2008. I think this is ideal for this year of celebrations. On October 21 when Pastor Steve spoke about fellowship, he mentioned numerous ways in which fellowship can be expressed. I was intrigued when he identified fellowship as being "the intimate relationship with other believers", "walking hand in hand with each other", and "sharing your life with others". These are similar goals for our deacon group as we try to get to know our church family members on our deacon care lists more intimately and become active resources in their lives.

Fellowship was also described as the follow through care that we give to new (and old) Christians. As a passionate golfer who hasn't played nearly as much lately as I'd like to play, I'm thrilled that my son Eric has been interested in the sport. When he practices his swing, I often tell him that he needs a strong follow through. It is important to finish his swing as strongly as he begins it. As I am writing this, Eric is out on the course at River Heights. As a mom and golfer, I'm wondering about how his swing is at the beginning of this Illinois golf season. Is he remembering to have a strong follow through after he hits the ball? Similarly, as church family members, we also need to have strong follow throughs (relationships) with those among us. We are continuing to rebuild our basement as a result of the August flood in our area and we have been the recipients of much 'follow through' care from our church family members. It is a wonderful feeling to be loved in a very tangible manner.

One effective method for developing relationships is in sharing time together. I encourage our church family members to continue to take advantage of opportunities throughout each year to make memories of time shared together – the Thanksgiving Eve service, sharing meals with church family members, music concerts (Casting Crowns, Fish Fest, Mercy Me, etc.), Comedy Café, the Tenebrae service, Sunday school classes, choir, small groups, Sunday worship services, Knit 'n' Chat, Bible studies, X4J, high school activities, the Retirees luncheon, and all of the wonderful events planned for this special anniversary year.

At Hillcrest...**WE DO Fellowship!** Worship...Evangelism...Discipleship...Outreach/Service...**Fellowship**

Remember Rejoice Rededicate

Hillcrest Covenant Church 125th Anniversary

Upcoming 125th anniversary events...

- **125th Anniversary Cookbook is being created. Be sure to submit your recipes!**

- **Sunday, April 20**

5:00 PM "Taste of Hillcrest" potluck

6:00 PM HCC Singspiration

We are asking you to whip up one or two of those recipes you have submitted for the cookbook to serve at our "Taste of Hillcrest" Potluck. Invite your friends for a foretaste of the great recipes available in our "soon to be published" cookbook!

The Potluck will be followed by a singspiration. To help us as we plan for this event, please complete the "Singspiration Request" form indicating some of your favorite songs.

- **Sunday, May 4 - Confirmation Sunday**

We are looking for volunteers to organize light refreshments to honor not only our current confirmands but also HCC confirmands from the past. See Lois Miller if you are willing to help.

- **Tuesday, June 17**

6:30 PM

Join the HCC family at Hopkins Park for a picnic supper followed by the Band Concert in the Park. Our own Susan Prueter will be singing. Stay tuned for more details.

- **Sunday, July 27 - ROAD RALLY**

Time TBA

Back by popular demand! More details to follow!

Singspiration Requests

Name _____

Some of my favorite hymns, choruses, praise songs, etc. are...

(After each title you are encouraged to explain why this song is especially meaningful to you.)

Suggestions for special music for our singspiration evenings. Return completed form to the designated box in the foyer by Sunday, April 6.

**Hillcrest Covenant Church
Monthly Financial Report**

2008 Budgeted Income	\$211,000.00
Income (General Fund, S.S. Interest)	\$ 33,871.60
Special Collections	<u>\$ 19,190.00</u>
	\$ 53,061.60

2008 Budgeted Expenses	\$210,975.00
Expenses thru February 2008	<u>\$ 51,139.43</u>
Total Funds Excess (Deficit)	\$ 1,922.17

[Figures represent through February 2008]



Board of Trustees Report

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

The trustees continue to stay busy with numerous projects around the church. A new refrigerator was delivered in March. A new copier was delivered in March. New ceiling tiles are being installed in the multipurpose room. The church has really been given a face lift over the past several months. We are also currently requesting bids to remodel the four main bathrooms in the church. All bids are expected to be received by April 1st, at which time we will prepare a recommendation for congregational approval.

The trustees have been recently presented with some concerns in regard to the cleanliness of the church. We are in the early stages of a contract with Sparkle Janitorial Service & they have been very receptive when these concerns have been presented to them. There are bound to be some "growing pains" as we discover many things that we have been taking for granted for a number of years. If you feel some aspect of church maintenance is being neglected, please let someone on the trustee committee know so that we can follow up with them & address these concerns.

Christian Education

Over the last few months, the members of Christian Education have met and discussed several exciting opportunities for children, as well as adults, to reach the goal of increasing fellowship through Christian Education. We will keep you informed by announcements in the bulletin and newsletter.

We are happy to announce that Vacation Bible School will be offered this summer and that Tracy Egerman has volunteered to be the VBS Director. We are blessed by Tracy's eagerness and excitement to lead this program for the children at Hillcrest, as well as children from the community. In the coming months there will be several opportunities to be involved with VBS, either by volunteering to teach/help/lead or by donating a food item or craft supply. Vacation Bible School will be held during the week of August 11th. More details will be available in the coming months.

Have you noticed the library has moved? Check out the corner room across from the nursery to see how the library has changed. You just might find yourself relaxing in one of the chairs, reading one of the many books offered there. Thanks to the Men's Small Group, Paul VanderWeide, Kathy Aichele and Lois Miller for their help in making the move for us.

Please mark your calendars for our Sunday School kick-off event on Sunday, Sept. 14th. We are currently in the planning stages and plan on making this event a very special day for everyone.

Blessings!

Wendy Kuryliw, C. E. Committee Member

Thank You Notes

Thank you so much for sharing the Saturday Men's Breakfast feast with the election judges. I can't begin to tell you how much we all enjoyed being included. Actually, eating our way through the day is how we all were able to cope. We spent hours listening to the negative comments the voters made to us about the awful TV ads and the many, many phone calls from the candidates' supporters that interrupted their days. Shirley Scott (DK 01)

Hillcrest Covenant Family,
Glenn, Isaac, and I wanted to tell each of you how much your kindness & caring have meant to us. We appreciate all the gifts we received at the shower as we as gifts received from those who were unable to attend. Each gift we received was so generous & thoughtful. I can't wait to dress Isaac up in all the adorable clothes he received.
Glenn, Chanda and Isaac

Thank you for the gifts you gave us for our birthdays! You have shown us such love and friendship in the last 6 months. We appreciate you and thank God for you daily.
Love Pastor Steve & Heather

God can use our gifts, big or small, to accomplish His will in our lives, our community & at NIU. Thank you for being a part of the ministry for NIU & our community after Feb. 14th's tragedy. Thanks for making & distributing the Encouragement Eggs, Prayer Magnets & Subway gift certificates. Thanks to anonymous donors who gave us money to buy the Subway gift certificates & the supplies we needed! Blessings!

To His Glory, Heather Larson & Wendy Kuryliw

Dear Pastor Larson and parishioners-
Thank you so much for the lunch gift card and the basket of "encouragement eggs". It means a lot to know that you are thinking about us.

Kerry Ferris, Asst. Prof. Of Sociology at NIU

Dear Church Family,
Thank you all for the care package. The candy didn't last long and I used the gift card on a set of sheets that I plan on tie-dying.

It has been a busy semester though, and I haven't found time. Thank you all,
Ethan Guio

Hillcrest Covenant Church

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DeKalb, IL 60115

Phone: 815-756-5508
Fax: 815-756-5546
Email: CovChill@juno.com
Website: www.hillcovch.org

Our Staff

Pastor: Steve Larson
Minister of Music: Victoria Young
Church Secretary: Sue Lazowski
Church Office Hours: 9 am -1:00 pm
Mon. - Fri.

We're on the Web!
www.hillcovch.org



Praise
Share
Grow
Care
Serve

HillcrestCovenant
CHURCH

Upcoming Events at Covenant Harbor 

Sat. April 12 - 5:00 p.m.

Covenant Harbor Friends Dinner

This is a chance to celebrate the exciting things that God is doing at Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor by attending the Friends Dinner at Clock Tower Resort in Rockford.

Fri. May 2 - Sun. May 4, 2008

Moms & Daughters Retreat

This retreat is a wonderful experience for moms and daughters of all ages. Special events throughout the weekend will help build and strengthen relationships as you enjoy activities or just relax. Special crafts, lots of outdoor activities, mom and daughter look alike contest, great fellowship, solid biblical teaching and great workshops top the weekend.

Bring your mom, your daughter, your aunt, your niece; make it a family affair! Grandmothers are encouraged to spend this special weekend with their granddaughters.

Covenant Point Information

Covenant Point is still looking for a few high school work crews this summer. Crew members work one of two four week sessions. First session grounds and second session kitchen and grounds still have openings. This a great mission opportunity of growth at no cost to your students. Crew should be at least 16 years old and can get an application at cpbc.com (Look under downloads.)