

Lift up your heads, O ye gates;  
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle.  
Lift up your heads, O ye gates;  
even lift them up, ye everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory. Selah.  
Psalm 144: 7-10

## Message from Pastor Steve

As we walk together through Lent, we are slowly approaching the cross. We can see it peaking over the horizon, and with every step it reveals more and more of itself. It is thankfully empty and stands just in front of an empty tomb. But nonetheless, we can't get to that tomb without stopping first at the cross. Death is a prerequisite to resurrection.

But with age expectancy on the rise (78 years for women, it was announced yesterday) and security becoming our idol, how do we understand, let alone proclaim, death as a doorway to resurrection? How do we talk about dying to one's self, one's own wants and desires, in a world where the #1 priority is to meet my every need, want and whim? What does 'dying to one's self' look like? Every Saturday morning, Fred gives 4 hours of his time to a local

He'd love to sleep in, but instead he gives of his skills, time, and money to help the poor in his community. Maryjo knits shawls for pregnant teenagers. At 82, she can't drive or carry a baby, but she has knitted for 60 years, and so she knits, and she prays for the woman who will tenderly and fearfully wrap her baby in this beautiful shawl. Evan loves video games. He'd spend every day after school just playing games if he could. But instead, Evan gives 3 hours after school every week to help younger kids learn how to do easy math. Evan isn't a math whiz, but he knows how to add, so he can help the younger ones who can't.

Every time we give ourselves up, no matter how big or small the giving, we 'die to ourselves.' We join Christ on the cross and together, He and we give ourselves up for some-

one else. This is the Kingdom Jesus proclaimed and modeled. This is the cross at work in our lives. This is the waypoint where we must rest on our journey toward the empty tomb.

Someday, on the other side of that tomb, we will live with resurrected, transformed bodies. Someday we will walk together in the resurrected, transformed world God created "good, excellent in every way." Someday... but for now, as we journey toward that 'someday,' we look up and see the cross peaking over the hill, and we remember that we can live out that cross right this minute, and by doing so, we just might change the world.



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## Message from Church Chair

It sure is nice to have the change of seasons and some warmer weather. It seemed like a long winter. I hope and pray that you and your family have a wonderful Lent and Easter season. Please take advantage of the many worship opportunities that we have to prepare for and celebrate Easter.

This month we had a 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Executive Committee Retreat on Saturday, March 12, at the Ellwood House in DeKalb. Below are key issues that were discussed:

- Reviewed the accomplishment and objectives of each of the boards. These will be presented at the May congregational meeting
- Reviewed the results of the Town Hall meetings, which were overall well attended and provided good feedback
- Discussed plans for evangelism as the theme for the

2010/11 year.

- Discussed the next step for the long-range plan, including the plans to have a revised draft to the congregation two weeks prior to the May congregational meeting, at which time the plan will be presented for approval.
- Agreed that we will be asking the boards to complete evaluations for key events during the year.
- Discussed the objectives and process to date of the Vitality Team.

Highlights of last week's monthly Executive Committee were:

- Reviewed the Nominating Committee progress to date. All the worksheets from each board have been completed, and the group will be meeting later this month.
- We agreed that given the content, timing and the number

of other activities going on, we will not have a church board meeting as was originally planned for 4-10-2011.

- Discussed the upcoming Navigate Retreat in Batavia on April 15-16. All Executive Committee and Vitality Team members have been asked to attend and others interested are welcome to attend.

Hope you all have a happy and fulfilling Lent and Easter celebration.

To God be the Glory,

Joe Bothe  
Church Chair

APRIL 2011						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Trustees' Report

The Trustees, in conjunction with the Hospitality Committee, have purchased new tables and rolling table carts for the multi-purpose room and several other locations within the church. These tables are all considerably lighter, and the round tables are smaller to facilitate conversation. We have also had the hall doorway to the

Anderson Room repaired. Finally, we have repaired the legs on a good number of chairs in the Anderson Room.

Donations through February were \$6,000 below budget.

Please mark your calendars for the all-church work morning on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m.

until noon.

Bruce Bickner, Mort Carrel, Bob Donaldson, Jessie Flippin, Ron Grimm, John Guio, Susan Kauffman, and Ed Peterson



## From the Deacons

On March 14, the movie "The Passion of the Christ," was shown at HCC, with nineteen people in attendance. Although many had seen the movie, they were deeply moved and agreed this powerful movie was a good choice for Lent. People were quiet as they left and took the time at the end for reflection.

The Deacons



## Easter Lilies



It is a tradition for members of our congregation to provide lilies to decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday Service. Plants may be taken home after this service. If you would like to order an Easter lily, please fill out the form in the Sunday bulletin and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office with your payment. Plants are \$10.00 each, and proceeds will help support the Congo Project through a Congo Easter offering. Please make checks payable to Hillcrest Covenant Church and put "lily" in the memo line. Orders are due by Sunday, April 3.

## From Outreach

### Love & Respect Conference



Women need love. Men need respect. It is as simple and as complicated as that. This conference is for the married, divorced, separated, dating and single. Meetings will be held on Mondays from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The remaining dates are March 28, April 4 and April 11. For more information, contact Shawna Bennett.

### What's Your One Step Card

We will be handing out "what's your one step" cards on Palm Sunday and collecting them Easter Sunday. Please be thinking of the people you would like to pray, care, and share with. Thank you!



## Walk for Life

We Care Pregnancy Clinic's Walk for Life is on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Pick up your Walk for Life sponsor form in the church narthex and register today, or register online at:

[FirstGiving.com/WeCarePregnancyClinic](http://FirstGiving.com/WeCarePregnancyClinic).

Questions?

Call: 815.748.4242

Email: [walk@WeCarePregnancyClinic.org](mailto:walk@WeCarePregnancyClinic.org)

403 North 5th Street

DeKalb, IL 60115



## Book Suggestion: The Owl Hunt

Author: Richard S. Wheeler

Publisher: Tom Doherty Associates, 2010, 335 pages

Why choose a western for a Christian audience to read?

Richard Wheeler, holder of umpteen writing awards and writer of over fifty

western novels, finally chose to incorporate Christianity in a beautiful light of Jesus (if one can see it, though the whites in the novel could not) in his latest book.

This novel is part of Wheeler's Barnaby Skye series. In the beginning, Skye is dead, leaving only his Absaroka Indian wife, Victoria, and his

son, Dirk, alive. It's beautifully written, slow moving in many parts, but that is the skill of this great writer. Keep a dictionary handy, when reading his novels.



## Mission Trip

Our mission trip this year is planned to La Villa, Texas, from June 11-18. We will partner with fellow Covenanters from Elim Covenant in Moline, IL, and, of course, the Evangelical Missionary Covenant Church in La Villa, TX. Projects are planned involving construction, cleaning, vacation Bible school, and community outreach. The trip is more about building relationships than building buildings.

Our motto is "Be flexible!!"

The trip costs will be covered by HCC with the exception of transportation to and from La Villa. This will include food, lodging, and project costs. You will need only \$20-\$50 for incidental expenses **and a good attitude!** Airfare at this time is about \$375 round trip. Driving is also an option. Travel expenses can be reduced by sharing the

driving. A group is planning to drive and will consider a van, if needed. If cost is a restriction, scholarships are available. The weather is expected to be warm, in the 80s and 90s, but air-conditioning is available. This is the USA, after all!



## Love INC Banquet

Love in the Name of Christ of DeKalb/Sycamore (Love INC) is hosting its second annual fundraising banquet on Sunday, May 1 from 6–8:30 p.m. at the St. Mary Memorial Hall in Sycamore. We would like to challenge all of our partner churches to fill at least one table of eight. The meal will be catered by Nat's on Maple. Entertainment will be provided by the Evangelical Free Praise Band, and a short program describing Love INC's mission, highlights from the past year, and plans for the future will be presented.

Love INC of DeKalb/Sycamore began in 2008 and

currently has 31 partner churches. Its mission is to mobilize churches to use and coordinate their resources to help those in need in the local community. In 2010 the local affiliate, working with churches and agencies, assisted 668 people in 434 homes, meeting a total of 1,165 needs. This reflects more than 8,000 hours of volunteer service.

The banquet is free of charge, but those attending are asked to consider making a donation to support the ministry of Love INC. Reservations are required and must be received no later than April 25. Those wanting to attend the banquet

should contact [insert name from church] or contact the Love INC office at 815-217-0082 or [loveincdk@gmail.com](mailto:loveincdk@gmail.com). Please check this out on our web site at [www.loveincofdekalbsycamore.com](http://www.loveincofdekalbsycamore.com).



## Missionaries Supported by Hillcrest Covenant Church

Gary & Mary Lou Sander  
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www.pactocol.org  
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Lisandro & Patricia Restrepo  
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Covenant Merge Ministries  
2201 S. Jackson Rd. #33E  
Pharr, TX 78577

## Sander Family Update

Dear Friend,

The Colombia Covenant Education Foundation (FECEMPEC) just named its third national director, Pastor Axel Arteaga. Pastor Axel (shown below in black shirt and with his family) is an ordained pastor in the Covenant of Colombia, seminary-educated, and officially licensed as a theologian. Educationally, Axel is more than ready to take on the challenge to move the FECEMPEC Study Center Ministry to its next phase.

FECEMPEC has written the degree programs of Social Project Administration, Children's Social Ministry Formation and Development, and Evangelism and Missions, according to the new education legislation in Colombia, established in 2006. Graduating students from FECEMPEC will have their studies recognized by the Secretary of Education of Colombia and will be able to transfer into university degree programs. Getting these degree program offerings out to the four regional conferences, and to each of the Covenant Churches and Ministries where the Covenant is located, is the next phase and the biggest challenge facing Pastor Axel. But, it is a challenge that he needs to face because half of the Colombia Covenant Churches and Ministries are located outside of the big urban centers of Bogota and Medellin. Axel has grown up and pastored in these rural settings and knows the need, because he has lived it constantly. He is a product of that environment and definitely feels the call to "get 'er done."

Getting the degree program offerings and courses out to the four regional conferences and set up to implement the FECEMPEC curriculum will involve equipping 11 teaching sites in strategic locations where the Covenant is working around Colombia and forming four Degree Program Curriculum Libraries and resource centers in each of the four regional conferences. But it is not just about moving the program to where the people are and getting set up. It is also about having a Covenant system for assessment, defined and led by Colombians that multiply and mobilize leaders for the future of the Colombian Covenant. Pastor Axel would like for the future social ministry directors and ministers and lay workers to be provided with tools to strategically plan and organize the enormous task of addressing the social needs of their communities and to combine that with the Gospel. He hopes also to provide the students of FECEMPEC with an opportunity to investigate various areas of ministry, allowing them to discover the best match for their God-given design.

In these rural areas and small towns and cities, the Colombia Covenant Church ministers to many youth and adults, who have not been able to validate their high school education. There is a great need for alphabetization programs and high school diploma programs, which would allow Covenanters to validate their studies so that they can enter the FECEMPEC programs and benefit from proper and official education.

The Covenant in Colombia has always had as one of its objectives, "Develop solid leadership with credibility and equip and grow servant leaders and pastors." They believe that in the formation and development of its ministers and leaders to be disciples of Jesus Christ, ministers of the Word, and leaders of all age groups, the Covenant will reach the community and the world." FECEMPEC is the ministry through which each of the Colombian Covenant Churches and Ministries can benefit by the fulfillment of these objectives and goals.

Love,

The Sander Family

Mailing Address:

Evangelical Covenant Church  
8303 W Higgins Rd  
Chicago, IL 60631 US

Contact Name: Andrew Vanover  
Telephone Number: (773) 784-3000



## *April Birthdays*

- |                      |                          |                       |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Robert Ferguson  | 11 - Mike Smith          | 26 - Betsey Adams     |
| 1 - Tom Klopfenstein | 14 - Edie Wisdom         | 26 - Carol Naylor     |
| 3 - Brian Egerman    | 15 - Lissa Sander        | 26 - Ross Knoll       |
| 4 - Aaron Rasmussen  | (daughter of missionary) | 27 - Victoria Young   |
| 6 - Sarah Larson     | 18 - Shawna Bennett      | 27 - Scott Severson   |
| 7 - Ron Naylor       | 18 - Jake Wales          | 27 - Becky Metcalf    |
| 8 - Anna Friedlund   | 19 - Melissa Vines       | 30 - Dianne Donaldson |
| 8 - Ethan Guio       | 19 - Julia Boehm         |                       |
| 8 - Loris Wiltberger | 23 - John Mehalic        |                       |
| 11 - Lucile Reynen   | 25 - Kathy Hallgren      |                       |

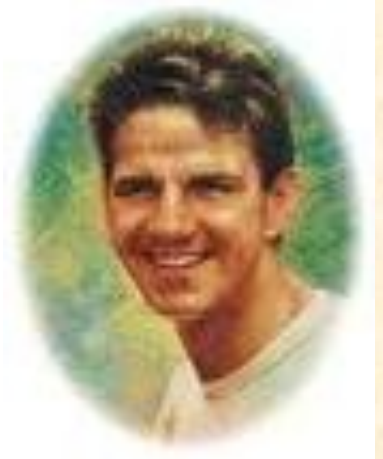


## *April Anniversaries*

- 4, 1986 - Dave & Pat Vollstedt
- 4, 1970 - John & Millie Kostrey
- 12, 2003 - Joe & Robin Bothe
- 18, 1964 - Dale & Carolyn McBride
- 25, 1964 - David & Ruth Ann Livingston

**“HE IS NO FOOL WHO GIVES UP  
WHAT HE CANNOT KEEP IN ORDER  
TO OBTAIN WHAT HE CANNOT  
LOSE.”**

**MISSIONARY, JIM ELLIOT:**





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Communion Sunday Choir Practice 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am LRP Mtg 12:00 pm 18-25 Group Movie/Discussion 6 pm	4 Love & Respect Seminar 6:30 pm	5	6 AWANA 6:30 pm X4J 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 pm	7 Meet & Eat 6 pm Jubilate Bells 7 pm Missions Mtg 7 pm	8	9 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am  Men's Moving Ministry 9 am  ?WHY Mtg 6 pm
10 Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Practice 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Children's Church LRP Mtg 12 pm 18-25 Group Bowling 7 pm	11 Love & Respect Seminar 6:30 pm Music & Worship Mtg 7 pm	12 Deacons Mtg 7 pm	13 AWANA 6:30 pm X4J 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 pm	14 Midweek Bible Study 2 pm Jubilate Bells 7 pm Outreach Mtg 7 pm	15	16 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am  X4J Service Project 7:45 am
17 PALM SUNDAY Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Practice 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am LRP Mtg 12 pm Meet & Eat 12:30 pm Newsletter Finish Line 18-25 Group Dinner 7 pm	18	19 Trustees Mtg 7 pm	20 AWANA 6:30 pm X4J 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 p.m	21 Jubilate Bells 6 pm Executive Committee Mtg 7 pm	22	23 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am
24 RESURRECTION SUNDAY Choir Practice 9:30 am Breakfast 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 10 am Worship 10:45 am	25	26 Christian Formation Mtg 6:30 pm	27 AWANA 6:30 pm X4J 6:30 pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 pm	28 Midweek Bible Study 2:pm Jubilate Bells 7 pm	29 X4J Mtg 7 pm	30 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am

**Pastor: Steve Larson**

**Associate Pastor: Jen Zerby**

**Minister of Music: Victoria Young**

**Administrative Assistant: Valerie Smith**

**Church Office Hours: 9 a.m.—2 p.m.**

**Monday—Friday**

**Phone: 815-756-5508**

**Fax: 815-756-5546**

**E-mail: [hillcrestcov@comcast.net](mailto:hillcrestcov@comcast.net)**

**Website: [www.hillcovch.org](http://www.hillcovch.org)**

**Hillcrest Covenant Church**

**1515 N. First St.**

**DeKalb, IL 60115**

## *Holy Week*



**Palm Sunday Sunday, April 17**

**Worship**

**10:45 a.m.**



**Good Friday**

**Friday, April 22**

**Tenebrae Service**

**6:30 p.m.**



**Easter**

**Sunday, April 24**

**Breakfast**

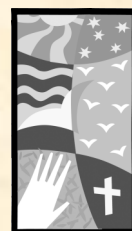
**9:30 p.m.**

**Worship**

**10:45 p.m.**



We're on the Web!  
[example.com](http://example.com)



HillcrestCovenant  
CHURCH

*Praise*

*Share*

*Grow*

