

Covenant Life Link

FEBRUARY 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from Pastor Steve

This month we begin together the season of Lent. Lent is the 40 day preparation for the greatest celebration of the Christian year, Easter. In the same way that in Advent we prepare ourselves for Christmas, so in Lent we prepare ourselves for Easter.

This year we will have a number of special services and themes to help us celebrate Lent together. We begin this celebration on Wed., Feb. 6 with our annual Ash Wednesday service. Together we will begin the preparation of our hearts to once again receive the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. Then throughout the Lenten season, we will be looking at the question of the identity of Jesus Christ. Each week we will look at a different aspect of Jesus' identity symbolized by an item used by Jesus during the last week of His life.

As Lent draws to a close we will celebrate Holy Week together as a congregation and as a Covenant church. On Maundy Thursday, we will join together with 5 Covenant congregations from around our area for a special Covenant Maundy Thursday service at the Batavia Covenant Church. Then on Good Friday, we will celebrate together as a congregation with a Tenebre service, and again on Easter Sunday with a special Sunday morning worship time.

I would like to invite you to think this Lenten season about an unchurched person or family who would benefit from hearing more about Jesus. Invite them to Hillcrest either for one of our special services or on a Sunday morning. Imagine what God can do in and through their lives.

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HAPPY



New Member Recognition

The following people were welcomed into the Hillcrest Covenant Church family as new members at the 10:45 worship service on February 3:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Blaize Diaz | Thomas Klopfenstein |
| Brian Egerman | Heather Larson |
| Tracy Egerman | Jeff Smith |
| Steve Klopfenstein | Juli Smith |
| Sue Klopfenstein | Nikki Smith |
| Ashley Klopfenstein | |



Deacon's Corner -**“What's all this fuss about Love?”**

Well, it's that time of year again. You see it advertised all over the place. LOVE! We see it at shopping malls, on TV, newspapers, and just about anywhere you might imagine. Some of us MEN might even need to be REMINDED that Valentines day is....guys, help me here...February 14 (I think).

There are many opinions as to who was the original Valentine, with the most popular theory that it was a clergyman who was executed for secretly marrying couples in ancient Rome. In any event, in 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor St. Valentine. Through the centuries, the Christian holiday became a time to exchange love messages and St. Valentine became a patron saint of lovers.

But what's this thing we call LOVE really all about? Webster's dictionary has several definitions. Here are a few: affection and tenderness felt by lovers / affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests / unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another / A person's adoration of God / the fatherly concern of God for humankind....hmm.....

As Christians we are often reminded about love, and how God has commanded us, as Christians, to live our lives. The Bible's dictionary defines love like this: the ultimate expression of God's loyalty, purity, and mercy ex-

tended towards his people - to be reflected in human relationships of brotherly concern, marital fidelity, and adoration to God.

As you explore the bible, you'll find that Gods laws are not burdensome, and His greatest commandments can be reduced to two simple principles: Love God, and love others.

If you read Mark 12:28-34 (or Matthew 22:37-40) you'll find these words to be true. Jesus was asked this question by one of the Pharisees: Of all the commandments, which is the most important? (29) Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is the one, and only Lord. (30) And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. (31) The second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these."

So once again, two simple, but most important principles. Love God, and love others. With the leadership, and fellowship that continues to grow throughout our church, I truly believe that we are doing what God has called us all to do (share our love for God, Gods love for us, and for one another).

On behalf of the Board of Deacons, I'd like to wish you all a joyful Valentines season, and remember to fill your hearts with Love for our God, and for those that you love.

Blessings to all,
Manny Diaz

Notes from the Outreach Committee

- We hosted our sixth Comedy Café on January 20, the ticket counts are 125 for the afternoon show and 196 for the evening show. We have saved the ticket stubs and will use the address information to contact the visitors. If you brought friends, please encourage them to attend another event at Hillcrest, a worship service or a social activity.
- Love INC is now here in DeKalb and Sycamore! Training to learn more about Love INC or to become a volunteer is scheduled for the last weekend of February. Meeting times are Friday, February 29, 7:00 – 9:00 PM and Saturday, March 1, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM at Christ Community Church. We hope to provide child care, so please call the church office if you need a place for your children.
- Have you seen the back of a bus with an ad for our church? If not, keep looking, we have rented a space for the spring semester.

February Birthdays

Ed Peterson
 Joseph Geidel
 Joshua Woita
 Zachary Lazowski
 Aaron Holly
 Mary Lou Larson
 Diane Kevin
 Daniel Peterson
 (Missionary son)
 Arvel Davis
 Mark Rasmussen

February Anniversaries

Bob & Dianne Donaldson
 Ron & Belinda Grimm
 Joe & Sue Lazowski

**A Word of Thanks**

The family of Mariann Storey appreciates the loving care extended to them by their church family at Hillcrest Covenant. Your prayers, friendship, memorial gifts and food are gratefully acknowledged.

Mother loved God and her Hillcrest Covenant Church family. We know it's a time of celebration for Mother is in a better place, but we miss her so much. Our faith, however, assures us that one day we will be together again.

In Christ's Love,

Marcia and Rich, Stephanie and Greg, Kayla and Chelsea

CAN YOU DO THE CAN-CAN?

Learn the steps:

- Save all aluminum cans. Grocery bags work well.
- Practice this step until storage area is filled.
- Take accumulated cans to DeKalb Iron and Metal at 900 Oak St. in DeKalb. The receiving building is on the north side of the street.
- The attendant will give you a paper showing the total number of pounds.
- Take the paper to the office on the south side of the street.
- Instead of accepting payment, based on the current value of aluminum, ask that it be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

Conclusion of dance: There will be no weariness from over-exertion but, instead, expect a warm feeling to develop in the area of your heart when you remember that you have helped enable a worthy family to build and own a home.

Thank You!

A special thanks to those who helped with the desserts at the comedy cafe. Diane Kevin & I enjoyed the *oohs* and *ahhs* as people struggled to limit their selections to just 1 or 2. We had beautiful spread thanks to everyone who contributed. Missing a serving dish? Please pick it up in the kitchen.

A Note of Thanks

Hillcrest Covenant Church family,

We enjoyed the time we were there & knew many of you. We also met & got to know more of you over the years. We thank you so much & hope 2008 will be a good year for all of us. Thank you again and God Bless all of you.

Richard & Beverly Mitchell

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. Please see Sherri or Victoria if interested.

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets every Saturday morning from 7:17 - 8:45. We are currently studying the Sermon on the Mount. This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy fellowship with other men and dig into God's Word. All men are invited.



If you or a loved one would like to add a name to the 'People To Pray For:' section of the bulletin, please let Pastor Steve or the church office know. We will then print that name for two weeks unless a longer time is specifically requested.

?WHY High School Youth Notes

Eleven teens attended Deep Freeze in January. It was bitterly cold, but we had a great time. The focus of the weekend was to deepen our relationship with God by spending more time with Him and making our relationship with Him a greater priority in our lives. Thanks to Beth Ferguson for being our female counselor for the weekend and to Dave Wessel and Pat Vollstedt for helping with transportation.

Our teens will soon be doing some fundraisers for upcoming events. Some of our teens will be going on the mission trip to Mexico and others will be going on a week-long spiritual retreat in Colorado (parents-more information will be coming soon on the Colorado trip). We also need to begin raising funds for CHIC 2009.

The first fundraiser involves selling Community Day coupon booklets for Elder-Beerman. These booklets cost \$5 and include a coupon for \$10 off the purchase of any item priced at \$10 or more, as well as 8 coupons for up to 20% off of one item. The coupons can also be used at Bergner's, Carson Pirie Scott and other stores listed on the web site at www.communitydayevent.com. Community Day is Saturday, March 1, and the coupons are for use only on that day. The entire \$5 purchase price of each booklet will go to the ?WHY youth group. We hope that you will not only help our youth by purchasing booklets, but also by purchasing additional booklets to sell or give to your family, friends and co-workers for us. You can purchase booklets from our high schoolers, from David (at (815) 766-0556), or from the store (let them know you are buying them to support Hillcrest Covenant Church). Booklets can also be ordered from the web site mentioned above (look up Hillcrest Covenant Church to order). All proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to directly offset the substantial costs for our teens who will be serving in Mexico or going on the spiritual retreat in Colorado. If you prefer to simply make a direct financial donation to our efforts, please contact me or specify your contribution to Youth Trip Fund.

We are also planning another CHIC fundraising auction for next fall. The last one was great, and we hope to top that! Start thinking now about what you might be able to donate (services, items, vacations, food, etc.) to make this fantastic auction.

On behalf of all of our teens, we thank you for Hillcrest's strong and continued support for youth programs. We pray that we can continue to offer opportunities to strengthen our teens relationships with God and to continue to bring teens to Christ.

In Him--

Your high school youth leaders: David and Pat Vollstedt, Don and Elizabeth Potts, and Jeff Smith

Treasurer's Report

February 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00am X4J Lock-in @ HCC	2 Men's Breakfast & Bible study 7:15 a.m. (thru noon) →
3 Communion Sunday Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. New member recogni- tion	4 Christian Education meeting 6:30pm	5	6 Ash Wednesday Ser- vice 6:30pm	7 Knit 'n' Chat group 7pm @ Victoria's	8 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00am X4J Deep Freeze →	9 Men's Breakfast & Bible study 7:15 a.m.
10 Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.	11 125th Anniversary Committee mtg 6:30pm	12 Deacon's mtg 6:30pm @ the Born's	13 Confirmation 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm Missions mtg 7:00pm	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> Outreach mtg 7:00 pm Knit 'n' Chat group 7pm @ Victoria's	15 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00am N of N Annual Friend- ship Dinner 6:30 pm @ Immanuel Lutheran	16 Men's Breakfast & Bible study 7:15 a.m. Crafty women 9am- 4pm @ HCC
17 Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.	18 <i>Presidents Day</i> Church office closed	19 Trustees mtg 7:00 pm	20 Confirmation 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm	21 Executive Committee meeting 7:00pm	22 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00am	23 Men's Breakfast & Bible study 7:15 a.m.
24 Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 Worship 10:45 a.m. 125th Kick-off event 5pm-7pm	25	26	27 Confirmation 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30pm	28 Winter Day Camp @ CHBC (K-6th graders) Knit 'n' Chat group 7pm @ Victoria's	29 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00am Love INC training 7-9pm @ Christ Com- munity Church X4j @ HCC 7-9 PM	

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

February 2008

Dear Covenant Church Family,

We are coming to you this month with some very special prayer requests. Thank you for joining us in prayer, right now, for the following:

1. Two year old Josue Arteaga, son of Pastor Axel Arteaga and his wife, Claudia, was born with two detached retinas. On February 2nd Josue will have an operation on his left eye to try to reattach the retina so that he would at least be able to distinguish people and shadows. There is no hope for his right eye. Axel and Claudia believe in the power of prayer of the larger Covenant family and asked us specifically to ask others to join with them in prayer for Josue.
2. Pray for the Colombia Covenant FIPEC Annual Meeting which will be held, February 1 and

2, in Medellin. They will be electing a new president so are asking for wisdom in that and in other important decisions. They will also be hearing about the new social ministry association, Asociacion Pacto Colombia, which will be formed in March.

3. Pray for the Colombia Covenant Women Executive Board Meeting to be held January 29. Praise God they found the location for their August retreat and pray for them as now more definite plans can be put into motion.
4. Praise God for the Sacramento Covenant Church Men's group and Women's group who ministered in Medellin during the month of January. More details of their amazing time next week.

Love,
The Sander Family

125th Anniversary News

Remember! Rejoice! Rededicate!

Our anniversary theme is **Remember! Rejoice! Rededicate!** The anniversary committee has planned many ways to do just that as we celebrate together this year. Thanks to Ann Carroll for her submission of this winning title.

Several events have been planned for the year. Your helped is not only welcomed but needed. There are several sign up sheets on the bulletin board for upcoming events. Check out what need might match your gifts and talents and jump on board!

Cookbook Committee

In honor of the 125th anniversary we are creating a Hillcrest Cookbook. The committee is just now being established. We will meet at 7:15 p.m., Monday, February 11 to begin the process. Join us! See Becky Sisler or Noni Jones for more details.

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125th Anniversary News cont'd

125th Anniversary Committee meeting

The anniversary committee will meet at 6:30 pm on February 11.

Happy Birthday to you! The *"Everyone Has a Birthday" Party* has been rescheduled for Sunday night, February 24 from 5-7 pm. We'll begin the evening with a warm up game or two followed by a birthday supper. Next come the party games (and we're not talking "pin the tail on the donkey"!)

Here's where we add "funship" to our evening! We'll conclude the "formal" part of the evening with a story and birthday cake BUT you are welcome to stay later to play board games or just to chat. We are looking for 12 people to bake favorite birthday cakes for this all church, multi-generational evening of fellowship and funship.

To help us prepare we have a sign up sheet posted on the front bulletin board. Please indicate how many will be attending from you family. Of course friends are invited. Watch for more details.

By the way...Have you recorded your birthday on the birthday chart located near the bottom of the stairs? Please add your name and birthday to the appropriate month and check out your birthday buddies! You'll be spending some time with them at the *"Everyone Has a Birthday" Party*.

Board of Trustees Report

Hillcrest Covenant finished 2007 in a strong financial position. December contributions to the General Fund were much better than anticipated. Our 2007 giving was above budget and gives us improved expectations that our 2008 budget is realistic. On behalf of the congregation, thank you for your support of Hillcrest Covenant throughout the year.

Storage Concerns: We have improved our church storage space by adding new shelving to the closet off of the Anderson Room. We recognize, however, that our storage area remains limited. We therefore ask your help in maximizing use of the area which we do have. More specifically, we ask that you follow the following guidelines:

- Don't store it unless you are sure you are going to use it again.
- Store things in boxes or plastic bags—using such containers will better preserve what is stored.
- Put everything you need to store on one of the shelves in the Anderson Room closet.
- Mark or tag what you store with a description of the item, who put it there and the date on which it was stored.
- Do not store anything in the furnace rooms.

We thank you in advance for helping us to manage our storage space.

Copier Use: We ask everyone to remember that the church copy machine is to be used only for copying materials related to church activity. While church staff are the primary users of the copy machine, all church members can use the machine for board and committee work as well as matters related to church programs—but no one should use the copier for personal use. We ask that everyone respect this limitation on the use of the church copy machine.

As an aside, the Trustees are working with church staff to replace the present copier which has been in service for over ten years.

Designated Gifts: On December 27, 2007 the Board of Trustees adopted the following policy with respect to receipt of designated gifts. This policy became effective January 1, 2008:

HILLCREST COVENANT CHURCH TRUSTEES' POLICY ON DESIGNATED GIVING

Hillcrest Covenant Church utilizes a unified budget process. Church boards annually recommend to our budget committee the expenditures believed necessary to support the programs and responsibilities of the respective boards. The budget committee considers such requests, together with input from the executive board, and compiles a recommended budget which the committee then presents to the full congregation for approval. The mission and stewardship board concurrently encourages members to give prayerful consideration to their support of the total budget through both pledges and timely giving to the general fund.

The great majority of the members and friends of Hillcrest Covenant make undesignated gifts to the church's general fund. From time to time the church also receives donations which specifically designate the use of the funds. In most cases, such donations are designated to support programs included in the church budget—or they are for special collections endorsed by the congregation. Examples of such designations routinely honored by the Trustees are: supplemental support of budgeted missions, support of mission trip participants, donations for Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias, the annual Christmas gift for the pastor, support of CHIC participants, World Relief and the building sinking fund. When designations are for budgeted items, they will be deposited in the general fund and earmarked for such use. When designated funds are for non-budgeted, Hillcrest Covenant endorsed special collections, the donation will be treated as a special collection receipt.

Occasionally, however, the church receives a donation specifically designated for a use which is neither part of the approved church budget nor related to a Hillcrest Covenant endorsed special collection. In such instances, it shall be the policy of the Trustees not to deposit such donation. Rather, the Trustees will contact the donor to request that the designation be removed or changed to a Hillcrest Covenant program or activity. If the donor does not wish to remove or change the donation's restriction, the donation will be respectfully returned to the donor.

Missions Article

Part of our goal as a mission board is to keep you, God's people, informed about the agencies in our local area that offer services to those in need. Love Inc DeKalb/Sycamore is an organization that works as a clearing house for the churches in the area as well as non-profit organizations to network with each other about the local needs. When people knock on our door asking for help we can contact Love Inc to discover if this person has been to every other church door on that day asking for the same. We can also refer that person to Love Inc for an interview which will help find the reasons underlining their needing help at this time. Maybe they need a job. Love Inc through their knowing the offering of skills in all the churches will be able to offer the person in need people who can come alongside them in learning the skills to get a job. Love Inc will also be able to refer them to non-profit agencies and government agencies that have resources they need.

Non-profit organizations can also contact Love Inc when they have a need for help themselves or one of the people they serve has a need. Without Love Inc that organization has to call a long list of churches to find a specific resource. This form of networking keeps the Christian community connected to the people, resources and needs of our community on a variety of levels. Because anyone who contacts Love Inc will know that these services are organized through churches, we will be able to share our faith through our actions and, occasionally, by using words.

One of the non-profit organizations that work in our community is We Care Pregnancy. This agency responds to unintended pregnancies needs that can be a difficult and confusing experience. In 1992, the Christian community came together and formed We Care Pregnancy Center here as the compassionate response to that need. Their mission is to empower women to make life-affirming choices. We Care believes that each woman deserves the best care, information, and support available in order to make well informed decisions. Client Advocates and Nurses are there to provide that support and information as they share Christ in word and deed. Because the difficulties involved in an unplanned pregnancy are usually multi-layered and complex, We Care's programs provide a wide variety of services. These confidential services are offered free of charge because of generous donations from churches and individuals in our community. Visit their website www.WeCarePregnancyCenter.org or feel free to call to arrange a tour of their newly remodeled clinic. 815-748-4242.

The mission committee has asked We Care Pregnancy to share in a mission moment this coming month. They will also provide us with ideas of how we can volunteer in their agency. Love Inc has a training session for the churches (that is us) on February 29th 7-9pm and March 1st 8:30-3:30pm. Please plan on attending. It is at Christ Community Church.



Annual Friendship Dinner
Friday, February 15
Immanuel Lutheran Church
511 Russell Rd, DeKalb
6:30 pm - 8:45 pm

We need families to participate with the set-up and take-down of this event. Please bring "large" dishes of food to pass! Contact Diane Kevin at 895-0126 if you are able to help.

Hillcrest Covenant Church

1515 N. First St.
DeKalb, IL 60115

Phone: 815-756-5508
Fax: 815-756-5546
Email: CovChHill@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



HillcrestCovenant
CHURCH

Praise
Share
Grow
Care
Serve

Upcoming Events at Covenant Harbor

- **Feb 8 - 10:** Jr. high Deep Freeze ~ Deep Freeze is a great opportunity to get away for the weekend to meet with your youth group, away from home. You'll meet other students from the area your age, get to know your youth group even better, and have a chance to reconnect with God
- **Feb 22 - 24:** Jr./Sr. high Deep Freeze
- **Mar 30:** Maple Fest ~ Whole Family Fun! All you can eat Oatmeal Pancakes, sausages & beverages. Fresh Maple Syrup Made on Site! Craft Fair. Activities include Tours of the Maple Syrup Process, Giant Swing, Raffle, Bounce Castle, Face Painting & More!
- **Apr 12** Harbor Point Dinner in Rockford ~ An evening to celebrate the exciting things that God is doing at Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor
- **May 2 - 4:** Moms & Daughters Retreat for all ages! ~ 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.

For more information on any of these events, contact Susan Kauffman at 815-264-7905 or visit Covenant Harbor's website at: www.covenantharbor.org