

Covenant Life Link

JANUARY 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor Steve's New Year Message

2008 is here at last. What does God have in store for us in the coming year? Not being a prophet, I don't know any more than you do but we are assured that it will be great as we follow God's will together.

This is an exciting year for Hillcrest Covenant as we celebrate 125 years of ministry together in Dekalb and Sycamore. For a century and a quarter, we have proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ and sought to be salt and light to our community. We will be celebrating this milestone throughout the year; our Anniversary committee has already been hard at work making plans for 2008.

Each year we as a church will be focusing in on one of the five "engines" we talked about last fall. While we will not be exclusive about our activities, we will be focused as a congregation on a particular aspect of what our church is all about. For 2008, our focus will be on Fellowship, a fitting theme for our 125th year of ministry. In all that we do as a church this year, we will seek ways to grow closer together as a family, caring for and praying for each other in new ways and to a greater extent than we have. Remember, fellowship is not just about potlucks and parties, but rather it is ministry to each other within the body of Christ. How do you care for those in your Hillcrest family?

This year we will not only be focusing on Fellowship as a congregation, but we will be challenging you to set some personal goals that will help you to grow in your Fellowship. While the goals are yours to choose, some suggestions are to learn the name of everyone in the congregation by the end of the year, or to share a meal with a family from church each month, or to simply get to know one other family that are currently strangers to you. Please be in prayer and thought about what kinds of goals you would like to set for yourself this year.

As we celebrate our past and look to our future, we pray that God will continue to guide us as He has throughout our history. We are links in a chain of ministry stretching back 125 years and forward into the unseen future. This year, let's strengthen the bonds between us as we celebrate Jesus together.

Pastor's Message	1
Deacon's Corner	2
Trustees Report	2
Birthdays/ Anniversaries	3
Announcements	3
Women's Bible Study	3
Covenant Harbor schedule	3
Financial Summary	4
Word Search	4
January Calendar	5
The Peterson Post	6
Missions News	7
IAEC News	7
Comedy Cafe	8



.....

■ We're celebrating! Join us on Jan. 25 for Hillcrest's "Everyone has a Birthday" party to kick off our 125th anniversary year. This multigenerational event will begin at 6:30 pm with a birthday meal. Following the meal, we will play party and table games (bring your favorite board game). The evening will conclude with birthday cake and an introduction to the events planned to celebrate our 125th church anniversary. More details will follow but plan now to attend this celebration!

.....

Deacon's Corner-by Mary Kuryliw

As we begin the New Year, let us remember that God is with us in the past years, the present (2008) and the future. Starting the New Year let us remember and give thanks for the blessings and gifts that God has given us, remembering that all things belong to God. Continue to pray for God's guidance. I came upon the following Christian poem and think it appropriate for beginning the New Year:

A Christian Poem for the New Year
by Mary Fairchild
Instead of making a New Year's resolution
Consider commitment to a biblical solution
Your promises are easily broken
Empty words, though earnestly spoken
But God's Word transforms the soul
By his Holy Spirit making you whole
As you spend time alone with Him
He will change you from within.

Wishing you a God given, prosperous and healthy New Year.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees wish to thank all the members and friends of Hillcrest Covenant for their generous support of our church in 2007. Complete annual financial information for the year will be available at the Annual Meeting on January 27. We urge you to attend.

Construction Update: Winter weather arrived early, and we have not been able to start the replacement of the church siding. Materials have been ordered, and the contractor is ready to commence the project with any break in the weather. We do not plan to complete replacement of the interior ceiling tiles until this exterior work has been completed—more specifically the siding areas on the upper level over the multi-purpose room.

Elevator: We have received questions as to the emergency telephone in our elevator. This phone is automatically connected to a 24 hour

monitoring service which will provide necessary instructions and dispatch appropriate assistance--calling both the local fire department and a church representative. Obviously, it is to be used only in cases of real emergency. We take this opportunity to remind everyone that elevator is to be used by those persons who have difficulty with stairs or who are transporting things between floors. We encourage all others to use the stairs. We also ask adults to talk with any children who appear to be "playing" with the elevator.

Building Security: Turning off lights and locking all doors after events are everyone's responsibility. When trustees are present, we have the primary responsibility to check all doors and lights before leaving, but we are not present at all events. Therefore, we need your help. If you see an unlocked door or a light on in a room where no one

is present, please lock the door or turn off the light. And if you are the last person to leave the church after an event, we would appreciate your taking a quick walk around the facility to make sure all doors are locked and lights turned off.

Potential New Projects: We have received numerous requests to upgrade our bathroom facilities and to make them accessible to individuals with handicaps. We have also been asked to consider replacing the large round tables in the multi-purpose room with smaller round or rectangular tables. If you have input on these matters that you would like the trustees to consider, please email Bruce @: (bruce@dekalbgroup.org) or Larry @: (schultzfest@juno.com)

January Birthdays

David Vollstedt
 Joe Bothe
 Jo Swan
 David Livingston
 Becky Sisler
 Martha Snyder
 Carol Hegberg
 Mary Lou Sander
 (missionary)
 Ian Gaertner
 J. Patrick Kevin
 Jeanne Holly
 David Wessel



Dear Hillcrest Church,
 We would like to thank you for participating in the Thanksgiving basket program. Your food baskets blessed many families. Thank you for your time and generosity. You are making a difference!
 Sincerely in Christ,
 The Salvation Army

Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's Christmas program a memorable event. I thank God for the many talents he has given to so many of our church family members and I thank them for sharing their talents with all of us. Those sharing their talents were Melissa Vines, Nicole, Kayla and Susan Kauffman, Debbie Reingold, Talon Diaz, Emily Egerman, Lizzy Egerman, Will Ferguson, Ryan Schulz, Mary Adams, Brandi Miller, Steve and Rachel Larson, and the Jubilate Bell Choir (Ann Carrel, Susan Kauffman, Beth Ferguson, Wendy Kuryliw, Melissa Vines, and Tracy Egerman, Victoria Young - Director). Special thanks to Ivan Jones for the readings and to Jared Kuryliw and Rob Ferguson (sound), Mark and Dave Wessel (video), Victoria Young (accompanist) and the Christian Education Committee for all their support. At Christmas and always, may your heart rejoice in the gifts of God!

Twelfth Night Party for International Students

A Twelfth Night of Christmas Party will be held for international students and American friends on Sunday, January 6, at 7 p.m. at the Cordes home, 190 Buena Vista Drive. Appetizers and Christmas cookies will be served, carols sung, and perhaps some games played. If you'd like to meet and mingle with some international students, and share some holiday warmth, please come!

Upcoming Events at Covenant Harbor

- **Jan 18 - 20:** Sr. high Deep Freeze
- **Feb 8 - 10:** Jr. high Deep Freeze
- **Feb 22 - 24:** Jr./Sr. high Deep Freeze
- **Mar 30:** Maple Fest
- **May 2 - 4:** Moms & Daughters Retreat

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

Nine to Noon

Help is needed to take down Christmas decorations. From 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5, the Fellowship & Hospitality Committee would appreciate everyone who could stop by during this timeframe to assist in taking down and storing the Christmas decorations. ~Noni Jones

Women's Bible study

Grace's Girlfriends is beginning a new study on a new night. On **Wednesday**, Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m. there will be an introductory gathering of all women desiring to learn more about God's Word. Debbie Reingold has agreed to lead another study in Liz Curtis Higgs' series on the *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Since our 1st book in this series was so interesting, we're planning to explore the stories of those *Really Bad Girls of the Bible*. We'll see what eight shady ladies from Scripture will teach us about avoiding 'badness' in our own personal lives.

Volunteers Needed

Anyone interested in helping with the deserts for the comedy cafe, please contact Becky Sisler at 815- 756-3066. We will be seeking out dessert donations, in addition to hands on help to cut and prep the deserts and in serving during both shows.

Hillcrest Covenant Church Financial Summary



January 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 Women's Bible study@ Panera Bread 6:00am X4J @ HCC 7-9 pm	5 "undecorating" at HCC 9:00 am - 12:00pm
6 Sunday school 9:30am (Membership Class) Choir practice 9:30am Worship 10:45am	7 Christian Education Meeting 6:30 pm	8	9 Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Missions mtg 7:00 pm	10 Deacon's mtg 6:30pm @ the Born's residence	11 Women's Bible study@ Panera Bread 6:00am X4J bowling @ Huskies Den 7 - 9:30 pm	12
13 Sunday school 9:30am (Membership Class) Choir practice 9:30am Worship 10:45am	14 125th Anniversary Committee mtg 6:30pm	15 Trustees mtg 7:00 pm	16 Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm	17 Executive Committee mtg 7:00 pm	18 Women's Bible study@ Panera Bread 6:00am Sr. High <i>Deep Freeze</i> (thru Sunday) →	19
20 Sunday school 9:30am (Membership Class) Choir practice 9:30am Worship 10:45am Comedy Café 3:00pm-dessert show 6:00pm-dinner show	21	22	23 Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm	24	25 Women's Bible study@ Panera Bread 6:00am	26
27 Sunday school 9:30am Choir practice 9:30am Worship 10:45am Annual Meeting	28	29	30 Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm	31		

Missionaries We at Hillcrest Covenant Church Help Support

Gary & Mary Lou Sander
Apartado Aereo 55276
Medillin, Colombia
www.pactocol.org
pactosand@yahoo.com

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

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

Lisandro & Patricia Restrepo

Eric & Kristi Peterson



The Peterson Post

Dear Ministry Team,

The season is changing as leaves fall and the weather grows colder. Let me update you on changes here in Kentucky for InterVarsity.

120 International Students Hear Christ's call to "Come"

Students from dozens of countries attended our Fall conference for International students and scholars. I was encouraged by the work of the KY ISM staff team (5 of the 11 staff that I supervise) as they led their students to consider seriously Jesus invitation to come. Perhaps 60% of the students were not yet Christ followers. A Chinese PhD student from the University of Kentucky shared that his attendance of the 2006 conference changed the course of this life. He began to ask a critical question about the love and community he experienced, "Why?". Why have the Christians I met help me so much? Why do they raise \$5000 for students to have a lower cost to attend the conference? Why do InterVarsity Staff give their lives to love students like me? These "why's" soon became a pursuit of Jesus through Bible study. He was baptized in August and began his Christian walk. His testimony begged the same "Why?" question for the students who listened. Please pray that many of the Internationals would begin to ask "Why?" and seek Jesus for answers in the Bible. This semester 5 Chinese students, a Muslim student, a Hindu student and a Japanese student have come

to faith in Jesus in KY. Another Muslim student who attended the conference said "I know there can only be one truth: the Bible or the Koran. If you can show me that the Bible is true, I will believe it." A student from Kazakhstan said that she heard God's call to go back to her country as a missionary. Our ministry to International Students is bearing much fruit, please pray for us!

New Staff hit the Campus with Zeal- new students follow

- After a year with InterVarsity, staff member Anthony Humphress ministry among Greek Students at the University of Kentucky is blossoming. Student leaders are now leading Bible studies in 15+ fraternities and sororities at UK. Join me in prayer that 100 students from UK would attend the Greek IV conference in February (40 have already committed to going!).
- New staff Greg Wilburn and Chelsea Yu partner together to serve students at the University of Louisville. A strong group of student leaders, mainly sophomores are gaining vision for prayer, ministry and evangelism on campus. Pray for the work to flourish in God's Blessing.
- New staff Bonnie LeCompte serves International Students at U of L. Pray for her as she flew

to Prague, Czech Republic to disciple a recent Muslim convert, an alumnus of our ministry. She is in Prague through the end of November. Bonnie will continue to help "Rose" to learn about the way of Jesus. Please pray!

Financial Update

We are tremendously grateful for donors who partner with our ministry that have enabled much significant and eternal transformation to occur. With Kristi no longer working outside our home, our budget need has increased dramatically. Health insurance from InterVarsity costs \$12,000 for our family. We are currently in need of \$1500 per month in new ongoing support. Please pray that God would provide for our needs. Would you consider joining our support team? Also please consider a year -end special gift to support our ministry in Kentucky. I'd love to talk with you about it by phone to thoroughly update you, please feel free to contact me! To give online: www.intervarsity.org/donate/to/Eric_Peterson
In Him,
Eric, Kristi, Caleb, Daniel and Rachel Peterson

Veteran Chaplain Helps Other Nations Develop Programs

CHICAGO, IL (December 10, 2007) - In January, at the suggestion of a friend, Bernie Windmiller walked into his first meeting of the International Association of Evangelical Chaplains (IAEC). He left as the organization's executive director. "I had never even heard of them!" he says.

Still, Windmiller, who is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church, was impressed enough with their work that he accepted the position. He told the leadership they would have to wait six months, however, until he finished his interim pastorate at Hillcrest Covenant Church in DeKalb, Illinois. So they waited.

Since his service ended at Hillcrest in June, the 75-year-old Windmiller has traveled to Chile and Peru to train those nations' first evangelical military chaplains.

Since its inception in 1988, the IAEC has grown to include members in 58 countries on five continents. They have completed training in a number of countries, including places like the Philippines, Singapore, Guatemala, and Trinidad.

Windmiller says the organization has three primary objectives: encourage current and prospective chaplains, train current and prospective chaplains, and help other nations start military chaplain programs as long as the governments allow evangelicals to participate.

Windmiller is well suited to lead the organization, having served 28 years as a U.S. Army chaplain, including duty tours in Vietnam and as commandant of the U.S. Army Chaplain School. Since leaving the military, he has served as interim pastor at six Covenant churches in Illinois. He also has served as chair of the Princeton Children's Home board.

The training he gave this summer was groundbreaking. Legislation that is expected to receive final approval in Peru and Chile will allow evangelicals to participate as

military chaplains for the first time, Windmiller says. Previously only Catholic priests were allowed.

Windmiller says he isn't sure why there is sudden openness to evangelical chaplains, but suggests it may be because so many members of the military are evangelicals. He has heard estimates that 25 percent of the Argentinean Air Force is of an evangelical religious persuasion. "These young men and women have spiritual needs," he notes.

In Peru, Windmiller trained 26 men and one woman, all of whom currently serve or are retired from the National Police. They will begin to serve as chaplains in about six months. The 34 men and one woman he trained in Chile currently serve or are retired from the Chilean Army or National Police.

Windmiller is using material from the U.S. military's chaplaincy training program to educate the new students in the two-week program. Topics include the proper relationship between commander and chaplain, how soldiers can serve as Christians, ethical decision-making, suicide prevention and pastoral counseling.

The IAEC is invited to train chaplains through the Association of Military Christian Fellowship (AMCF), which exists to support active and retired lay members of the military. "Almost every country in the world has Christians who are in the military," Windmiller says.

Phase two of the chaplain training program includes self-directed reading and working for a brief period under the supervision of the AMCF in a church, Windmiller says.

Windmiller is not done traveling. He goes to Zambia in April, where he will train chaplains from eight African countries including Congo, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. He anticipates that roughly 60 people will participate. He also hopes to travel to Brazil, where he will conduct classes for seminary students interested in becoming military chaplains.

Missions/Stewardship

Sharing Christ in Word and Deed

An unintended pregnancy 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. Our mission is to empower women to make life-affirming choices.

At We Care, we believe that each woman deserves the best care, information, and support available in order to make well informed decisions. Client Advocates and Nurses are here to provide that support and information as

we 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 our website www.WeCarePregnancyCenter.org or feel free to call to arrange a tour of our newly remodeled clinic. 815-748-4242.

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