



Hillcrest Covenant Church

Covenant Life Link

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Inside this issue:

<i>Message from Pastor Steve</i>	1
<i>Message from Church Chair</i>	2
<i>Care Giver Training</i>	2
<i>Worship @ Covenant Harbor</i>	3
<i>Trustee Report</i>	3
<i>Concert in the Park</i>	3
<i>All Church Book Study</i>	4
<i>Haiti Mission Report</i>	4
<i>July/August Birthdays & Anniversaries</i>	5
<i>July Calendar</i>	6
<i>August Calendar</i>	7
<i>July August Sermon Series</i>	8

Message from Pastor Steve

Everything I know about evangelism I learned from a fish.



Last week on our vacation, I taught our kids how to fish. We have a... a what? small lake? large pond? ... in our subdivision filled with bluegill, small bass, panfish, one 7" goldfish/koi, the usual "fun fish". With our little poles and some Wal-Mart worms we caught 9 fish the first time out. I say "we" but really it was the kids; I was too busy baiting hooks, unsnagging lines and releasing caught fish. So while I was rebaiting a hook for the umpteenth time, I got to thinking about Jesus' call in Matthew 4 to be "fishers of people". And I realized that God was teaching me about evangelism.

What did I learn about evangelism from a fish?

#1: You don't catch a fish every time you cast. In fact, you're lucky to catch one for every 10 or 15 casts.

#2: Fish come in all sizes and types. We'd all love to catch "the big one," but what we catch is really

up to God.

#3: My kids caught fish: I didn't. Why? Because I never got a chance to cast, or even bait my hook. I was too busy.

#4: Fishing is so much easier in the right place and the right time. You just gotta be ready when the fish are biting.

#5: You don't have to be an expert fisherman, or even know much about fishing, to catch fish. You just have to be willing to get dirty and a little bit smelly.

This year at HCC God wants to take us fishing. We've learned all we need to, though none of us are experts. We've got what we need, so now we just have to go where the fish are. Are you coming?





I truly feel we now have a road map that we as a congregation can use to move into the future and explore what God has in store for us.

Message From the Church Chair

Last month at our annual meeting the congregation approved the Long Range Plan for Hillcrest Covenant Church. With this approval each of our boards now have multiple objectives to work on to prepare our church for the future. I would like to thank the Long Range Planning Committee for all their hard work over the last two years. Please take the time to thank each member for their work on this committee when you see them in church; Mark Cordes, Dan Ihm, Lucile Reynen, Diane Kevin, Lois Miller, Don Potts, Paul Vander-Wiede, Pastor Steve Larson. I truly feel we now have a road map that we as a congregation can use to move into the future and explore what God has in store for us. We will be

hearing more from each of the different boards as they begin to evaluate and prioritize the many objectives set forth in the Long Range Plan.

As I begin my duties as Chair, I am reminded of all the great things that are going on here at Hillcrest Covenant Church, and how many people are involved in taking care of these events and our congregation. We have many moving parts and I am so appreciative of how the staff works together, and how our past chair Joe Bothe communicated all of this over the last three years.

I know Joe will take some time off this next year to re-charge, but I also know that Joe will still be very involved in many different ways during these next years.

Joe, thank you for three

years of leadership at Hillcrest, and for your example to me and future leaders of Hillcrest with your communication, organization, forward thinking and your love for the Lord.

THANK YOU BROTHER FOR YOUR GREAT SERVICE!

Robert Ferguson



Caregiver Training

The Deacon Board will hold a training session led by Cheri Auman on July 21st from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Auman's.

The deacon's will attend, but the training is open to anyone in the congregation interested in care giving. The focus is on how to listen and com-

municate your faith in a care giving setting. If you have questions please talk to Cheri Auman, Sherri Howells or Chris Shaff.

2011 Worship & Lunch at the Lake

Join us for our annual Lunch at the Lake on August 7th at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp in Lake Geneva, WI. We will not be having worship at Hillcrest that morning, but encourage everyone to head up to the beautiful grounds of Harbor for worship in the Jackson Family Activity Center at

10:30am. Rev. Melissa Wall, pastor at Deer Grove Covenant Church, will be preaching. Worship will be led by Mark and Terri Reed from Rockford IL. Following the service we will eat a 'picnic style' lunch this year, which means bring your own lunch. We will have pic-

nic tables and blankets set up on the front lawn for you to enjoy lunch in the shade! Swimming will open shortly after the service until 4:30pm. Please leave your pets at home, but bring your friends!



“Rev. Melissa Wall, pastor at Deer Grove Covenant Church, will be preaching. Worship will be led by Mark and Terry Reed from Rockford.”

Trustees Report

FINANCIALS: Through May 31, 2011 the church has experienced a \$3,000 negative cash flow. Donations have been \$16,000 below budget and expenditures have been \$13,000 below budget. June donations have also been below budget, with a six month cumulative estimated donation deficit in excess of \$20,000. Earlier this spring we liquidated one of the general fund certificates of deposit to provide additional cash flow. We have additional general fund certificates totaling approximately \$20,000.

INTERIOR STAINING: In June, interior staining of woodwork and repainting of the multi-purpose room were accomplished.

DRESSER ROAD TURN LANE: The city has completed construction of the Dresser Road right turn lane, but we are awaiting remedial landscaping.

UPCOMING PROJECTS: Over the course of the summer, the trustees will be stripping and resealing the multi-purpose room floor, doing some tree trimming and painting a couple of the Christian Formation rooms.

The Trustee Board



Dessert and Concert in the Park

Come and enjoy the Concert in the Park on Tuesday, August 23rd at 7:15 p.m. Meet at the Pavilion at Hopkins Park. The Deacon's will provide dessert. Please bring your own lawn chairs and drinks. This is a great opportunity to fellowship and enjoy the last few days of summer together! The concert begins at 8:00 p.m.





"We have had an overwhelming response to the summer book study that our 18-25 group is doing—and not just from 18-25 year-olds."

All-Church Book Study

(Actual conversation. Names and ages have been changed to protect the innocent)

Not-quite-so-young-reader: When you say 18-25 'ish' for the summer book study, how flexible is the 'ish'?

Pastor Jen: No younger than 18, but we'll go a little older than 25.

Not-quite-so-young-reader: How much older?

Pastor Jen: What did you have in mind?

Not-quite-so-young-

reader: 53?

Pastor Jen: Umm...if the 'ish' was flexible enough to do a backbend, it still wouldn't stretch to 53.

We have had an overwhelming response to the summer book study that our 18-25 group is doing—and not just from 18-25 year-olds. With so many people in our congregation expressing an interest in reading Rob Bell's book *Love Wins*, we thought it would be good to give everyone a chance to read the book and have some conversation about it. If you are

interested in joining the discussion, all you have to do is have the book read by July 10th! On July 10th anyone who has read the book and/or is interested in chatting about it, will gather for some good food and good conversation. This is open to absolutely everyone and anyone, so if you've got neighbors or friends that might be interested, feel free to invite them to pick up a copy of the book as well! Questions? See Pastor Jen. (*please note that the book is exceedingly cheaper online than in most book stores!)



Haiti Mission Trip Report from Eric Peterson

My Haiti trip was an eye-opening, unexpected and cutting-edge community development experience for our team of InterVarsity staff and students. Through the sharing of our power through money and our team's presence in the village, we empowered Haitian leaders who networked together several organizations to bring a drilling company to Ca-Ira, Haiti and arrange for PVC pipe to be laid from the well to the village by another organization. The drilling commenced the day our team left Haiti, they hit water at 140 feet, and the entire assembled village cheered the success!

What was unexpected, was our team's role in the well project--we did not do the work of digging and laying pipe; we expected to work and sweat and get a job done. As American Activists we learned that our trip was for true community development which empowered Haitian leaders to work for lasting change, not for our team to accomplish a task to help us feel better.

We waited, we prayed, we ate Haitian food, dodged Haitian mosquitos, played with Haitian orphans, and had a ministry of presence, of being rather than doing. This mission experience equipped and created Haitian leaders, and taught privileged Americans effective community development with ongoing impact in Haiti, a country whose poverty and need is intense.

Eighteen months post-earthquake thousands are living in tents, rubble is slow to be cleared, and garbage is piling up. The fortunate are living in plywood buildings the size of garden sheds. Pray for Haiti!

In Jesus Our Savior,

Eric, Kristi, Caleb, Daniel and Rachel Peterson

July Birthdays

- 1 - Rachel Larson
- 1 - Ruth Ann Livingston
- 2 - Greg Friedlund
- 3 - Jacob Martin
- 5 - Susan Wood
- 4- Brianna Lindhart
- 10 - Emily Egerman
- 10 - Christin Bothe
- 12 - Elliott Ihm
- 16 - Paige Martin
- 19 - Richard Born
- 19 - Kate Bothe
- 20 - Patty Ihm
- 20 - Heather Potts
- 21 - Cara Sisler
- 25 - Kathy Aichele
- 26 - Ronald Grimm
- 26 - Scott Sisler
- 28 - Cormick Anderson
- 28 - Kaitlin Cordes
- 28 - Ingrid Friedlund
- 28 - Mike Pianovski
- 29 - Glenn VanderWeide
- 30 - Steve Adams
- 30 - Connie Peterson



August Birthdays

- 5 - Gary Sander (missionary)
- 5 - Katie Woolsey
- 7 - Eric Wessel
- 7 - Dana Boehm
- 7 - Brianna Hook
- 10 - Brian Sisler
- 14 - Jason Boehm
- 15 - Don Potts
- 17 - Velma Davis
- 19 - Shannon Holly
- 20 - Sam Ihm
- 20 - Jeff Smith
- 21 - Colton Diaz
- 21 - Sherri Howells
- 21 - Al Burgin
- 22 - William Minor
- 23 - Greg Born
- 25 - John Guio
- 26 - Sarah Friedlund
- 28 - Lois Miller
- 30 - Beth Vanko
- 31 - Danielle Schultz



July Anniversaries

- 11, 1987 - Manny & Lindie Diaz
- 17, 2009 - Taz & Sherri Cantrell
- 19, 1986 - Steve & Terrie Adams
- 26, 1986 - Jerry & Becky Metcalf
- 29, 1967 - Bruce & Joan Bickner
- 30, 1994 - Mike & Jennie Pianovski



August Anniversaries

- 8, 1970 - David & Carol Hegberg
- 10, 1980 - Jay & Dorothy Elliott
- 12, 1972 - Ed & Connie Peterson
- 13, 1994 - Tom & Lynnae Ihm
- 13, 1976 - Ron & Carol Naylor
- 17, 1996 - Steve & Heather Larson
- 18, 1979 - Gary & Mary Lou Sander (missionaries)
- 19, 2006 - Matt & Jessica Anderson
- 21, 1982 - Paul & Carol VanderWeide
- 24, 1979 - Ron & Lynn Rosema
- 29, 2009 - Al & Ximena Burgin



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Communion Sunday Worship 9:30 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am	4 Fourth of July Office Closed	5	6	7 Missions Mtg 7 pm Vitality Team Mtg 7 pm	8	9
10 Worship 9:30 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am All Church Book Study & Potluck Supper 3 pm	11 Music & Worship Mtg 7 pm Stewardship Mtg 7 pm	12 18-25 Group 7 pm	13	14 Outreach Mtg 7 pm	15	16
17 Worship 9:30 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am	18	19 18-25 Group 7 pm Trustees Mtg 7 pm	20 X4J Survivor	21 X4J Survivor Care Giver Training Session 6:30 pm Executive Committee Mtg 7 pm	22 X4J Survivor	23
24 Worship 9:30 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am 31 Worship 9:30 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am	25	26 18-25 Group 7 pm	27	28 Christian Formation Mtg 6:30 pm	29	30



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 18-25 Group 7 pm	3	4 Christian Formation Mtg 6:30 pm Missions Mtg 7 pm Vitality Team 7 pm	5	6
7 Worship & Lunch @ Covenant Harbor 10:30 am	8 Music & Worship Mtg 7 pm Stewardship Mtg 7 pm	9 Deacons Mtg 6:30 pm 18-25 Group 7 pm	10	11 Outreach Mtg 7 pm	12	13
14 Worship 9:30 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am	15	16 18-25 Group 7 pm	17	18 Executive Committee Mtg 7 pm	19	20
21 Worship 9:30 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am Newsletter Finish Line	22	23 Christian Formation Mtg 6:30 pm Concert in the Park 7:15 pm	24	25	26	27
28 Worship 9:30 am Coffee Hour 10:45 am	29	30	31			

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

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We're on the Web!

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Praise

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Grow



July/August Sermon Series

<i>July 3</i>	<i>Ananias & Sapphira</i>	<i>Acts 5:1-11</i>
<i>July 10</i>	<i>The First Deacons</i>	<i>Acts 6:1-7</i>
<i>July 17</i>	<i>Persecution: Stephen</i>	<i>Acts 7:54-8:3</i>
<i>July 24</i>	<i>Philip & the Ethiopian</i>	<i>Acts 8:26-40</i>
<i>July 31</i>	<i>Saul's Conversion</i>	<i>Acts 9:1-19a</i>
<i>August 7</i>	<i>Worship Service & Lunch @ Covenant Harbor</i>	
<i>August 14</i>	<i>Peter & Cornelius</i>	<i>Acts 10:1-23a</i>
<i>August 21</i>	<i>The Jerusalem Council</i>	<i>Acts 15:1-5, 12-21</i>
<i>August 28</i>	<i>Paul in Athens</i>	<i>Acts 17:16-34</i>