



Covenant Life Link

March 2011

Volume 12, Issue 3

Hillcrest Covenant Church



Message from Pastor Jen

“Prayer can do anything that God can do.” --

R.A. Torrey

Have you ever wished that there was a space in your house that you could reserve just for your own quiet time? An entire room dedicated to allowing you all the time and space that you could ever want to get away from the rest of life and just be with God? Since most of us have crammed every last room and every last closet with stuff that we'll probably never use, we thought it would be good to create the kind of a space we've always wanted, here at the church. This would be more than our big, open sanctuary—it would be your own prayer room—private for the entire time you're in there. It would be a space where you could sit and read or write...stand or kneel...listen to music or allow the quiet to wash over you. There will be space for creating prayers through art or journaling. There will be a place to offer prayers of petition, prayers of thanksgiving, and prayers of confession, of grief and of celebration. There will be a space dedicated to allowing kids to encounter God in a way that is meaningful for them. Whether you're artistic or not, needing space to be quiet, or space to sing aloud, the prayer room will be yours to do with what you want and need to do. We will allow the

room to fill with prayers—spoken, written, sung, and created. If you're angry with God, come. If you're pleading with God, come. If you're worshipping God, come. If you're celebrating good news, come. If you're not sure who God is, come. If you need a quiet place to meet with God, come. There are no rules here; just freedom to meet with God in whatever ways you are feeling led.

As we get the prayer room up and running, we are looking for a few people who would be interested in the creation process. If you're artistic, creative, love to decorate or just interested in being a part of this experience, we invite you to be a part of making this room a reality for us. E-mail Pastor Jen at

pastor.jen@comcast.net if you are interested in helping to create our new prayer room.

There are also a number of things that we will need in order to get our prayer room started. In addition to praying over the process of creating this space, we are going to need both funding as well as some material items. We are looking for:

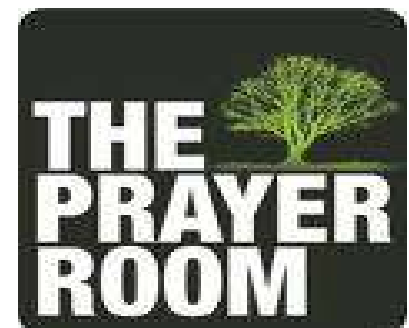
- A free standing cross (are there any woodworkers amongst us who have a vision for this?!)
 - Bricks (they can be old and used and we're looking for roughly 30 bricks)
 - A very small writing desk/table

A few stools (that could be used either to sit on or as a table)

Battery-operated candles

If you don't have any of these items, but would like to contribute, we will be looking for financial donations as well. We are estimating that it will cost us roughly \$500 to get started. The only items that will need to be replenished throughout the year are some of our art supplies, so we anticipate this being an incredibly inexpensive ministry to maintain once it's up and running. If you can help with any of the items listed above, and/or if you're interesting in donating financially, please contact Pastor Jen.

We are so very excited to create this space and look forward to all that God might do in and through our dedication to prayer!



Cover Story: Message
from Pastor Jen

Message from Church
Chair 2

Stewardship 3

Trustees Report 3

Love & Respect Semi- 3

Christ in the Passover 4

Movie Night 4

Camp Registration 5

Inside this issue:

Movie Suggestion 5

Book Suggestion 5

Fellowship & Hospital-
ity 6

Service Opportunity 6

Meet & Eat 6

Missionary Report from
the Sanders 7

March Birthdays 8

March Anniversaries 8

North Park
University Choir 8

March Calendar 9

March Sermon Series 10



Message from the Church Chair

Time marches on. Ash Wednesday is in a couple weeks. I hope and pray that you and your family have a wonderful Lent and Easter celebration this year. Please take advantage of the many worship opportunities that we have during this time to prepare for and celebrate Easter.

Highlights of last week's Executive Committee were:

Nominating Committee: The Nominating committee this year will consist of Cheri Auman, Shawna Bennett, Manny Diaz, Rob Ferguson, Pastor Steve, Ed Peterson, Kim Rasmussen, Danielle Schultz, Amy Wessel, and Larry Wood. I will be calling the first meeting of this group in early March. Please pray for this group as they make important decisions and recommendations for the May Congregational Meeting.

Long-range Plan: We continue to receive good feedback from the meetings after church each Sunday. Feedback from these dis-

cussions will be used by the Long-range Planning Committee to develop a revised draft of the plan that will be distributed to the congregation prior to the May meeting.

Town Hall Meetings: Sign-up and attendance so far has been good. The long-range plan overall and three specific objectives of the plan are being discussed at these meetings. If you have not already done so please plan to attend one of these meetings.

Executive Committee Retreat: This meeting will be held Saturday, March 12th from 10:00 – 4:00 at the Ellwood House in DeKalb. Each Board will review accomplishments for the past year and goals for the upcoming year. In addition we will be discussing a number of other topics including next year's theme (Evangelism), program evaluations, and the Long-range Plan implementation.

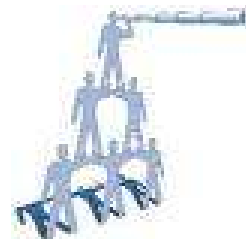
Program Evaluations: As we look to add more programs and change others it becomes vital

that we evaluate all key programs and events. To help with this, all Boards will be asked to complete and present to the Executive Committee an evaluation of these programs and events. A standard evaluation form has been developed to aid in this process.

We have a lot going on in the next few months. It is exciting to be part of a faith community that is committed to long-range growth plans. Please continue to pray for our church community as we go through this process, pray that we continue to keep the focus on glorifying and praising God and please participate as you are able.

To God be the Glory,

Joe Bothe
Church Chair



Stewardship

For Christians, the principle of how we think about money should remain the same no matter how wealthy we are. Whether we are struggling to pay our bills or deciding on where to invest in our retirement accounts, God's words should determine our decisions and attitudes regarding finances. If we set our hearts and minds on God, we will simplify our lifestyles and give back to Him with a joyful heart. Our hearts change through the work of the Holy Spirit. I read

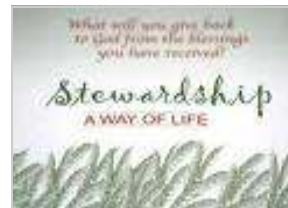
that the difference between generosity and charity is that charity starts with the checkbook, generosity starts with the heart. Let's pray that we can learn to become generous givers, not charitable ones.

The Stewardship Committee is working on utilizing the talents at Hillcrest to His glory and praying that the members give with cheerful hearts to see the advancement

of His kingdom.

In Him,

Scott Sisler
Stewardship Chair



Trustees' Report

Thanks to Brian Eggerman and Ron Grimm for the work they have done this winter installing new ceiling lighting in both the Anderson Room and the kitchen. You have set an excellent example of sharing your God-given talents with the congregation.

Donations through mid-February were about \$6,000 below budget. This shortage, together with the occurrence of several quarterly payments in January, caused the Trustees to redeem one of the general fund certificates of deposit (approximately \$10,000) to cover current cash flow needs. We remain financially sound, but we must remember that our financial disbursements occur every week, so regular giving to the general fund is encouraged.

The Trustees are working with the Hospitality committee to procure new tables for the Multipurpose Room. They will be much lighter and, in some cases, smaller to facilitate better conversation. We are also purchasing rolling storage racks to make the set-up and take-down of tables easier and to lengthen the life of the tables.



Dr. Emerson Eggerich's LOVE & RESPECT at Hillcrest Covenant Church

Learn how to resolve conflict and motivate each other by meeting each other's needs.

This conference is for the married, divorced, separated, dating and single!

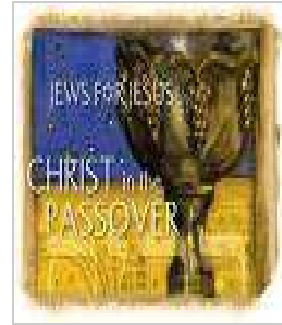
This is a FREE video conference which will be meeting Monday nights from 6:30-8:30pm at the church. Dates: March 7, 14, 28 and April 4, 11

***More information is available on the church website www.hillcovch.org.**



Christ in the Passover

Jesus' Last Supper was actually a Jewish Passover. Lyn Rosen Bond of Jews for Jesus will re-create the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus' death and resurrection in a presentation called "Christ in the Passover" during the 10:45 A.M. worship service on March 27th.



Rosen Bond will set a table with items traditionally used at the Passover meal and detail their spiritual significance. She will also explain the connection between the events of the first Passover in Egypt and the redemption that Jesus accomplished, as well as the deep bond between the ancient Passover feast and the Christian Communion celebration today.

Jews for Jesus has presented "Christ in the Passover" at more than 38,000 churches. It has been enthusiastically received by Christians who appreciate learning more about the Jewish backgrounds of their faith. Moishe Rosen, who founded Jews for Jesus in 1973, has also co-written the book, "Christ in the Passover," with his wife, Ceil. This seminal work includes a look at Passover in ancient times and how it is practiced today. It will be available after the presentation. Also available will be a DVD of the "Christ in the Passover" presentation with David Brickner, the executive director of Jews for Jesus, officiating.

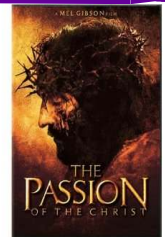
Brickner, a fifth-generation Jewish believer in Jesus, succeeded Rosen as Executive Director in 1996. Brickner has kept Jews for Jesus on the cutting edge as the ministry has expanded and established branches in eleven countries, including the United States, Brazil, Israel, Russia, France and South Africa. "We exist to make the Messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue to our Jewish people worldwide," Brickner said. "There are still a few that haven't heard of us."



Rosen Bond will be happy to answer questions after the presentation.

Movie Night

The Deacon's would like to invite you to movie night at HCC on Sunday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m. We will be watching The Passion of the Christ. During the upcoming Lenten season we hope this is a time to fellowship together and focus on Christ. Drinks and popcorn will be served (not recommended for children).



Summer Camp 2011 Registration



Don't forget to register for summer 2011 at Harbor & Point! All the information you need is in your camp packet you received at church. If you have not received your camp packet yet, please let me know and I will get it to you! Let me know if you have any questions about the registration process. We are excited for another great summer at Harbor & Point!

Shawna Bennett, HCC Camp Booster



Suggested Movie: The Stoning of Soraya M., 2009

Director: Cyrus Nowrasteh

Screenplay writers: Betsy Giffen
Nowrasteh and Cyrus Nowrasteh

Book author: Freidoune Sahebjam

Publisher: Arcade, 160 pages, 1995

As you see above, the movie was filmed almost 15 years after the book was published. The international community is more aware of the inhumane treatment of women and children in the Middle East.

I chose to see the film. When I read in the Bible of Stephen's stoning, I had the image of Stephen, standing or sitting, with men (only) closely surrounding him. My mind never went beyond, seeing the result of the stoning.

The film tells a story *and* includes the process of stoning, the white circle drawn on the ground, who throws the first rock, etc., showing the end result, which to me was akin to seeing Jesus at his death. I will always re-

member the startling bright red against the beige-white rocks around the lump of the stoned victim. No longer in my mind does Stephen remain in his street clothes. I recall the red lump among the sharp-edged, pale rocks.



Book Suggestion: ISSA: The Greatest Story Never Told

Author: Lois Drake

Publisher: Summit University
Press, 2009

Pages: 229

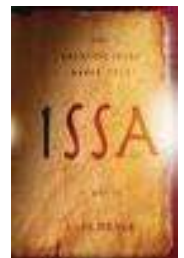
This is another novel written about Jesus' lost years, his youth, and one beautifully written. The book itself is beautifully designed and includes a map of the Kushan Empire. Because of

Drake's own travels and her talented writing, she shows the reader areas of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India people never associate with our Lord Jesus.

Drake had read Elizabeth Clare Prophet's book, *The Lost Years of Jesus*, and became intrigued by the possible intersection of Jesus' travels in India and the mysterious Kushan race.

I have found these novels of Jesus' lost years inspiring and insightful. Though a few cling only to the old writings, these latest ones add to our knowledge of the possibilities of Jesus' life.

Carol Hegberg



Fellowship and Hospitality Committee

The ladies said to the trustees “Let there be light in the kitchen” and there was light. And it was good! But the ladies saw that the dirt and grime was not good so they cleaned the kitchen and separated the church dishes from the congregational pot luck dishes. And the ladies said, “Let the dishes that belong to the congregation be gathered in one place and let their owners appear.” And it was so. The ladies called the gathered dishes “claimed” and the dishes left on the table “garage sale items”. And it was good. Then the ladies said, “Let the refrigerator produce labeled items according to their owner and let the unlabeled items of various kinds be available for all.” And it was so. And then the ladies rested.

Paraphrase:

- 1 Thank you trustees and especially Brian Egerman for the new lighting in the kitchen. It is “bright”tastic!
- 2 Check the table in the Anderson Room for unclaimed pot luck dishes or they will be given away or sold at the garage sale.
- 3 To be safe, label any food you put in the frig. Unlabeled food may end up being tossed or consumed by others.



Keeping your kitchen clean and orderly,
The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee

Service Opportunity

Jan McConeghy, a friend of several of us here at HCC, passed away recently. One of the many volunteer things she did was to sew simple but attractive bags for women patients at the Cancer Center to use for books, papers, etc.

If you are interested in knowing more about blessing people in this way, please talk to Becky Sisler or Jo Swan (Glenaswan99@hotmail.com.).



Meet & Eat Dates Set!

Meet & Eat is an opportunity for anyone and everyone to fellowship and share a meal with friends and family from HCC. Two dates are scheduled each month and are listed on the calendar and in the bulletin. Come when you can, even if you decide at the last minute that you want to come, no sign up is necessary.

Mark your calendar for Meet & Eat dates in March; Monday, March 14th at Portillo's at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 27th at Flappy's Pancake House at approximately 12:15 (right after church).

We hope to see you there!



Missionaries Supported by Hillcrest Covenant Church

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

Eric & Kristi Peterson
(InterVarsity Christian Fellowship)
1048 Reasor Ave.
Louisville, KY 40217
ivcfky@gmail.com

Missionary Report From the Sanders

Dear Friends,

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. Praise God for the 18 member Men's Ministry work/mission/outreach team from First Covenant of Sacramento who ministered and worked on construction projects in four different Covenant Churches in San Carlos and La Ye, Cordoba. They were also able to see hundreds of people to help them with dental and eyesight needs. God did a lot through this team in eight days.
2. Praise for new Short Term missionary, Holly Meyer, who arrived and is now getting settled with the Colombian family that she will be living with. Pray for her as she gets acquainted with the children's ministries where she will be working and ministering.
3. Praise God that Sam and Kassie Posladek, Covenant Short Term missionaries for Colombia, received their visas and are now getting ready to arrive this month. Pray for them as they need to find renters for their home and as they make all the necessary arrangements to begin their ministry in Colombia.
4. Praise God for the blessed time had by all at the Colombia Covenant all-country Pastoral Couple Retreat, January 22-24. Everyone was blessed by the good fellowship in Jesus that was expressed in various ways for these few days.

Love, The Sander Family

Don't forget to check out our website regularly, there are new blogs, news, and photos, www.pactocol.org



March Birthdays

1 - Sean Holly
1 - Taz Cantrell
2 - Mort Carrel
3 - Abby Severson
5 - Neil VanderWeide
5 - Pat Vollstedt
6 - Steve Larson
6 - Ashley Novak
6 - Jen Zerby
7 - Kristi Peterson
(Missionary)
8 - Greg Howells
8 - Jessica Anderson
9 - Ryan Schultz
9 - Carly Bothe
10 - Gabriella Bothe



11 - Nikki Smith
12 - Heather Larson
13 - John Minor
14 - Jerry Metcalf
16 - Eric Peterson
(Missionary)
16 - Tucker Code
16 - Mike Wales
23 - Samuel Restrepo
(Missionary son)
24 - Kim Rasmussen
25 - Paesyn VanderWeide
26 - Keith Reborn
27 - Ed Collings
28 - Dale McBride



March Anniversaries

19, 1977 - Rick & Christine Shaff
20, 2010 - Nikki & Eric Gunderson
21, 2009 - Jason & Dana Boehm

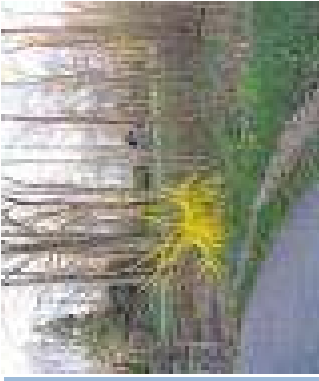


North Park University Gospel Choir Concert

The NPU Gospel Choir is having an on-campus concert on Saturday, April 9th, at 7:30pm. Every semester, this highly-anticipated concert from the 175+ member choir is a time of worship that welcomes students, faculty, family, and friends from all around the North Park and wider Covenant Church community.

Ticket prices are \$8 general admission, \$5 seniors, free for all students with ID. Tickets can be picked up and paid for the night of the concert. Doors open at 6:30pm. This event always sells out quickly, so to reserve tickets, contact Stefanie Wessel at steffi28@gmail.com soon!





March



OSun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Town Hall Mtg 6:30pm	2 AWANA X4J 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 p,m	3 Fellowship & Hospitality Mtg 6:30 pm Jubilate Bells 7:00 pm	4 X4J M/Mentor Mtg @ HCC	5 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am Men's Moving Ministry 9 am ?WHY Mtg 6:00 pm
6 Communion Sunday Choir Practice 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am 18-25 Group-Bowl for Kid's Sake 1:30pm	7 Love & Respect Seminar 6:30pm Missions Mtg 7:00pm	8 Deacon Mtg 6:30 pm	9 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm	10 Midweek Bible Study 2:00 pm Jubilate Bells 7:00 pm Outreach Mtg 7:00 pm	11	12 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am Executive Committee Retreat 9:00 am
13 Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Practice 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Children's Church Mission's Fair Passion Movie & Light Supper 6:30 pm	14 Meet & Eat 6:00 pm Love & Respect Seminar 6:30 pm Music & Worship Mtg 7:00 pm	15 Trustees Mtg 7:00 pm	16 AWANA X4J 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 p,m	17 Jubilate Bells 6:00 pm Executive Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	18 X4J Bowling 6:30pm	19 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am
20 Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Practice 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Newsletter Finish Line	21	22 Christian Formation Mtg 6:30 pm	23 AWANA 6:30 pm X4J 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 p,m	24 Midweek Bible Study 2:00 pm Jubilate Bells 7:00 pm	25	26 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am
27 Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Practice 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am with Jews for Jesus (Christ in the Passover) Children's Church Meet & Eat 12:30 pm 18-25 Group 7:00 pm	28 Love & Respect Seminar 6:30pm	29	30 AWANA 6:30 pm X4J 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 p,m	31 Jubilate Bells 7:00 pm		

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
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E-mail: hillcrestcov@comcast.net
Website: www.hillcovch.org

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DeKalb, IL 60115

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

March Sermon Series

<i>March 6</i>	<i>Deliver us From Evil</i>
<i>March 13</i>	<i>When God Is Silent</i>
<i>March 20</i>	<i>"The First Word Spoken From the Cross: Forgive"</i>
<i>March 27</i>	<i>Christ in the Passover (Jews for Jesus)</i>



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CHURCH

Praise

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