

Covenant Life Link

NOVEMBER 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Thanksgiving Message from Pastor Steve

I've always found it fitting that we get to celebrate Thanksgiving in the church immediately before Advent. I believe that there is no way more fitting than to enter the Christmas season with praise and thanksgiving. In our world of busy schedules and holiday traditions, it is very easy to blow through Advent and Christmas without taking the time to stop and give thanks for the amazing gift of Immanuel, God with us.

Throughout the bible we see people who have walked with God sharing their thanksgiving with others. Psalm 103 has been one of my favorite Psalms for that very reason. If you take a moment and read through it, you can see David telling the world all the great things God has done for him. I was told by one of my seminary professors that in that culture, one of the most profound ways to thank someone was to share with a third person what that person had done for you *in their presence*. How good does it feel to hear someone telling someone else what you have done for him or her? It is a great way to give thanks.

The tie between thanksgiving and evangelism is therefore obvious. Every time you tell someone what God has done for you, you are thanking God in a profound way. You see, thanksgiving is not just an emotional response, a feeling, but it is also a physical one. When we are grateful, we live like it! This makes the tie between thanksgiving and stewardship equally obvious.

Throughout the month of November we are going to look at our response of thanksgiving to what God has done for us. We will talk about how we respond by using the gifts and talents that He has given each of us. We will talk about how we respond by spending our time with and for Him in prayer, study, fellowship and service. And we will talk about how we respond by offering back to God what He has given us in the first place, whether that is our house, our money, our belongings ... whatever we have to give.

As you read this, take a moment to stop and give thanks to God for all He has done for you. Tell someone about it – it's a great way to give thanks – and then live out the rest of this year with an attitude of gratitude. *“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

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Thanksgiving Hymn Sing

Wednesday, Nov.

21 at 6:30 p.m.

Bring your Covenant World Relief offering and a pie to share during the fellowship time following.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His love endures forever”-

Psalm 118:1

Installation Sunday

Mark you calendars for Nov. 18.

- The installation of Pastor Steve will take place during the 10:45 worship service, followed by a meal -- in honor of Pastor Steve and his family. More details will be available soon!

Deacon's Corner-by Marcia Born GIVE THANKS

Thanksgiving Day, is an annual one-day holiday to give **thanks**. This historic American Christian tradition can be traced back to the year 1623. After the harvest of crops, Governor William Bradford of the Plymouth Pilgrim Colony proclaimed: *Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest, protected us from evil, spared us from dis-*

ease, and has granted us freedom to worship, do proclaim that you listen to your pastor and give thanks to the Almighty God for all His blessings. – Catherine Millard

The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything – live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, and LEAVE THE REST TO GOD.

...give thanks to Him and praise His name.
Psalm 100:4

Church Chair Message

Dear Friends and Members of Hillcrest,

I wanted to share some of the upcoming ideas and visions that the Executive committee has been working on for the last few months.

- We have changed the name of the Pastoral Relations Committee to the “Mutual Ministries Committee”. The executive committee agreed to this name change because it describes more closely what this committee will be doing and what the role of this committee is. The congregation, the Pastor and the staff are all in ministry together. The new document that describes what we as a congregation promise to do and what the pastor and staff promise to do will be available outside the church office. This committee will be meeting quarterly with the pastor and the staff members to discuss goals, issues/concerns that may arise in our ministry. This is an opportunity to evaluate ourselves and our staff to make sure we are moving forward to meet the goals we have set as a congregation. This committee will also be making salary recommendations each year to the budget committee. The committee will consist of 5 members. Three members are executive committee members and two are members from the congregation that are not on the executive committee. The Church Chair is an ex-officio member of the board and the pastor can ask to have an advocate as representation, but either the chair or

the advocate will be able to vote. The executive committee members on the Mutual Ministry Committee are Bob Donaldson, Larry Schultz and Dave Wessel. Each will be serving a three year term. The members from the congregation are Robin Bothe and Ann Carrel. They will be serving a two year term. Each of these board members has accepted and is committed to supporting our Pastor and staff to help us grow as a congregation and to do God's will for our church.

- Vision, who we are to our communities, how can we go as a congregation (Spiritually, as a family, and bring in new members). The executive committee will be going on a retreat later this year or early January to explore all these possibilities. We will be working with Pastor Steve to set a theme for the coming year that all the committees will use as their guide for the coming year.

There are many new and exciting things on the horizon for Hillcrest Covenant Church. We need to be open to God's calling and to the direction He wants us to go. Please continue to pray for our Pastor and leaders and to consider how you as a member or a friend of this congregation can help us achieve the great things Christ has in store for Hillcrest Covenant Church.

Your Brother in Christ,
Robert Ferguson
Church Chair



November Birthdays

- Nolan Erdman
- Lizzie Eggerman
- Manny Diaz
- Talon Diaz
- Kassi Auman
- Skye Sander
(son of missionary)
- David Hegberg
- Christine Shaff
- Patricia Restrepo
(Missionary)
- Blaize Diaz
- Carolyn McBride
- Jay Elliott
- Joan Bickner
- Lorna Code
- Stefanie Wessel
- Richie Gaertner

Christmas Program

The annual Smorgasbord and Christmas Program will be presented on Sunday evening, December 9th. Our church family and guests are invited to gather in the fellowship hall to enjoy our delicious smorgasbord then join us in the sanctuary to share a memorable evening of wonderful music, meaningful readings and Christian fellowship. If you would like to share your talent (all ages welcome) at the Christmas Program, (singing, playing an instrument, reading a Christmas poem, etc.), please see Wendy Kuryliw or call her at 815-758-4709. Come join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord!

November Anniversaries

Mort & Ann Carrel

Christmas Cantata

“Nativity Suites” will be presented by an expanded choir on Sunday morning, Dec. 16 at

10:45 a.m. Sunday afternoon rehearsals will begin on November 11. It’s not too late to join-please see Victoria Young if interested.



Upcoming X4J Events

- Nov 2 Laser tag in Rockford
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Nov 16 X4J at church
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Dec 7 Christmas shopping
5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- Dec 19 X4J Christmas party
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Items Needed !

Christmas and/or winter pictures (serious or silly) are needed for the Christmas Program. As in years past, we hope you take this opportunity to share some of your family memories through the pictures you provide. If you would like to share a few pictures of you and/or your family members with us, please contact Wendy Kuryliw (815-758-4709 or wkuryliw@x4jhcc.com), leave them in an envelope in the church office or email them to the address above. All pictures will be returned. We hope to have a lot of pictures this year so please consider submitting some of your favorites. Thank you!



.....
The Annual church Smorgasbord is planned for Sunday, December 9 at 5:30 p.m. A sign up sheet will be posted in late November. Mark the date now so you don’t miss the festivities!
.....

Dear Hillcrest Church,

Thank you for giving me a scholarship to Covenant Harbor. I really appreciate it. Emily Eggerman



FHC Meeting

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The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee will meet Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 7:00 p.m. We would like to plan upcoming events and evaluate recent projects and activities within the Church.

Upcoming Events at Covenant Harbor

- **Dec 7 & 8:** Christmas Dinner concerts - 5:30 p.m.
- **Dec 27 & 28:** Winter Day Camp (K-8th grade)
- **Jan 18 - 20:** Sr. high Deep Freeze
- **Feb 8 - 10:** Jr. high Deep Freeze
- **Feb 15 - 17:** 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 web-site at:
www.covenantharbor.org

Missions & Stewardship

Members and friends of Hillcrest Covenant Church were sent a Stewardship Letter from The Mission and Stewardship Committee that included a pledge card, a check list of Commitments of Talents and a check list of Giving to the Family-My offering of time and talents. The Offering of Time and Talents is a new opportunity for us as believers to offer support to one another. You are being asked to provide an indication of areas of strengths you could share with other members of our church. We will be organizing this list, when we receive them back from you and we will build a data base of people and talents. This effort to match needs with talents will be coordinated by Pat Vollstedt. Please feel free to share your talents for this project, for you will be contacted by Pat first, to see if you are able to respond to the need request. Your name would be passed on to the individual requesting help, only with your approval.

Pastor Steve has spoke in his sermon on Fellowship on how the early church demonstrated how they came along side of each other-holding hands. Please take time to consider your talents that can be shared with others, pray about this request and make the pledge God is asking you to return to Him this year.

The Missions and Stewardship Committee.



Outreach Committee Notes

Comedy Café is coming!

The Comedy Café is coming back to Hillcrest on January 13th. It's not too early to begin thinking about who your guests will be this year. Plan to buy a table and invite your family, friends and neighbors.

Back of the bus

If you drive on First St, or Lucinda, check out the back of Bus #2. We are advertising who we are and what we do at Hillcrest. We'll be on the bus through the end of the year and hopefully longer.

Welcome Bags

We are passing out Welcome Bags to new visitors. If you meet a visitor, sit next to a visitor during the ser-

vice, be sure to give them a Welcome Bag. You can find them on the table next to the entrance into the Sanctuary. Or, you can ask a member of the Outreach committee to find one for you. We are passing out 2 - 3 per week.

Greet our visitors

As we pass out those welcome bags, we need more than just an Outreach committee member to greet our visitors. If you see a face you do not recognize, introduce yourself. Even if it turns out not to be a visitor, you will have met someone who is a part of our Hillcrest family.

?WHY Upcoming Events

The high school youth group has some important upcoming events:

- **December 2**, Casting Crowns will be playing at the NIU Convo Center. If we have 10 or more people interested in going, tickets will be \$17.
- **January 18-20** is Deep

Freeze at Covenant Harbor. Details for this will be provided soon.

We started a study of the book of Ephesians on September 23. Bible studies will continue on November 4 and 18, and December 2. These are on Sunday afternoons, from 4:00 to 5:30. We'll be spending about 45 minutes on the Bible

study and prayer, and about 45 minutes will be fellowship time. Bring snacks!

--David



November 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Jubilate Bells rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	2 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00 a.m. X4J laser tag 7:00 p.m.	3 Men's breakfast & Bible study 7:15 a.m.
4 Communion Sunday Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. <i>Daylight saving time ends</i>	5 Christian Education mtg 6:30 p.m.	6 Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30 p.m.	7 125th Anniversary Committee mtg 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30-8pm Jubilate Bells rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	8 Deacon's mtg 6:30 p.m. @ the Born's residence Outreach mtg 7:00 p.m.	9 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00 a.m.	10 Men's breakfast & Bible study 7:15 a.m. Fall clean up @ HCC 9:00 a.m. - ?
11 Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Cantata rehearsal 1:00 p.m.	12	13 Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30 p.m.	14 Confirmation 6:30-8pm FHC meeting 7:00 p.m.	15 Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	16 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00 a.m. X4J @ HCC 7-9 p.m.	17 Men's breakfast & Bible study 7:15 a.m.
18 Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Pastor Steve's installa- tion Cantata rehearsal 1:00 p.m.	19 December newsletter deadline	20 Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30 p.m. Trustees mtg 7:00 p.m.	21 Thanksgiving Hymn Sing and Pie Social 6:30 p.m.	22 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> <i>(church office closed)</i> →	23	24
25 Sunday school & Choir practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Cantata rehearsal 1:00 p.m.	26	27 Grace's Girlfriends Bible study 6:30 p.m.	28 Confirmation 6:30-8pm	29	30 Women's Bible study @ Panera 6:00 a.m.	

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



Sander Family Missionary Letter

October 2007

Dear Covenant Church Family,
“CONNECTED THROUGH PRAYER” Muchas gracias! – Words expressed by Dora Londoño, the Colombian Covenant Women’s National President, who was the invited guest to Triennial XII and sponsored by the Pacific Southwest Conference. She had the opportunity to travel beforehand to six churches in California, meeting and sharing with 11 women’s groups. She sends her heartfelt gratitude to this Conference, to Ruth Hill, and to the Triennial planning committee for their generous support of her.

“Connected Through Prayer” - connecting cultures and women from Colombia and North America in prayer, was the idea of Edith Moncaleano, a leader in women ministries from Bogotá, who wanted Dora to share this during her travels. Here is how it worked. First of all, Dora contacted over 25 active Covenant Women’s groups from around Colombia inviting them to participate in “Connected Through Prayer.” If they chose to do so, they were to send a

small gift item with prayer requests to Dora. These items could be handmade or purchased, representing something from their group or region. On this gift the Colombian women either sent a blessing prayer or group photo, and some prayer requests. An email address was included for future, on-going communications.

Fifteen gift items arrived at Dora’s home, sent from women from Bogotá, Barranquilla, Cartagena, Monteria, San Carlos and Medellín. What a delight to receive and a challenge to pack! Gifts ranged from: a hand painted apron, a Bible book cover, a small decorated wall hat, a Colombian casita, wall hangings, a beaded candy container, a small plaque, a decorated poncho, a jar made out of coconut, a handmade table covering, to a lamp made out of popsicle sticks, 1½ feet high!

During Dora’s travels in California, she presented these gifts and prayer requests to the women she met. Now, the women from these churches knew beforehand about “Connected Through Prayer” and

they also responded with beautiful gifts, prayer requests, and prayers of blessings for the women of Colombia. Some of their gifts were: a signed group photo, a handmade holiday craft book with recipes, a tapestry wall hanging, a Swedish table runner, a table piece or wall hanging, a hand knitted prayer shawl, a handmade kitchen towel set, and an apron made in the mid-50s by a woman present at one of the gatherings!

What a blessing when women come together in creative ways! Presentations were shared, thanks given, photos taken, and connections made. All this took place in the days leading up to Triennial XII. But, the connections did not stop there. Several gifts/prayer requests were given to women from Illinois, Arizona, Ohio, and Connecticut. Several emails have already been sent back and forth. God is pleased, I think, when he sees his people caring and interactive, ‘connected through prayer.’

Love,
Mary Lou Sander and family

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Following congregational authorization received on October 7, the parking lot was sealed and restriped. The final cost came in under the \$5,000 budgeted amount. Please note the directional arrows added to assist traffic flow in the back parking lot; the addition of a limited number of parking spaces striped along the island curbing and the north edge of the back lot; and the crosswalk striping outside the north entrance to mark the passenger drop off area.

Subsequent to the October 7 meeting, the Trustees likewise retained Ken Spears Construction to perform certain renovation work with respect to the exterior siding, fascia and soffit areas of the church structure. This work will commence in mid-November and continue through the spring, weather permitting.

The Trustees are asking for the assistance of the congregation on **November 10** to rake leaves. This is a job that exceeds the size of the Trustee board. All able bodied men, women and youth are asked to bring a rake and join us. We will begin at 8 am and continue until the job is finished. In the event of rain on November 10, please join us on November 17.

In response to several questions received about the process for repainting areas of the church, the Trustees

have formally adopted the following protocol and policies:

The Board of Trustees is charged with the upkeep and maintenance of the church structure, interior and exterior. A part of such responsibility entails the periodic painting/staining of walls, ceilings, fascias and soffits as well as the replacement of floor treatments.

Historically the church's exterior color scheme has been dark brown stained siding and soffits and white fascias. It is the policy of the Board to retain such color scheme.

With respect to the church's interior, the historical precedent has been to use largely neutral colors on walls and off white ceilings. Color has been added to rooms through small accent surfaces and/or banners and other decorative items-- and in some instances the color of the carpet or floor tile. This policy reflects the fact that color is a very personal choice and opinions on color differ among the members of any congregation. By utilizing a largely neutral color scheme and adding color in small or seasonal ways, the objective is to provide an interior appearance that is welcoming to all, consistent throughout the building, and pleasing to most of the people most of the time.

When painting or staining of the

church facility is timely, the Board is responsible for approval of both the manner in which the work shall be done and any color change. A committee or individual offering to redecorate a portion of the church facility must first obtain the written permission of the board of trustees before undertaking such work. Such proposal should be in writing and specify in detail the scope and of the project and the materials to be used. Any proposal to change the color of the area to be redecorated must likewise be approved in writing by the Board. Such request should include a color sample. No work should be commenced unless the written approval of the Trustees has first been received.

The Board encourages members to donate their time and talent to these tasks, but through this protocol for prior approval reserves to the Board the final decision on when decorating shall be done, how it shall be done and who shall do it. Members are asked to understand that any decision by the Board not to accept a proposed offer is not a decision personal to the person submitting the proposal, but rather a decision of the Board as to what action is most consistent with the foregoing policies.

Friday Morning Bible Study for Women

All women are invited to join the Friday morning Bible study. The group meets each Friday morning at 6:00 a.m. at Panera Bread. Currently they are studying the book of Proverbs a chapter at a time. There will be no study on November 23.

Deck the Halls! Come help us "deck the Halls" as we prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We will be decorating from 9:00 a.m.– noon on Saturday, December 1.

Come when you can, leave when you must. All are welcome. No tools or experience required!

Can't make the decorating event? Consider joining us on Saturday, January 5 from 9:00 a.m.—11:00 as we "undecorate"!

Getting to Know.....Pastor Steve Larson

Pastor Steve came to us from up north in Rochester, MN, but he is no stranger to the Chicago land area. He attended North Park University, receiving his bachelor's degree in psychology and going on to seminary there, also. Steve calls the Midwest home for he was born in Livonia, MI and claims to be 100% Swedish!

His first call was to Cheboygan, Michigan where he served as a youth pastor. His title was youth pastor, but he also was involved in the music program and preached every third Sunday.

One of the interesting activities he started while at this first church, was to work with the youth in an after school drop-in program for middle school aged students. They were helped with their homework and played sport type games and table games. He also started a once a week lunch program at his home for the high school students from his church. They could come, bring friends and had time for fellowship. A lunch was provided by church members for this gathering.

Steve spent five years at the church in Cheboygan and moved on to where we caught up with him in Rochester, Minnesota. At this church he still worked with youth but became more involved with the pastoral aspects of the job preaching about 40% of the time. He was in Rochester for five years, too.

Looking back at life as a boy, we find that Steve was

thinking about becoming a teacher like his father, who was a social studies teacher. However, he was looking in the direction of becoming a math teacher, since social studies for not his first love. Life has a way of changing directions sometimes and Steve found that after his first Chic experience he felt a call to the ministry. Another direction change for Steve in high school was in the extra curricular area. He started out playing football in his freshman year, but found more enjoyment in involvement in the drama and musical programs. Steve has already shared his love of music with us, with his guitar playing and singing.

Steve comes from a family of two children having an older sister who has recently relocated to Naperville. Having her in the area was just "frosting on the cake" with accepting the call to Hillcrest Covenant Church.

Steve's most meaningful experience, at this point in his life, came in high school where he was able to share his faith through music when he asked to sing a solo. After that, he said there were other little moments that came along when he could share his faith, once he established his stand as a Christian.

There are many other interesting facts about Steve that you will discover, but one he shared was the number of ties he has with religious symbols on them. See if you can figure that number out! Remember Christmas and a March 6th birthday is coming, so that number could change!

Welcome aboard Steve. It was worth the wait to have you accept our call.

Getting to Know.....Heather Larson

Heather is a Chicago girl from birth but her family moved around a bit while she was growing up. She was born at Swedish Covenant Hospital while her father was in seminary at North Park University. It was off to Albuquerque, New Mexico in preschool and then north to Alaska in the second grade-Nome, Alaska to be exact. Fairbanks was her family's next home from eight grade through high school. Chicago was her new home for college at North Park.

Heather continued to live in Chicago after graduation from North Park with a major in Elementary Education with a math emphasis. She worked in the Chicago school system, teaching for two years.

It was during her years at North Park that Steve and Heather struck up at friendship while on a Choir Tour to Sweden, Russia and Estonia in 1993. It was under Steve's umbrella in a rainstorm in Red Square were the friendship started. The friendship grew and they became engaged on Memorial Day 1995. It was wedding bells for Heather and Steve on August 17, 1996.

Shortly after that a call came for a youth minister position for Steve in Cheboygan, MI. and it was another move! Heather taught during their first year in Cheboygan and then their first child, Josh, was born. She stopped teaching and put her talents to being a Mom. She became involved in the Church nursery, leading Bible studies and discipling some

ladies in the Church in Cheboygan. Rachel was born while they were also serving in Cheboygan.

It was after their move to Rochester that Sarah was born. Heather was now the mother of three children but, she was active in the church in Rochester as well. She lead Bible studies, was active in the women's ministry, helping with the youth programs and working with the children's choir. Heather stated that she likes to be viewed in the churches' Steve serves, not as just the minister's wife, but rather as another member using her gifts and talents.

Heather said a memorable event in her life was in high school when she was selected to be a peer counselor and work with other students in her school. She stated, "You can do great things for others just as an ordinary person."

She is interested in the international student activities that the Net Work of Nations brings to ministry in DeKalb. As a youth she experienced the great friendships that can be established with international students because her family hosted four different exchange students. The very first student her family hosted was from Japan. They have remained in contact and she attended their wedding in 1996. Heather also still corresponded with several of the other students who lived with them as exchange students.

You will find Heather a very warm and friendly person and a real asset to our Hillcrest family. Take the time to visit with her for you will be richer for having done so!

Hillcrest Covenant Church Financial Summary



30 Books of the Bible

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elanie Taylor, a Columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam. Especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless... (answers posted in the narthex)

Anniversary "Theme for the Year" Contest

The Anniversary Committee is excited about the activities and events being planned for 2008 as we celebrate 125 years. Many opportunities will be available for everyone to be involved in this celebration year.

To begin with, we invite each of you to enter our "theme for the year" contest. The Anniversary Committee is looking for a catchy slogan, verse, or phrase to announce our 125th anniversary. Entries should reflect the future of Hillcrest as well as the past. To enter the contest, submit your theme idea with your name and address to the church office by November 25. Everyone is eligible to participate ~ family entries are encourage. The winner will be announced in December!

Hillcrest Covenant Church

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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



Just a reminder that your Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes filled with small gifts and essentials for boys and girls ages 2-14 will need to be brought to church on Sunday, November 11th. We will bring all of the shoeboxes to the altar for a blessing before they begin the journey to children in distressed situations all over the world.

There is a display set up in the Narthex opposite the church office. There you will find the brochures that give a full explanation of the project and how to pack a shoebox. Please enclose a check for \$7.00 in the brochure envelope to cover the shipping costs per shoebox. Your shoebox should then be held together with a rubber band. Don't forget to put the label for the age and gender of the child you packed the shoebox for on the top of the shoebox at either end (the label can be found in the brochure). You may participate as an individual, a family, a Youth Group, Bible Study group or Church board member just to name a few. The occasion to experience this blessing is open to anyone. Last year over 7.6 million shoes boxes were collected and delivered to children worldwide to 95 different countries. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Reingold at home 815-756-2905 or at work 815-756-2905.