

A Message From Pastor Steve



“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.” - Rom. 12:15-16

When life falls apart, as it sometimes does, to whom do you turn? The expectation of the bible is that we would turn to each other, not as a command but as a natural outcome of our life together. But how can each of us show this kind of care to 200 people in our congregation? We can't. But we could probably be intentional about caring for 9 or 10.

For quite some time, it has been quite obvious that the most effective way to care for others is through a small group. Please don't misread this; I didn't say "a small group program." I said, "a small group." The difference is that a program can't care for people; a group of people can. When we gather regularly with a group of people for the purpose of spiritual care, our entire lives can change.

My friend Fred was dying in the hospital. He knew he only had a day or two left. Surrounded by family, I asked if there was anyone else he wanted to be with him during this most important time of his life. His answer brought tears to my eyes. He asked for his small group. This community of 10 people had so impacted Fred's life with care, support and encouragement that he wanted them with him as he went to meet his Heavenly Father. Small groups can be

a church board, a study group, a group you serve with, or just an informal group of friends, but Care Communities have one thing in common – they gather regularly to intentionally care for each other. Within this kind of community, we can show the care, love, grace, and understanding of Jesus to one another. This year, you are offered a chance to identify (and if you can't, then join) your small group. While many of us are already in a Care Community, new groups can be started spontaneously or you can talk with Pastor Steve or Diane Kevin if you'd like to talk about a group to join. Our Deacons will be talking with leaders of these groups to make sure everyone has a Care Community in their lives.

I don't ever want someone at Hillcrest to feel like they are not receiving care. I want us to work together to eliminate the possibility of someone saying, "the church is not there for me." Through our Care Communities, that should never happen again. So find a group you can care for and receive care in return, and we will take another big step toward looking like the Body Christ has called us to be.

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PADS to HOPE HAVEN

(A ministry supported by Hillcrest Covenant Church)



As some of you know, Hillcrest Covenant Church played an important role in the beginnings of what is now Hope Haven, DeKalb's homeless shelter. In the fall of 1986, Hillcrest joined with four other churches to create a ministry to the homeless called PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter). Modeled after a program in Du Page County, each of the five churches took a night of the week to feed and house the homeless in our buildings, and then two nights a week we paid for lodging in motels. The program operated from October to May.

Hillcrest had Friday nights, so each Friday evening we opened our building from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. to DeKalb and Sycamore's homeless population. Guests ate in the multi-purpose room and then slept there on mattresses rotated among the host churches. Hillcrest provided the food and staffing the first Friday of each month (and fifth Friday when necessary); the second, third and fourth Fridays were covered by Bethlehem Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and First Methodist, DeKalb. Among those most active in Hillcrest becoming a founder of PADS were: Pastor Jim Sandberg, Mark Cordes, Lynn Strawn, Mona Lanier and Jim Trier.

Hillcrest was the site of the very first person to use PADS about a week after the ministry began. From that beginning, the ministry slowly grew and by the end of the first year we were averaging 7-8 people a week and by the end of the second year we were averaging about 12 people a week. Over the course of two years we provided shelter, food, and companionship to more than 30 different people. Some were regulars; others just needed our services for a few evenings.

As you might imagine, this was no small undertaking and required the efforts of a number of people. We needed to provide meals sufficient to feed 12-18 people every Friday night. At least two people had to be present to staff the site, with a first shift running from 6:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. and the second shift from 1:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. The second shift was a particular challenge, since it meant missing most of a night's sleep. We also had to make sure the church was clean the next morning, and later that day we had to transport the mattresses to St. Mary's in Sycamore, the Saturday evening host site.

In 1988, after two years of using church facilities, PADS moved to what had been the DeKalb Methodist Church parsonage--and then in 1990 moved to a permanent, year-round site in a remodeled dry cleaners on North Sixth Street in DeKalb. That same year the ministry changed names and officially incorporated as Hope Haven. At the same time the organization expanded its mission:

“To provide shelter and meals to the homeless, to assist the homeless in moving into stable housing, and to advocate for the rights of homeless individuals and families.”

Despite these changes, area churches continued to provide meals and staffing for the facilities. Hillcrest itself remained committed to staffing and continued to provide meals on the first Friday of the month for a number of years.

Pads to Hope Haven (con't)

Today Hope Haven is the only agency in DeKalb County that is specifically designed to effectively meet the needs of the homeless. Hope Haven operates under the premise that it must play an active role with the client, and the social service community, to assist the homeless move beyond emergency shelter. Therefore, Hope Haven recognizes the importance of having objectives, goals, options, action plans, supportive services, and follow-up.

In January 2000, Hope Haven moved into a new shelter which increased bed capacity from 24 to 72. The shelter currently operates two programs: the emergency shelter for homeless individuals and families, and the transitional program for homeless families. The emergency shelter is a program which provides the homeless with shelter, meals, and supportive services for up to 90 days. The transitional program provides housing and supportive services to homeless families with children for up to two years.

On May 1st, 2004 Hope Haven and the DeKalb County Residential Development Corporation opened Dresser Court, a 26 unit permanent housing complex for chronically homeless individuals with disabilities. This facility is founded on the premise that once basic needs such as food and housing are secured, people with disabilities can more effectively address their long-term barriers to independence. This Hope Haven housing plus services model seeks to eliminate the recidivism of homelessness by providing programs and services, in the context of a home, for individuals who have experienced long term instability due to a disability.

Hope Haven has the support of about 5,000 community volunteers, and members of Hillcrest Covenant Church play an important role in this activity. Three Hillcrest Covenant members (Sue Guio, Carole Naylor and Joan Bickner) serve on the Hope Haven board of directors. One of our small groups (twelve members) has for several years supported the residents of Dresser Court by remembering them with gifts on their birthdays and hosting both a Christmas dinner and a summer picnic at Dresser Court. More recently, Joel Howells and others in the congregation have organized a Christmas party for the young residents of the temporary residence facility. This event enables the children to purchase gifts for their parents and siblings; to engage in crafts and otherwise to share the Christmas message and spirit. This year the event will be held on December 10 at noon in our multi-purpose room and will include a meal for the children and their families.

There are numerous other opportunities to serve our neighbors at Hope Haven, and more volunteers would be most welcome. If you are interested in sharing your time in this way, please contact the church administrative assistant, and someone involved in this ministry will quickly respond to your expression of interest,

(Information contained above was provided by Mark Cordes, Pastor Jim Sandberg, Mona Lanier and the Hope Haven web site.)

Stewardship Committee

Church Family,

“If everyone in your church followed your giving pattern, would your church receive a tip, a token or a tithe?” Brian Kluth

As fall approaches, the budget committee is preparing for 2012. We are now facing a \$27,000 budget deficit and it appears that we are not going to meet budget unless our giving increases substantially. The Stewardship Board is asking you again to make Hillcrest Covenant Church your number one priority when it comes to giving. We are asking you to be a more significant part of Hillcrest Covenant Church’s ministry. The budget committee will work hard to keep spending to a minimum, but we are asking you to increase your giving as soon as possible as we prepare for 2012. There are 64 giving units listed below. Our prayer is from Deut 16:17; “Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessings of the Lord your God which he has given you.”

The following is a range of contributions Hillcrest had received through mid-year.

\$.01 - \$250	17 contributors
\$251 - \$750	16 contributors
\$751 - \$1500	7 contributors
\$1,501 - \$2,500	12 contributors
\$2,501 - \$3,750	6 contributors
\$3,751 - \$5,000	3 contributors
\$5,001 - \$7,500	1 contributor
\$7,501 \$10,000	1 contributor
\$10,000 - \$15,000	1 contributor



budget to date is cloudy with peeks of sunshine

In Him,

The Stewardship Board

Christian Formation Board



Hillcrest Awana Clubs

The AWANA program is up and running. We had 29 children registered on the first night and we are hoping for more as the weeks go by. Due to some staffing changes, we will not have a "Cubbies" program for preschoolers. Our two programs then, will be for ages Kindergarten through 5th grade.

We will be involved with two projects this fall, both as part of the church's outreach ministries. We are asking AWANA participants for contributions to the Feed My Starving Children initiative and also for Operation Christmas Child. Please continue to keep the AWANA program in your prayers as we minister to the kids and their families.

Linda Wahlstrom
Awana Ministry Director

Sunday School

We had our Sunday School kick-off on Sunday, Sept. 11th with a wonderful time of breakfast and fellowship. For this year we have the following leaders:

K-3rd grade: Becky Sisler and Terrie Adams	Located downstairs in the children's wing
4-5th grade: Manny Diaz and Susan Kauffman	Located downstairs in the children's wing
Middle School (D/C): Pastor Steve with Herb Kuryliw and Danielle Schultz	Located downstairs in the X4J room
High School: Pastor Jen (Leader and Coordinator)	Located downstairs in the High School room
Adults: Diane Kevin (Leader and Coordinator)	Located downstairs in the Anderson room

Adult Sunday School will begin with a DVD and discussion entitled "The Reason for God." On October 30, the Outreach committee will lead the class with a discussion on the book Evangelism without Additives. The Stewardship Committee will teach on Stewardship in the following several weeks. Around Christmas, we will be reading and discussing Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. Specific dates for each of these studies will be announced.



Sunday School is from 9:30-10:30 a.m.



Small Group Opportunity

In the fall, there will be one small group forming which will focus on the ministry to the international students. It will start meeting in November. If you would like to be part of this group, are interested in participating in a small group, or would like to form a new one, please contact Diane Kevin.

A Message From The Chair

Dear Hillcrest Family,

During the last month you have been hearing a lot about our giving here at Hillcrest and that our budgeted giving is down approximately \$27,000.00 year to date. The Executive Board has spent the last two months discussing multiple ways to communicate this to our congregation to make sure we are all aware so we can meet this budget. Please pray with your family and for our church family to bring God into our finances as we all look at our individual giving to Hillcrest to find those extra dollars in each of our budgets to help meet the budget we as a congregation all agreed to. Please watch for updates each month from the Stewardship Board and the Trustees Board on our budget for 2011. If you have any question please call or talk to myself or anyone from the Stewardship or Trustee Boards.

The Executive Committee is currently discussing and looking at the different ways individuals or families come to Hillcrest Covenant Church. This might be through Worship on Sundays or our Sunday School Program, AWANA, small groups, etc... We are exploring how we as a congregation reach out to people; what this might look like to each of us or corporately as a body. Looking at what are our roles as leaders and members to reach out to help connect people and care for individuals as they enter or continue within our family here at Hillcrest Covenant Church.

The fall season is in full swing. Please pray for the many ministries here at Hillcrest. Look for ways to support these ministries through volunteering, leading or simply attending.

Please mark your calendars for our next business meeting which will be held on Sunday November 13th at 1:00 PM. We will have a light lunch right after worship prior to the start of the meeting.

As always please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions or specific concerns about Hillcrest or share the good things about what you like about our Church.

Your brother in Christ,

Robert Ferguson

Why CHIC?

By Pastor Jen

The entire trip from Illinois to Colorado was a bit of a blur for me. When we finally arrived at Colorado State University, I was a little numb. There were high school kids everywhere and despite being a 17-year-old myself, I suddenly felt like I didn't fit in with any of 'those kids.' We had been planning for CHIC for a couple of years now. My friends and I had each participated in car washes, pancake breakfasts, and any number of other fundraisers. We had planned the excursions we would go on and we talked for hours on end about what we thought CHIC would be like. But everything changed for me when, just two weeks before CHIC began, my mom was diagnosed with stage 4 Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Incurable cancer. I was 17?

So here I was, about to embark on a weeklong 'God fest,' and I wasn't too sure that I wanted anything to do with God. I was angry and having only been a Christian for 2 years or so, I didn't have the depth of faith to even know that it was okay to be angry with God. But I'm a good actor. I figured I could pretend my way through CHIC without anyone knowing how I was *really* doing. Thankfully, CHIC doesn't allow for much pretending.

What I experienced at CHIC was nearly indescribable. To be with *that* many high school students from all over the U.S. and Canada was amazing in and of itself. The seminars we were able to take actually pertained to 'stuff' that I cared about. The free-time activities were fun; the excursions were cool. All of that was great. But none of it compared to what happened when we gathered for worship each day. The music was amazing. The entire production of it was like nothing I had ever seen before. But it was the speakers who changed my life. It was in that setting that I was absolutely called to the carpet on what it means to live authentically before God, regardless of what I was facing. I learned that it was okay for me to be real and that God loves me even when I'm not sure I can love God back. What a faith step to experience at 17?! It shaped the way that my relationship with Christ grew and deepened as I finished high school and experienced college. It set a foundation for me that I was able to lean on when I went back and began my Senior year of high school. The impact that CHIC had on me was profound.

So what? I'm just one person. That's just one story. That doesn't mean that every kid who goes to CHIC experiences the same thing. To that, let me say this:

I deeply believe that high school students are some of the busiest people on the planet. Between 8-hours of school a day, sports/music/arts, jobs, homework, church, friends and family, they have a load to carry that is often unparalleled at later points in life. Knowing that, I believe that we pastors who work with students, have a responsibility not to waste their time. When we take our students to events, they better be worth the time and the money that our students and their families invest in it.

Why CHIC? (con't)

By Pastor Jen

For the past 15 years, I have seen hundreds of lives change at CHIC. I have seen our denomination work hard to stay plugged into what our teenagers are experiencing, what they're about and what they most need. I have seen students commit their lives to Christ at CHIC—not because of some emotionally manipulative production—but because of an authenticity that CHIC continues to draw students towards. The people who put CHIC together do so because they love Jesus and they love students. Period.

On the 23rd of this month, we will be hosting our CHIC auction here at church. If you have students in middle school, encourage them to participate as they will have their own chance to go in three years. If your kids are older now and have already gone through CHIC, I encourage you to participate as a means of helping other kids experience what your kids were able to. If you don't have kids, consider supporting one of HCC's students. And, if you have a high schooler living in your house right now, *please* don't let this opportunity pass them by. Sports camps will always be there, and while I don't underestimate the importance of the athletics that our kids are involved in, I hope that you're able to help our students make this a priority. Their athletic prowess will eventually fade, but *now* is the time to help them build their foundations of faith.

It is my goal to see to it that every single high school student in our church has the opportunity to go. Thank you in advanced for your support in sending our kids to CHIC 2012.

CHIC 2012

Trustee Committee

Financials:

Donations continue to be significantly below budget. As of September 27, donations were \$23,000 below budget year to date. Year to date expenses, while \$8,000 below budget, are in excess of receipts by \$15,000 and are \$40,000 more than at this time last year.


Fall work day:

Please plan to join us for the all-church fall work day on November 12. We will meet at the church at 9 am for leaf raking, window washing and other seasonal chores. We will finish by noon.

Your Board of Trustees



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:45 am High School Youth Group 6:30pm Shift:4:00pm Operation Christmas Child 4:30	3	4 High School Hang Time 2:30pm	5 AWANA 6:30 pm X4J 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 pm	6 Middle School Hang Time 2:30pm Christian Formation 6:30pm Missions Mtg 7:00 pm Vitality Team 7:30pm	7	8 Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 7:30am
9 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Shift 4:00 pm High School Youth Group 6:30pm	10	11 High School Hang Time 2:30pm Deacons' Meeting 6:30pm	12 AWANA 6:30 pm X4J 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 pm	13 Middle School Hang Time 2:30pm Outreach Mtg 7 pm	14	15 Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 7:30am
15 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Shift 4:00pm High School Youth Group 6:30pm	17 Ladies Birthday Party 6:30pm	18 :High School Hang Time 2:30pm Trustees Mtg 7 pm	19 AWANA 6:30 pm X4J 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir Practice 8:15pm	20 Middle School Hang Time 2:30pm Executive Committee Mtg 7 pm	21	22 Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 7:30am
23 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Shift 4:00pm High School Youth Group 6:30pm CHIC Auction	24	26 High School Hang Time 2:30pm	26 AWANA 6:30 pm X4J 6:30pm Grace's Girlfriends Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir Practice 8:15pm	27 Middle School Hang Time 2:30pm Music and Worship Mtg 7 pm	28	29 Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 7:30am
30 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Shift 4:00pm High School Youth Group 6:30pm Pumpkin Carving 6:30pm	31 					

We're on the Web!
www.hillcrestcovenantdekalb.org



HillcrestCovenant
C H U R C H

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Monday—Friday