

Covenant Life Link

“We are united by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind; love our neighbor as ourselves; and go into all the world and make disciples.”

A Message from Pastor Steve

Last month for our 15th wedding anniversary, Heather and I spent some time at the Morton Arboretum. We walked and looked at flowers and trees, and it got me in a horticultural state of mind. So as I think about the church God wants us to be, I think about plants. Two of them specifically: Bonsai Trees and Kudzu.

Bonsai trees are very small and made to stay that way. They require regular maintenance and often people get them for the calming effect of trimming and shaping these tiny trees. But the work it takes to maintain them pays off; they are beautiful and make excellent decoration, and in the midst of all of this, they fulfill their purpose.

Kudzu is altogether different. Kudzu is a vine introduced in the South around 1900 which grows at a rate of up to a foot a day! Called “the vine that ate the south,” Kudzu spreads like mad with no assistance since it can root at any joint of stem and leaf.

But while a whole field covered with Kudzu is beautiful, the vine itself is pretty plain looking, seldom flowering and with long, bean-looking seeds, and in the midst of this, they fulfill their purpose.

What kind of church are we? What kind of church does God want us to become? Small, high-maintenance churches that look beautiful can fulfill their purpose, so can quickly spreading, plain-looking ones. Both are necessary, but both require a very different kind of care and bring very different results. So what is God calling us to be: Bonsai or Kudzu?



September 2011

Volume 12, Issue 9



HillcrestCovenant
C H U R C H

Inside this issue:	
Sermon Series	2
Prayer Box	2
Committee Reports	2 - 4
Book Review	5
Children & Youth	7 - 8
Young Adults & Retirees	9
Church Activities	10
The Church Around Us	11 - 13
Birthdays/Anniversaries	14
Calendar	15

Sunday Worship Hours

Beginning Sunday, September 11th

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, all ages

10:45 a.m. Worship

Message From The Church Chair

Dear Hillcrest Family,

As September approaches and as we prepare to begin the busy fall season, please keep in your prayers, each of our church's many different ministries, along with our church staff.

Our Mutual Ministries Committee is in the process of reviewing and interviewing a replacement Administrative Assistant and as most of you are aware, have worked with our Minister of Music, Victoria Young, on a nine month leave starting September 6th. Please keep Victoria in your prayers during this leave and for our ministries as we continue to minister to all our members.

This summer, the Executive Committee began to focus on our newly accepted Long Range Plan. Each of the church boards will be focusing and prioritizing on their different responsibilities that were presented in the plan. Please watch for more updates on each board's progress in the long range plan.

Our Vitality Team has been working on a behavioral covenant to present to the congregation for acceptance. The hope will be to adopt the covenant as we all work together to do God's work as a family here at Hillcrest Covenant Church.

Your brother in Christ,

Robert Ferguson



Prayer Box

Prayer is our life line and a life learning curve. We all are beginners in how to seek God's face. As there are many different kinds of prayer there are also different ways to ask for prayer. On the annex is a prayer box where anyone can place a written request for prayer. There will be a request form which will show who you want to know about the prayer request. The pastors will look at the request first. If you want only them to pray, it will stop with them. You can direct who you want to pray such as the deacons to pray, the prayer chain to know, have it in the bulletin or have a specific person to pray. So please use the prayer box when it will serve you in your requests where others can join in the prayer.

After the church service there will be a deacon in the prayer room if you want to have someone pray with you and would like a more private setting.



Sermon Series

- September 4 "Eyes Wide Open"
- September 11 "...in the midst of service."
- September 18 "...by the work of fellowship."
- September 25 "...because of discipleship."

Deacons Committee

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 20th when the deacons will be offering the second training session in listening, communicating and developing caring relationships. We will briefly go over the items from the last session and continue with how to build caring relationships with people in certain needs, how to discuss forgiveness that helps people through the process, and learn some affects of anger, how to use it and deal with it effectively. The meeting will be at the church from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Outreach and Evangelism Committee

“Evangelism”, Not My Thing!

Over the past three years I have taken a leave of absence from the Outreach and Evangelism Committee to pray, research and reflect on what God really expects from us if we are to be an evangelist for Him. I searched for answers on how to motivate a church to do evangelism, especially since our church was heading into the “Year of Evangelism”. I have read magazines, books and countless web blogs on this very topic. To my disappointment I learned that nearly 90% of the people in the church body fear the word evangelism and say “not my thing!” followed with little or no motivation to do evangelism. The excuse often used is that “I don’t really have the gift of evangelism, let someone else do it”. This helped boost my confidence in thinking that perhaps less than fifteen people in our church might actually be willing to do evangelism. I had to step back and ask myself, what is evangelism and what is it that Jesus expects of us? Is evangelism that bullhorn guy on the corner that throws a Bible in your face and often judges you to damnation even before you can get a word in edgewise? Is it getting face to face with friends, co-workers or going door-to-door and straight talking to them and spilling your guts about your testimony while throwing Bible verses at them? Isn’t this pretty much the perception of evangelism that we as a culture have come to realize? Is this really what Jesus intended us to do? The goal of the Outreach and Evangelism Committee this year is to dispel evangelism myths and learn from Jesus about how to be an evangelist. So let’s grow God’s Kingdom together and learn how to develop relationships the way that Jesus has taught us, without judgment, harsh words and within your comfort zone. Let’s not be confused either, evangelism is not a method or a program. The heart of the matter is to build a relationship between people and God and help others find a place of belonging in God’s Kingdom. This is the core of evangelism and how people get to know Christ through us. Too often this part of evangelism is overlooked and is the most important aspect of evangelism. Simply put, it is building a relationship with someone, something that can take time, prayer and patience!

Throughout the next year, the Outreach and Evangelism Committee will be bringing several unique challenges to you personally. I know many of you are already shutting the door on this and saying “Not my Thing!” but before you do we ask you to do one thing, it is one of our first challenges. We want you to read the book by Jim Henderson call “Evangelism without Additives”. We have reserved five copies in the church library or you can buy it for \$5-\$15 at a bookstore or online. If you read this book I will promise you one thing. You will say, “I have done that!” and realize that you are an evangelist for Jesus. We are working with Pastor Steve to do some of the challenges in this book and they just might show up during a sermon or two. Hopefully this will help encourage you to read through it because nobody likes surprises, especially when volunteering to do evangelism. The Outreach and Evangelism Committee is planning three sessions reviewing and discussing four chapters at a time over the next three months from Jim Henderson’s book. Look for sessions at the end of September, October and November. It will be an exciting year to see the fruit of what God will be doing with the church this year. Even though you are likely one of the 90% that says “Not my Thing!” remember that God uses 100% of His people when we let Him and it takes only the gifts that God has given us.

*He said to them,
“Go into all the
world and preach
the good news to
all creation.”*

Mark 16:15

Herb Kuryliw

Chair of Outreach and Evangelism



Trustees Committee

Financial: Donations through August 21 are approximately \$26,000 below budget. This deficit has grown throughout the year and accelerated over the summer months. Full year expenditures are expected to be substantially on budget, so we will need significantly increased giving over the next four months to close the deficit.

Projects: Over the summer, the interior stained wood of the church was touched up. Two classrooms were repainted. The multipurpose room is being redecorated, with some small work to be completed. The tile floors in the multipurpose and Anderson rooms, as well as the kitchen have had an annual stripping and refinishing. This fall the Anderson room walls will be repainted, and the annual carpet cleaning will take place prior to the holiday season.

Fall work day: Please save the morning of Saturday, November 12th for the all church fall work day. We will be cleaning windows and removing leaves—along with other projects.

Bruce Bickner, Mort Carrel, Bob Donaldson, Jessie Flippin, Ron Grimm, John Guio and Ed Peterson



Stewardship Committee

Last year we viewed a video during worship called “God’s Pie”. It showed a large pie with an old man at the end of the table watching as a group of people take piece after piece and the old man (representing God) waiting to see if there would be a piece left for him.

Reflecting on this, there is a quote to share: “Give to God what’s right...not what’s left.”

Stewardship and Budget Forecast



Cloudy with peaks of sunshine.

Love INC

Thank you, Congregation, from the Kitchen Ministry. Your response was overwhelming! This week we delivered kitchen supplies to seven clients from Love INC. Your generosity really encourages us to minister to the needy in our community.

We gladly take donations year-round so if you forgot to bring your things a couple of weeks ago, you can bring them anytime. And don’t forget, the garage sale season is not over. Sales are a great place to find usable things for this ministry.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ



“Love Wins” Book Review By Pastor Steve

Last year when I read N.T. Wright’s “Surprised by Hope”, it revolutionized the way I view heaven and the afterlife. This year when I read Rob Bell’s “Love Wins”, nothing changed for me. That was disappointing since I generally like Rob Bell. I respect his knowledge of first century culture, but in reading this book, I didn’t learn anything new or change my thinking about heaven, hell or the afterlife. Some of it was intriguing, but overall I didn’t buy many of his basic premises.

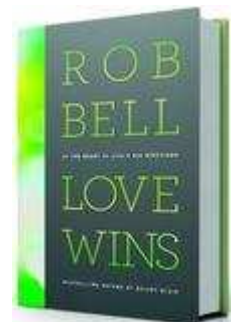
Bell begins his book with controversy. From his preface on, he makes it clear that this was intentional and expected. He begins Chapter 1 with a flurry of questions (Bell’s writing style throughout the book) meant to shake us up, from “do you really know Gandhi is in hell” to “are bible-quoting wife abusers following Jesus”. While some of this book is basic biblical truth held my most (Jesus calls us to do God’s will here and now, heaven is a real place where God’s will reigns, etc.), the controversial in it overshadows the rest and has become the focal point as it so often does.

One of these controversies is Bell’s question of Ch. 4, “Does God get what God wants,” or in other words, “do most people, the ‘mass of men’, go to heaven?” Bell’s critics have labeled him a Universalist, one who believes that everyone is saved and heaven-bound, and he dances that line close enough to bring that question to mind in any honest reader. From p. 106 on, he argues that this idea of “most people” going to heaven is historical and has been held by many great theologians through history. Chapter 6 is basically an argument that while Jesus is the only way to God, many, including “Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Baptists from Cleveland” may find God through Jesus without realizing that it is Jesus. This is way too close to an “every road up the mountain leads to God” theology, one with which I cannot agree, and one which was not proposed by Jesus. According to Matt. 7:13-14, we don’t accidentally enter heaven. Yet, Bell adamantly refuses the title Universalist, and I agree that he is not in the technical sense because he spells out that people can choose to turn away from God, can choose hell (see p. 114). However, he then goes on to a second related controversial point.

Bell raises the possibility of a post-death repentance. This theme has been toyed with by C.S. Lewis in his book “The Great Divorce”, but Bell takes it from story to truth. Bell speaks of the temporary nature of Hell and that nobody can resist God’s love forever. Key to this argument is his question on p.108, “could God say to someone... desperate for reconciliation (after they have died), ‘sorry, too late?’” Implied in the rest of his argument is a resounding NO. However, this ignores three of Jesus’ parables (Matt 25:1-13, Luke 13:24-28, Luke 16:19-31) that say just that, not because God is cruel but because we didn’t take the opportunity given us.

Though Bell is wrong about these things and some others, it is unfortunate that they overshadow the good aspects of the book. He rightly emphasizes God’s broad and expansive love, a love we are called to emulate. In our world that seems to continuously shrink the number of people we are supposed to love, we need this call to show God’s love to all people, whatever their race, creed, gender, or political persuasion. We also need to recognize how we are perceived by non-Christians and though Bell often uses extreme examples, they are ones with which many non-Christians agree.

As followers of Jesus, we examine everything we read, see, and hear through the lens of God’s Word. “Where is it written,” has been the response of any Covenanter to anything since our inception. As we reach out to fulfill God’s mission to make disciples of everyone and be His witnesses everywhere, we will face questions like Rob Bell brings up in this book and many others. So we will continue to study the Word in Sunday School, small groups, and on our own so that we can know the truth and speak that truth in love (Eph. 4:14-16). And we will continue to interact with the world around us, bringing light into the darkness and Hope into the hopelessness through our conversations, actions and relationships.



John Wycliff

By Carol Hegberg

What if you had no Bible in your language to read? What if all you knew about Christianity was what the church officials taught you? In John Wycliffe's time, that was the Christians' situation.

John Wycliffe (or Wyclif) was born in Hipswell, Yorkshire, England in 1328. He received his doctorate in theology in 1372, and then taught at Oxford University, where he was considered the best scholar and debater of his time.

The Christian church, then headed by the Pope Gregory XI in Rome, owned over one-third of England's land. The clergy were illiterate and often immoral. The high-church offices could be bought or given as political rewards.

A devoted Bible student, Wycliffe criticized certain church doctrines as false, man-made, not Bible-based. He wrote and preached against purgatory, the sale of indulgences, and transubstantiation, which is belief that Jesus is present in the Holy Communion elements. This was the beginning of the Protestant movement, which later John Hus, Martin Luther, and John Calvin, and Ulrich Zwingli continued.

In 1374, King Edward III of England challenged the Pope's demand for financial papal tributes. Wycliffe wrote the papers, upholding Parliament's right to limit the church's power. The next year the king sent Wycliffe to Belgium to consult with the papal representatives. The conference failed, but John of Gaunt, the 4th son of the king, stood with Wycliffe in the antipapal reform.

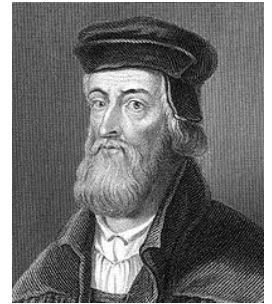
The following year Wycliffe wrote the doctrine of "dominion as founded in grace." On February 19, 1377, the bishop of London brought Wycliffe to trial. John of Gaunt went with Wycliffe. He became involved "in a brawl with the bishop." In fall, Parliament tried again to put into law the refusal to pay money or send riches to the Pope. Wycliffe was again confronted by the bishop, but because of his favor with the king's son, Wycliffe was dismissed without punishment.

Wycliffe next defied the doctrines of purgatory, indulgences, and transubstantiation. He included in his philosophy a belief in a direct relationship between people and God, without priestly mediation, that Christians could govern themselves without popes, and that the clergy should imitate the evangelical poverty of Christ and his disciples. He disbelieved in slavery and war. The Archbishop of Canterbury, William Courtenay, condemned him as a heretic and banished him from the university.

Wycliffe relocated in Lutterworth, where his freedom took flight. Along with his students, he took on the enormous, but now famous, task of translating the Latin scriptures into English. They worked from a hand-written, 1000-year-old text.

After his death of a stroke on December 31, 1384, his students continued the translations, and then distributed those Bibles to the poor and taught them how to read. Those who did this were called Lollards. Their work influenced the next reformer John Hus.

Years later in May of 1415, the Council of Constance ordered Wycliffe's corpse to be exhumed and burned, and the ashes to be thrown into the river. All his writings were to be burned. Yet in 1942, a missionary organization took on his name, Wycliffe Bible.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sunday School

Grades K - 12

Help us get our new year of Sunday School off to a great start by coming to our Sunday School Kick-Off on Sunday, September 11th starting at 9:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Breakfast will be served to everyone participating in both the children's and adult's Sunday School programs. After everyone is finished eating, teachers will take their students to their classrooms.

Sunday School is offered each Sunday to all

children in Kindergarten - 12th grade from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Our teachers this year are:

Kindergarten - 3rd grade, Becky Sisler and Terry Adams

4th - 5th grade, Susan Kauffman and Manny Diaz

6th - 8th grade, Pastor Steve

9th - 12th grade, Pastor Jen (coordinator)

Awana

Grades PreK - 6th

I am excited to take over the leadership of our AWANA program for children. We will begin Wednesday, September 14th with registration, meeting parents, and having sundaes, and continue meeting on Wednesdays thereafter from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The Cubbie program is for those little ones who will be 3 years old by September 1st and 4 year olds, led by Patty Ihm. Sparks group, led by Dianne Donaldson is for Kindergarten through 2nd grade. T & T (Truth and Training), led by Larry Wood, Susan Wood, and Ross Knoll, is for 3rd through 5th grades. Other staff are as follows: Jenny Pianovski - Secretary and Store Coordinator, Ingrid Friedlund - Financial Secretary, Lois Miller - Snack Coordinator, Jerry Wahlstrom - Games, Pastor Steve - Worship Leader, Extra Help - Amy Wessels, Leaders In Training - Eric Wessel, Christin Bothe, Tucker Code, and substitutes: Susan Kauffman, Sherrie

Howells, Lucile Reynen, and Heather Larson. I am so thankful for those who have willingly agreed to continue this program, but there are still openings in all three groups to serve in this ministry. Please see Linda Wahlstrom if interested. Prayer Partners would be appreciated and snack items that are needed will be posted soon.

I want to encourage families to register their children for this ministry of discipling for Christ, centered on the gospel by active learning and scripture memorization. AWANA=Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15).

Linda Wahlstrom, Director
815-758-7867



X4J (Extreme for Jesus)

Grades 6 - 8

Once again, we would like to thank the many people that helped make our Survivor 2011 retreat a success. It was no small task to drive, feed, cloth (t-shirt transfers) the 28 youth that attended this annual event. Everyone had a great time learning about God and seeing how God's people serve others!

Many activities are planned again this year. Calendars will be handed out in the next few weeks.

As in the past, we will be meeting again on Wednesday nights at the church from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. for some fun games,

food, and wacky Bible-centered discussions.

Acquire the Fire is November 4 - 5 in Chicago so mark your calendars now for a great weekend of live Christian music and a great message.

Remember, your friends are always welcome to come to all X4J events!

If you have any questions about X4J, please contact Herb Kuryliw or Danielle Schultz.

CHILDREN & YOUTH (cont.)

Hang Time

Jr. High & High School

Did you know that the majority of adolescents go home to an empty house after school? What was once known as the “latch-key” phenomenon has now become the norm. While some of our teenagers head off to sports or clubs once the final school bell rings, the reality is that many of them are greeted at home by nothing more than the buzz of the refrigerator. What an opportunity for the Church to step in! Each and every day, mobs of Clinton Rosette students literally walk right through our parking lot on their way home from school. And beginning this year, the same will be said of DeKalb High School students. So instead of watching them pass right on by, let’s invite them in! Starting Tuesday, September 6th, we will be inaugurating a new ministry called “Hang Time”. “Hang Time” will be open from 2:30 - 5:00 on Tuesdays (for high school students) and Thursdays (for middle school students).

Students can throw their bags down and pick up a Frisbee, a Wii controller or a soccer ball. They can get a Carpetball tournament going. They can sit at the café tables and eat an after-school snack. For those studious ones, there will even be quiet space for them to do their homework! No program. No agenda. Just a chance for students and their friends to just “be”. If you have teenagers in your life, we encourage you to invite them to stop by after school with their friends and let this be a space for them to feel at home. If you are interested in



being a part of this ministry (or any of our ministries for middle school and high school students), please contact Pastor Jen! In the meantime, please be in prayer for our students as they begin a new school year and for us here at Hillcrest as we seek to care for our community’s adolescents.

(to be named)

High School

If you are in high school, then we have plans for you! Come hang out with us on Sunday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. starting Sunday, September 11th. This group (to be named by YOU....with prizes for the person whose name we choose!) is open to all high school students and their friends. This is a chance for you to hang out with other people your own age as we try to figure out together how this whole God thing intersects with life as a high school student. We’ll do everything from game nights (can you say “Carpetball tournament?!”) to winter retreats; from concerts to service projects; from



Capture the Flag to small group studies. All along the way, we’ll chat about the questions that you have about faith, the church, and where God is really at in this life of yours. The stuff we do for high school students will *always* be open to your friends...so grab a friend or two and join us for our first time hanging out on September 11th at 6:30 p.m. Questions? Get in touch with Jen at pastor.jen@comcast.net or find her on Facebook at “Jen Zerby”.

YOUNG ADULTS

shift.

Ages 18-25

From heading off to college for the first time, to first job interviews, to first years of marriage, the time in our life between 18 and 25 is absolutely packed with transitions. Such a unique time in life deserves a unique ministry suited just for you, exactly where you're at in life. If you are between the ages of 18-25(ish), you are invited to join us as we start up a new season of ministry with a brand new name. shift. (yes, that's lower case "s" with a period at the end) is an opportunity for you to



people who are in this extremely transitional period of life right alongside you. We will meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the church for some good conversation, opportunities to serve our community, and probably some bowling or movie nights along the way. Join us on Tuesday nights starting on September 13th. Whether you've grown up in the church, are brand new to the whole church thing or are somewhere in between, you are welcome here.

Retirees or Retirement Age Group Event

Are you retired or of retirement age and looking for a fun afternoon? If so, this event is for you! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 26th to enjoy a delicious buffet and see a theater production at White Pines Theater in Oregon, Illinois. We will leave the church at 10:15 a.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m. The theater is handicapped accessible and accommodates the hearing impaired.

First we will enjoy the buffet filled with homemade foods and then once everyone is finished eating, the play "Contempt of Court" will begin. Cost is \$27.00 per person and includes the buffet and theater ticket. Tax and gratuity are all included!

"Contempt of Court" is a hilarious comedy that will keep you laughing! Audience members become court reporters, sketch artists, plaintiffs,

and jury members in some of the funniest lawsuits to cross the bench.

If you would like to attend, please either sign-up on the sheet in the narthex or talk to Wendy Kuryliw no later than Sunday, September 25th. Payments should also be given directly to Wendy, (checks made payable to Hillcrest Covenant Church).



There is also a sign-up sheet if you need a ride or can give a ride to someone.

Upcoming Retiree Event – The Rockford Symphony Orchestra, "Holiday Pops", Sunday, December 18th, 3:00 p.m. Watch for more details!

RETIRES

"Breaking Free" Bible Study

We have a chance to offer the 11-week Beth Moore Bible Study entitled "Breaking Free". If you would be interested in joining and want more details let Lois Miller (loismiller12345@yahoo.com) know. We would meet at church from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on either Monday or Thursday evenings. We would probably begin the week of September 12th.



WOMEN

Network of Nations

There are a variety of ways to connect with the International students who attend NIU. On Friday night, September 2nd, Hillcrest will be serving the meal. If you would like to come find out what the Intercultural Café is all about see Diane Kevin for details about joining us.

You are invited to learn more about the ministry

of Network of Nations at their annual banquet being held on Sunday evening, September 25th. See Millie Kostrey for details.

Thank you to all who participated in the mugs of change and the raisin donations that will be used for welcome events planned for the new international students.



Meet & Eat

Meet & Eat is a time for fellowship with our church family and also share a meal together. No sign-up sheets, come as you are!

Thursday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m. we will gather at Los Rancheros located near Office Max on Sycamore Road.

Sunday, September 18th at 12:30 p.m. we will gather at Flappy's Family Restaurant located across from the Hopkins Park Swimming Pool.

We hope to see you there!



Operation Christmas Child

Mark your calendars! Our annual packing party for the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes will be Sunday afternoon, October 2nd. We will meet at 4:30 p.m. to pack boxes and then conclude the evening with a baked potato bar. Watch for more details as the date approaches.



Ladies Fall Birthday Party

Ladies, plan to attend the fall birthday party on Monday night, October 17th, at 6:30 p.m. We will celebrate September, October, November and December birthday girls. This will be the last birthday party for this year. Don't miss the fun!



THE CHURCH AROUND US

In Our Community and Abroad

Make a Difference 2K11

Real progress is being made to make the 2K11 event a reality for our community. Last year we had a banner at the event that said “Every donation blesses two – those who volunteer are equally blessed”. Our motivation behind the event last year and to take it on again this year is to feed starving children in body and spirit. Simply said, the meals that we pack this year will save lives. God told us to feed the poor. With that said we were amazed at the way the event blessed those that participated. We got several comments like “being a part of this changed our lives” or “volunteering at this event made me realize the need in the world.” So we got the chance to evangelize through Make a Difference 2K10 and we expect to reach out to people in the same way for 2K11.

We are so thankful for the partners we have helping us with fundraising and the overall event this year. Some individuals from the community and several from HCC have been committed to making sure we reach our goals by November and that the event runs smoothly.

One of the burdens for 2K11 is the cost of the event. Last year we needed to raise \$85,000 to host a 500,000 meal MobilePack event. Due to the increase in

the cost of ingredients and logistics the cost for the same event for 2K11 is \$120,000. To date we are about half way toward our goal. We have given this to God. It’s His event and He will make it the size that He wants it to be. But He also places that burden and work on our hearts every day. We pray faithfully that God will provide us with encouragement as we strive toward our goal. Actually we would like to match or exceed last year’s effort and that will take over \$140,000 to reach that goal.

Please pray for us. We are coming down to the point of having to coordinate many activities and logistics and the efforts of a much larger team than last year. We are approaching the time when managing the volunteer process will begin. We have issues like parking, managing people flow, tables, chairs, sound systems, coordination with FMSC staff, cooking the rice, banners, signs, media relations, and the list goes on. All of this on top of trying to raise the next \$60,000. We need an army of saints praying for this event and for us. To God be the glory.

*“Blessed are those who are generous
because they feed the poor.”*

Proverbs 22:9



Little Lambs Preschool

Little Lambs Preschool of Immanuel Lutheran Church located at 511 Russell Road in DeKalb has a few spaces available for the 2011 - 2012 school year. We offer classes for children ages 3 - 5 years. Classes meet from September through May.

Little Lambs Preschool offers a quality education in a Christian setting. There is time for discovery, group work, worship, music, art, science, math, motor activities, and snacks. Adult to student ratio is 1:5, with a maximum class size of 10 children. Classes run in three hour

sessions, either 2 or 3 days per week, (M/W, M/W/F, or T/TH) dependant on the class you register for. Our program explores the alphabet, number recognition, and emphasizes kindergarten readiness skills as well as socialization skills with Christian themes. Little Lambs Preschool is open to children of all religious backgrounds.

For more information, or to make an appointment to visit the preschool, you may call 815-756-6669. More information is also available on the website at ImmanuelDeKalb.org.

Holmstad Retirement Community Bazaar

The Holmstad Retirement Community, located at Fabyan Parkway and Route 31 in Batavia, will be holding their 34th Annual Bazaar on Saturday, October 1st, from 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. Free admission and parking.

There will be a handmade quilt raffle. Also, featured for sale will be antiques, collectibles, jewelry, crafts, bakery goods, homemade candy, artwork, books, plants, "this and that", plus miscellaneous items.

The Holmstad Home Store will be open with gently used furniture for sale. A shuttle will be available between the Home Store and the Bazaar. Coffee, plus a light lunch will be available to purchase.

The Bazaar will benefit several worthy causes. For additional information, please call 630-879-4444.

Missionaries Supported by Hillcrest Covenant

Gary & Mary Lou Sander

Apartado Aereo 55276

Medillin, Columbia

www.pactocol.org

pactosand@yahoo.com

Lisandro & Patricia Restrepo

Serving in Monterrey,
Mexico

Mailing Address:

P.M.B. 147

1001 S. Tenth St., Suite G

McAllen, TX 78501

lisrestrepo@yahoo.com

Eric & Kristi Peterson

(InterVarsity Christian
Fellowship)

1048 Reazor Ave.

Louisville, KY 40217

ivcfky@gmail.com

Alex Velasco

Covenant Merge
Ministries

2201 S. Jackson Rd., #33E

Pharr, TX 78577

Sander Family Update

The Covenant of Colombia has been present in San Carlos, Cordoba, (near Monteria) since 1991. (You can check out various photos, news stories and blogs regarding what has happened recently in San Carlos at www.pactocol.org) There are four Covenant Churches in and around this small (19,000 population) town and Covenant World Relief has been a part of four different community projects in the area. All of that presence and growth can be attributed to the vision of Gabriel Barrera, pictured with his wife, Cila. Gabriel was born in San Carlos. Although he lives in Monteria, he and his brothers and sisters still hold a place in the community and are involved there, even though only one brother actually lives in San Carlos full time. All of the family still visits their mother who lives just one house away from the main plaza and all of them have places to stay when they visit or do work in the town. As part of their inheritance, Gabriel's father left every child parcels of land in the area.

But, San Carlos also has a reputation for being a town with very corrupt politicians who are impeding the growth and stability of the community. Because the politicians have misused the community funds and have not kept their promises, dire situations such as: poor housing; flooding; lack of development; lack of employment; and any future hope for many of the inhabitants of the town, are increasing. For the members of the mission/work teams from U.S. Covenant Churches that have spent time in San Carlos over the past four years the town holds a special place in their hearts because the people there that they have worked and with whom they have lived have endeared themselves to the team members. Even though San Carlos has a negative reputation politically and can

only blame itself for its current situation, there appears to be a growing desire among the citizens to make a change. This is where Gabriel is making his move.

Gabriel is a man who makes decisions with a lot of forethought and consultation of others. We have had many conversations about various ways that he and his family might be able to benefit San Carlos through the development of jobs, injecting life into the economy, and, of course, extending the Kingdom of God in the area through the work of Covenant Churches and ministries. Two months ago Gabriel made his declaration that he was going to run for Mayor of San Carlos in the October elections. While many were surprised by this decision, he knew that he had many supporters and friends who were encouraging him to go forward and make a change. His wife, Cila, has been quite cautious about this decision because she knows the risks that Gabriel is taking by entering into the political ring of the San Carlos community. She is very supportive, but she is also watching out for Gabriel as best as she can. Just this past week Gabriel received the backing of a major political party for his candidacy. This hasn't been an easy task because Gabriel's values, principles and integrity are almost the exact opposite of all previous mayors in recent history. But the doors are continuing to open up for Gabriel to go forward.

As you can see below, people are praying for Gabriel. Won't you join us?

Love, Mary Lou and Gary Sander



Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating a September birthday!

2 - Jessie Flippin	20 - Jeremy Geidel
3 - Howard Swan	20 - Nikki Gunderson
4 - Samantha Kevin	21 - Bruce Bickner
6 - Lindie Diaz	23 - Brianna Hook
6 - Kim Vines	24 - Lisandro Restrepo (Missionary)
6 - Carol VanderWeide	27 - Nathan Sisler
9 - Rich Holly	28 - Kayla Kauffman
13 - Ivan Jones	30 - Will Ferguson
14 - Dorothy Elliott	30 - Jerry Wahlstrom



Happy Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary to the couples celebrating their anniversary!

16	Patrick & Diane Kevin - 22nd Anniversary
19	Aaron & Shawna Bennett - 2nd Anniversary
20	Eric & Kristi Peterson (Missionaries) - 14th Anniversary
24	Gary & Sherri Larson
28	Jerry & Linda Wahlstrom - 37th Anniversary



Condolences

Deepest sympathy to Ed and Connie Peterson on the passing of their father, Stanley Peterson.



Baby Congratulations!

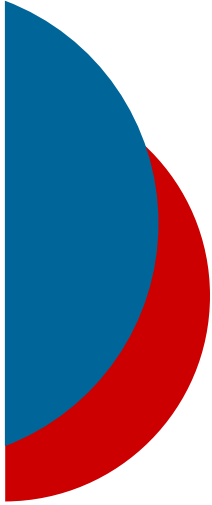
Babies are a blessing from God!

Lily Mae born to Stephanie and Thomas Klopfenstein on May 16th.
Alexandria Lynn born to Ashley and Dan Novak on August 2nd.
Proud grandparents for both little girls are Sue and Steve Klopfenstein.

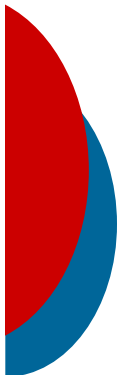
Michael Louis born to Dana and Jason Boehm on August 30th.
Proud grandparent is Don Robinson.



September 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 p.m. Christian Formation Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Missions Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Vitality Team Mtg.	2 5:30 p.m. HCC Serves at Intercultural Cafe	3
4 9:30 a.m. Worship (Communion) 10:45 a.m. Back to School Bash 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour	5 LABOR DAY (Office Closed)	6 2:30 p.m. High School "Hang Time"	7 6:30 p.m. Grace's Girlfriends	8 2:30 p.m. Middle School "Hang Time" 6:00 p.m. Meet & Eat at Los Rancheros 7:00 p.m. Outreach Mtg.	9	10
11 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Kick-off 10:45 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. High School	12 7:00 p.m. Music and Worship Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Mtg.	13 2:30 p.m. High School "Hang Time" 6:30 p.m. Deacon Mtg. shift. 7:00 p.m.	14 6:30 p.m. Awana Kick-off 6:30 p.m. Grace's Girlfriends 6:30 p.m. X4J	15 2:30 p.m. Middle School "Hang Time" 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Mtg.	16	17
18 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. Meet & Eat at Flappy's Rest. 6:30 p.m. High School	19 <i>RSVP for Deacon Training</i>	20 2:30 p.m. High School "Hang Time" 7:00 p.m. Deacon Training #2 shift. 7:00 p.m.	21 6:30 p.m. Awana 6:30 p.m. Grace's Girlfriends 6:30 p.m. X4J	22 2:30 p.m. Middle School "Hang Time"	23	24
25 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. High School	26	27 2:30 p.m. High School "Hang Time" 7:00 p.m. shift. 7:00 p.m. Trustees Mtg.	28 6:30 p.m. Awana 6:30 p.m. Grace's Girlfriends 6:30 p.m. X4J	29 2:30 p.m. Middle School "Hang Time"	30	



Pastor: Steve Larson

Associate Pastor: Jen Zerby

Minister of Music: Victoria Young

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. , Monday—Friday

Phone: 815-756-5508

Fax: 815-756-5546

Email: hillcrestcov@comcast.net

Website: www.hillcrestcovenantdekalb.org

Hillcrest Covenant Church

1515 N. First Street

DeKalb, IL 60115



August 17, 2011

Dear Members & Friends of Hillcrest,

After discussions and prayerful consideration, the Mutual Ministries Committee has recommended and the Executive Committee has approved the request of Victoria Young for a nine month unpaid leave, from her position as Minister of Music. Please see her accompanying letter for further information.

This leave will begin on September 6, 2011 and continue through May of 2012. During this time, Hillcrest Covenant Church will continue moving forward with the implementation of the recently approved Long Range Plan and its focus on growth and excellence. The worship and music programming along with all other areas will be a part of that implementation.

Please lift up in prayer Victoria and our ongoing worship and music programming during this time period.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact members of the Mutual Ministries Committee or Executive Committee.

To God be the glory,

Mutual Ministries Committee

Joe Bothe

Pat Kevin

Beth Ferguson

Sherri Howells

Pastor Steve Larson

Danielle Schultz

August 17, 2011

“There is a time for everything,
a season for every activity under heaven.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Hillcrest family,

I would like to let you know that I have requested, and been granted, an unpaid leave from my position as Minister of Music for the upcoming school year effective September 6 through May, 2012. While I enjoy and am fulfilled by much of what I do here, I have come to feel that I would like to, and need to, take some time off to renew and refresh. I have been engaged in this ministry over the past 27 years and the last time I took a sabbatical from it was 16 years ago. I feel it is time to take another such break. And at the same time, it is also my intention to step back from the church in order to allow more space and freedom for people to lead in worship through music in their own ways.

So at the beginning of this time away, I would like to express my appreciation to all the people who have faithfully participated in the music ministry with me over the years, particularly those who have sung in the choir, and also those who have participated on the praise team or played handbells. And thank you also to the congregation for your support and encouragement.

God's grace and peace,

Victoria Young