

COUNTRY COVENANT CROSSROADS

A Place to Believe, to Belong and to Become

Country Evangelical Covenant Church
43W510 McDonald Rd. Elgin, IL 60123

847-464-5381

January, 2001

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

DON'T BE "LEFT BEHIND!"

This Wednesday, beginning at 6:30 PM, come for our weekly get-together and don't get left behind! We will be watching the movie based on the first book of the very popular Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins fiction series describing events leading up to and continuing through the Tribulation. The series is based on the Book of Revelation; it follows the lives of people left behind in the Rapture, some of whom become believers. The discussion is likely to be as exciting as the story! Don't miss it!

CECC ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 21ST

The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21st following our worship service. All are encouraged to attend. We will be voting on our proposed budget for 2001, as well as vacant positions on the church council. We will be remembering all of the wonderful things God has done for us in 2000. There will be a pot luck immediately preceding the meeting. Anyone with questions may contact our church chair, Joyce Cosman. **(COMMITTEE CHAIRS - PLEASE GET YOUR YEAR-END REPORTS TO JOYCE BY JANUARY 7TH SO THAT THEY MAY BE PRINTED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLET.)**

Do you wonder what's happening in our pastoral search? The committee has been hard at work in prayer, in developing a comprehensive survey to be distributed, and in more prayer. Did you get the prayer part? We will be distributing the survey to members, attenders, and former attenders on Sunday, January 7th. There will be time after church for anyone to ask questions about the survey. It is extremely important that we get as many completed surveys back in order to be able to provide a prospective pastor with a complete and accurate picture of just who Country Covenant is. Furthermore, this will help us know what we want, too! We ask that you return the completed surveys to us by January 21st. In fact, we will even be celebrating the event with a pot luck immediately following our worship service on that date. **PLEASE DON'T LET US DOWN - YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF COUNTRY COVENANT!** And remember to **PRAY!**

YTD CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 11/30/00

Budgeted	
Income/Expenses	\$ 71,786
Actual Income	63,890
Actual Expenses/ Liabilities	60,637

JANUARY CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

1/7	Muffie Slater David Slater
1/14	Bob Matson Daniel Beckstrom
1/21	Bob Cosman John Slater
1/28	Bev Tasche Timothy Slater
2/4	Nancy Allen Heather Beckstrom

YOUTH THESPIANS

Congratulations to our youth group who gave us an angel's eye view of heavenly events leading up to Christ's birth. I'll bet we all learned something new! Members of the cast included Heather Beckstrom, Josh Fodge, Sarah Hunt, David, John and Timothy Slater. Sarah Beckstrom directed. You all were great! If you missed it, ask John about animal duty!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Start the New Year off right and have breakfast with fellow church men on Sat., January 6th, 7:30 AM at Country Junction Restaurant. All the guys are welcome to attend, so bring your appetites!

JANUARY NURSERY WORKERS SCHEDULE

1/7	Sarah Beckstrom Timothy Slater
1/14	Janet Washburn Lanae Washburn
1/21	Betty Landmeier David Slater
1/28	Sarah Hunt Heather Beckstrom
2/4	Linda Leach Daniel Beckstrom

If you are unable to teach Children's Church or serve in the Nursery on your scheduled day, please trade with someone else or call one of the subs. Please be sure to notify the church office (847-464-5381) of any changes by Friday noon so that they can be published in the bulletin.

SEEING JESUS' FACE

In the cathedral at Cologne, Germany, there is a status of Jesus with his head bowed upon his chest. Visitors discover that there is only one way to truly see the face of our Lord. One must kneel and look upward.

COVENANT WOMEN

Covenant Women will meet at the church on Tuesday, January 23rd at 7 PM. Come armed with your program suggestions for the 2001 year. All women are invited – we know y'all have good ideas, so come and share them!

MEET PASTOR GARY COLE...

Dear friends in Christ,

My name is Gary Cole. I have been a Covenant pastor since 1981. I have served congregations in New Rochelle, New York; Ironwood, Michigan; and Beloit, Wisconsin. I am excited about serving as your interim pastor. I plan to be with you Saturday evenings, Sundays, and Mondays as well as for any emergencies or special events. Please feel free to contact me either at the church/parsonage or at my home in Beloit. My home telephone is (608) 362-1783. I can also be reached by email at gwcole.1@email.com or by fax at (630) 604-3325.

I am married to Patricia and we have three children: Jemal, Colin, and Kjirsten. Jemal is a senior computer systems analyst at the National Security Agency in Washington. He is married to Kellie. They have a beautiful 6-year-old daughter, Sierra, and a one-year-old son, Jared. Colin is a freshman at Kettering University in Flint, Michigan. He alternates every three months between classes at Kettering and working for SealMaster Bearings in Aurora, Illinois. Kjirsten is a junior at Beloit Memorial High School.

We are pleased to have Pastor Cole as interim Pastor at Country Covenant beginning January 7th. And we understand he has a great sense of humor!

WHO IS THAT KNOCKING AT THE DOOR?

A doctor on the pediatric ward was checking out 4-year-old David with a stethoscope. To put him at ease, after listening to his heart, he put the disk on his chest and the earpieces in David's ears. "Listen," he said, "what do you suppose that is?" David wrinkled his eyebrows, and apparently recalling a verse learned at Sunday school, answered, "That's Jesus knocking!"

Remember this? "Here I am, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me."

-Rev 3:20

BIBLICAL TEASERS

Where is tennis mentioned in the Bible?
When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

What animal took the most baggage into the ark?
The elephant. He took his trunk, while the fox and the rooster only took a brush and a comb.

Who was the most successful physician in the Bible?
Job. He had the most patients.

Where is baseball mentioned in the Bible?
The book of Genesis... "In the beginning..."

HAVE A SHEPHERD'S HEART

On Christmas Eve, we learned from the angels. We can learn from the shepherds too. Since this is the time for new year's resolutions, these might be something to consider:

How you can have a shepherd's heart-

* Listen. God speaks to those who have the time to listen. Are you too caught up in work, schedule, family, or leisure that you are not hearing what God wants to say to you? Maybe it's time to slow down and listen.

* Let your joy show. Can others tell that you are a joyful believer in Christ? Do your actions or language testify to what you believe?

* Know what to look for. Are you waiting for the proverbial "burning bush" in order to confirm your faith, or determine your belief? God typically speaks through less-flashy means: in manglers, in the lives of the poor and needy, in the mundane tasks of daily life. Don't overlook God.

* Make Jesus the Master of your life. Do you allow Him to rule your life, or are you ruled by your boss, your spouse, your children, or the almighty dollar?

* Believe what you hear. The shepherds believed what the angels had told them - and acted upon it. Do you believe what you read in God's Word? Do you believe His promises for your life?

* Go! Over your lifetime, and over this past year, have you moved closer to Christ in your understanding and love? It's time to move toward Christ. What will you do this coming year to become closer to your Savior?

* Seeing is believing. When the shepherds beheld the Christ child their belief was confirmed and they left the stall changed men. Have you allowed your life to be changed by Christ?

* Tell others. The shepherds could not keep silent about the Messiah. They shared the Good News and others were impressed- not by their eloquence or delivery, but by the truth. Have you shared the Good News?

Ed note: This came from crosswalk.com

A WARNING TO THE WISE

A sign near a church parking lot in Verona, NY: "If thou hast parked thy car in this lot, thee had better be in church. All others will be towed at owner's expense."

WHEN FAITH FAILS...

There was a little boy who wanted a shiny new bicycle for Christmas just like his friends. He REALLY wanted it! His parents told him since they were very poor that he should pray Mother Mary and tell her what he wanted. So he did...again and again. But, to no avail...when Christmas morning arrived, and he looked around, there was no bicycle under the tree. Disappointed, he ran upstairs to his room, picked up Mother Mary's statue, wrapped it up in a shirt and stuffed it way far in the back of his dresser drawer, under his pajamas. Then he went to his desk, got out a pencil and paper, and wrote this note, "Dear Jesus, if you ever want to see your mother again...!"