

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

February, 2001

CHILDREN'S HOME SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 11

Our worship service on February 11 will be a time for us to reflect on how special our children are to us. There are a number of activities and decorations planned in honor of this celebration. Parents will have an opportunity during the service to say a few words of thanks for their children, we'll hear from a grandparent who will tell us "What My Children and Grandchildren Mean to Me," the children will draw ways to show love to someone during Sunday School and Children's Church, and they will decorate special heart-shaped cookies which we will enjoy after worship downstairs. Look for the big valentine they will make which we will be sending to the Covenant Children's Home after the service!

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Thanks to all of you who turned in your surveys to the Pastoral Search Committee. They are truly a "snapshot" of Country Covenant. We will be spending time in prayer and tabulating the results to share with the Church Family and forward to the Central Conference. This information will then go out to prospective pastors so that they may know who Country Covenant is and whether God is calling them to our pulpit. Stay tuned ... and keep praying!

MEN'S RETREAT AT COVENANT POINT

All you men out there, mark your calendars for the weekend of March 9-11! That's when the annual Men's Retreat at Covenant Point takes place this year. Talk about a great opportunity to really get away from it all! All of the fun and hilarity of being a kid again coupled with the opportunity to draw near to God through prayer, worship, fellowship, Bible study and retreat in the beauty of God's Northwoods. Let off some steam, let go of some pressures, let God renew you by His Holy Spirit. If you've been to previous retreats, you know what fun you are in for, and if you haven't, well, isn't it about time you find out? The featured speaker this year is Lon Allison, an ordained minister, author and songwriter. Contact Mark Beckstrom for more details.

Wouldn't it be something if there were no guys at our church that Sunday because they were all up at Point for the Retreat!?!
Hmmm...

YEAR END CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 12/31/00

Budgeted	
Income/Expenses	\$ 78,315
Actual Income	71,310
Actual Expenses/ Liabilities	66,588

ONE-2-ONE

“What does that mean?” you say... During the next month, we will be starting a new mentoring ministry that we are calling “One-2-One.” We have quite a number of people (young and young-at-heart) in our midst that lead interesting lives! An adult will be paired up, based on similar interests, with a youth for the year.

The pair will then spend time getting to know each other and having fun. There will also be a monthly meeting or activity with all of the participants involved in this ministry. Be looking for more information on how you can get involved, and then get ready to enjoy the ride!

COVENANT WOMEN UPDATE

Our Women’s Ministry, Covenant Women, is off to a flying start for 2001! The February meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 17th, 12:00 noon at Doris McClay’s home, where we will enjoy a “pot-luck type” salad luncheon. ALL women of the church are cordially invited!

Officers for this year are:

Betty Landmeier President
Bev Tasche Vice Pres.
Elmina Richardson Treasurer
Doris McClay Secretary

Sunday, February 25 is Covenant Women’s Sunday. We will take a few minutes during the service to explain this year’s project and a special donation will be collected after the service in support of the project.

2000 TREASURER'S REPORT

I invite each of you to look over the Financial Report found in the Annual Report booklet distributed at the Annual Meeting on January 21st. Details are given to let the church family understand how the church acts as stewards of God's money. I would like to summarize some of what I reported at the meeting.

Last year the church membership approved a budget of \$78,315 for the General Fund. Actual spending was \$66,588, while the income from giving and other sources was \$71,310. We began 2000 with a reserve of \$1,302 in the General Fund, we now find that reserve up to \$6,023. The primary reason for this increase is we did not have a full-time pastor for the last half of 2000.

The Year 2001 Budget approved at the January 21st meeting was for total General Fund spending of \$66,913. In order to meet this budget, the giving for the General Fund should average around \$1,300 each week. We will continue to publish the current financial summary in each newsletter.

I ask that you prayerfully consider how you can best continue to support the ministry of Country Covenant. As always, I will be glad to answer any questions you may have about the details of the church finances.

Your Brother in Christ

Mark Beckstrom

PASTOR'S NOTES

A friend of mine tells how his small struggling church in Connecticut turned itself around and more than doubled in size.

One of the members of the congregation liked putting on special musical programs and would invite people from the community to be part of the program. On one occasion he asked a rough-looking young man who worked in a machine shop with him, "I hear you singing around the shop all the time. Would you like to be in a program I'm putting on?" The young man accepted and had a good time. A few weeks later he asked the church member, "Do you think my family could start coming to your church?"

This, of course, was great, and so there was a new family in the congregation. They enjoyed getting to know the other members, and when it was time for the church picnic to take place, they came. They also brought a case of beer for the potluck dinner. But the good thing was, "no one said a word" about it.

It wasn't long after, that the new family asked another question. "Do you think it would be O.K., if my brother and his family started coming to church?"

Again, that sounded great. But no one knew his brother. On the next Sunday the prelude was shattered by the fierce roar of a chopped Harley pulling into the church parking lot. In came the brother and his live-in girlfriend. He was wearing a leather jacket with the emblem for the motorcycle gang he belonged to sewn on back and he had chains jangling from his boots. He had several large tattoos and a big earring. His girlfriend wore a halter-top and short-short shorts.

They were warmly welcomed.

Over the course of the next few months the brother and his girlfriend were married in the church and they, too, started inviting their friends to come to church with them. A total of 60 new people started coming to the church, and their presence changed the church forever. And it all started with an invitation to sing in a music program and a guy on a loud motorcycle!

Everyone who enters church is precious to the Lord and should be treated specially, even if they bring the wrong beverage to the picnic, even if they wear the wrong clothes, and even if they are living the wrong way. Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.

Pastor Gary Cole

FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

2/4	Nancy Allen Heather Beckstrom
2/11	Muffie Slater David Slater
2/18	Mark Beckstrom Sarah Hunt
2/25	Bob Matson Daniel Beckstrom
3/4	Bob Cosman John Slater

FEBRUARY NURSERY WORKERS SCHEDULE

2/4	Linda Leach Daniel Beckstrom
2/11	Sarah Beckstrom Timothy Slater
2/18	Janet Washburn Lanae Washburn
2/25	Betty Landmeier David Slater
3/4	Sarah Hunt Heather Beckstrom

ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATION

On January 21st, after a delicious pot luck luncheon, members and friends of Country Covenant met for our Annual Meeting Celebration. Council reports were presented and the Proposed Budget for 2001 was approved. A written copy of all of the reports is available on the shelf in the narthex.

Members of the 2001 Church Council are:

Lynn Landmeier	Church Chair
Joyce Cosman	Vice Chair
Peggy Fodge	Financial Sec.
Betty Free	Recording Sec.
Mark Beckstrom	Treasurer
Muffie Slater	Worship Chair
Betty Landmeier	Properties Chair
Bob Matson	Fellowship Chair
vacant	Evangelism Chair
vacant	Christian Ed.

Please continue to bathe our church in your prayers that we will follow God's lead in the direction he wants us to go.

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.

SOMETHINGS TO PONDER

WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.

Plan ahead...it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Coincidences happen when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.

Never give the devil a ride..he will always want to drive.

If God is your copilot...swap seats.

A day without laughter is a day wasted. So is a day without love.