

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

JUNE, 2001

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Please join us on June 3rd as we celebrate the graduation of our high school seniors: Amanda Bergman and Sarah Hunt from Burlington Central; and from Hampshire, Daniel Beckstrom and John Slater. Heather Kein and Alissa Stoxen graduate from eighth grade and Kristen Slater with her Bachelor's degree in meteorology from Northern Illinois University. We'll have cake and ice cream after worship in honor of our Class of 2001. Way to go, y'all!

COMMUNION SUNDAY

For this month only, we will switch our regular Communion Sunday from the 1st to the 2nd Sunday. We will celebrate communion on June 10th.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, June 17th, we will rejoice with Hannah Bergman and Katie Fodge as they are confirmed during our worship service. Both of these young ladies have worked long and hard over the last two years in their Christian walk. That is also Pastor Gary's last Sunday with us. Please join us in supporting our confirmands and as we bid farewell to Pastor Gary.

TURNING THE TIDE

Hey there, all you men! "The battle lines are drawn; the enemy is advancing. Where are you going to stand?" That is the call to action to which you can respond at the 2001 Promise Keepers Conference at Chicago's United Center on June 22 and 23. Join thousands of other godly men for a life-changing opportunity to experience our awesome God. Contact Mark Beckstrom for more information.

COVENANT WOMEN

Ladies, take note: The annual Women of Faith Conference, "Boundless Love," at the United Center in Chicago is scheduled for July 20-21. Bev Tasche has all the info and will order your tickets. Let her know how many you need!

The Covenant Women Ladies Fall Fellowship at Covenant Harbor is coming up faster than you think! The dates are Sept. 14-16 and 21-23. Registration by June 1st. See Betty Landmeier.

YTD CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 4/30/01

Budgeted	
Income/Expenses	\$ 22,304
Actual Income	17,093
Actual Expenses/ Liabilities	13,370

PASTOR'S NOTES

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

–St. Paul in Philippians 4:8-9

I do not think it is self-serving for me to ask that whenever you call to mind my ministry among you these past months that you focus on what was well done. No pastor is perfect, not even St. Paul, and especially not me. But rather than focus on human imperfection, Paul tells the Philippian Christians to focus on what God has accomplished that is praiseworthy during his time among them.

It is very easy for us to focus on failure, mistakes, the hard things in life, and especially how the past has disappointed us. But this is not the path to the blessing Paul pronounces in Philippians 4:7 – “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

As Country Covenant calls a full-time pastor in the coming months the members and friends of the congregation must focus on God’s past blessings and claim them for the future. God has given you warm hearts, genuine affection for one another, and a love for those without Christ. You are surrounded by fields and I do not mean corn fields. You are surrounded by a mission field God has given to you, challenged you with.

In your prayers and discourse with each other you must seek God’s guidance in meeting this challenge. Work closely with God, each other, and your Pastor to be God’s people in this area.

I bid you farewell on Sunday, June 17th. But I hope to see many of you again. My address will be:

Gary & Patty Cole
9563 Country Club Road
Minocqua, WI 54548
(715) 356-5965

I will be serving the United Methodist Church of the Pines in downtown Minocqua. If you are in the area, please contact us! I will surely miss you. I must extend my thanks and gratitude to those who have made my ministry here easier: Joyce Cosman, Pat Bergman, Mark Beckstrom and Muffie Slater.

Peace,

Pastor Gary Cole

JUNE CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

6/3	Bob Cosman John Slater
6/10	Bev Tasche Timothy Slater
6/17	Nancy Allen Heather Beckstrom
6/24	Muffie Slater David Slater
7/1	Mark Beckstrom Sarah Hunt

JUNE NURSERY WORKERS SCHEDULE

6/3	Janet Washburn Lanae Washburn
6/10	Betty Landmeier David Slater
6/17	Linda Leach Daniel Beckstrom
6/24	Sarah Hunt Heather Beckstrom
7/1	Joshua Stoxen Timothy Slater

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.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The pastoral search committee has received from the Central Conference a number of profiles of potential pastors. We have reviewed these profiles, and after prayer, selected a few for further review and dialog. **Your prayer support as a congregation is an integral part of the selection process.** The committee's job is to determine which, if any, of the candidates is the one that God has chosen to shepherd our church. This cannot be stressed too heavily. Please continue to faithfully bathe the search committee, the selection process, and our future pastor in your prayers. ***Remember, you are not merely filling a slot on your staff, you're trying to confirm the specific direction of God's call. Confirming the call takes time, patience, and care,*** from Confirming the Pastoral Call, by Joseph Umidi.

HAM DINNER RECAP

The results from our 19th Annual Ham Dinner, served on May 19th, are in! 215 dinners were served, and after expenses, we cleared \$1,191.13! The bake sale brought in an additional \$313.30. Proceeds are used to provide opportunities for any of our kids to attend summer camp at Covenant Point or Covenant Harbor. As the sign on the way out says, "a Big Thank You from the Bottom of our Pig Packin' ♥'s!" We thank all who came and ate or ordered take-outs, and we thank all of those folks who gave of their time setting up, preparing the dinner and the delicious baked treats, selling tickets, seating people, waiting on tables, and cleaning up afterward. You all are the reason this works!

GREETERS NEEDED

Do you like people? Are you looking for a way to serve at church that doesn't require a large investment of time? Have we got just the opportunity for you! We need folks to be greeters. Duties include handing out the bulletins as people enter the sanctuary on Sunday, collecting the offering, making sure the outside doors are unlocked before worship and locked when you leave, lighting the candles, and making a good impression on visitors. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please consider helping out with this important ministry at Country Covenant.

THE FRIENDSHIP POCKET

Open this pocket to find some reminders of our friendship:

Lifesaver - to remind you of the many times others need your help and you theirs.

Cotton ball - cushioned support of friends for the rough road ahead.

Rubber band - to remember to stay flexible.

Candy kiss and hug - we all need hugs and kisses.

Paper clip - to hold it all together.

Candle - a reminder to share your light.

Recipe - a symbol of sharing.

Marble - to help keep you rolling (or in case you lost one).

Sweet & sour candy - to help accept and appreciate the difference of others.

Band-aid - for healing hurt feelings (yours or someone else's).

Eraser - to remind you that every day can start over with a clean slate.

CHANGES IN THE WORKS

You may have noticed some remodeling going on around here... To make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday, we are going to have a special "No Excuse Sunday." Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep in." There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our pews are too hard. Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV late Saturday night. We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if I ever came to church." Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold and fans for those who say it is too hot. Scorecards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present. Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to church and cook dinner, too. We will distribute "Stamp Out Stewardship" buttons for those who feel that the church is always asking for money. One section will be devoted to grass and trees for those who like to seek God in nature. Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday. The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who never have seen the church without them. We will provide hearing aids for those who can't hear the pastor and cotton for those who can.

-Author unknown

Seriously, work on handicap accessibility has begun. The women's rest room is being remodeled to accommodate wheel chairs and a ramp will be constructed on the west side of the building.