

# 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

**July, 2001**

## **ANNOUNCING ANNUAL JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> PICNIC!**

Come one, come all! It's time for the annual Country Covenant Picnic celebration event!

**When: Wed, July 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Time: 12:00 Noon**  
**Where: Lions Park, Elburn**

Bring your own table service (plates, utensils, napkins), your own beverage, and a main dish and a side/salad/dessert to pass. Coffee will be provided. And be prepared to enjoy lots of great fellowship and fun! Lions Park is a block west of Route 47, and just south of the main downtown part of Elburn. See y'all there!

## **YTD CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 5/31/01**

Budgeted	
Income/Expenses	\$ 27,880
Actual Income	\$ 24,914
Actual Expenses/ Liabilities	\$ 16,272

## **REMINDER**

Check the bulletin board in the narthex for information on local happenings of interest as well as for any notes we have received from friends and families.

## **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 now. See Betty Landmeier.

Triennial X "Keeping in Step with the Spirit," is scheduled for August 2-5 in Asheville, NC. Cindy Secrest McDowell is this year's keynote speaker. She is a well-known Christian author and Missions Pastor. More info on the bulletin board.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We are looking for people who can sing and people who can play! And we know that there are those of you out there who can! You just need the encouragement to step forward. So here's your chance...

Come September, Beth and Dawn will be going back to play at their churches and Betty will not be able to play each week. If you know of anyone who can accompany our worship service, please let Muffie know. In addition, we will be recruiting people to sing solo, duet, or in groups. Practice begins Wed, Sept. 12, at 7 PM! Come join us, it won't hurt!

## JULY CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

7/1	Mark Beckstrom Sarah Hunt
7/8	Bob Matson Daniel Beckstrom
7/15	Bob Cosman John Slater
7/22	Bev Tasche Timothy Slater
7/29	Nancy Allen
8/5	Muffie Slater David Slater

## JULY NURSERY WORKERS SCHEDULE

7/1	Joshua Stoxen Timothy Slater
7/8	Janet Washburn Lanae Washburn
7/15	Betty Landmeier David Slater
7/22	Sarah Hunt Heather Beckstrom
7/29	Linda Leach Daniel Beckstrom
8/5	Joshua Stoxen Timothy Slater

### 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.

**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.**

I found a penny today  
Just lying on the ground  
But it's not just a penny  
This little coin I've found.  
Found pennies come from heaven  
That's what my Grandpa told me,  
He said Angels toss them down  
Oh, how I loved that story.  
He said when an Angel misses you  
They toss a penny down  
Sometimes just to cheer you up  
To make a smile out of your frown  
So don't pass by that penny  
When you're feeling blue  
It may be a penny from heaven  
That an Angel's tossed to you.

# **PASTOR'S NOTES**

## BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION;

As your Interim Pastor I would like to introduce myself based upon the following passage of Scripture from Isaiah 51:1b,c:

“Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.”

This refers the Israelites to their having come from the loins of Abraham and Sarah. More than that they were to consider the Faith basis of their lives as found in “Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

As for myself this passage has a deep personal meaning in that my father was a master granite cutter. Upon coming from Horvik, Blekinge, Sweden he settled in the Pigeon Cove village of Rockport, MA to pursue the occupation he had begun at age 14 in his hometown - now he was 17 years of age. My mother came to Boston at the age of 19 from Sweden as well.

Rockport was well named, for its shorelines consist of convoluted ledges upon which the Atlantic ocean cascades. In addition the woods inland are dotted with granite quarries, where I learned to swim prior to trying out the ocean beaches.

Most importantly, my whole family of origin was involved in our small town church, the Swedish Congregation Church (a part of the Evangelical Covenant Church). My father was church chairman for 20 years and Sunday School Superintendent for 17 years. He and my mother and two brothers sang in the Choir. I often went visiting with my parents in the homes of the elderly of our church as well as the other granite cutters with whom my father worked. What a ground work apprenticeship that was!

Following a brief stint as a Tool and Diemaker Apprentice at G.E. in Lynn, MA, I enrolled in the Pre-Seminary Course at North Park College in Chicago, IL. It was there that I met my wife-to-be, Helen M. Wallin - a native of Chicago. We were married on August 28, 1946 following my internship with two years to go in the Seminary. My internship was in the Batchelor/Tallman, MI area, 20 miles east of Ludington - a farm community Congregational Christian Church which had been closed for five years. It is a Covenant Church today.

Upon graduating from the Seminary in 1948 our first church was in Mason City, IA - one with twelve members, being one year old. We went there with our first son, Dan and our second son, Lauren was born there. Lauren died in 1987 at 37 years of a brain tumor, having served as pastor at two Covenant churches.

In Jan., 1951 we moved to the Covenant Church in New Sweden, Maine - way up north in Aroostock County. There our third son, Les, was born, and we moved to Pawtucket, RI in the Fall of 1954. We served there for better than seven years. During that time I began my chaplaincy interest at the Rhode Island State Hospital, receiving training as well. Our daughter, Julie, was born in RI.

Our next church was in Brooklyn, NY where we served for almost six years until the Fall of 1967. That was an interesting large city experience. We served our final church from 1967 until 1974 in Bridgeport CT. During twenty of those twenty-six years I developed my interest and training experiences in the chaplaincy on the side. So in 1974 we moved back to Chicago for further chaplaincy training along with training in Family Systems

Theory. We have six grandchildren, one great grandchild and one more on the way.

I served Swedish Covenant Hospital, The Covenant Home for the Aging and the Covenant Retirement Community of Northbrook, IL over a period of eighteen years.

During my pastorates I was very active in Community and Conference responsibilities. These included Chairman of ministerial groups, East Coast Sunday School Association, Covenant and Ecumenical Chaplains Association.

I retired in 1992 and have continued to be active as a chapter volunteer and Central Conference Registration Personnel. Lately I was Visitation Pastor at Trinity Covenant Church of Oak Lawn, IL.

So now here I am, hewn, molded, chipped, polished and in need of more carving, serving as your Interim Pastor.

Roy E. Olson

### **“-TATERS’**

Jesus often spoke in parables. Here is a modern parable illustrating what the church does and does not need:

DIC-TATERS - those who are always ready with answers and instructions for other people but do little or nothing themselves.

AGI-TATERS - those who get everyone stirred up over things that don't amount to much but criticize those who work faithfully for the Lord.

COMMEN-TATERS - those who have long, heated discussions about church life, pastors, organizations but don't become involved personally.

SPEC-TATERS - those who simply watch others do the work of the church.

HESI-TATERS - those who say, "I'll wait. Maybe someone else will do it."

The Church needs:

IMI-TATERS - those who seek to follow Christ and imitate his life, love and mission.

SWEET-TATERS - those whose lives are filled with love of God and the sweet love of Christ that pours out in our service to others.

Which kind of “-tater” are you??

### **SUMMER HOURS**

Please note, our summer Worship Service and Sunday School times REMAIN THE SAME as during the year.

Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM