

# 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

**December, 2001**

## **WHAT ARE YOU DOING CHRISTMAS EVE...**

### **...CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

Come join us as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Monday evening, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 PM. This is a joyous and moving service of worship that will fill your heart with the love and mercy of God.

### **COUNTRY COVENANT CHRISTMAS**

Everyone is invited to gather at the church on Sunday evening, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM for a time of fellowship that we are calling "Country Covenant Christmas." Soup will be provided, and you are asked to bring a sandwich to eat and one to share. Also, bring a Christmas ornament, gift or card from the past that has special meaning for you. We are going to share those stories and sing Christmas carols.

### **YTD CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 11/30/01**

Budgeted	
Income/Expenses	\$ 55,760
Actual Income	\$ 48,330
Actual Expenses/ Liabilities	\$ 34,771

### **PARSONAGE CHANGES**

## **ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Attention! The annual, not-to-be-missed CECC Adults Christmas Party will be held here at the church on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. The festivities will begin at 7:00 PM with a pot luck supper. Please bring a main dish and a side, salad or dessert. Then plan to stick around for the fun after we eat. Bring a wrapped gift (not over \$10) - men bring a man's gift, ladies bring one for a lady - for the Yankee Swap. If you've been to past swaps, you know you are in for a real treat...if you are new, come experience the fellowship and fun - see what a caring Christian family is all about!

### **COUNTRY COVENANT ON THE WEB**

Country Covenant has a web page! The address is [www.Countrycov.org](http://www.Countrycov.org) and even though it is still "under construction," you can bring it up and see what we've got so far. There are sections with our vision statement, current activities, a link to Karl and Sue Peterson's page (our missionaries) and a great picture of Pastor Dave on his page! Plans include a Youth page, and a History of Country Covenant page. Contact Mark Beckstrom with any suggestions you have for things to be included and then watch as we grow!

We are in the process of converting the parsonage to church offices. Pastor Dave

is already set up over there with his office, and the church office will be moving over soon. The current church office room will be taken out, allowing expansion of the nursery and the narthex.

### **COVENANT WOMEN TO REVEAL SECRET PALS**

ALL women of the church are invited to the annual Covenant Women's Christmas Party and gift exchange at Nancy Allen's home (20N015 Getty Rd., Hampshire) on Tuesday evening, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Plan to arrive at 6:30 PM to have dinner (bring a dish to pass). We will exchange gifts and learn who our Secret Pal has been this year. If you do not have a Secret Pal, come anyway, bring a gift (value \$10) and be part of the fun. Meet at the church at 6:00 to carpool. Anyone needing a ride, may call Betty Landmeier. Take a break from those stressful holiday preparations and join us for a good time of fellowship, food and fun!

### **COFFEE TALK WITH PASTOR DAVE**

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00, beginning on December 5<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Dave invites anyone to stop by to share a cup of coffee and talk. No appointment is necessary. Meet in the parsonage. This is a great way to get to know our new pastor, and for him to get to know you!

### **PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday - 10:00 - 5:00  
Wednesday - 10:00 - 5:00  
Thursday - 10:00-5:00  
Friday - office and visitation

Monday - day off

### **EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

Each Wednesday evening, beginning January 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, Pastor Dave will lead us in Bible study at the parsonage. We will begin with a study of angels. Mark your calendars, bring your bibles and come prepared to learn about God's timeless message to us in His Word.

### **"THANKS A LATTE!"**

This year's Covenant Women Ministries thank offering is called "Thanks a Latte!" Each lady at church should have received a Christmas Blessing Calendar for December listing creative ways we can support our Special Interest Missionaries. This calendar is intended to heighten our awareness of blessings we enjoy at this time and also remind us to pray for our Special Interest Missionaries during this season. Additional copies are available in the narthex under the bulletin board. Each day has a donation listed, that donation is based upon something you've seen or done that relates to Christmas. Funds will be collected on December 30<sup>th</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup>, and will be used for Covenant Women Ministries projects.

# **PASTOR'S NOTES**

Dear Country Covenant Church family,

It is with great excitement and thanksgiving that I humbly accept your call to be the Pastor of Country Evangelical Covenant Church. Beth and I extend our thanks to all of you for your warmth and graciousness during the call process and the Service of Installation. We are particularly grateful to all of the wonderful members of the Pastoral Search Committee for all of their prayers, hard work and hospitality. God has truly brought us together! It will be fun to see where God leads our church in the future.

I commit myself by the grace of God to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of your pastoral call. You are all in our thoughts and prayers and we covet your prayers for our transition. May God bless our common ministry to the Country Covenant Church family and surrounding community. God promises that the best is yet to come!

We are excited to share in the life and mission of the Country Covenant Church and the whole community. We are looking forward to sharing in this Advent and Christmas season with you and your family.

Pastor David Trosper

## **OUT OF AFRICA...**

Jambo. Sasa. Greetings from Kenya. I just wanted to say hello to everyone at home and let you know that I am thinking of you all. Everything here is going well. I am spending a lot of time studying and trying to keep up with my assignments, but I'm spending even more time with the people. I love it here and God has truly blessed me during my time here so far. I am looking forward to seeing you all again, but until that time, I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Wishing you warm thoughts from warm and sunny Nairobi.

Sarah Beckstrom

## DECEMBER CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

12/2	Nancy Allen
12/9	Mark Beckstrom
12/16	Beverley Tasche
12/23	Bob Matson
12/30	Muffie Slater
1/6	Daniel Beckstrom

### 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?

### DECEMBER NURSERY WORKERS

## SCHEDULE

12/2	Linda Matson
12/9	Rebecca Cosman
12/16	Linda Leach
12/23	Janet Washburn
12/30	Boly Turner
1/6	Jesse Delask

**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.**

\* 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?

-Author unknown

### HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!