

COUNTRY COVENANT CROSSROADS

A Place to Believe, to Belong and to Become

Country Evangelical Covenant Church

43W510 McDonald Rd. Elgin, IL 60123

Pastor David Trosper

847-464-5381

www.countrycov.org

April, 2002

CECC BUSINESS MEETING

There will be a short business meeting for members of Country Covenant on Sunday, April 21 immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to seek membership approval to transfer money from the church vehicle fund to the general fund to be used for upgrades to the church. Money is needed to upgrade the sound system in the sanctuary and to do some landscaping of the church grounds. Anyone wishing to donate to either of these causes is welcome to do so. Mark your donation so we will know where to apply it.

YTD CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 2/28/02

Budgeted	
Income/Expenses	\$13,840
Actual Income	9,365
Actual Expenses/ Liabilities	11,112

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS

Beginning next Sunday, April 7, and each month on the first Sunday of the month, we will be collecting food for Centro de Informacion, a not-for-profit Hispanic social service agency located in Elgin. Especially needed are donations of rice, dried pinto beans and tortillas. These items will be used to stock their emergency food pantry, which can mean the difference between housing expenses and food for these families.

WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

Saturday, April 13, 8:30-3:00

- Hope and Healing for Hurting Families. "The church needs to be a place of healing, not just a body of believers," says Steve Earll, presenter and licensed professional counselor who specializes in family and recovery issues. Hidden family pain and trauma are at the root of most major life problems. These unresolved issues play out in many ways that are often passed on to the next generation. This workshop examines the effects of such unfinished issues and provides steps for ministry resolutions and restoration.

Saturday-Sunday, June 15-16

- Judy Howard walked her way across America, and will tell us about her journey of faith and adventure.

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 6-8

- Habits of the Heart, Experiencing God, presented by Debby Blue. Details to follow.

INQUIRERS' CLASS

Pastor Dave is planning to hold an inquirers' class in May for anyone who is interested in becoming a member of Country Covenant. Come, ask questions, and learn about the Covenant.

!HE IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!

COUNTRY COVENANT'S 17TH ANNUAL CAMP FUND RAISER...

Featuring Famous Fay's BBQ Pork Chops is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. You don't want to miss this one! The menu includes a choice of 2 pork chops, or ½ chicken, or combo 1 chop & 1/4 chicken. Side dishes include applesauce, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls & butter. Dessert is home baked cookies (made by YOU)! All for only \$9.00! We need folks to get involved. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board of the narthex. In addition, we need you to tell all of your friends and family members. Advance ticket purchase is required. There will be carry-outs available. This is the way we raise the money to send our kids to camp!

BETTER THAN ALMOST ANYTHING CAKE

So many folks asked Beth Trosper for the recipe for the cake she made at the last family night, we thought we'd include it here.

1 pkg German chocolate cake mix
water, oil, eggs as cake mix directs
1 14 oz can sweetened condensed milk
1 17 oz jar caramel, butterscotch or fudge
topping
8 oz container whipped topping, thawed
1 8 oz bag of toffee chips or bits

Preheat oven to 350°. Bake cake as directed on package for 13x9 pan. Cool 15 min. Poke top of warm cake every ½ inch with handle of wooden spoon (wipe handle occasionally). Drizzle sweetened condensed milk evenly over top of cake. Let stand until milk is absorbed. Drizzle with caramel topping. Cover and refrigerate 2 hrs or until chilled. Spread whipped topping over cake and sprinkle with toffee chips. Cover, and refrigerate any remaining cake.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday evening Bible study on Angels has been great. We are almost done (no study this week, but will wrap it up next week.) All the chairs at the Annex have been filled, but we can always make room for more! Pastor Dave has already picked the next topic "Experiencing God." Time 7-8 PM. Mark your calendars, come join us and grow in your faith!

AVAILABLE TO A GOOD HOME

There is a washing machine downstairs at the Annex which is available to anyone who needs it. As is. It was working when last used. Also, there are shades available. See Betty Landmeier for more details.

SARAH RETURNING TO KENYA FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Sarah leaves for Kenya on May 15th for a summer internship working with homeless girls. While she is there, she would love to hear from you! Her address will be:

Sarah Beckstrom
Homeless Children International Kenya
PO Box 76262
Nairobi, Kenya

Donations for air fare and living expenses have been coming in. She needs around \$3,000 total. Thank you for helping with this important ministry.

There will be a pot luck dinner immediately following worship on Sunday April 28, when Sarah will talk about her upcoming trip. All are welcome; this is an all-church event! Don't miss it!

OUTPOST NOTES

In the morning when I drive down Illinois Route 47, I look for the church's steeple. I get the impression of being someone who is headed to one of God's Kingdom Outposts. It's really an amazing place. It's been exciting to see the attendance on Sunday worship continue to grow. I never know who may decide to visit with us at Sunday worship. Our Bible study on Angels has been well attended and most interesting. I plan to continue the Bible study with Blackaby's Experiencing God study material. I believe God is building a new community here at the Outpost. Also, God is creating new opportunities for ministry. This is indeed a special place. In all probability, Country Covenant is the best kept secret in the Covenant denomination.

Pastor Dave

APRIL CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

4/7	Mark Beckstrom
4/14	Daniel Beckstrom
4/21	Joyce Cosman
4/28	Maki Coomes
5/5	Beverley Tasche

APRIL NURSERY WORKERS SCHEDULE

4/7	Daniel Beckstrom
4/14	Boly Turner
4/21	Betty Landmeier
4/28	Beth Trosper
5/5	Linda Matson

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY HOME

1 cup Honesty
2 cups Congeniality
2 cups Plenty
3 cups Respect
4 cups Love

Stir honesty and plenty to a smooth mixture. Add 4 portions of love (well beaten), then moisten with congeniality. Stir in the respect slowly, season with fruit of the spirit and a dash of spice of unselfishness and a pinch of individuality. Lighten with leaves of constancy. Bake in a quick oven.

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.

SUPPER 8'S

Supper 8's will begin this month. A sign-up sheet was passed at church and the group assignments will be made shortly. If you are interested, or have questions, contact Linda Matson, 847-683-2312

HYMNS

The Sunday before Christmas, a pastor told his congregation that the church needed some extra money. He asked the people to consider donating a little more than usual into the offering plate.

He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns. After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1,000 check in the offering.

He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the offering plate. A very quiet, elderly, saintly-looking lady all the way in the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front.

Slowly she made her way to the pastor. He told her how beautiful it was that she gave so much and in thanks asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three most handsome men in the building and said, "I'll take him and him and him."

SSSHHHH!

Six year old Angie and her four year old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "see those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

ANOTHER VIEW POINT...

A Sunday school teacher asked her little children as they were on their way to the church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping!"

IN HONOR OF PASTOR DAVE'S SERMONS ON THE LORDS PRAYER...

I had been teaching my three year old daughter *The Lord's Prayer*. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail."

AND...

Three year old Reese has it all figured out - He prayed, "Our Father, who does art in heaven, Howard is his name..."

FINALLY...

One particular four year old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

GOD IS GOOD!

ALL THE TIME!