

Country Covenant Crossroads

April 2009

Country Evangelical Covenant Church

43W510 McDonald Road, Campton Hills, IL 60124

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A Place to Believe, to Belong, and to Become
Pastor Mark Harder



Under Construction...

Overview of 12-step Christianity

1. We admitted we were powerless over our compulsion – that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God.
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. We admitted to God, ourselves, and another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. We humbly asked Him to remove all our shortcomings.
8. We made a list of all persons we have harmed and become willing to make amends to them all.
9. We made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when doing so would injure them or others.
10. We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry it out.
12. Having had spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to those with compulsions, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Pastor Mark



Dates for your calendar:

April 6 – Jews for Jesus

April 9 – Maundy Thursday Service at Batavia Cov

April 12 – Easter Sunday

Breakfast and Worship

April 16 – Church Council Meeting

April 18 – Camping Ministry Friends Dinner

April 24-25 – Central Conference Annual Meeting

April 26 – Women Ministries Jewelry Demo

May 3 – Church Quarterly Business Meeting

May 16 – Fay's Pork Chop Dinner Camp Fundraiser



EASTER WEEK

Monday –

This year Easter week will begin with “**Christ in the Passover**”, a presentation by Melissa Moskowitz of **Jews for Jesus**. Join us on **April 6** for a potluck dinner at 6:00pm and the program at 7:00pm.

Thursday –

A **Maundy Thursday** combined service will be held at Batavia Covenant Church at 7:00pm. You are encouraged to attend and even be part of a combined choir (practice is at 6:30). There will be a refreshment table and our church is asked to bring fruit to share.

Easter Sunday –

The annual **Easter breakfast** will be prepared by the men of our church. This is a wonderful way to begin our Resurrection celebration!

Wednesdays:

How well do you answer questions on your faith?
What does the Bible say?

Wednesday night **RockSolid** studies continue to explore 26 “formational footholds of faith”. For both new and mature Christians, these studies offer resources for deeper understanding into faith with insightful articles and daily life applications.

Plan to join us on Wednesdays at 6:30pm.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

to everyone who bought and/or brought goodies for our snow removal bake sales. We exceeded the half-way point in paying for this year’s snow removal (\$4355 as of the printing of this newsletter, but March isn’t over yet!?!). We have put future bake sales on hold until after the Fay’s dinner, so start saving your \$\$ for one of Elmina’s pies!
Again, a big THANK YOU!!



Sunday School Spotlight!

We finished our 6 week studies on the life of David using flannel graph. Our Music Machine/Song Mobile is ready to roll and the kids are excited to use it with a variety of music and ?? for the Glory of God. Look forward to Palm Sunday and Easter!

We have 8 – 12 children in attendance. They have been working on Easter cards to send to the Rosewood Care Center. They are also saving to buy some animals for the Heifer Project.

We have set some safety rules for when the weather is nice and children want to run outside and play. One new rule is that a parent must come down and get their child after worship. We hope this will provide more supervision, both during snack time and outside. With cars leaving the parking lot, it will be safer for children to go to the fenced playground area with parental supervision.

Women Ministries

All women and girls are invited to an afternoon of fun on **Sunday, April 26 at 12 noon**. Pam Altepeter will demonstrate how to make a beaded key chain or a beaded bookmark. And then we will make our own key chain or bookmark or both. There is a charge of \$5 for each item. A light lunch will be served, so please let Betty or Bev know if you will be attending.

And men...

A breakfast meeting of the men of our church was held in the first Saturday in March at the Rose Garden Restaurant in Hampshire. Nine men attended and the fellowship was great! On **Saturday, April 4** we'll meet again at **8:00am** in the same place. All men are welcome – we can always make the table longer!

If you need directions, call Lynn at 847-464-5447.
Hope to see you!

Upcoming meetings

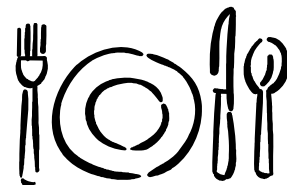
April 24-25 – Central Conference Annual Meeting

Sunday May 3 – Quarterly Church Business Mtg.
(with potluck following worship)

Agenda items for this meeting include Constitution revision and election of delegates for the Covenant Annual Meeting.

Fay’s is coming!!

It’s time to start thinking **pork chops!** Summer is just around the corner and that means camp and that means fundraising to help send our kids for a great week at Covenant Harbor or Covenant Point. Our **Fay’s Pork Chop Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 16, 4:30-7:00pm**. Tickets will be \$12 if purchased in advance, \$13 at the door. Mark the date on your calendar and watch for further details!



Friends' Dinner

April 18 is another opportunity to support our **Covenant Central Conference camping ministry**. This dinner will be held at 5:00pm at First Covenant in Rockford. Contact Pastor Mark if you're interested in attending. Reservations are due by April 4.

Let the Spirit Lead!

what the Sunshine Boys & Girls have been up to...

- Fence lights were changed from LOVE to JOY for the coming of Easter (Remember Jesus said: "I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." John 15:9,11)
- Church attic was cleaned and straightened up and VBS items were moved up for storage.
- Basement wall in SS area was repaired after cracks were filled earlier this year.
- Toilet in parsonage was replaced at a cost of \$179. (If you would like to help with this expense, mark your check "parsonage repair" and give it to Bev Tasche.)
- Cleaning days March 20 & 21 went well with 5 people on Friday and 11 on Saturday. Some areas taken care of were:
 - pews cleaned, repaired & polished
 - four bathrooms cleaned
 - bushes east of McDonald Rd entrance cut back for better visibility
 - flower bed raked clean
 - basement walls and library cleaned
 - entry & back steps cleaned
 - sanctuary walls cleaned

More to do...

Lots was done on those March cleaning days, but there are still some jobs waiting in the kitchen:

- clean walls
- wash windows and curtains
- clean stove
- clean counters and outside of cabinets
- sort silverware
- clean carts

There's a list posted in the narthex by the mailboxes. Help is greatly appreciated. Check with Bev or Betty and write your name beside the job you'd like to do.

Are you ready for some baseball??

There are two upcoming opportunities to enjoy Kane County Cougars' baseball and more...

May 2 – The Cougars game begins at 5:00pm and a concert will follow the game. Inhabited will perform this first ever Christian concert at Elfstrom Stadium. Inhabited single "Hush" is currently #23 on Christian Hit Radio. For a group of 20, tickets for the whole evening are only \$8. Gather your friends and get a group together. Call 630-232-8811 to reserve your seats.

June 8 – is the Cougars' All Faiths Game Night. Our church has enjoyed this fun night for several years. The game begins at 6:30 and if we have a group of 20, tickets are only \$5. Contact Linda Mowers by April 30 if you'd like to attend.



Green Tip:

Create your own personal "Going Green Kit". Small purchases that can add up to a big impact include:

- reusable tote bags
- stainless steel water bottle
- travel coffee mug
- BYO lunch supplies – an insulated carrier, utensils and wax paper or aluminum foil (instead of plastic wrap)

Wise words to live by...

Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each step of the way.



Outreach opportunity updates...

Centro de Informacion in Elgin has been an outreach mission project of our church for several years, with the Sunshine Boys (Lynn Landmeier, Wally Tasche, Bob Matson, and some other Sunshine-Boys-in-training) heading it up. These men go to the Centro office in downtown Elgin to help fix things, move things, serve food, and also deliver food. In the past, our church has brought food for their food pantry on the first Sunday of the month, and then the SBs (and their wives, many times) took it to the center. If you ever wondered if our collection was appreciated, just ask one of the SBs what it feels like to walk in with a cart or truck load of food, with hungry (or starving) people sitting there waiting for YOU! And now, of course, the need is greater than ever! We are not collecting food anymore, since Centro can go to the Illinois Food Bank, and get more bang for the buck! Here's an example: they can get:

cereal for 23 cents a box
individual raisin bran for 2½ cents
cans of fruit for 29 cents
meat for under 50 cents/pound

So you can see, as much fun as we had supplying them with food, we are being much better stewards by supplying them with money to purchase 200% more food! In January, we gave them \$105; in February, we collected \$165 and gave a check for \$100 along with \$65 of jelly which they needed. In March, we gave them \$200. Times are tough and tougher for some more than others, but who knows, maybe we're feeding Jesus at Centro.....?

In Feb 2008, 48 families needed food.
In Feb 2009, 225 families needed help.

PS - The Sunshine Boys are a non-profit group and are open to all willing hands! There are no dues, no sign-up fees, oaths, etc. to join.

Everyone is welcome! See Lynn!

Note of gratitude...

Many thanks for your thoughts and prayers over the past few weeks. We truly have felt your love and encouragement through calls and cards, visits and meals. Heart attack and bypass surgery has been a trip we never expected to take, and there are new challenges ahead. God is good, and we continue to be so amazed at modern medicine and so grateful for wonderful friends!

Mike & Linda Palm

February financial information:

Income	\$10,309.05
Expenses	<u>8,206.15</u>
Difference	2,102.90

Year to Date financial information:

Income	\$20,056.05
Expenses	<u>20,748.33</u>
Difference	(692.28)

An April Recipe from Mary Ebert -

SCALLOPED PINEAPPLE

Beat together: 1 cup melted butter &
2 cups sugar

Add: 3 beaten eggs. Beat well.

Add: 5 cups soft bread, cubed

1 cup milk

1 20 oz can undrained, crushed pineapple
pinch of salt

Combine well.

Pour into greased 3 quart casserole.

Bake 1 hour & 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

This is really rich, but really good.
And goes well with an Easter ham!

Speaking of recipes...

There has been some interest in putting together a **church cookbook**. If anyone is interested in being in charge of this, please get together with Mary Ebert (630-557-2137). The women who put one together a few years back do NOT want to be in charge of doing it again. It is a lot of work, proof-reading and such, so if you're interested in this, give it some serious thought/prayer.

(PS – Mary Ebert has a much-sought-after recipe for Mouse Mulligan Stew, which she would be happy to put in such a recipe collection!?)

Reminder!

If you're the last one out of the church, please check to be sure all the lights are turned off and the doors are locked.