

**Country Evangelical
Covenant Church**

CROSSROADS



January 2012

“Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.”

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;

it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”

Lamentations 3:22-26

Sundays in January

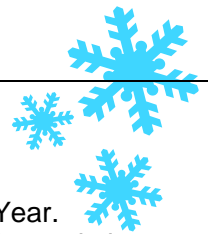
Join us for worship and celebration:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Jan 1 | Morning Worship
Communion |
| Jan 8 | Morning Worship
Afternoon Service at Rosewood Care Center |
| Jan 15 | Morning Worship |
| Jan 22 | Morning Worship |
| Jan 29 | Morning Worship |

**From the
Pastor's
Desk**

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From the Pastor's desk—



A new calendar year is upon us, and I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. In this time in history our culture spends a great deal of time making New Year's resolutions, a promise or commitment to a desired improvement. While making goals and seeking self improvement is wonderful, I find it important for the church to reflect on just what it is we are seeking to grow and focus on in the year to come.

I read a recent article in Macall's magazine entitled "Ten Little Health Resolutions (With Big Payoffs)." In the article, it points out what our culture seeks to focus on and raise up as priorities. In response to the article Darrell Bock notes that, "Now health and exercise are important and should be appreciated, but what was interesting was a look at the top four resolutions we make, according to a Gallup poll: #1-Improve personal finances, #2-Stop Smoking, #3-Lose Weight, and #4-Get More Exercise. If our resolutions reflect our concerns and where we want to improve ourselves to have a sense of contentment, these preferences do not reflect high goals. Except perhaps for personal finances, neither family nor God makes any appearance. We tend to define contentment in a privatized way about how our personal lives are going. Since we set goals that have nothing to do with relationships, many of us find ourselves lonely and discontent, for God has created us to relate to him and to others. One of the effects of a culture that elevates individual rights and personal focus as our does is that we lose sight of how we can gain contentment by interacting with God and others.

Goals or resolutions often times reflect that which is important and or that which one keeps in focus. In this coming new year, my hopes are that we would seek to set goals that relate to pursuing God or knowing him better - seeking to find ways to elevate the importance of our inner most being, our soul. "If exercise is valuable for physical well-being, should we starve our inner being?" (Bock) Much like Simeon in Luke 2:22-40, well into his retirement, this devoted and pious man sets his goal on knowing God. "Contentment means knowing the source of life who can help us see even beyond our death."

An invitation we have been offered is to ask ourselves how may we grow in our relationship with God, to know God best. What are some places in your relationship with God that have been pushed to the wayside, perhaps even neglected? Where are some growth areas that have been withheld from God? Perhaps God may be inviting you to lead a small group, serve on a board, increase your tithing, spend more time reading the word of God, or perhaps some other unique and special way. In this year ahead, I would like to invite you to make a commitment to grow in your relationship to God. May your lives be likened to Anna in Luke 2:36-40, a woman who spent day and night worshipping, fasting, and praying all the way up to the very moment that she was able to give thanks to God for a first-hand encounter with Jesus Christ. May we find ways to seek God with all our heart, soul, strength, and might all the days of our lives.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Paul

Angel Tree
Thank you...



Gifts were delivered and again this year they made a significant impact on the Christmas celebration of many children and their families.

Thank you for your part in this annual ministry.

Men's Fellowship

Men!
here's your plan for 2012...



On the first Saturday of every month, at 8:00 in the morning, Country Covenant men meet for breakfast at Rose Garden Restaurant in Hampshire. Along with that delicious food, they enjoy some great fellowship! (And we hear that the parking is still free.)

Start the year off right and join them on **January 7**. They'll be looking for you!

These fun men also gather for a breakfast Bible study on the third Saturday of the month. So this month, join them at church on Saturday **January 21**. They have a great time studying Scripture with friends and enjoying delicious all-you-can-eat pancakes.

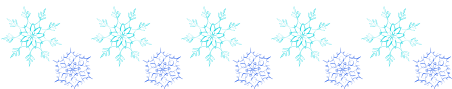


On December 20, six members helped at the food pantry of Centro de Informacion.

They packed 110 Christmas meals and stocked and sorted cans of food for coming weeks.

"Almighty and eternal God, so draw my heart to you, so guide my mind, so fill my imagination, so control my will, that I may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use me, I pray as you will, and always to your glory, and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen."

Source unknown



2011 Financial Update

November Info:

Receipts 6,341.25
Expenses -3,974.65
Difference 10,315.90

2011 Balance:

Jan 1 121,363.97
Nov 30 111,897.57

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"

2Cor 9:8

Shelby's World...

"Keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, holy, friendly, and prosper. Don't ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise." Philippians 4:8



This verse really spoke to me for one main reason; lately I've been working nearly every Sunday during our church service because "that's when my boss needs me". Well I feel it's really been taking a toll on me. I miss church, I miss seeing everyone, I miss singing and praising the Lord, I miss that part of my weekly routine. This verse really opened my eyes that I've lost sight of what is truly important—my relationship with God. I've been so worried and stressed about college, school, grades, money for college that I started to choose to make money instead of going to church to worship our God. As much as I know that breaks God's heart, it hurts mine as well to realize I could choose something so worthless over something so priceless. I've decided I need to refocus myself, prioritize more carefully.

I think we all need to do that. We just had the Christmas season and many people forget the meaning and importance of it, even us. Yes we go to church on Christmas Eve and we celebrate the birth of our savior, but what were we doing prior to that ceremony, and what did we do post-ceremony. We were wrapping presents, getting excited about presents and breakfast in the morning. Then after Christmas we were rushing to do post-Christmas shopping to catch all of the deals and making fast returns. I feel as though many people only think about the meaning of Christmas during the Christmas Eve service. That is only one example of how everyone prioritizes the wrong things in the wrong order. It's a hard task to do; and I know I am still just a growing Christian and may not know as much about God or my faith as many of you. But I know one thing: we all lose sight of what's truly important every once in a while; and so, my New Year's Resolution is to re-prioritize, with God as my number one.

Keep your thoughts on the kinds of things that show you're serious about living for God. Think about things that honor him. If you do that, you are more likely to see His guidance in your life.

Shelby Voss

Inquirer's Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of Country Covenant or learning more about this church and the Covenant denomination?



We have just the opportunity for you! Pastor Paul will be having a class in January with information and answers to your questions. Contact him for dates and times.

It was another fun time and an evening of surprises at Yankee Swap!



(If you missed it, you can check with Bob Matson about belly dancing lessons.)

Watch for more Country Covenant fellowship events in 2012. Plan to be there and bring friends!

For your January calendar...

Jan 3 — Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
Jan 7 — **Pastor Paul's Birthday**
Jan 7 — **Men's Breakfast**
Jan 8 — Argyle Day
Jan 10 — National Cut Your Energy Costs Day
Jan 13 — Public Radio Broadcasting Day
Jan 16 — Martin Luther King Day
Jan 19 — Popcorn Day
Jan 19 — **Council Meeting**
Jan 21 — **Men's Prayer Breakfast**
Jan 22 — **Church Annual Meeting & Potluck**
Jan 24 — Compliment Day
Jan 27 — Holocaust Memorial Day
Jan 28 — National Kazoo Day
Jan 29 — National Puzzle Day

Special January Weeks:

1—8 = Lose Weight/Feel Great Week
12—23 = National Fresh Squeezed Juice Week
25—29 = National Take Back Your Time Week

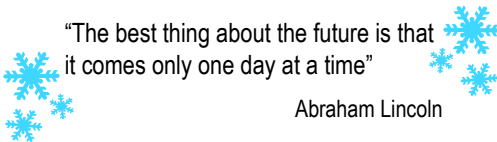
January is

Be Kind to Food Servers Month
National Get Organized Month
National Soup Month

for you to think about from Lynn Landmeier...

One of our church families was affected by the slow down in the economy so much they sold their out house.
True or False?? Answer next month...

"The best thing about the future is that
it comes only one day at a time"
Abraham Lincoln



Kids' thoughts from 2011...

"I think the best part of Christmas was that my family got to go to church on Christmas morning." Cody Delask

"The best part of Christmas is that it is Jesus' birthday!" Simon Delask

"I think 2011 went well and I had lots of fun, especially helping Heifer International and VBS. I also had lots of fun singing and reading in the Kids Christmas Service. I think the year was filled with Jesus and was an amazing year!" Cassie Delask

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Country Covenant
Annual Meeting
January 22, 2012**



Agenda includes:
Committee Reports
2012 Church Budget
Election of Council Members
(and, of course, the potluck!)

This is an important meeting in the life of our church - plan to be there!

Check out Country Covenant on facebook! If you don't have facebook, go to www.countrycov.org

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Philippians 4:6

January Prayer List

**Include this Country Cov friend
in your daily prayer time...**

Jan 1	Dave Altepeter
Jan 2	George Delask
Jan 3	Mark Fodge
Jan 4	Linda Palm
Jan 5	Jim Gourley
Jan 6	Larry Howlett
Jan 7	Paul Couleur
Jan 8	Steve Irmen
Jan 9	Lori Schultz
Jan 10	Tim Bergman
Jan 11	Elmina Richardson
Jan 12	Tim Landmeier
Jan 13	Jeanette Dieckman
Jan 14	Roger Leach
Jan 15	Faith Bartlett
Jan 16	Bob Matson
Jan 17	Nona Turner
Jan 18	Linda Mowers
Jan 19	Ava Mowers
Jan 20	Ellen Stuffle
Jan 21	Bonnie Siems
Jan 22	Paul Rebeck
Jan 23	LeRoy Nelson
Jan 24	Kelly Pederson
Jan 25	Verna Homewood
Jan 26	Zayden Raymond
Jan 27	Larry Dieckman
Jan 28	Sara Schramer
Jan 29	Hildegard Schulze
Jan 30	Tobin Uhren
Jan 31	John Wince

Friends to Celebrate

January Birthdays:

4—Linda Palm
7—Paul Couleur
9—Lori Schultz
10—Tim Bergman
11—Elmina Richardson
13—Jeanette Dieckman
15—Faith Bartlett
17—Nona Turner
20—Ellen Stuffle
21—Bonnie Siems
22—Paul Rebeck
25—Verna Homewood
27—Larry Dieckman

Early February Birthdays:

5—Debbie Williams

January Anniversaries:

6—Lynn & Betty Landmeier
20—Frank & Janet Hartmann
28—Ron & Bonnie Siems



from Covenant News Service



New Network Expands New Life Radio's Reach

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (December 23, 2011) New Life Radio (NLR) has the potential to reach an additional 10 million homes now that it has begun broadcasting on the country's largest and fastest-growing nationwide broadcast service, Tricolor TV network, says Dan Johnson, president of Christian Radio for Russia (CRFR), which operates NLR.

"This opportunity goes far beyond the dreams and expectations of the Covenant denomination when it made development of Christian radio in Russia its first modern era mission goal, beginning in 1993," says Johnson.

"As of 2011, less than one percent of cities in Russia, Ukraine, or Belarus have a local Christian radio station," says Johnson. The various means by which the station gets its signal across the country are enabling people to hear what most Christians in the United States take for granted.

The station started broadcasting on the network last week, December 15. The Covenant started New Life Radio in 1996 as Russia's first Christian FM radio station, transmitting to the community of Magadan, Russia, with 100 watts of transmitting power. Today, NLR is global, using satellite radio, Internet radio, and FM. It is not officially connected with the Covenant, but individual denominations churches continue to contribute to the ministry.

The station has continued to minister despite setbacks in recent years due in large part to actions by the Russian government, which has closed down several stations in other parts of the country.

Despite the recent positive developments, the ministry also continues to struggle financially, says Johnson, noting that it operates with only a handful of people. Anyone wishing to donate can contribute online.

Problems Force Extension of Congo Election

BOKONZO, DR CONGO (December 29, 2011) - Pastors baptized 168 new believers as part of this year's "Big Sunday" weekend gathering, which is observed near the end of each year.

Candidates for baptism paraded from the church about 1.3 miles down a dusty road to the stream. Following the baptism, the new believers and others who attended returned to the church where 1,069 people were served communion, says Pete Ekstrand, Evangelical Covenant Church missionary to Congo.

The baptism was held on a Saturday. The worship service on Sunday was attended by 6,000 people.

