

The Anchor

“Is it Not About Me or It is Not About Me?”

When I was in Rockford, IL last week for my nieces wedding, a friend of mine from First Covenant, Ron Alberts, died suddenly of a heart attack. He was only 61 years of age. Ron was a gentle and kind man, and a tremendous craftsman. I will never forget the help he was to First Covenant's canoe class when we made cedar strip canoes in the church. Ron's life was like Max Lucado's book, *“It's Not about Me”*. Truly his life was not about him. It was all about others, especially Jesus. He will be missed.

For the believer in Christ our life is not about us, our personal fulfillment, pleasure, or even happiness. It is about God and living our life for Him. For a moment think about how we would like to be remembered – is it for a job well done, being a good parent, a good spouse, a good role model, a person who loved Jesus? Is our life about us or is it about someone else?

Sometime ago I read in a magazine, (I think it was Guidepost, but can't remember for sure) about a farmer who died of a heart attack while harvesting his field. One of his children shared at the funeral, “I'm glad Dad was found working in his field.”

The Scriptures teach many things about the importance of following the Lord and being a role model for others, especially one's family. However, let us ask ourselves this question, “What path are we leading others to follow?” Is it leading to business success? Is it leading to community involvement? Is it going in so many different directions that it is almost impossible to follow? Is it leading towards a faith in God?

Jesus makes an interesting statement in John 4:35, 36. *“My food' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”*

From time to time we need to stop and ask ourselves, “What is being learned from the life we are living and the fields we are building? Is life not about me or is it all about me?” As always, the choice is ours.

May we be wise in our decisions as we continue to look to the One who offers us His guidance, His hope, His love, and His grace.

Trying to make wise decisions with you,
Pastor Tom



Groups
Fiesta!
 Where kids are fired up about Jesus™

**Sunday June 18th—Thursday June 22nd
 in the evenings.**



We have one VBS leader committed (Athena Beatty) and are looking for an additional co-leader that would be willing to help Co- Lead. If you are interested in helping in this roll please let Doug Anderson know ASAP.

In addition we need lots of other help with VBS. I am asking you to please let me know if you are able to help out in any way. We have lots of details to still work out and more information will be sent out to the church soon.

Please reserve the dates and commit help out and to bring your children and children's friends to VBS.

I want this years VBS to be a huge success and it can not happen without your help and commitment to making it happen

Thank you in advance for investing your time in the future of God's Children.

--Doug Anderson



Some of the positions that are needed:

- Co Leader(s)**
- Crew Leaders**
- Assistant Crew Leaders**
- Music Team**

Marketing Director of VBS to get the word out to the community
Cactus Craft Leaders and helpers
Hot Bible Adventure Leaders and helpers.

Chadder Drive Inn theater Leader and helpers.

Snack Leader and helpers.

Please call or email Doug Anderson if you are able to help out with VBS in any way.

Home E-Mail - dougchel@sbcglobal.net
 Work Email - doug.anderson@huntington.com
 Home Phone - 575-8709
 Work Phone - 237-2595



Hope's Trip to Alaska

From May 13-21, 18 people from Hope Covenant and 7 people from First Covenant, Rockford will be venturing to Alaska Christian College to help finish the dining commons. The vision for this commons is: *"to provide an Alaskan lodge setting that accomplishes the following for ACC:*

1. *Provides our largest meeting space for all types of gathering of up to 300 people.*
2. *Provides space for our won dining needs – no more two car garage.*
3. *Provides long term income for ACC as a catering and conference center option – the largest one like this in the central peninsula.*
4. *Provides up to eight more students housed at ACC bringing us up to 50 beds.*
5. *Provides 1,500 feet of storage space in the basement – much needed.*
6. *PROVIDES JOBS for our entire student body as we cater and rent the facility so that they can provide for their tuition, room, and board costs."*

(From a 3/26/06 update from Keith Hamilton President of ACC)

Please pray for the following people from Hope and First Covenant, Rockford, as they venture together to help God's kingdom in Soldotna, Alaska:

From Hope Cov – Allen Bainbridge, John Bunge, Mark & Judy Carlson, Rich Cummins, Mike Edgecomb, Stan & Colleen Kaat, Bill & Sheryl McAfee, Tom & Laura Miller, Seth Miller, Will Miller, Jan Nelson, Curt Sellke, Olivia Selke, Linda Silva.

From First Cov. – Chuck Ford, Ray Ford, Ron Ford, Jim Franklin, Gary Edwards, John McInerny, and Gary Johnson.

Church Photo Directory Update

Thank you to all of you who were able to join us to have your picture taken last week for the photo directory.

For those of you who were not able to have your photo taken, we still want your photos and want to make sure you are included in the directory.

Please drop off a photo of you and your family in the church office with Solange. You can also email photos to office@hopecov.org. Photos need to be high-resolution, and LARGE! (We can let you know if your photos are too small.)

We are also looking for photos showing the church today and the past 25 years of our church's history. They could be of Sunday school classes, retreats, picnics, or any other events. Our hope (no pun intended) is to create a record of the past as we celebrate 25 years of Hope.

If you have any questions, please contact John John.Madeja@uscm.org or 774-2167.

Inquirer's Class/New members

There will be an Inquirer's/New Members Class beginning Wednesday, May 31 and running for two more Wednesdays – June 6 and June 13.

Everyone is invite for dinner at 6:00 p.m. The class will begin at 6:30 and run for an hour. There will be special focus on "What is the Covenant?" "Covenant Polity", and "Who is Hope Covenant?"

If you would like to be a member of Hope or would like more information about Hope and the Covenant denomination, please contact Pastor Tom.

Ushers Needed

Please consider ushering just one Sunday a month. Men & women are both welcome to volunteer.

Sign up on the board in the narthex, call Don at 471-8159 or e-mail him at mastendon@sbcglobal.net.

Call for details if you are interested in serving the Lord in the ushering ministry.

2006 Church Council

Dick Roskam	Chairman
Bill McAfee	Vice-Chairman
Wanda Anderson	Care & Fellowship Secretary
John Madeja	Financial Secretary
Doug Anderson	Membership Team
Mark Carlson	Publicity
Laura Ruppert	Christian Formation
Steve Kessinger	Stewardship and Property
	Worship
	Missions

The Church Council is YOUR council. Please seek them out, ask them questions, share ideas, offer service. Only together, can Hope Covenant become the church that God wants her to be.

MARCH 2006 GENERAL GIVING & ATTENDANCE

	Attendance	General Giving
3/5	84	\$4,898.00
3/12	102	\$6,038.00
3/19	133	\$3,821.59
3/26	76	\$4,156.00
Avg/Total	99	\$18,913.59
	Budget	\$21,639.33
	Giving Shortfall	\$2,725.74

YTD (Jan-Mar) Budget	\$64,917.99
YTD Actual Gen. Income	\$65,907.35
YTD Excess	\$989.36

Next Newsletter Deadline: Friday, May 26th

NEWSLETTER HELP!!! The Anchor is looking for some help to produce the newsletter for June and July. (June needs to be created in May.) If you are available to help, please contact Kristin.Madeja@uscm.org.

Items submitted to the Anchor include: highlights of minutes from various committee meetings, announcements of upcoming events, thank-yous, Pastor's articles, calendar items, missionary & mission updates, youth news, children's activities, etc.

May Anniversaries



- 1 Linda and Jorge Silva
- 15 Craig and Wanda Anderson
- 25 Tim and Ann Carlson

May Birthdays

- 6 Sarah Carlson
- 8 Natalie Anderson
- 9 Greg Padgett
- 10 Allen Bainbridge
- 11 Jennifer Rettig
- Nate Truitt
- 14 Susan Kern
- Bill McAfee
- 16 Daniel Anderson
- Mike Edgecomb
- 18 Ann Carlson
- Candace Rockwell
- Kristin Madeja
- 20 David Kiarie
- 26 Jeff Carlson
- 28 Joseph Bainbridge
- 29 Andrew Gates



Sermon Messages

May

7 "Being the Real Deal for Our Children"
Deut. 6:1-23

14 Pastor Andrew: "The Greatest"
Matthew 22:34-40

21 Pastor Andrew "We're on a Mission from God" Matthew 28:16-20

28 "Experiencing Life's Wilderness"
Exodus 13:11-22; James 1:2-4

Beginning June 4th and running through the summer months I will be taking a break from the Old Testament and preaching from the Book of James.

June

4 "The Bright Side of Dark Times"
James 1:1-12

11 Youth Sunday

18 "The Battle with Mr. T" James 1:13-17

25 "Mirror, Mirror, On the Wall"
James 1:22-27

Children and Youth Ministry

What's happening with all them young'uns, anyway?

Cancellations

Wednesday Night dinner will no longer be available **after May 10**

Wednesday Night Children's Program (FW Friends) will be done **after May 24**

Special Events

May 7 – Confirmation Sunday – We are pleased to announce that by the time you receive this issue of the Anchor, Hilary Roskam and Kaitlin Caito will have completed their confirmation requirements. We look forward to celebrating with them at this special Confirmation Worship Service! **Congratulations, Kaitlin and Hilary!!!**

June 11 – Youth Sunday – Youth Participation + Youth Creativity + Focus on God = A recipe for a worship experience you won't want to miss!

June 18-22 – Fiesta! VBS – It gets closer every day...how are you helping?

July 16-21 – CHIC 2006 – You came to the fundraiser, you've seen the students, now continue to pray that this will be a week they never forget!

Youth Group (6-7:30 pm Sundays)

May 7 – *From the Furnace to the Den* – The Book of Daniel gives two great examples of standing up for faith. What do they mean for us?

May 14 – *Second Sunday: God Chat* – How do we communicate with God? How does He communicate with us?

May 21 – *Amazing Race: 'School's Almost Over' Edition* – Another Amazing Race to help us all push to the end of the school year.

CHIC 2006: No Ordinary Day

It's not every day that our young people get to experience something like CHIC. This will be no ordinary CHIC, and it will certainly be *No Ordinary Day*. Senior Highers from all over the world will attend this conference, and many will be changed and impacted by their experience at this intense weeklong event. They will hear some of the best speakers in the nation, worship in ways that are specifically geared towards youth, and will get a chance to experience the joy of living for Christ.

We ask for your prayers as this event approaches. We pray that this will truly be a watershed moment for the students in the Covenant Church around the world, motivating them to live their lives with complete abandon to Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

The Anchor

Hope Evangelical Covenant Church
 8615 Springmill Road
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46260
 317-575-8161
 www.hopecov.org

“Hope in Christ – Our Secure Anchor in Life”

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19a

Tom Miller, Pastor

Andrew Gates, Pastoral Intern
 Children and Youth Ministries

Solange Lira, Pastor's Assistant

Phyllis Beatty, Parish Nurse

The mission of Hope Covenant Church is to declare and demonstrate the transforming power of life in Jesus Christ.

May 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5:30 pm Family Dinner 6:30 pm Children's Ministry 6:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study 6:30 pm Adult Studies 7:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal.	4	5	6 Church Work Day 8 am-2 pm
7 Confirmation Sunday 10:00 am Worship 5:30 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:45 pm Sr. High Youth Group	8 7:00 PM Team Meetings 8:00 PM Council Meeting	9	10 5:30 pm Family Dinner 6:30 pm Children's Ministry 6:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study 6:30 pm Adult Studies 7:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal.	11	12	13 Alaska Missions Trip (thru the 21 st)
14 10:00 am Worship 6:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY	15	16	17 6:30 pm Children's Ministry 6:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study 6:30 pm Adult Studies 7:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal.	18	20	22
21 10:00 am Worship 5:30 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:45 pm Sr. High Youth Group	22	23	24 6:30 pm Children's Ministry 6:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study 6:30 pm Adult Studies 7:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal.	25	26 NEWS LETTER DEAD LINE	27
28 10:00 am Worship 5:30 pm Jr. High Youth Group 6:45 pm Sr. High Youth Group	29	30	31 6:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study 6:30 pm Adult Studies 7:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal.			