

# PASS IT ON!

## FAITH COVENANT CHURCH

8333 FORT ST.; OMAHA, NE --- (402) 571-5543

John Peterson, Pastor  
February 2008

Russell Wenke, Editor  
Vol. 03 - No. 02

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2. Carolyn Drake
- 7. Mike Wiens
- 10. Ann Welton
- 12. Ashley Peterson
- 23. Joyce Cramer



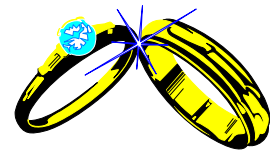
### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 5. Diane Drake
- 5. Duc Drake
- 5. Ashley Graeve
- 6. Mel Burright
- 7. Shelbyann Miller
- 15. Walter Lindwurm
- 19. Linda Peterson
- 30. Leesa Graeve

**Happy  
Anniversary**

February anniversaries:

(Please let me know of any  
February anniversaries. Thanks.  
Russ)



### *This Month . . .*

- 02/03 – Super Bowl party at church
- 02/16 – Dinner & a Movie
- 02/17 – quarterly congregational meeting

### *Coming Events . . .*

- 03/23 – Easter breakfast, camping fund raiser
- 04/19 – church work day
- 05/18 – quarterly congregational meeting
- 08/17 – quarterly congregational meeting

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear -- Isaiah 59:1



**Winter Retreats at Covenant Cedars**

Avalanche 2008 is the theme of the Covenant Cedars Winter Retreats. The theme for each weekend is "I am," looking at Jesus through the "I am" statements. Registration is just \$84 for each retreat that begins at 7:30 on the first day of the retreat and ends at 12:30 on the last day. The dates of the retreats are:

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Trailblazer (grades 3-4)  | Feb 8-10  |
| Explorer (grades 5-6)     | Feb 8-10  |
| Junior High (grades 7-8)  | Feb 15-17 |
| Senior High (grades 9-12) | Feb 15-17 |

Registration brochures are available in the church narthex. A non-refundable deposit of \$40 is due two weeks prior to the camp. The balance is due upon arrival.

**"I Am" Summer Camps**

It is not too early to begin planning for the summer camps at Covenant Cedars. The theme this summer continues with the "I Am" theme. The dates and the registration fees are:

| Camp             | Grades | Dates          | Fees   |              |              |
|------------------|--------|----------------|--|--------------|--------------|
|                  |        |                | Before April 1                               | Apr 1-June 1 | After June 1 |
| Pathfinder       | 1-2    | June 23-24     | \$55 for the day and \$75 to spend the night |              |              |
| Trailblazer      | 3-4    | June 24-27     | \$240  | \$250        | \$265        |
| Explorer         | 5-6    | June 29-July 4 | \$290  | \$300        | \$315        |
| Junior High      | 7-8    | July 6-11      | \$290  | \$300        | \$315        |
| Senior High      | 9-12   | July 13-18     | \$290  | \$300        | \$315        |
| Niobrara Journey | 7-12   | July 24-27     | \$205  | \$210        | \$215        |

Pastor John Peterson

**SHAVINGS FROM THE BOARD**

Your church board met on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The ministry boards selected officers for this year.

- Trustees – Jim Graeve chairman, Sana Landmark secretary
- Diaconate – did not meet, but Chris Landmark agreed to be secretary again this year
- Christian Education – Russell Wenke chairman, Leesa Graeve secretary

## SUPER BOWL PARTY ☺

Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Faith Covenant Church, 8333 Fort Street  
Bring Your Friends!

Free admission – doors open at 4:00 pm.  
Giant big screen – awesome sound system  
Hotdogs & sloppy joes, scrumptious snacks  
Pop, coffee, and tea  
Casual attire

## DINNER & A MOVIE

February 16, 2008 at 6:30 pm – at Faith Covenant Church

**Movie:** Facing the Giants

**Menu:** Your favorite stadium foods (to be announced)

**Cost:** \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 per family.

*See Theresa to reserve seating.*

## MISSIONS CORNER

**Marks** – see Dave & Wendy's December newsletter on the bulletin board, or [follow the link to my web space](#)

### **Christian Radio For Russia – New Life Radio**

Enjoy this month's newsletter, [available on my web space](#) or on the bulletin board.

**Ekstrands** – see Pete and Cindy's Christmas letter on the bulletin board, or [follow the link to my web space](#). They also sent the following about the problems in Kenya.

### **Violence in Kenya Creates Widespread Sense of Fear**

KENYA, (January 17, 2008) - The moderator of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya (ECCK) says violence in the country has frightened members of the church, but no one has been injured so far, and the congregations are looking to help people fleeing the fighting.

“Most covenanters are now living in fear since no possibility of dialogue has been found yet,” says Dickson Mwati.

Although no churches have been the object of violence, Mwati says, “The churches have been indirectly affected by low attendance in the church services, prices of essential commodities have hiked, and relatives of some of our members who live in Eldoret areas (North Rift Valley) have been displaced after what they have always called home was reduced into mere ashes.”

Conflict following a disputed election in December has displaced more than 250,000 people and killed at least 600.

The ECCK hopes to provide assistance to refugees fleeing into areas where their churches are located. "The government is offering security to church organizations who are interested in going to the affected areas to assist those affected (by the violence)," Mwati says.

The greatest need is food, clothing, mosquito nets, and anti-malaria drugs. Covenant World Relief is working with the ECCK to distribute funds as needed, says director Jim Sundholm.

Two members of the Forest Park Covenant Church in Muskegon, Michigan, returned to Kijabe, located 35 miles northwest of Nairobi, over the weekend. Wally & Donna Coots, a longtime Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) youth pastor, has worked at the [Rift Valley Academy](#), a boarding school for children of missionaries since 2002. Coots serves alongside Tim & Jana Mead, and a missionary orthopedic surgeon and the medical director at the CURE hospital in Kijabe.

The violence caused their return trips to be delayed. Students at the school were supposed to return at the beginning of January, but that has been rescheduled until Saturday. The school is operated by [Africa Inland Mission](#) and currently educates 450 children of missionaries from 20 nationalities representing 80 organizations, according to its website.

Mead's son is a freshman at North Park University and attended high school in Kijabe. "My heart is in Kenya," Mead says. "I love the country and the people there. It really burns me up inside to see such a great place doing this to themselves. It is just really hard to see Kenya going through this when they had so much going for them."

Much of the violence has been among different tribes since Mwai Kibaki was re-elected president last December in balloting that the opposition claims was marred by extensive fraud. Kibaki defeated opponent Raila Odinga by roughly 268,000 votes, the government reported.

Kibaki is from the largest tribe, the Kikuyu, and Odinga is a Luo, one of roughly 40 smaller tribes. The tribes have tended to live peacefully, Coots says, noting that some resent the Kikuyu because they are perceived by some as controlling most of the political and economic power.

Alberto Zepeda, a short-term missionary with the ECC Department of World Mission, says it is not unusual for violence to flare among the tribes, but the current fighting is far more extensive than in the past. Zepeda served in Kenya from 2004 to 2005 and has three extended trips planned to the country for later this year.

John Kepler, pastor of Kalamazoo Covenant Church, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, says he and two other Covenant pastors still plan to lead teaching seminars for Kenyan pastors while in the country from March 25 to April 8. Accompanying him will be Brad Bergfalk of Newport Covenant Church in Bellevue, Washington, with representation from Mission Covenant Church in Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania.

Although he has some safety concerns, Kepler says, "I am driven by the fact that we can be an encouragement to these brothers and sisters and that they have much to teach me about living out our faith. They live with uncertainties not confined to the present situation. I want them to know we are with them."