

Midwest Covenant Conference West "Hub 'Cap," Volume 6/No. 2, June, 2010:  
*A Regular Contact with Ministry Staff and other Key Church Leaders in the Western Hub*

Hello Covenant Mission Friends –

It has been great to be able to be in many of your churches over this first half of the year. Sometimes I feel like a professional church visitor, but be that as it may, it is wonderful to see that most of our churches are strong or strengthening. I am touched by what I frequently see of the quality of worship and competence of leadership. Thank you for the privilege of working alongside you in this ministry.

I certainly wish it were possible to worship with each of you more often than I do, though. My goal since moving here to the west has been to worship with each church at least once per year. But between our western hub churches and the church plants I serve around our six-state region, I give care now to 35 churches. Add to that my desire to get to my own church every 4-6 weeks, trying to get to the newer church plants more often than once per year, and the inevitable vacations and conferences for which I am away, and you can see that I easily run out of year before I run out of places to visit! But I keep track pretty closely and will make the rounds as I am able. One of you I have not worshiped with since January of 2009, but I know who you are and will be there soon!

By the way, before we get to this *Hub 'Cap's news items*, most of you have gotten this piece of info but just in case not, my business phone has been changed to 303-525-0020. Please make a note of that. Thanks.

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Covenant Annual Meeting Next Week In St. Paul MN; Join in Whether You Can be There or Not!**

Many of you will be sending delegates to St. Paul for the Covenant Annual Meeting June 24-27, preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium. If so I hope to be able to run into you there. I will serve as usual as a delegate from the Midwest Conference. Track me down when you see me! This year, it is a special meeting filled with worship and reunion events in celebration of our 125 years as a denomination. If you are not able to attend (and there are many of you for whom this must be so), please go on our national website (covchurch.org) throughout the week for inspirational updates, but also for live feeds to the festive worship events. Of course, somewhat different than the recently completed NBA or NHL finals, or World Cup, I believe you will enjoy it very much. Check it out with your small groups in your homes, or even in group meetings at church.

**Sr. Superintendent Ken Carlson Anticipates Retirement in 2011; Pray for Him and our Conference Board**

Many of you are aware of Pastor Ken Carlson's plans to retire next year after sixteen years as conference superintendent, and twenty-four years on conference staff. This is a huge development in Ken and Nancy's lives, and I ask you to be holding them in prayer regularly as they pray and plan toward this transition. At the same time, I ask you to be in prayer for our Midwest Conference executive board, serving us also as our search committee. In fact, just this past week they had their first meeting with Covenant President Gary Walter here in Colorado, who will coach them through the process. You will hear much more about this in the weeks ahead, but transition times like this are key moments for vision to be renewed, developed and effectively communicated. Our executive board consists of members from our conference churches elected by delegates from your churches at our conference annual meeting in April: Diane Borden of Fort Collins CO, Bill Croasmun of Prairie Village KS, Doug Ferguson of Omaha NE, Garr Hintz of Pomeroy IA, Steve Jones of Des Moines IA, Dave Scherrer of Arvada CO, Lisa Smith of Omaha NE, Brent Thompson of Wichita KS, and Taryn Vetter of McPherson KS. Though Ken Carlson, Assoc. Supt. Dave Benedict and I also serve on the board, we of course will not be participating with the search process. Please pray!

**Ministry Renewal Leave Later this Summer for Associate Superintendent Rick Mylander...**

I have always called it sabbatical. My board calls it ministry renewal leave. Whatever the name, I look forward to this grace extended me by our conference executive board later this summer. From the middle of July through Labor Day weekend I will be away both from Colorado and from normal Midwest Conference ministry responsibilities. Senior leader Ken Carlson and my associate colleague Dave Benedict will be covering special needs that arise during what has typically been a slower ministry season anyway. Before my hiatus, I will be in contact with all lead pastors and chairs regarding how they may reach other conference staff, or, in critical emergencies, reach me. Not simply time off, I will be serving during the last half of July as class assistant at North Park Seminary's Center for Spiritual Direction, from which I received certification last summer as a spiritual director. I then will be using the month of August for some writing projects, some personal and one on behalf of the denomination. Still, there will be ample time for reflection, rest and renewal over these weeks. I look forward to them, and ask you to rejoice with me. Interested in discussing the possibilities of such leaves for the renewal of your long-term pastoral or ministry staff? Give me a call.

**Watch for Date and Details of September Meeting of Front Range Church Planting Committee**

We are still trying to nail down a date for the next meeting of the Front Range Church Planting Committee, hanging on our desire to have Covenant Director of Evangelism Lisa Orris with us. Lisa has developed a presentation through her research of best evangelism practices in the Covenant, something we feel would be great information for all our churches to have. Please be watching for a date and location to be announced soon.

**Dates Set for Fall Ministers Retreats**

As the last two years, the conference ministers are going to have two retreat options from which to choose again this autumn. One retreat will be held in the eastern part of our region at the incredibly lovely St. Benedict's Retreat Center in Schuyler, Nebraska; the dates are October 11-13, and the speaker will be retired and beloved North Park Seminary professor Dr. John Weborg. The western retreat will be held the next month at Glacier View Ranch Retreat Center in Ward, Colorado, November 8-10, and feature Pastor Nick Lillo (no doubt soon-to-be-beloved, actually a friend of several of us) of Waterstone Church in Littleton. Midwest Conference ministers and their spouses and guests are welcome to attend either or both of these retreats.

**FEAST to be Held in our Mountain Backyard next Summer; Get it on Your Calendars!**

It's back, here in our region! After its last run in 2008 in Wisconsin, our conference and western hub will again see the FEAST close to home, and I urge you to get this amazing event on your family calendar, June 25-28, 2011. A national family camp of prayer and praise, it will be held for the first time at YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, the site of several national Covenant events in long years past, at least one Christian formation conference and maybe even a CHIC. Many of you made it up to FEAST 2002 or 2005 up in Keystone, but this time we will use the YMCA's brand new lodging and conference facility. It is lovely! Never been to a FEAST? Now's your chance. It is one of the most remarkable experiences Gail and I have ever had (we have been to all of them), worshipping and praying and recreating with other Covenanters from around the country and around the world. Check the Covenant website for information, but also just to begin to get a feel for what the event is all about. Bring your whole church!

**Allenspark CO Church Burns Mortgage**

If you're up near Estes Park on a weekend, take a run down Colorado Highway 7 just south of Covenant Heights three miles or so to the Wild Basin turnoff to the National Park. At that intersection you'll find one of our coolest small churches in the hub, our only mountain church, New Covenant Church of Allenspark. A fairly new congregation, and a spirited one, it is currently pastored on a part-time basis by Bob Gregg, one of the chaplains of the Denver Rescue Mission Men's Farm north of Fort Collins, and was founded by long-time Covenant pastor Loyd Johnson, currently 'kinda-sorta' retired in Loveland! Anyway, this church celebrated a mortgage burning several months ago, and I neglected to put it in my last *Hub 'Cap*. It's a simple but lovely little structure that serves its congregation well. Congratulations, New Covenant. God lead you!

**Midwest Conference Spiritual Directors Gather for Organizing Retreat**



Midwest Conference Spiritual Directors

The ministry of spiritual direction is fairly new to the larger Covenant family, and several pastors and laypersons in the conference have made themselves available to extensive training. They recently held their first ever retreat at St. Malo Retreat Center near Estes Park, utilizing the assistance of Helen Cepero of North Park Seminary to pray through and envision how the ministry may be made more readily available to Midwest Covenanters. Expect to hear more about this in the future as a couple pastors from

the area and I brainstorm the stewardship of this ministry initiative. Meanwhile, experienced Covenant spiritual directors in the Western Hub include Mike Brown of Christ Community/Arvada, David Dillon of Littleton, Tom Glossi of ECC/Fort Collins, Rebecca Hinebaugh of Colorado Springs, Tim Musslewhite of Life Spring/Loveland, Katie Martinez of Crossroads/Loveland, Dana Mattson of Longmont, Monty Newton of Heritage/Arvada, Meg Watson of Life Spring/Loveland, and me.

### **Castle Rock Church to Celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this Summer**

I am not yet aware of details, but church chair Larry Lawson of Castle Oaks Covenant of Castle Rock emailed me that the church will be celebrating its ten year anniversary sometime this summer. Watch for information. God bless you, Castle Oaks!

### **Plan Now for a Great Upcoming Event for Families at Covenant Heights!**

Many make the mistake of assuming our great Bible camp up in the mountains near Estes Park is just a place for kids. Au contraire... There is much there for us kids of all ages and one of my personal favorites is coming up, a great vacation value in these harder times. Family Camp is scheduled June 25-27, offering great teaching and recreation for entire families. Pastor Brent Bromstrup of Crossroads Covenant in Greeley will be the speaker. My disappointment is that this camp falls the same time as the Covenant Annual Meeting in St. Paul, so I am sorry to miss it this year. But I LOVE this camp, and believe you will, too! And if you can't make it to the whole family camp, be sure to mark your calendars to go up that Sunday afternoon, June 27, for Big Sunday, when the camp will be offering special events and a concert while serving up its famous \$5 prime rib feast for folks from all our churches! Hundreds have gone up in the past. Bring up several carloads from your church!

### **Got Pulpit Supply?**

Need some preaching ministry this summer while your pastor is on vacation? I always have a number of people to recommend—all Covenant pastor-types who can serve you well and bring the Word with clarity and faithfulness. Contact them directly:

Ryan Ashley, Westminster, [ryanashley@coloradoridge.com](mailto:ryanashley@coloradoridge.com)

Judy Diehl, Arvada, [drjdiehl@comcast.net](mailto:drjdiehl@comcast.net)

Brad Mann, Aurora, [gonnab4him@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gonnab4him@sbcglobal.net)

Todd Slechta, Castle Rock, [todd.slechta@gmail.com](mailto:todd.slechta@gmail.com)

Allison Wible, Lakewood, [Allison@ecclesiadenver.org](mailto:Allison@ecclesiadenver.org)

Ian Wrisley, Crested Butte, [iklzwrisley@juno.com](mailto:iklzwrisley@juno.com)

If you receive this and want me to share your name regarding pulpit fill ministry, be in touch with me.

### **Sankofa Journey Literally Moves Persons Down Paths of Racial Righteousness – Next Trip, October 21-24, 2010**

As the Evangelical Covenant Church continues to take strides toward racial righteousness, a significant event in the lives of persons committed to this call has been what we call a Sankofa Journey. Sankofa is a west African word that means 'to go or look back in order to go or look forward.' Hundreds of Covenanters have traveled in bi-racial partner pairs on Covenant-leader-guided Sankofa trips that usually start out of Chicago, and have traveled southeast to visit many of the historic sites associated with the civil rights movement. Several years ago, Pastor David Williams of Abyssinian Christian Church in Fort Collins and I shared the journey together, and it was a profound experience of understanding and insight. Perhaps there are a number of persons in your church interested in this commitment. Need more information? Give me a call, or Debbie Blue in Chicago, or check out the Covenant website at [covchurch.org](http://covchurch.org).

### **Pastoral Leadership Coaching Available through Covenant**

As part of the revitalization initiative, we have moved to the point of being able to provide regular leadership coaching for pastors across the Covenant at a deeply discounted rate, through Covenant-trained coaches. A generous donor has made this possible. This is quite a breakthrough for our little denomination, one of which we hope and pray many churches and pastors will avail themselves. The coaching consists of weekly one-hour telephone sessions and semi-annual workshop events, covering an incredible amount of helpful material in the field, things one does not tend to learn in seminary. Pastors and lay leaders seeking more information are urged to check out details on Covenant revitalization director John Wenrich's blog; from John, "Simply visit my blog and click on Coaching Startup Kit ([www.covchurch.org/blogs/vitality/coaching-resources](http://www.covchurch.org/blogs/vitality/coaching-resources)). You'll find directions for getting started, media to share with a church leadership team, enrollment form, price sheet, and an overview of the content." Check it out! Grant money through the Covenant's Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program or through the Midwest Conference may be available.

### **Prayer Corner: Teaching Retreats Offered, And Prayers Needed**

I am always eager to share the ministry of the Covenant 'schools' of prayer for a weekend or a retreat, even if I have shared one with you before. (Of course, I can also put you in touch with others who can lead it.) The basic presentation, *Invitation to Prayer*, deals with introductory prayer teaching, and the *Streams and Pathways* experience goes deep into the prayer-based spiritual disciplines. Let me know if I can help you with information, or you can also check out [www.covchurch.org/prayer](http://www.covchurch.org/prayer). I also continue

to put together a prayer group of 1000 persons willing to pray regularly for church planting in the Midwest Conference. Our group is now nearing 300, and these folks receive a short email from me every three months or so with our most pressing prayer needs among our church-planting ministries. If you are not receiving this email that I call 1KCP3, *One Thousand (1K) Church Planting Prayer Partners (CP3)*, and would be interested in praying in this manner for this important missional concern, feel free to contact Reva ([midcovcon@qwestoffice.net](mailto:midcovcon@qwestoffice.net)) or me ([mwcrick@qwestoffice.net](mailto:mwcrick@qwestoffice.net)) with your name, email address and church name, and we'll get you set up.

**Don't Forget 'First Thursday Prayer' – Next Upcoming: July 1, Colorado Ridge Church in Westminster**

All pastoral staff persons and their guests are invited each first Thursday of the month, 10:30-11:30am, for First Thursday Prayer (FTP). July 1<sup>st</sup> will find us meeting at the office suite of Colorado Ridge Covenant in Westminster, at the corner of Huron and 124<sup>th</sup> Ave, just northwest of the intersection of I-25 and 120<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Eric Bain will host us and I expect to be able to be there. (We are seeking a location for the August and September gatherings, so shoot me a quick reply if this can work in your venue.) FTP has been a good prayer and connecting point and all are welcome even if participation must be sporadic. Those who have time often grab a nearby quick lunch together after the prayer meeting.

**Additional Prayer Notes...**

- Praise God for the call of new associate pastor Evan Westburg at Living Hope Covenant in Colorado Springs
- Pray for Pastor Tim and Kim Peterson, formerly of Colorado Springs, who have moved with their two children to Uganda to take up missionary service with New Hope Ministries
- Pray for Ryan Ashley of Colorado Ridge Church in Westminster and David Craig of Arvada Covenant in Arvada, who are completing ministry in these settings; pray for them as they seek God in their transitions

**Upcoming Covenant Dates to Remember...**

- **June 24**, Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium, St. Paul MN
- **June 24-27**, Covenant Annual Meeting, St. Paul MN (see above)
- **July 1**, First Thursday Prayer, 10:30am, Colorado Ridge Church, Westminster (see above)
- **August 5**, First Thursday Prayer, 10:30am, location to be announced
- **September 2**, First Thursday Prayer, 10:30am, location to be announced
- **September ?**, Front Range Church Planting Committee, date and location to be announced
- **October 7**, First Thursday Prayer, 10:30am, location to be announced
- **October 11-13**, Fall Pastors Retreat East, Schuyler NE (see above)
- **October 21-24**, Sankofa Journey (see above)
- **November 4**, First Thursday Prayer, 10:30am, location to be announced
- **November 8-10**, Fall Pastors Retreat West, Ward CO (see above)

And as always, please feel free to be in touch with me at any time regarding how our Midwest Conference ministry may be of service to you. Until next time, God be over you continually.

Gratefully Serving with You,

Richard G. Mylander  
Associate Supt. and Western Hub Coordinator

Colorado Office: Midwest Covenant Conference West  
P.O. Box 1746  
Castle Rock CO 80104  
Phone, 303.525.0020  
Fax, 402.334.3060  
[mwcrick@qwestoffice.net](mailto:mwcrick@qwestoffice.net)

Omaha Office: Midwest Covenant Conference  
13304 W. Center Road, #222  
Omaha NE 68144  
Phone, 888.871.3020 (toll free) or 402.334.3020  
[midcovcon@qwestoffice.net](mailto:midcovcon@qwestoffice.net)