

# Imprints

Vol. 17, No. 1

MARCH 2004

## NORTHWEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

Minnehaha Academy began with prayer, faith, and the purchase of a twelve-acre dairy farm in 1905. That land, now called North Campus, would be the future site of our school.

Because of the vision of Covenant fathers and mothers, Minnehaha was founded in 1913. These committed believers built a school designed to assist young people to live in a way that would honor God – showing forth the gifts of the Spirit in everyday life.

Currently, over 1,200 young people representing a diverse range of ethnic, racial, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds come to Minnehaha from across the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Classes are small – average class size is 18 students – fostering a nurturing environment and meaningful student-teacher interaction.

Teachers at Minnehaha assume many important roles on campus. Instructors, advisers, and coaches, they interact with students throughout the day and become mentors, Christian role models, and adult friends. Our faculty is known for their solid academic credentials and over 50% hold advanced degrees.

Course offerings at Minnehaha emphasize a thorough knowledge of the liberal arts and sciences while giving students a considerable range of choice. Diploma requirements provide complete preparation for college and a broad foundation in analysis and independent thinking. The Upper School offers 17 honors and Advanced Placement classes. While students are asked to devote their best efforts to their studies, the Academy is committed to providing the support necessary to help them succeed. Service learning projects provide students the opportunity to give of themselves in service to God and others.

Students at Minnehaha know that they can make a difference, whether they choose to leave their mark by participating in extracurricular clubs and activities, volunteering to help those in need, performing in a dramatic production, competing on a team, or making a point in a class discussion. Reflecting on their years at Minnehaha, graduates often mention the friendships they formed and the spiritual maturity they gained.

Welcome to the community of Minnehaha Academy.

Dr. John B. Engstrom  
*President*

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## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Today is Monday, two days before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Lent is a period of forty days that leads us to Easter and helps us to remember Christ's forty days of temptation in the wilderness. It is one of the most significant times of the year for the Christian. Thomas Howard writes, *What Christian will want to arrive at Holy Week with his heart unexamined, full of foolishness, levity and egoism? To move through the disciplines in company with missions of other believers all over the world is a profoundly instructive thing.* I pray that this season of Lent will be a time of growth and maturity in our walk with God.

Our conference staff has had the privilege of being in many of your churches during the last several weeks. It is exciting to meet new believers, to install pastors and to dedicate beautiful new buildings to the glory of God. Our newest church plants are doing well and we anticipate many people coming to faith in these new congregations. Many of you are involved in evangelism via the Alpha program and quite a number of conference churches are using Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. Thanks for the outstanding ministry that you are involved in.

We have had the privilege of sharing with many of you through our leadership event called "Conclave" in the Twin Cities and in Bemidji, MN.

A number of our churches are involved in self-study using "Natural Church Development." Your conference board is engaged in self-study as well...On March 6, 2004 our board met with Dr. Paul Borden, a consultant on conference ministry. We are in conversation with noted church consultant, Lyle Schaller and look forward to offering a training event with him in our conference before the summer.

We are in the process of change and re-organization. This will be the last paper copy of this newsletter. In the next few weeks we will convert to an electronic format. This change will allow us to communicate with you on a much more frequent basis. Your local congregation will down-load a copy for you if you prefer to have it on paper.

Our planning and evaluation has resulted in the adjustment of our conference staff job descriptions and the elimination of the positions of Director of Congregational Life and that of a full-time receptionist. We thank God for the fine work that has been accomplished through the efforts of Wendy Sorvik and Marcia Waller.

What changes are you facing in your ministry? How open are you to change? What is God saying to your congregation? Our message never changes, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever."

Our mission remains **VITAL CHURCHES, PLANTING CHURCHES, PLANTING MINISTRIES.**

Thanks for your partnership in our shared ministry!

James A. Fretheim, Conference Superintendent



# Covenant Retirement Communities of Minnesota

## Village residents go digital

If you live at Covenant Village of Golden Valley and want to do something on a computer, lack of experience or equipment won't stand in your way. The Computer Users' Group will come to your aid. Members help one another and even make house calls!

The group's steering committee keeps things humming in the computer center, where computers with Internet access, printers and a scanner are available for resident use 24 hour a day. A \$4 monthly fee pays for everything.

Monthly meetings feature guest speakers, demonstrations, information about new equipment, favorite Web sites and more. Members conduct fund raisers to finance their tech tools. They've

purchased a multimedia projector and recently added three new computers and monitors.



*Computer maven Paul Bowman takes on staff and resident*

### Getting connected

Steering committee members offer instruction in word processing, Internet usage and e-mail. They post their names in the computer center and welcome calls for tech assistance.

"If a resident buys or inherits a computer, a member will go to their apartment, help them set it up, establish an Internet connection, answer questions and even call for technical assistance," says Elder Lindahl, chair of the Computer Users' Group.

Enthusiasm for computer literacy is shared campuswide. In assisted living, 90-year-old resident Paul Bowman is the undisputed technical guru.

The assisted living residence provides Internet access for a two-computer lab. Paul provides the expertise. He helps residents send e-mail, make greeting cards and scan photos.



*Resident Phyllis Wildeson, shown with John Eastburg, spends more than 20 hours a week helping others become computer savvy.*

## Nursing center expands programming

Colonial Acres, the skilled nursing center at Covenant Village of Golden Valley, expanded its resident-centered care program to revitalize its Morningside memory support neighborhood.

Staff members in the neighborhood were trained in special techniques helpful in working with those with memory limitations, then the training was expanded to include all employees.

Nursing assistants work alongside the recreation therapy staff to involve the residents in a variety of activities each day. Using the philosophy that "everything is an activity," staff members increase and enhance recreation therapy programming.

To augment the supplies available for the neighborhood's programming options, staff members and Covenant Village residents hosted a shower for the neighborhood. A gift registry of more than 90 items served as a wish list. The event generated excitement campuswide and far exceeded expectations.

## Elim Care acquires Ebenezer Covenant Village

Ebenezer Covenant Village, Buffalo, Minn., has been acquired by Elim Care Inc., a senior services organization based in Eden Prairie. Under the terms of the agreement, Elim acquired the assets and operations of the 65-bed skilled nursing center and 28-unit assisted living residence. Elim also assumed operation of the home health care agency.

Commenting on the sale, Covenant Retirement Communities President Rick K. Fisk emphasized the mission and ministry compatibility of Elim and Covenant Retirement Communities. "In our efforts to find a viable operational strategy for Ebenezer, we found Elim to be a church-based, mission driven organization very similar to Covenant Retirement Communities. We are confident that, although some changes will undoubtedly occur, resident care will continue to be exceptional."

Elim Care is a not-for-profit organization sponsored by the Evangelical Free Churches.

The change in ownership was finalized Jan. 30, 2004. The new name of the campus is Lake Ridge Care Center of Buffalo.

Covenant Retirement Communities of Minnesota is now comprised of two locations, Covenant Village of Golden Valley and Bethany Covenant Village.

**Covenant Village of Golden Valley**  
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## NWC Calendar 2004

March 12-13	Missions Outreach Venture and Experience (M.O.V.E.) First Covenant, Minneapolis
March 18	Youth Pastors Connection 11am-2pm Northwest Conference Office
March 26	Covenant Village of Golden Valley, Annual Fundraiser Banquet/Steele Family 7:30pm Call 763-732-1507
April 1	Christian Education Connection 11:30-2pm
April 15	Youth Pastors Connection 11am-2pm
April 23-24	Northwest Conference Annual Meeting Minnehaha Academy, North Campus
May 6	Christian Education Connection 11:30-2pm
June 13-20	<b>A.I.L.</b> (Adventures in Leadership) at AC/CWC PLEASE NOTE DATE
June 20-22	Covenant Annual Meeting, Hyatt Minneapolis, MN PLEASE NOTE DATE

## INSTALLATIONS

Jeremy Elseth, Wyoming, MN  
Don Ebb, Maplewood, MN,  
Alan Johnson, International Falls, MN  
Brad Shannon, Saginaw, MN

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## COVENANT WOMEN MINISTRIES

by Patty Peres

"Please, tell the women we still need bandages," Congolese doctors recently pleaded with ECC President Palmberg. Palmberg, who was touring Covenant facilities in Congo to view damage from the civil war, found the hospital so vandalized that even mattresses for the patient beds have disappeared. Though the hospital's needs are enormous, every dollar saved on rolled bandages is a dollar that can be used for more high-tech items.

Laurie Schulze, former purchasing agent for Karawa Hospital and health zone, explained the importance of rolled bandages in a 1990 letter from the field: "Although we have considered buying cloth here and hiring people to make bandages, we cannot afford either the cloth or the mission staff to supervise such a project. And, while we know of sources from which to purchase gauze bandages, which are not re-usable like the cloth, we know no source for buying rolled bandages...(W)e welcome the help of Covenant Women."

For those who are wondering what a "rolled bandage" is, perhaps more information is in order. In a 1997 article in the CWM magazine *Inspirit*, Minnie Bonnar explained the process this way: "(S)heets are laundered, torn into strips of 3, 4 or 5 inch widths and then sewn together to make strips five to seven yards long. (These strips are then rolled into bandages)...When the women are tearing the sheets, they are called "Holy Terrors," and when they are rolling the bandages, they are called "Holy Rollers."

The women in US Covenant churches began rolling bandages back in the Ladies Aide era. Pioneer medical missionaries in that time of "use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without" first asked for rolled bandages and women who had worn-out sheets they were loathe to throw away responded. Ever since then, Covenant Women have supplied rolled bandages to medical facilities in Congo (Zaire). Even during the recent war, bandages were rolled and stock-piled, waiting til they could once again be shipped.

Although the need for bandages is at an all-time high, fewer and fewer local women ministries are involved in this project. Rolling bandages is not a glamorous ministry. In fact, its association with Ladies Aide makes it seem too old-fashioned for modern women to bother with. But Congolese Covenanters need this resource. Hopefully, many American Covenant Women with used sheets and willing hands will answer the Congolese doctors' pleas.

**Questions? Contact NWCCWM missions chair, Kathy Kelly at 218-525-4254**