

The Cedar Chips

ONLINE

publication of Cedar Hills Community Church



February 2011

Reflections with Kent . . .

What do we need most as a congregation?

I imagine that if I asked 100 people I could potentially get 100 answers.

One thing we've agreed to is a need is to pursue spiritual depth. We want to grow disciples who are deeply rooted in Jesus. Disciples that seek God first, dig into scripture and serve appropriately. We implement programs to achieve the outcome of disciples who go deep.

There may be other important needs but I believe that going deep is certainly one need that is worthy of our intentional focus. I like what spiritual growth guru Richard Foster said about this: *Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.*

What do you think we need most as a congregation? I'd love to hear your thoughts. Stop, call, or email me (Kent@chccrca.org) and let me know what you think.

Where are we going as a congregation?

This is a question of vision. The consistory is engaging an intentional process of discerning God's vision for the future of our congregation. We are committed to listening for God's whispers and then to obeying God's leading.

At this year's leadership retreat we spent time discerning the question: "What Biblical story is our story as a congregation?" it was wonderful to witness key leaders

of our congregation pouring over scripture with ears tuned in specifically to listen for God's voice for us. Our leaders are listening carefully for God's leading and this will have a direct bearing on where we are going as a congregation.



What about the Bridge?

The launch of the Bridge exceeded our expectations and we celebrate the fruit of lives impacted through this amazing adventure. Over the first twelve weeks, we averaged 84 in attendance. Small groups have been formed and new people are stepping up to lead. God is using and blessing the Bridge.

As with all church plants, the early months are a very fragile thing—like a newborn baby. We are absolutely dependent on God's continued provision. We believe God has opened doors and wants to open more. Since our early goals were met, we are proceeding to search for a church-planting pastor who will focus exclusively on helping the Bridge grow through her delicate infancy. A search team has been formed with the hope of securing a planting pastor in the second quarter of 2011.

Will you pray?

We need everyone in our congregation to prayerfully discern God's leading in his or her own life. We need prayers for our consistory, staff, leaders, ministry teams and community.

~Pastor Kent

"The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people."

This Month's Vision

The Me I'm Meant to Be

How do we grow to become all that God intends for us to become? Come find out with this dynamic new series offering practical tools for spiritual growth helping each of us be all that we are meant to be....

Jan 30 – *Finding my Identity*

Feb 6 – *Renewing my Mind*

Feb 13 – *Rescuing my Time*

Feb 20 – *Deepening my Relationships*

Feb 27 – *Transforming my Experience*

Mar 6 – *The Me I'm Meant to Be*

Grow deeper in worship every Sunday

@ 8:30 or 11:00

Consistory News and Notes

Our new members Bob Brecke, Deb DeHaan, Greg Hupke and Jeff Rasmussen joined the consistory. We spent time getting oriented and discussing spiritual maturity based on the Beatitudes in Matt 5:1-12. The first four have to do with our attitude to God and the last four are about our attitude toward our fellow man. Meekness is the least coveted. Why? Meekness seems like a vulnerability, but Jesus was meek on the way to the cross and never opened his mouth. Submission to God or being humble and doing what you are supposed to do is more effective leadership.

We approved a new Consistory Covenant to guide our actions as we serve together. We discussed expectations for each other in terms of both time and responsibilities. We continue to add things to our plate and rarely take things off. What is the next step? We'll discuss next month.

We reviewed material on the Life Cycle of the church. Where are we as a church right now? How do we keep growing and measure growth? The most important work the board can do is monitoring the health of the congregation. We need to ask, "What is next?" concentrating on the big picture. We listen to God to discern vision for CHCC. The "Go Deep" emphasis and the Bridge implementation created a united focus. We need to start thinking about what is next. We will be doing some collective discernment.

Consistory Covenant

The Consistory is formed to lead God's people in proclaiming good news to the poor, righteousness to the nations and peace among all. We provide for the welfare of the Church, stewardship of property and finance, and the spiritual benefit of all Christ's people.

As the Leadership of Cedar Hills Community Church, when we meet, we are committed to Christ, and His Word compels us to affirm:

1. The Glory of God – we exist to glorify God;
2. The Authority of Scripture – The Bible reveals universal truths which are true for all people at all times and can be known with certainty and clarity;
3. The Gospel of God – Humanity's greatest need is to be reconciled with God;
4. The Uniqueness of Christ – Only in Jesus can we have salvation, fellowship, and a true understanding of God;
5. The pursuit of Justice – The Bible calls God's people to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God;
6. The importance of Grace – We will treat each other with love and respect with regard to all matters not specifically mentioned in Scripture;
7. The Covenantal Church – we have entered into a covenantal relationship with God and one another which obligates each one of us to be accountable to others in the community;
8. The Dignity of Human Life – All human life is to be treasured as a gift from God.

As we meet I agree to...

1. Pray.
2. Leave my personal agenda at the door.
3. Listen intently to discover God's agenda for our congregation.
4. Value each other and listen actively and respectfully with the goal of understanding and discernment of God's agenda.
5. Speak from my own experience instead of generalizing.
6. Not make assumptions about motivation. If I am curious about or suspect of another's motivation, I will ask them in the meeting.
7. Speak up when I disagree. I will not leave the meeting without voicing my objections but never as a personal attack.
8. Trust.
9. Hold each other accountable to the above.
10. Be held accountable to the above.

Updates

Worship @ The Bridge

Our daughter congregation, The Bridge, continues to worship together every Sunday @ 10 AM at the Hotel - Kirkwood Center, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW. Our weekly worship builds on the foundation that God has blessed us with. Our average attendance for the first twelve weeks was 84. Please pray for those who attend this service and for those who lead this service. We invite CHCC regulars to visit to offer encouragement to the Bridge. Your participation with us in worship is contributing to the success of this outreach.

We are at a fragile place but feel called to carry on as God leads. The next big step will be to search for a church planting pastor to help grow the Bridge from infancy to stability. Please pray for this process. As we begin our search, pray that God will lead us to the individual He has prepared to serve the Bridge. We are dependent on God for each new step in this journey.

Special thanks to all who have supported the Bridge through prayers, attending services and participation in leadership. We are blessed to be partnering with such a supportive mothering congregation.

Advent Conspiracy 2010

A special thanks to everyone who participated in the Advent Conspiracy. We collected over \$10,000 for children in Haiti and Malawi.

The money donated for Haiti went to help supply fresh water. It was very timely. The recipient of the money - Living Water International – had this report: In the year since the earthquake, last January 12, they have restored drinking water to 340 Haitian communities involving over 840 water solutions. (wells or purification systems). Each of these solutions provides safe water to as many as 1000 people.

Our contribution of \$2,101.89 will become part of the fresh water solution in Haiti. In addition, \$8,358.87 was sent to the “Feed One” program in Malawi, Africa. This money will go directly toward feeding 174 children for an entire year.

The response to the advent Conspiracy is nothing short of a miracle and the monies sent will impact children directly with the love of Jesus. It is wonderful to be part of such a generous congregation. Praise God!

Compassion Update



Children Survival Facts

Did you know that today alone, in third world countries, 24,000 babies and toddlers took their last breath? They died from causes that were easily preventable or treatable, like measles, dehydration and malaria.

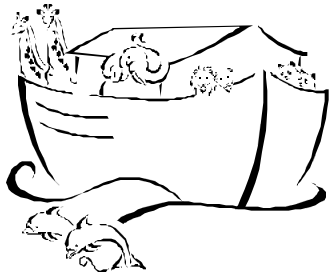
Thousands more children, who survived the day, will suffer irreversible damage that will stunt their growth and prevent them from developing normally. The reason? So many mothers in the world's poorest communities don't have access to a clean, sterile birthing environment. They often can't provide their babies with proper nutrition. The result? When the babies get sick, they lack the knowledge or resources to provide care. One by one, precious little babies are being defeated and crushed – losing their lives or potential during the critically important first year of life.

But you can be part of the good news and make a difference by choosing to partner with the Child Survival Program. For \$20 a month you can partner with the church-based survival program, where fragile infants and their mothers are being transformed – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Your donation to this cause allows devoted, trained Christians to visit both new and expectant mothers in their homes to offer lifesaving help, counseling, nutritious food, access to medical resources, and more – all in the name of Jesus and because of His great love!

Contact us to learn more about becoming involved in this expanding Compassion ministry. We have packets available so you can get started with your good work right away. God bless you!

Craig and Debbie Mrkvicka
cr4compassion@mchsi.com
Child Advocates for Compassion

Noah's Ark Preschool News



January was a very cold month but we still had a lot of fun at preschool! We began testing all our 4 year old classes. Testing is presented in a game format and is done on a one-on-one basis with the teacher. Most children really enjoy the time with their teacher. Once testing is over, the teachers will send out a final progress report. The each family will decide if Alternative Kindergarten or Kindergarten is best for their child. Our 3 year old classes focused on spatial concepts, shapes, daytime/nighttime and pockets. The younger classes have come along way since September!

Our 2011-2012 enrollment is underway and classes are filling up nicely. The morning 4 year old class is full. We still have some openings in the afternoon. Spots are still available in the morning as well as the afternoon. If you know someone who wants to register their child please have them call preschool at 396-3125 or email us at noahsark@chccrca.org.

I wanted to remind you that any CHCC member whose child attends Noah's Ark Preschool will receive 50% off tuition. We feel as a member you already support CHCC financially, and Noah's Ark as a *ministry* of this church, wants to support your child's Christian education. If your child is attending AK or Kindergarten in the fall, you should be receiving a letter from your child's school soon. If you have not been contacted, please call the school that your child will be attending.

We are amazed with the amount of growth in the children already and feel privileged to be a part of their lives.

In Christ,
Leslie Clauson,
Director



Children's Ministries



Five Faith Skills

Children learn the basics of relationships from home. When parents and church leaders work together to teach the same principles, it gives the child a better chance to make good decisions in challenging situations. In the book I've been reading, "Think Orange" they have come up with Five Faith Skills that help parents and leaders have a common language when they are working with their children. These five skills are what students need to be able to accomplish on their own by 5th grade.

1. Navigate the Bible.
2. Personalize scripture (memorize or apply it).
3. Dialogue with God (private and public).
4. Articulate your faith (share and defend).
5. Worship with your life (serve, invest).

Our Sunday School Team and teachers are working on these skills with your children. The image produced if children work on these skills at home, represented in yellow, and at church, represented in red, equals an ORANGE!!

February Calendar

- 2 ~ All-Stars For Jesus - 4th/5th grades included
- 3 ~ MOPS
- 6 ~ Sunday School
- 9 ~ All-Stars For Jesus
- 13 ~ Sunday School
- 16 ~ All-Stars For Jesus
- 17 ~ MOPS
- 20 ~ Sunday School - 1st Grade Parents attend class with students, Faith at Home/ My Church
- 23 ~ All-Stars For Jesus
- 27 ~ Sunday School

~Kris
Director of Children's Ministries

ASSISTANTS FOR FEBRUARY

Information Specialists:

Feb 6 8:30 Leanne Moen
 11:00 Dianne Martens
 Feb 13 8:30 Jack & Kate Ulmer
 11:00 Alan & Cydney Lovell
 Feb 20 8:30 Jean Strausser
 11:00 David & Susan Wise
 Feb 27 8:30 Gary & Jan Matson
 11:00 Tracy & Annette Sankot

Coffee Shop:

Feb 6 7:30 Sannys/Nanci liams -treats
 9:45 Jon & Jennifer Wagaman
 Feb 13 7:30 Lisa Smith/Pat Garwood-treats
 9:45 Jon & Jennifer Wagaman
 Feb 20 7:30 John & Paula Blessman
 9:45 Wagamans/Nanci liams-treats
 Feb 27 7:30 Jodee & Brian Sanny
 9:45 Mary Landhuis

Nursery:

Feb 6 8:30 Joens Family
 11:00 Donnan Family/Carly Clauson
 Feb 13 8:30 Paulsen Family
 11:00 Brown Family
 Feb 20 8:30 Mottinger Family/Jenna Owen
 11:00 Maire Family/Jessica Wise
 Feb 27 8:30 Sue Kleinmeyer/Jesse S
 11:00 Opperman Family/Carly Clauson

Children's Church:

Feb 6 8:20 Gaffney Family
 10:15 Vander Broek Family
 Feb 13 8:20 Jungling Family
 10:45 Gleason Family
 Feb 20 8:20 Hanson Family
 10:45 Christiansen Family
 Feb 27 8:20 Shaw Family
 10:45 Mead Family



Growing Disciples Deeply Rooted in Jesus



RETIREES BREAKFAST

Sat, Feb 5, 8:30am
 @ Tommy's Restaurant
 393 Edgewood Road

RSVP to Joan Koele at 396-6510



CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Feb 13 at 10am in Room 113 there will be a meeting for all volunteers. Worship order and strategies will be shared, along with new ideas!

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL DATA

January Contributions (through Jan 23)	\$ 42,080
---	-----------

The Cedar Chips is available online and can be found there by following the *Members* link on the church website, www.chccrca.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY?

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays

8:00am	Prayer Time	138
8:30am	Sanctuary Service	MPR
9:45am	Coffee & Fellowship	GS
9:45am	Sunday School - All Ages	Multiple
11:00am	Celebrate Service	MPR
6:30pm	SUMMIT	GS/Multiple

Mondays

5:00pm	Open Hands Food Pantry	112,116
5:30pm	Grey Worship Team	MPR
6:30pm	Anchor Worship Team	MPR

Tuesdays

6:00pm	Boy Scouts of America	GS, 135
6:45pm	PRISM®	117

Wednesdays

9:00am	Women's Bible Study	117
10:00am	Open Hands Food Pantry	112,116
6:00pm	Sanctuary Worship Team	MPR
6:30pm	All-Stars for Jesus	113/114, 128
6:30pm	LINK	GS/Multiple
6:35pm	Choir	MPR

Thursdays

9:00am	Spare Timers	GS
6:15pm	The Bridge WT	MPR

Fridays

10:00am	Open Hands Food Pantry	112,116
7:00pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	MPR/GS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fri Feb 5 -Sat Feb 6

Sweet Life Café Retreat	Amana Hotel
-------------------------	-------------

Tue Feb 8- Wed Feb 9

Child Check - Noah's Ark Preschool

Sat Feb 12

10:00am	Scrapbooking - CHiCCs	GS
---------	-----------------------	----

Tue Feb 15

Cedar Chips - news due	office
------------------------	--------

Tue Feb 15- Wed Feb 16

Child Check – Noah's Ark Preschool

Sat Feb 26

12pm	Small Wedding	Fireplace
2pm	Baby Shower	GS/Kitchen

Mon Feb 28

5:30pm	Blue & Gold Banquet	MPR/GS
--------	---------------------	--------

FEBRUARY TEAMS & OTHER EVENTS

Tue Feb 1

10:00am	Ministry Staff	138
---------	----------------	-----

Thu Feb 3

9:15am	MOPS	GS
--------	------	----

Sun Feb 6

6:00pm	Church Multiplication	117
--------	-----------------------	-----

Mon Feb 7

5:00pm	Stephen Leaders	138
7:15pm	SUMMIT Leadership	117

Wed Feb 9

5:30pm	Deacons	138
--------	---------	-----

Sun Feb 13

4:00pm	Consistory	137
--------	------------	-----

Mon Feb 14

7:00pm	Food Pantry Leaders	112
--------	---------------------	-----

Tue Feb 15

11:45am	All Staff	117
---------	-----------	-----

Thu Feb 17

9:15am	MOPS	GS
6:30pm	Boy Scout Parents	138

Sun Feb 20

6:00pm	Church Multiplication	117
--------	-----------------------	-----

Mon Feb 21

6:00pm	Foster/Adopt Parents	134/135
--------	----------------------	---------

Tue Feb 22

6:00pm	Adult Discipleship	138
--------	--------------------	-----

Wed Feb 23

6:00pm	Welcome Team	138
--------	--------------	-----

Thu Feb 24

6:30pm	Ministry Management	116
--------	---------------------	-----

Sun Feb 27

3:00pm	Elders Meeting	137
--------	----------------	-----

Mon Feb 28

5:00pm	Noah's Ark Board	135
5:15pm	Connectors	138
6:00pm	Sunday School Team	138
6:00pm	Foster/Adopt Parents	134/135

Worship Ministries

Seek Study

I've been doing a word study lately on the meaning behind the use of the word "Seek" in various passages of Scripture. There are actually numerous meanings that all get translated as "seek" or "look" in the Bible. Two meanings that get paired often are:

1. To diligently inquire and pursue, to follow
2. To strive after in worship and prayer

Often the "to strive after in worship and prayer" is a seek that is used when pursuing the face of God. It's a fascinating thing to think about seeking after the face of God in worship, but time and time again the Old Testament writes describe seeking as just that.

Psalm 24:6—"Such is the generation of those who *seek (diligently inquire and pursue)* him, who *seek (strive after in worship and prayer)* your face, God of Jacob."

1 Chronicles 16:11—"Look (*diligently inquire and pursue*) to the LORD and his strength; *seek (strive after in worship and prayer)* his face always."

Deuteronomy 4:29—"But if from there you *seek (strive after in worship and prayer)* the LORD your God, you will find him if you *seek (diligently inquire and pursue)* him with all your heart and with all your soul."

I know there is a deeper place of worship we have yet to enter as a church. It is a place that is beyond singing songs, beyond just standing up and going through the motions on any given Sunday. It is a place where one must intentionally choose to engage their heart before the Lord, even if they don't feel like it. It has to be intentional. Did you know that even the tiniest step of your heart towards the Lord moves him? Did you know the smallest glance of your eye towards the Lord fills his heart with joy? Try it. He longs for more of that. He longs for more of you. We're going to seek the face of God in worship. I don't know what that means, or even what it looks like, but we're going for it.

~ Leah
Director of Worship

The Caring Corner

How can you be most valuable right now?

Evan Williams may not be known by name to many of us. His work, however, is certainly known. He is credited with being the inventor of the social network known as "blogging" and the confounder of "twitter."

In an article published in an airline magazine, Evan Williams was asked why he had stepped down from his position as CEO of "twitter" to take a position in product strategy. His answer: "I asked myself, how can I be most valuable right now?"

Evan Williams was challenging himself, in light of his responsibilities for the success of his company, to do what was most important to ensure that success.

Would you be willing to ask that question of yourself as it relates to caring in the Cedar Hills Church? If so, here are some thoughts to consider:

Do you consider the time you spend praying for those who are sick, valuable to the well-being of the church?

Do you consider the time you spend visiting those who are not attending the church, as valuable to the well-being of the church?

Do you consider the time you spend praising God, either at home or in Sunday worship, as valuable to the well-being of the church?

Do you consider the time you spend asking God to help you know where and how to use your gifts, as valuable to the well-being of the church?

Do you consider the time you spend volunteering in the community valuable to the well-being of those you serve?

Do you consider the time you spend rejoicing in the knowledge that God loves you and sent His Son to die for your sins as valuable to the well-being of your soul?

If you answered Yes to one or more of those thoughts, you are in the right place.

God loves you and cares for you.

~Doc
Pastor of Visitation and Care

Discipleship Ministries

All-Church Small Group Study Beginning Sun, Jan. 30th

There is a me each one of us wants to be. Someone who is more generous, patient, and loving; but there is a gap between the me I am and the me I want to be. Often times we find it easy to trust God to bridge the gap between us and Him; but we struggle to really live by grace and trust God to close the gap between the me I am and the me I want to be. Becoming God's best version of you is both God's desire and the greatest task of your life. The good news is that God's already working on it - it is God's project not yours.

Spiritual growth can often seem difficult or intimidating. This study presents humorous, innovative, challenging, inspiring, and hopeful thinking to aid you in this process. Small groups provide the opportunity for each of us to share our stories, to rejoice as one in our successes, and encourage and pray for one another in our troubles.

If you have not yet found a small group, it is not to late. Just call the church office and The Adult Discipleship team will help you find a group to study with.



CEDAR CHIPS ONLINE - IN COLOR

Would you like a link to the Cedar Chips emailed to you each month? *Go Green* and choose to view the Cedar Chips online! Email or call the church office: office@chccrca.org or 396-6608 and let us know we can print one less copy and add you to the special mailing list! Enjoy the Cedar Chips in color!

Adult Sunday School

Starting February 20th the Adult Discipleship team is pleased to announce the following Sunday Morning [9:45 AM] classes for growing deeper in our faith.

Ecclesiastes – Are you looking for the secret to finding delight anytime, anywhere and under any circumstance? The book of Ecclesiastes will help you find the key to a life that yields up a treasure of joy that meets the needs of your heart.

6 sessions Alan Brockette

The Truth Project - The Truth Project is a DVD-based curriculum taught by Dr. Del Tackett which “opens and explains the Scriptures in a way rarely equaled.” This study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life. This one project represents the possibility for exponential change within the body of Christ. As it has been throughout history, God continues to call ordinary people to make an eternal difference in our world.

12 sessions Gary Mills & Cydney Lovell

The Gospel of John - When John wrote his gospel he assumed his readers knew the basic facts about Jesus. Through his writings he provided the reader with material that is not in the other gospel accounts. The information he provided helps us understand the events recorded in the other gospels revealing the Bible's most important message. John encourages us “these that are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name.” John 20:31 Join us as we study The Word –from God's Word.

Concluding 6 sessions Joanne Lodge

History Of Christianity - An understandable overview of the unfolding of the Christian church. This 6 week DVD - discussion series looks into how the Church sought to survive, relate to, and impact the unique political, social, & cultural turmoil it encountered throughout the six major time periods from Pentecost to today. Periods covered include the Roman Era, the Middle Ages, the Reformation, the Age of Reason, the New World and Today.

6 Sessions Jim Newell

A Sunday Miracle

It was Sunday morning. I left church, ran an errand, and was on my way home. With a green light, I proceeded into an intersection. Suddenly, without warning, I heard a horrible crushing sound! The front of my car was completely smashed with the hood on the windshield smoking! There are no words to describe the fear and trauma I felt. I saw a white balloon-like bag in front of me. My older car had air bags, unknown to me.

Both my car and the second car were totaled; they had crashed into each other head-on. An ambulance took me to St Lukes. I couldn't remember anything that happened directly after the accident; so it was determined that I had a concussion. Fearing bleeding in my brain, the doctors ordered my transfer to the University of Iowa Hospital.

Several days later, I sit here in my home and look back on my experience. I am somewhat skeptical hearing of miracles, but I believe it happened to me. I also realize, after leaving the spiritually safe surroundings of our church and re-entering the outside world, it's best to be prepared in the eyes of the Lord.

Thank you Lord for giving me that opportunity!

Maureen Kern.



FAITH AT HOME - FOR FIRST GRADE PARENTS

Sunday, Feb 20, 9:45am, attend the Sunday School opening with your student. Then learn new facts about our church together as a family!

Something New

We're pleased to share details on new musical instruments added to our weekly worship. Both were made available thanks to funds from the Judy Viggers Memorial Fund.

The first is a digital piano that will replace the analog upright piano we've used for several years. Since moving to our new facility, efforts to manage utility bills have required us to have significant temperature swings in the MPR when it's not in use. These significant temperature changes cause pianos to go out of tune in just days. Along with offering several sounds, being easy to move and simple to operate, the new piano doesn't need tuning, which means that it will pay for itself in just a few years in budget savings.

A set of digital drums has also been purchased to replace the previous set of drums. The old set was showing plenty of wear and was on loan from one of our drummers. As you'll notice immediately, they take up less of the altar area and don't require the large Plexiglas shell to manage their volume. It's a little known fact that Judy was a drummer, so this is a fitting way to remember her!

Judy has made a lasting impact on our worship ministries with her spirit and dedication and as former chair of the Worship Committee. With these new instruments, we will remember her contributions each and every Sunday!



PRAYER SESSION

There will not be a prayer session in February. We encourage you to join the 6-week small group study!