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The Cedar Chips

publication of Cedar Hills Community Church

March 2009

Reflecting with Kent . . .

I don't think anything happens by chance. God doesn't work like that.

When I returned from lunch today there was a bird flapping her wings so furiously I was shocked that she made no progress. It looked like she was wired in place. To flap without flying anywhere . . . Bummer.



In my office, I read these words from Luke 12:6-7: **"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten. Indeed . . . you are worth more than many sparrows."**

I've had times in my life when I felt like I was flapping real hard but not getting anywhere, at least nowhere of value. To fly without flying anywhere is particularly frustrating in my life as a disciple of Jesus. If I am trying so hard to follow Jesus, there should be some fruit to show for it you'd think.

Lately I've been thinking differently. What if my following of Jesus was about knowing Jesus and that was it? What if the fruit of discipleship is to know Jesus—period? What if the key to everything is just knowing Jesus and more flapping really proves counter-productive to that?

Hmmm...

The book *Scandalous Beauty* by Thomas Schmidt paints a shocking yet refreshing picture of the way God works to bring us to know Jesus. He describes the circumstances of the thief being crucified with Jesus: **"What luck. To end up on death row the very day that the person in the cell next to you happens to be the savior of the world. Don't you think the thief on the cross was the one thief in the world who would benefit from being in that place at that moment? He has worth more than a sparrow, and all his wing flaps over the course of a lifetime, all the little details of his fall, led him to be raised to a cross that day so that he could be forgiven and given life at the moment of his death."**

What if all the flaps of our lives work to bring us to know Jesus—just as God planned for us? And what if in knowing Jesus God actually takes us to all the places he wants and forms us in all the ways he wants in spite of ourselves? What if we tested this theory with less flapping and more knowing?

I'm just wondering. I don't think anything happens by accident. God doesn't work like that.

May we know Jesus!

What's Inside...

This Month's Vision	2	Noah's Ark	5	Loved By God	7
Consistory Update	2	Children's Ministry	5	Assistants for March	8
Elder's Devotional	3	Discipleship Ministries	6	What's Happening	9
Ministry Highlight	4	Worship Ministries	6	CHCC's 50th Anniversary	10
Ministry Management	4	Caring For People	7	Bulletin Board	11

This Month's Vision

Walking with Jesus

A disciple is one who walks in the footsteps of Jesus. Traditionally, the weeks that lead up to Easter have been a time of focused disciple making. In the next seven weeks we will continue our "year of Jesus" exploration by walking with Jesus toward the cross and the tomb.

March 1 – **Eating with Jesus**
Meeting Jesus at the Last Supper

March 8 – **Praying with Jesus**
Meeting Jesus in the Garden

March 15 – **Submitting with Jesus**
Meeting Jesus in Chains

March 22 – **Forgiving with Jesus**
Meeting Jesus in the courtyard

March 29 – **Trusting with Jesus**
Meeting Jesus at trial

April 5 – **Suffering with Jesus**
Meeting Jesus on the cross – Luke 23:26-56
Palm Sunday

April 12 – **Rising with Jesus**
Meeting Jesus at the tomb
Easter

Worship Schedule

Sanctuary: 8:30

Celebrate: 10:45

Consistory Update

Our February meeting opened with devotions focused on leading like Jesus. This begins with having the heart of a servant leader. We read Ezekiel 36:26-27, Jeremiah 9:23-24 followed by small group discussion and prayer.

Discussion regarding Consistory responsibility to know our policies/mission/vision began with an introduction/challenge by Cade to study the CHCC handbook so that we are better equipped to handle the questions and issues that we will be faced with.

Executive board requested each consistory member write down 2-3 accomplishments we expect to achieve this year. Lists were submitted to Harlan who will review and consolidate. Executive board will then review and come back to the consistory for further discussion at the next meeting.

Core Team reports were given as per CHCC Handbook Governance Application Processes: Assessing Ministries. Elders and deacons are paired up with core team leaders and staff for encouragement and accountability. Consistory Core Team assignments were reviewed:

Worship – Cade, Dana
Outreach – Harlan, Karen T.
Resource – Beth, Darla
Community Life – Karen B., Tracy, Diane
Discipleship – Jim H., Jack, Bruce

Nominations Study Team reported that information had been gathered regarding the nomination processes of other churches within the area as well as an internet search. Additionally, they will be requesting input from a cross section of the congregation. Their purpose is to review the current nomination process stated in the CHCC Handbook Section and provide recommendations for change if it is determined that change is needed. The Nominations Study Team's goal is to have the review and a recommendation completed by the next Consistory meeting.

Overall positive comments were given regarding the retreat and the quality of the speakers. A handout containing the comments and discussion points from the retreat will be provided to the members. Recommendation made to consistory members to take the retreat information to Core Team leaders' assignments for further discussion and follow up.

Consistory was informed that CHCC would not be joining the 'Serve the City' organization at this time. The request was reviewed by the Outreach Team and it was determined that it was not the right time for us to join.

Next Meeting – March 8, 4:00
Next Leadership Community – May 2, 2009

The Bulletin Board

CPR TRAINING

CHCC is offering CPR/Defibrillator training on Saturday, March 21 from 9AM-1PM in the Gathering Space. The class is being offered by Mike and Theresa Robinson with class size limited to 12 people/session. There is no cost to participate and each person completing the training will receive a Heartsaver CPR/AED certification card. These certifications are good for 2 years.

This training is being offered to support the defibrillator purchased by the church with Memorial Funds. We also see this as an opportunity to equip people for a unique life-saving ministry.

To sign up for the class, please indicate your interest on the bulletin tear-off.

CHCC and BOY SCOUT TROOP 85 FORM PARTNERSHIP!

You may have seen an additional set of flags next to the doors to the MPR. One is clearly recognizable as the US flag. The other is a Boy Scout flag belonging to Troop 85, which now meets regularly in our building.

Cedar Hills Community Church has become the charter (or sponsor) organization for Troop 85. This troop has been in existence on the west side of Cedar Rapids for many years. Their previous charter organization was severely affected by the flood, and faces an uncertain future. The troop sought out Cedar Hills Community Church as a new, "permanent" home for their meetings, and the church was happy to oblige. In return for providing a place to meet, the troop intends to perform various service projects throughout the year in and around the church.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Boy Scout organization, or Troop 85 in particular, should contact Stuart Geiger, who is the liaison between the church and the troop.

SCOUT SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Cedar Hills Community Church has designated Sunday, March 8 as "Scout Sunday." Active members of Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girls Scouts, and Brownies (including their leaders), will be recognized at the beginning of the Sanctuary service. All are encouraged to wear their uniforms.

In order to allow for the church to make appropriate plans for the number of youth and adults participating, please contact the church office by Wednesday, March 3 to let them know you'll be in attendance.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT PAGES

In honor of the church's upcoming 50th Anniversary, the website team is creating "staff spotlight" pages where we would like to share stories that show how the staff has impacted our lives, encouraged us in our journeys, or other memories that we may have of them. If you would like to share your story, please email it to dairy3@netins.net or put it in the Tellinghuisen's church mailbox. Thanks for helping us out with this project!

~The Website Team

CEDAR CHIPS EMAIL REMINDER

If you would like a reminder when the Cedar Chips is available online, please contact the Church Office (396-6608) and ask to have your email address added to the church-wide distribution list.

CHCC 50th Anniversary

Leading CHCC Through the Years

Rev Wm. Everts came to Cedar Rapids at the request of the Reformed Church in America to organize a new congregation in the new Cedar Hills addition in June, 1958. He served until November when he retired from the active ministry.

By January 1959, Rev. Fred Buseman had come to serve the new congregation as a missionary pastor until the congregation was formally organized in September 1959, when he was installed as the church's first pastor.

In April, 1964, Rev. George Kroeze came to serve the Cedar Hills congregation. He left to serve a church in Michigan in the fall of 1968.

Rev. Leon Aalberts was installed in January 1969 and was pastor until he resigned in 1980.

The 4th pastor, Rev. John Frey, was here from 1980 through 1985 when he retired.

Rev. John Foster was installed in June 1986. He left in 1994 to serve a new church start, New Song Community, which was being organized in NE Cedar Rapids.

During the next year Dr. Leonard Ranson served as our interim pastor, and in 2000, "Doc" was hired as Pastor of Ministry Development and later became Pastor of Care and Visitation.

Rev. Kent Landhuis came to Cedar Rapids in 1995 and continues to serve as the Senior Pastor.

After graduating from Western Seminary, Rich McCarty was ordained and installed as Pastor of Discipleship in 2002. He left to pursue higher education a year later.

Todd Joslin came to CHCC in 2005 and was ordained and installed into ministry in 2006. He is the Pastor of Discipleship.

Happy 50th Anniversary CHCC! 1959 - 2009

2009 is a year for celebrating our past, present and future!

**WHEN: SAVE these DATES:
August 8-9, 2009 (Saturday–Sunday)**

WHAT: Multiple celebration activities planned throughout Saturday, August 8th with a special worship service on Sunday, August 9th!

Other celebration milestones throughout 2009!

WHO: Invite your family, friends, and former members to come share in the celebration.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Providing historical items or other information:
 - a. Pictures, memorabilia needed to incorporate into the yearlong event—contact Marlene Milligan (363-8642 or milligangeorge@imonmail.com)
 - b. Written memories—contact Joan Koele (396-6510)
 - c. Former members' addresses – to Joan Koele or Marlene Milligan
2. We need a few more individuals to help plan the festivities:
 - a. Party Planners – contact Doc (396-6608 or doc@chccra.org) or Mark Espe (857-4926 or cndysp@aol.com)
 - b. Marketing/advertising folks – for information both at the church and to the public – contact Nancy Josifek (632-1343 or njosifek@juno.com)
 - c. Commemorative t-shirts, mugs, etc. – design and vendor recommendations—contact Dana Chapman (390-3142 or kdc@ia.net)
 - d. Any ideas or suggestions? Contact any of the individuals listed above.

WHAT'S NEXT?

1. Watch the bulletin and newsletters for announcements, information, and historical items.
2. Be a part of history and the celebration.

Praise God for the things He has done in 50 years at CHCC, what He is doing now and in the future!

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Services

Over the past few years, many have found our special mid-week Lenten Services to be some of the most meaningful experiences of worship. This year we will gather around the theme of Jesus revealed in the Old Testament. Come discover the Jewish roots of Christianity and see Jesus in a new way. Services begin at 6:30 unless otherwise noted and include ample time for quiet reflection, prayer, and meditation.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25 – **Christ in the Ashes**

Thursday, Mar. 5 – **Christ in the Law**

Thursday, Mar. 12 – **Christ in the Sacrificial System**

Thursday, Mar. 19 – **Christ in the Tabernacle**

Thursday, Mar. 26 – **Christ in the Feasts**

Thursday, April 2 – **Christ in the Passover**
(Jews for Jesus presentation)

Maundy Thursday, April 9 – **Christ in the Cup and Bread**
A celebration of the Last Supper, 7:00 PM.

Good Friday, April 9 – **Christ in the Cross**
A dramatic unfolding of the final hours of Jesus' life, 7:00 PM.

“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’”

~Luke 22:19-20 (NIV)

Elder's Devotional

The major goal of the Board of Elders for 2009 was “unity.” In our exploration, we found some elements of a lack of unity, but we all heartily endorse our ONE TRUE SAVIOR as the one who brings us together and binds us to the Lord. We may disagree at times on some issues and, of course, we have different preferences. Such things are to be expected. As one of our final acts of 2008, we agreed to provide a devotional that can be used in any fashion you see fit. A suggestion might be to use it as an opening to one of the meetings that you attend or lead in the quarter. Generally, the devotional will coincide with the major sermon topics, or perhaps a season such as Lent or Advent. The first installment appears below:

Meeting Jesus

You walk down a strange path only to see
A man standing next to you
who could he be
You look into his eyes and all you see is pain
He tells you you wouldn't understand all the shame
You wonder why you've never seen him before
When he lived in the neighborhood just right next door.
He gave you a smile and turned away
You never would have guessed
You met JESUS that day.

~Leena Christine Collins

How will you meet Jesus this month?

Matt 9:35-38: Will you meet Him in the masses?
Will you be ready to serve when called?

Matt 8:23-27: Will you meet Him in your fears?
Do you believe He can/will bring you through?

Matt 26:26-29: Will you meet Him at the table?
Will you pour out forgiveness on others as
He poured out for you?

Matt 26:31-35, 69-75: Will you meet Him in your denial?
Will you forgive yourself even as
you have already been forgiven?

Matt 28:18-20, Will you meet him in the calling?
Will you share the Gospel...using words
only when needed?

Ministry Highlight: Open Hands Food Pantry

Open Hands Food Pantry opened its doors to the community in January 2007. At that time it was a “closed pantry.” For the first year and half it stayed small and closed. People would call the church or just drop by and Tracy would greet them and help them get their food. We averaged between 15-25 families a month.

Then in June of 2008 the flood hit and we saw some changes! That month 306 came to Open Hands in need of food. The need continues, in January of 2009 we served 153 families. Shortly after the flood we recognized that Tracy could not keep up with the visitors. We went from being a closed pantry to being open three afternoons a week.

The pantry is currently open Mondays 5:00–7:00PM, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00AM–1:00PM. It is staffed by volunteers from our congregation.

Keeping food on hand to serve the growing number of families is no easy task. We order and pick food up from the HACAP food reservoir, which involves ordering, picking up, loading, and delivering to the church for volunteers from our congregation to unload.

The food we purchase from HACAP is priced considerably less than paying retail. Being able to purchase through HACAP is a true blessing; however, they often cannot fill all the needs. Products such as peanut butter, canned meat, and boxed dinners are often scarce. Many people from our congregation donate these items to the pantry.

HACAP has guidelines that have to be followed in order to buy from them. This entails recorded keeping, counting and weighing the food items, etc. This currently is all done by volunteers from our congregation.

The mission of the food pantry is *to engage our congregation in sharing Christ's love for people by providing food to families in need.* Are you engaged in sharing Christ's love? If not, could you help in one of these areas? The Open Hands Food Pantry and the many families we serve would greatly appreciate your willingness to assist.

“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.”

~Deuteronomy 15:11

Please let me know if you would like more information on how you can serve the Open Hands Food Pantry and your neighbors in need.

~Marie

Ministry Management Team

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.”

~Philippians 2:13

God is working in our lives every single day. Where have you seen God at work lately? One of the highlights of my month is attending the Ministry Management meetings and hearing stories about God at work throughout the church and our community. The examples are neverending, but here's a few I'd like to share:

- The food pantry just opened its doors last summer and has grown to become the second busiest food pantry in the county.
- We're seeing clients from the food pantry participating in other church activities.
- An overwhelming number of guests (up to 50 percent non-members) attended the Cantata service.
- Volunteers on the Worship team are sharing feedback on the Cantata service and already making plans for next year's service.
- The Stephen Ministers are hosting a Caring Ministry Workshop to train others how to be a source of God's love to the lost and hurting.
- A young boy wandered into church on a Saturday morning and eagerly shook hands with the first person he saw, expecting them to be a Sunday greeter.
- Children and adults of all ages are learning to be more like Jesus through groups like Lead Like Jesus and All Stars for Jesus.
- The volunteers on Discipleship are constantly coming up with innovative ideas to serve others, such as Camp Rock and Kids Hope USA.
- The staff, consistory, and ministries have been setting goals and working to become a more unified and focused team.

God never ceases to amaze me. I pray that God opens our eyes to seeing Him in our daily lives.

Blessings,
Erin Koester

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH?

WORSHIP

3/1 Communion Sunday
8:30 A.M. Sanctuary
10:45 A.M. Celebrate

Thursdays - Lenten Services - 6:30 P.M.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday - Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Wednesdays - LINK - (Jr. High Youth Group) - 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Sundays - Sr. High Youth Group 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

ADULT MINISTRIES

Wednesdays - Men's Fraternity - 6:00 A.M.
Wednesdays - Women's Bible Study - 9:00 A.M.
3/5 & Mothers Of Pre Schoolers - 9:15 A.M.
3/19
3/7 Sr. Breakfast - 8:30 A.M.
Spring House
Please call Joan Koele (396-6510), if you cannot attend.

MPR PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Sundays - Stage Right Worship Team - 5:00 P.M.
Mondays - Anchor Worship Team - 6:00 P.M.
Sovereign Sound - 7:00 P.M.
Wednesdays - Worship Team - 5:45 P.M.
Choir - 6:30 P.M.
Worship Team - 7:30 P.M.
Thursdays - Worship Team - 6:00 P.M.

MINISTRY TEAMS

3/2 HR Team - 6:00 P.M.
3/2 & Stephen Leaders - 5:00 P.M.
3/16 Stephen Ministry Peer Group - 5:15 P.M.
Stephen Ministry Peer Group - 6:15 P.M.
3/3 Ministry Staff - 10:00 A.M.
Nominating Team - 6:00 P.M.
3/4 50th Anniversary Team - 5:30 P.M.
Deacons - 7:00 P.M.
3/5 Noah's Ark Board - 4:30 P.M.
Women's Ministry - 5:45 P.M.
3/8 SOAR - Sunday School Teachers - 12:00 P.M.
Celebrate Planning Team - 3:00 P.M.
Consistory - 4:00 P.M.
3/9 Fellowship Team - 6:00 P.M.
Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed. - 6:30 P.M.
Sunday School Team - 6:30 P.M.
PR Team - 5:45 P.M.
Celebrate Programming Team - 7:30 P.M.
3/11 Wednesday Night Meal Team - 5:30 P.M.
3/12 Life Group Team - 6:30 P.M.
3/17 Staff - 11:45 A.M.
3/18 Open Hands Food Pantry - 6:00 P.M.
Leadership Team
3/19 Worship Core Team - 7:30 P.M.
3/22 Elders - 4:00 P.M.
Sr. High Youth Team - 4:00 P.M.
3/24 Adult Discipleship - 4:30 P.M.
Loving Stitches Sewing Ministry - 7:00 P.M.
3/25 Welcome Team - 6:00 P.M.
3/26 Connectors - 5:15 P.M.
Ministry Management - 6:30 P.M.
3/30 MOPS Steering Team - 7:00 P.M.

SPECIAL EVENTS

3/21 CPR/Defibrillator Training - 9:00 A.M.

ASSISTANTS FOR MARCH

NURSERY

3/1 8:30 Sue Kleinmeyer, Jean Vandivier
Megan Christianson
10:15 Jessica Wise, Reba Magoon, & Ruth Diers
3/8 8:30 Jennilee Cordes & Theresa Listebarger
10:15 Bill, Shannon, & Hannah Mullan
3/15 8:30 Emily Thuerant & Sarena Vizzcarra
10:15 Brad TeBockhorst & Danielle Humphreys
3/22 8:30 Lisa and Jessica Boldt
10:15 Lisa & Baily Strausser
3/29 8:30 Bridgit Humphreys & Leisa Edaburn
10:15 Eric & Kim Prevo

WELCOME TEAM

3/1 Leanne Moen / Dianne Martens
3/8 Jack & Kate Ulmer
Dave & Susan Wise
3/15 Carol Ruedy
Chuck & Sally Rohrer
3/22 Jerry & Mary Lou Smith
Alan & Cydney Lovell
3/29 Mark & Amber Matson
Tracy & Annette Sankot

NAME TAGS

3/1 Carol Ruedy / Jean Strausser
Carol Ruedy / Anita Bosch
3/8 Ruth Diers / Georgie Steele
Dave & Susan Wise
3/15 Joan Koele / Jean Vandivier
Joan Koele / Darlene Irish
3/22 Selma Williams / Karen Bronkhorst
Doug & Mary Jo Elam
3/29 Jake & Lois DeBoer

GREETERS

3/1 Ken & Karen Bronkhorst
3/8 Mal & Lila Gould
Tracy Spicer Family
3/15 Joan Laughrige & Jim Stark
Jim & Brigit Humphreys
3/22 Wes & Jackie Simmons
Kurt & Marie Schulte
3/29 Selma Williams
Matt & Erin Koester

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

3/1 Lois Deerberg
Jessica Boldt / Cara Voll
3/8 Jill Anderson
Jessie Schoettmer / Davie Sutton
3/15 Bruce & Marlee Ellis
Austin Mills / Lauren Brown
3/22 Bruce Crowther / Laura Drzycimski
Katelyn Stevens / Alaina Schulte
3/29 Chad & Sheri Bosch
Jake & Alexi Grave / Grant Donnan

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL DATA (through January)

Budget	\$77,083
Total Contributions	\$48,948
Actual Expenses	\$63,892
Net Income (Loss)	(\$14,844)
Checking and Savings Balance	\$79,684

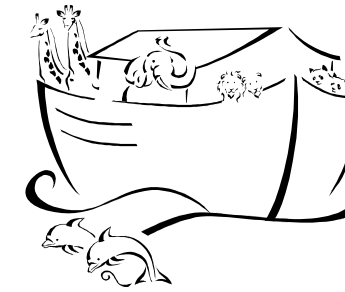
February Contributions
through February 15) \$40,839

The Cedar Chips is available online and can be



found there by following the CSI link on the church website, www.chccra.org

Noah's Ark Preschool



Our fall registration is going very well. Our 4-year old morning classes are full and we have afternoon spots available. The 3-year old morning classes are almost full and we have plenty available spots in the afternoon, so if you know someone who would like information, have them call us at 396-3125.

February was full of fun activities! Everyone learned about the mail and what happens to your letter after you put it in the mailbox. We all enjoyed giving and receiving valentines! Our testing is all done for our 4 and 5 year olds, and report cards have been sent out. The 3-year old classes had fun learning about snowmen and winter birds. We also learned about mixing colors and gingerbread boys! Second report cards for our younger classes will be sent out before spring break.

Our spring break will be March 23rd-27th, same as the Cedar Rapids schools.

I can't believe there's only 3 months of school left! I'm ready for spring, and we can't wait to see all those flowers come up in front of our windows again! I want to remind everyone that we will be offering a 6-week (two 3-week sessions) summer school program in June and July. I will give more details next month.

Have a great MARCH!

In Christ,
Leslie Clauson
Director

Children's Ministries



Camp Rock is rockin'! Camp Rock will be going to Grand View Mobile Home park in July. Put this NEW program in your daily prayers. We are hoping to reach children who would not normally be able to come to us. A VBS-type program will be done in the mornings, and the afternoon-evenings are being planned. If you feel called to this ministry in any way, please contact Kris Crowther. Our next meeting is March 24th @ 6:30. Anyone and Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.



VBS' *Crocodile Dock, Where Fearless Kids Shine* God's Light is coming your way. Mark your calendars for August 2-6. Please start praying for this program. Please see Jen Schnell or Kris Crowther if you are interested in helping in any way this year.



The Sunday School Children from Preschool to 2nd grade will be singing in the Celebrate (10:45) service on March 15th.

*For it is by grace you have
been saved, through faith—and this
not from yourselves, it is the gift
of God—not by works, so that
no one can boast.*

~Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

Discipleship Ministries

I started reading a book titled, *Walking with God*, by John Eldredge. The premise of the book is that God wants to talk with us and be involved in our everyday lives. Sounds great doesn't it?

Have you ever thought about how God wants to spend time with you and talk to you? The first thing we have to believe is that God does want to talk to us and calls us into a relationship that is deep and meaningful. In the first chapter, Eldredge reminds us that we are invited to become followers of Jesus. He says, "we're to be not just believers, but Followers. There is a difference. Follower assumes that someone else is doing the leading. As in 'He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.... He goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice' (John 10:3-4)."

God desires to have an intimacy with us that leads to the life he desires for us. It is a life of fulfillment, joy, connection with him and other followers. When we begin to understand the depth of relationship that God wants to have with us, we see that it makes sense that he would want to talk with us as well.

In 1Kings 19 is a story of God speaking to his people. In this story, Elijah has an encounter with God while he is hiding in a cave. God tells him to go and stand on the mountain and the LORD is going to come to him. As God comes to Elijah there is a wind, an earthquake, and a fire, but the LORD is not in any of these. But after the fire was gone, God came as a still small voice.

The picture we are given is that God comes and it might be in a whisper. The challenge that we have is to take the time to be quiet, to ask God to speak and then we might hear him. Eldredge suggests we begin to ask God questions and then take the time to listen. If asking God questions is something new, he suggests we begin with simple questions and sit quietly and wait for God.

As we follow Jesus this month, may we take the time to be still and listen to the whispers of God.

Blessings,
Pastor Todd
Pastor of Discipleship

Worship Ministries

WHAT IS  ?

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance, for reflection and taking stock. The season originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and converts were instructed in the faith. In the forty days of Lent, we imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days, which is why many traditions will enter into a fast during Lent, to walk in the same path Jesus walked in the desert. "Mardi Gras" is a celebration that came into play as a last farewell to the many 'enjoyable' things of life that would be left behind in during Lent. Mardi Gras is the Tuesday before the Lenten season begins, and literally means "Fat Tuesday" because of the tradition of indulging in all the things one would abstain from during Lent, such as meat. Purple is the color for Lent, because it is a color of royalty and signifies our preparation for the coming King. Sundays are not counted during the Lenten season, which is why the beginning and end of Lent is more than 40 calendar days apart.

- from "The Season of Lent" <http://www.kencollins.com/holy-04.htm>

At Cedar Hills Community Church, our celebration of the Lenten season began with an Ash Wednesday service and continues with services on Thursday nights at 6:30pm until Holy Week. During Holy Week, we will celebrate Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7pm. Good Friday will be a night of drama and music as we interview the different characters of the passion story. We will gather again Easter morning for Sunday services.

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR SINGERS

A new opportunity has arisen for singers of all types to make music to the Lord. Starting in February, singers in the choir were given the challenge to form into small groups—quartets, trios, duets—to work on new and challenging music. This same offer is open to any singer in the church who wishes to be a part of a small music group. Invite a few others to sing with you, and contact Randy Whitehead to let him know that you wish to be a group. Currently, these new groups are practicing Wednesday nights after choir at 7:15pm just a few weeks before the Sunday they'll perform.

~Leah

Caring For People

WHAT A VIEW

Sometimes I feel as if I am standing in one of those fancy restaurants that are located on the tops of a building and rotate. As I stand by a window, I see so many amazing acts of kindness being performed by members of the Cedar Hills Church. After thanking God for what I see, I want to tell others and see if there are other individuals who want to be doing what others are doing.

For example, three individuals have said they want to make hospital calls as part of their mission activity. These folks do not have any experience, but they have a heart for others and want to spend part of their week passing on to others God's love and care.

For example, a member came to the office and asked if there was anyone who had recently returned from the hospital who could use a home-cooked meal. This request brought back memories of what others did for me when Pat was sick.

For example, there are those who come on Tuesdays to help Paul & Tracy out with odds and ends around the church building. We are blessed with a building that is used regularly and there are always repairs and cleaning to do. This is caring in a different way.

For example, there are individuals who provide transportation for youngsters to attend some of the youth activities. What a ministry!

For example, once a week for an hour or so, Stephen Ministers are caring for individuals who need someone to walk with them, listen to them, and pray with them.

For example, there are those who regularly send notes to those who are confined to their homes or institutions.

For example, there are those who make it a weekly ministry to visit someone who is confined to their home and play games and talk.

As I look out the window of the restaurant, these are just some of the sights I see. If you would like to be a part of any of these caring ministries, please give me a call.

I look forward to waiting on you, and you won't have to tip me.

God Loves and Cares for you,
Doc

Loved By God

Love God Love People

These two statements have long been a defining foundation upon which CHCC is built. We are a Christ-centered community of believers—growing in love. We are growing in love for God and people.

Jesus said, "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and love your neighbor as your self.**" We are driven to service by love.

As vital as it is to love God and love people, it is not where we start. We actually start with a deep realization that we are loved by God. We start with the simple yet profound truth found in these words: "**For God so loved the World that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**"

Our catechism starts with this same truth when it asks: "**What is your only comfort in life and in death?**" And the answer: "**My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own but that I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful savior Jesus Christ.**"

We belong because God chose us. God chooses to love us. Not because we are so wise, or so handsome or so good—God chooses us because he loves us. And this love covers us in real and powerful ways, revealing God's great faithfulness with each new morning.

We are loved by God. Listen again to the catechism as it explains how the extent of God's love is revealed in Jesus. "**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**"

We are loved by God and that is the only foundation upon which love for God and love for people will stand firm and unshakable. We are driven by love to follow Christ in mission in a lost and broken world so loved by God. Imagine...called—and loved—by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit transforming the world: hurts healed, the lost found, the hungry fed, peace in brokenness, comfort in pain, hope replacing despair, lives changed by the love of God revealed in Jesus.

Wow! It starts when we are gripped by a simple yet profound truth—we are loved by God.