



The Cedar Chips

publication of Cedar Hills Community Church

April 2009

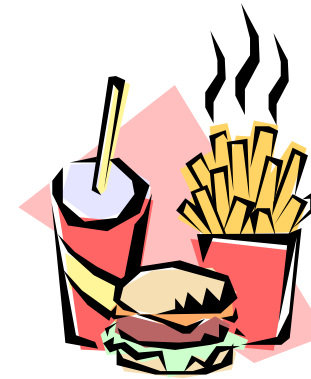
Reflecting with Kent . . .

I like to eat and I do it regularly. No matter how much I eat at a particular meal or on a particular day, by the next day I am hungry again. (Or more likely before bedtime.)

Proper nutrition requires daily attention. The same is true of spiritual nutrition.

Many times we have had a spiritual mountain top experience. We enjoy a sense of God's presence and power in these moments that nourishes our souls. While these experiences are to be treasured, they are not the key ingredient in a balanced spiritual diet that will lead to maturity.

Spiritual maturity is not about the peaks we've scaled, but about consistency between the peaks. Growing in faith is a steady life-long climb. To love God and love people *well* requires daily attention to the promptings of God's Spirit. These promptings come both on the mountaintop and in the valley.



At times I have lost my way in this journey of growth. I let spiritual highs define my maturity; living off of their memory while neglecting daily growth. I thought I had stocked up on God and was ready to move forward in faith. I've discovered this path to growth never serves me well.

A recent devotional reading reinforced this: "Do we feast one day and then decide we need no more nutrition for a few weeks? No, our bodies pester us with their need for daily sustenance, no matter how well we ate the day before. Our souls are more subtle. We respond to their hunger pangs with memories of past meals and expect them to be satisfied."

A better way is to remain attentive to the need of our souls for sustenance, to regularly nourish ourselves with the delicious food of God's Word—reading scripture day by day, meditating on the Bible endlessly, feasting on truth and wisdom, and delighting in the richest of fare.

The Bible invites all who are hungry and thirsty to come and eat.

Enjoy the meal!

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This Month's Vision

Walking with Jesus

We will continue our walk to the cross and the empty tomb as we enter Holy Week 2009. The events in the last week of Jesus' life are some of the most important ones we remember and celebrate as a community. Join us in worship to the Crucified and Risen Savior!

Thursday, April 2– **Jesus in the Passover–6:30 PM**
A Presentation by Jews for Jesus

Sunday, April 5– **Dying with Jesus**
Meeting Jesus on the cross.
Palm Sunday. 8:30 and 10:45 AM

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

Friday, April 10– **'PASSION'ate Love**
A night of drama and music.
Good Friday. 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 12– **Rising with Jesus**
Meeting Jesus at the tomb.
Easter. 8:30 and 10:45 AM

Wisdom Hunter

These tough times certainly require wisdom for living successfully. Come hear wise words to deal with uncertainty. Vital truths for difficult times. Don't Miss it!

April 19 – **Embracing Wisdom**

April 26 – **Wisdom and Humility**

May 3 – **Financial Wisdom**

Sunday Worship Schedule

Sanctuary: 8:30 AM
Celebrate: 10:45 AM

Consistory News and Notes

Devotions based on Matthew 3:13-17 on the topic "Lead Like Jesus: EGO = Exalting God Only vs. Edging God Out." A couple of common things that edge God out are fear and pride. What would it look like if we overcame the challenges of fear and pride?

What does it mean to leave your agenda at the door? How will we know if we are exalting God only? Listen fully before you answer; put yourself aside; point to God; move to a place of genuine caring; be willing to admit we are wrong. When we are leading like Jesus it doesn't feel like we are leading – it is no longer *our* agenda.

At the last meeting we discussed our goals for 2009—what do we want to accomplish this year? Groupings of the goal statements included: communications, leadership, governance, process/procedures, vision and outreach.

Common themes:

1. Improve communication between and within staff, the consistory, and the membership; repair relationships and build trust.
2. Build a better understanding of the roles of the various church leaders, their authority, and their accountability. Build a better understanding of the Mission/Vision of CHCC.

We agreed on 'communication' as our theme for the year. Next month, we will determine a SMART goal. (SMART goals are: Specific/ Measurable/Attainable/ Relevant/Time bound.)

The Nominations Team reported on their work of reviewing the current consistory nomination process and making recommendations for change, if any. After much discussion we determined to continue study of this vital topic.

Tony Tonsfeldt from the Stephen Ministry spoke to the consistory to further acquaint the Board with the ministry and to ask for continued prayer, financial, and ministry support.

- 2 Next meeting: April 19, 4:00.

The Bulletin Board

Flood Recovery 2009

We are once again hosting teams of volunteers in our building. Already this spring we have hosted groups from Montana and Idaho. We will continue with groups ranging in size from 4 – 70 through out the summer. We have partnered this year with the United Way, The Long Term Recovery Coalition as well as the United Methodist Church in Marion. Through this partnership we will be reimbursed for groups staying in our building. Pat Garwood is serving as our Hospitality Coordinator. If you can assist in anyway please visit with Pat.

Also this year we are looking forward to **adopting a house**. This will done through the same partnership as mentioned above. With no financial responsibility we can adopt a flooded home and help to restore it to move-in condition. If you would like more information on this project please contact Marie Schulte in the church office.

What awesome opportunities for us to be the hands and feet of Christ to our community!

HIS WOMEN

The "His Women" seminar will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Cedar Rapids on Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 to 2:30PM. Several of us have gone the past couple of years and it is a great event with inspirational speakers and wonderful music! If you would like more information, please look at the green flyer that is posted in the Gathering Space and pick up a leaflet that tells about the event. Linda Fisher and Marcia Bruggink will be taking orders for tickets. Tickets are \$30.00 and include a sit down meal that is served at your table. If you have any questions, please contact either Marcia Bruggink (393-6863) or Linda Fisher (832-2161).

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Boy Scout Troop 85 will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday, April 5 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm in the Gathering Space. The breakfast is a fund-raiser to help defray summer camp expenses. A free-will offering will be collected. Plan to enjoy breakfast with your family and friends before or after one of the Palm Sunday services!

Dear Cedar Hills Church and Staff,

There is no way to say thank you for all you have done for Aid to Women. We have been able to serve 250 women a week because of your generosity. Thank you to all who have supported us with food, clothing, diapers, formula, financial support and prayer. We will be forever thankful for each of you. Thank you to the women of the church who helped make our Christmas room a success with their gifts.

We are excited as we move back to the beautiful building God has restored for us. If you were unable to attend the reception we had for you, we invite you to our open house on Sunday, March 1st, from 2-5 in the afternoon. We want to share our joy with you. May God bless you richly for reaching out to our community and making this building a place of refuge for many.

In Christ's Love,
The staff and board of Aid to Women

The Women's Ministry has scheduled our annual Lenten Breakfast for April 4th at 9:00 A.M. We are privileged to have Karen McCaa as our speaker again this year. Her topic will be "Recovery". You won't want to miss this inspirational morning.

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

Happy 50th Anniversary CHCC! 1959-2009

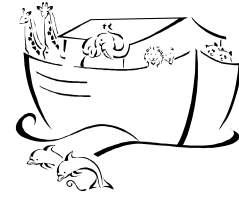
When Cedar Hills Community Church was organized in September of 1959, the following individuals were its Charter Members:

Ben & Catherine Baggerly
Donna Baggerly
Guysbert & Ruth Blommer
Clarence & Margaret Brookner
Ann Buseman
Jerome & Marilyn Carlson
June Crock
Richard & Janice* Dauenbaugh
James & Shirley Dorland
Robert & Bonnie Hathaway
Adriene Johnson
Charles & Helen Josifek
Harold & Diane Klein
Robert & Maybelle Lorenc
Helma McCullough
Orley & Sandy McCune
Joseph & Billie McMurray
Ray & Harriet Medlin
George* & Marlene* Milligan
Dorothy Norris
Betty Olmstead
Earl & Norma Plagmann
David & Eunice Rank
Henry & Carol Rempe
Robert & Lois Richmond
Amoretta Sparks
J. Wayne & Mary Stanbro
Melvin & Jo Stebbins
Jack* & Georgeanne* Steele
Jack & Helen Thomassin
G. A. & Dorothy Van Der Leest

*are still active members at CHCC

Since its early beginning with 54 members, a total of 1077 communicant members have been on our rolls during the church's 50 years. Presently, we list about 475 members. If you know the whereabouts of any of our former members, please let Joan Koele know so we can invite them to our celebration on August 8th & 9th.

Noah's Ark 40th Anniversary



"Live Well-Laugh Often- Love Much"

Noah's Ark Preschool will be celebrating 40 Years of love and learning in our community. We will also be honoring Arlene VanderWiel by dedicating the playground in her memory.

Join us on **Sunday, April 26**, to help us celebrate! The playground dedication will take place at noon immediately following the second service. Plan to join us for a potluck dinner after the dedication—bring a dish to share and your own table service—cake and drinks will be provided.

Please RSVP on the bulletin tear-off or by contacting Leslie at the preschool (396-3125) if you plan to attend.

We could also use "memories" you may have of Noah's Ark - pictures, clippings, etc. Please submit these items to Leslie at Noah's Ark.

This will be a great day to celebrate a life and a preschool that has impacted thousands of "little lives" over the years.

Plan to join us on April 26!

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 PM unless otherwise noted and include ample time for quiet reflection, prayer, and meditation.

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 10 – **'PASSION'ate Love**
A night of drama and music
7:00 PM

Ministry Profile: Website Team

The Website Team creates and maintains our church Website, making sure it reflects the essence of Cedar Hills Community Church. We continually have updates to post to our always-changing website and encourage all teams, wanting to add a page to the church website, to select an individual from their team to maintain their page. This individual will be trained by members of the website team and shown the ease in editing a website page.

As our church website continues to grow, we are always in need of additional individuals that are interested in joining our team. If you would like more information about the Website Team, please contact Jonna Tellinghuisen dairy3@netins.net or (319) 361-9719.

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money or cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me that your soul may live."

Ministry Highlight: Lead Like Jesus

"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

~Mark 10:43-45

'Lead Like Jesus' and 'Servant Leadership' are phrases you are going to be hearing a lot around CHCC. Some of you have already participated in a Lead Like Jesus Small Group. The Deacons will be studying *Lead Like Jesus*, as will the church staff. Two new study groups are forming in April.

So, what is all the fuss about?

Do you consider yourself a leader? According to Ken Blanchard, co-author of *Lead Like Jesus*, "Leadership is a process of influence. Anytime you seek to influence the thinking, behavior, or development of people in their personal or professional lives, you are taking on the role of a leader." This definition really widens the scope of leadership. So, are you a leader?

Are you willing to be a servant leader like Christ? In the study we explore the way our Heart, Head, Hands, and Habits affect the way we lead. We also ask the question, "Are you willing to follow Jesus as your role model in leading?" The conversation and self exploration that takes place is thought-provoking, growth-inviting and rewarding.

There will be many opportunities in the future to learn more. If you would like to hear more or join one of the studies, I would love to visit with you.

~Marie

~Isaiah 55: 1-3

Compassion Update



Compassion Sunday — May 3, 2009

Here are some timely facts:

Child packets will be available at CHCC on April 26 and May 3, 2009.

A red heart indicates the child has waited for a sponsor at least six months; a red ribbon indicates the child lives in an AIDS-affected area.

Children awaiting sponsorship range from age 3 to 21.


A random search of Compassion's website (3/11/09) for children awaiting sponsorship found:

There are 124 children between ages 14-17:
Red hearts: 27
Red ribbons: 52

There are 42 children between age 18-21:
Red hearts: 16
Red ribbons: 28

The need is great; the numbers will change as more children participate. Is now the time that God is calling you to make a difference in the life of one child? Thank you.

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

 Calling all ladies! Calling all ladies! Calling all ladies! Have we got the Bible study for you! Have you ever wondered...."If God loves me so much, why do I hurt?" Or "Am I being punished? I thought I was forgiven." or "Why is faith so hard? What if I don't have enough?" These and other questions will be answered in a eight-week Bible study about faith with Women of Faith speaker and writer, Marilyn Meburg. In talking about her own wits-end experiences, she will share scriptural truths of God's enduring love and sovereign power. The class will meet on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 AM OR 6:00-7:30 PM at church beginning April 14, 2009. The cost of the workbook is \$10.00. Sign up in the office or on the Sunday tear off.

Ministry Management Team

Reading from Ezra and Nehemiah, we learn that Ezra was the scholar and Nehemiah worked with stones and mortar. History has shown us that God's people needed the work of both these men. God still needs each of our talents today. Look around CHCC and you see this same spirit in action.

Did you know....

*Eleven groups are scheduled to use our church from now until July as a resting place as they go about rebuilding our city.

*Noah's Ark will be celebrating its 40th anniversary on April 26, 2009.

*CHCC is going to adopt a house, providing the man power to make one house livable again.

*Lenten Services have been well attended and are meeting a need. Meals are much appreciated too.

*We will be having a Good Friday service this year.

*25 refrigerators were passed out to flood victims.

*Restorative Justice group is partnering with Cedar Valley Church in Swisher.

*The Food Pantry continues to help new families.

*The PR team continues to make the Cedar Chips more readable.

*Stephens Ministry is hosting a Caring Ministry Workshop on April 25, 2009.

*Pre-marriage seminars will be held in March and April.

*A new *Lead Like Jesus* small group is starting.

*The Church Multiplication team is praying for God's direction.

*90+ people were part of a worship team last year.

*The 2009 Christmas Cantata is already being planned.

*The Connectors continue to perfect their process for reaching visitors.

*There is a Women's Lenten breakfast scheduled for Saturday, April 4th.

*A six-week women's Bible study is starting on April 14th at 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM.

And those are just a few highlights of some of the ministries at CHCC. *The joy of the Lord is our strength* (Nehemiah 8:10).

~Karen Bronkhorst

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL?

WORSHIP

4/5 8:30 A.M. Communion Sunday / Palm Sunday
8:30 A.M. Sanctuary Worship Service
10:45 A.M. Celebrate Worship Service
4/9 Maundy Thursday - 7:00 P.M.
4/10 Good Friday - 7:00 P.M.
"PASSION-ate Love"
4/12 Easter Sunday

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday - Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Wednesdays - All Stars For Jesus - 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Beginning again on 4/22

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

Tuesdays - Women's Bible Study 10:00 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
"God at Wit's End" by Marilyn Meberg
Tuesdays - New Partner's Life Group - 7:00 P.M.
Wednesdays - Men's Fraternity - 6:00 A.M.
Wednesdays - Women's Bible Study - 9:00 A.M.
Wednesdays - Lead Like Jesus - 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
4/2 & Mothers Of Pre Schoolers - 9:15 A.M.
4/16

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 - Sanctuary Worship Team - 6:00 P.M.
Choir - 6:30 P.M.
Worship Team - 7:30 P.M.
Thursdays - Worship Team - 6:00 P.M.

MINISTRY TEAMS

4/1 50th Anniversary Team - 5:30 P.M.
4/2 Noah's Ark Board - 5:15 P.M.
4/6 Stephen Leaders - 5:00 P.M.
Stephen Ministry Peer Group - 5:15 P.M.
Stephen Ministry Peer Group - 6:15 P.M.
Camp Rock - 7:00 P.M.
4/7 Ministry Staff - 10:00 A.M.
Life Group Team - 6:30 P.M.
Deacons - 7:00 P.M.
4/13 Sunday School Team - 6:30 P.M.
4/14 PR Team - 5:45 P.M.
SOAR - Sunday School Teachers - 6:30 P.M.
Celebrate Programming Team - 7:30 P.M.
4/15 Open Hands Food Pantry - 6:00 P.M.
Leadership Team
4/19 Consistory - 4:00 P.M.
Sr. High Youth Team - 4:00 P.M.
4/20 Stephen Ministry - 6:30 P.M.
Continuing Education
4/21 Staff - 11:45 A.M.
4/23 Connectors - 5:15 P.M.
4/25 Loving Stitches Sewing Ministry - 9:00 A.M.
4/26 Elders - 6:30 P.M.
4/27 MOPS Steering Team - 7:00 P.M.
4/28 Adult Discipleship - 4:30 P.M.
Ministry Staff Retreat - 9:00 A.M.
4/30 Ministry Management - 6:30 P.M.
Nursery Team - 7:15 P.M.

SPECIAL EVENTS

4/4 Women's Ministry Lenten Breakfast - 9:00 A.M.
4/5 Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast - 8:30 A.M.
4/8 Wednesday Night Meal - 5:30 P.M.
4/18 Wedding Seminar - 10:00 A.M.
4/18 Marriage Matters Movie Night - 6:30 P.M.
4/19 New Members Workshop - 12:00 P.M.
4/25 Stephen Ministry Convention - 8:00 A.M.

ASSISTANTS FOR APRIL

Greeters

April 5 Fritz & Ruth Diers
Mark & Cindy Espe
April 12 Pat Garwood & Charlene Jeffrey
Gregg & Anita Bosch
April 19 Dick & Jean Strausser
Kathy Rasmussen
April 26 Noah's Ark Staff

Nursery

April 5 Sue Kleinmeyer & Jessi Schoettmer
Mark & Cindy Espe
April 12 Michael Kelley Family
Jenna Own, Brad TeBockhorst &
Danielle Humphreys
April 19 Candy & Cara Voll
Scott & Jill Anderson
April 26 Molly Sanderson & Lori Kelley
Maggie Brown Family

Name Tags

April 5 Marcia Bruggink / Verlyn Moen
April 12 Ruth Diers / Georgie Steele
Dave & Susan Wise
April 19 Joan Koele / Jean Strausser
Joan Koele / Dianne Martens
April 26 Jean Vandivier / Karen Bronkhorst
Tracy & Annette Sankot

Coffee Hosts & Hostesses

April 5 Mark & Cindy Espe
April 12 Tracy & Annette Sankot
April 19 Terry & Shelli Springer
April 26 Chuck & Sally Rohrer

Children's Worship

April 5 Jill Anderson
Ashley Mills / Lyndsi Tellinghuisen
April 12 Bruce & Marlee Ellis
Richie Sutton / Jessi Schoettmer
April 19 Mark & Amber Matson
Jessica Boldt / Cara Voll
April 26 Lois Deerberg
Austin Mills / Lauren Brown

Welcome Team

April 5 Leanne Moen / Dianne Martens
April 12 Jack & Kate Ulmer
Dave & Susan Wise
April 19 Carol Ruedy
Chuck & Sally Rohrer
April 26 Mark & Amber Matson
Tracy & Annette Sankot

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL DATA (through February)

Budget	\$154,167
Total Contributions	\$103,876
Actual Expenses	\$133,883
Net Income (Loss)	(\$29,907)
Checking and Savings Balance	\$63,916

March Contributions through March 15)	\$45,615
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The Cedar Chips is available online and can be found there by following the CSI link on the church website, <http://www.chccrca.org>



"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

~Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

Noah's Ark Preschool

March was an exciting time at preschool! We learned about safety, and we had a special visit from our Police Pal! The older classes had a wonderful 'green' tasting day and the younger classes loved taking their stuffed animals to the 'Teddy Bear Clinic'.

Our April calendar is packed full of fun activities, lessons, and field trips. Spring is always exciting and we are already seeing daffodils coming up outside our windows!!!

Summer school registration has begun and is open to any current Noah's Ark student who will be 4 years old by June 9th. We are offering a six-week session from June 9-25 and July 7-23. You may sign up for all 6 weeks or just one 3-week session. Classes will be Tues, Wed, Thurs AM from 9-11:30. Space is limited.

Noah's Ark will have an **Open House** Thursday April 23rd from 5:30-6:30. The open house is a 'meet & greet' for those students returning to Noah's Ark and for those who are new to our school. It's a good time to sign up or to drop-off any paperwork that's ready.

Noah's Ark Preschool will also be celebrating two special events on Sunday, April 26th. We are dedicating our playground to the **memory of Arlene Vander Wiel**. Arlene's family started a memorial fund after her sudden passing. Those funds were given to Noah's Ark and we were able to purchase our wonderful playground. Anyone who knew Arlene, knows that she is smiling down from heaven every time a child runs to the playground with excitement. We are also celebrating our **40th Anniversary**. Noah's Ark was established back in 1969. We are so pleased when a parent brings their child to school and tells us that they also came to Noah's Ark as a preschooler. We will mark these special events with a short ceremony and a potluck after the second worship service.

Our 2009-10 school year **registration** is going strong. The four year old morning classes are full already with only afternoon spots open. Our AM 3 year old classes are full, but we still have afternoons available.

The 3 year olds' student progress reports were given out. This is an important part of their work. I want you to know that the teachers at Noah's Ark are the BEST! I am honored to work with such wonderful, caring, and FUN Christian women! We all love our jobs and that's exactly why we are here, to help each child see that they are a special child of GOD.

I wish you all a very Happy Spring!!

In Christ,
Leslie Clauson
Director

Children's Ministries



The Nursery is one busy place on Sunday mornings. Children up to the age of 3 are welcomed in to the nursery during the Church services and Sunday School by some very loving people. The purpose of the Nursery is to provide a safe and loving environment for children, which allows parents/caregivers time to refresh spiritually.

The nursery is located to the right of the front entrance. You are invited to come and take a look. The team arranged to have the two rooms opened up to allow Nursery staff to move from one room to the other without having to go through two doors. New toys have been added, too.

The Nursery team encourages parents who use the Nursery to also serve in the Nursery once a month or more often if they choose. The team encourages anyone who loves babies to sign up and take a shift. Training is provided.

WHAT: Camp Rock
WHEN: July 5th-10th
WHERE: Cedar Hills Community Church
WHO: Campers can be anyone Middle School and Older

WHY: Camp Rock is about Service to those who can't come to us; it's about telling others about Jesus with our works and actions of Love.

Students and adults will camp here on CHCC grounds. Campers will spend the morning going to Grand View Mobile Home Park and doing a VBS program for elementary-aged kids who live in the park. Afternoons will be all about service to the elderly or disabled. Early evening until sunset will be back at the Mobile Home Park to play games with children of any age. The evenings will conclude back at CHCC for community sharing/discussions of the day and then a worship service to tie it all together.

Anyone interested in camping, chaperoning, planning, playing, driving, feeding, praying or encouraging can see Andy Drzycimski, Bruce Boldt or Kris Crowther for more information.

If you have a pop-up camper that we could use that week, please contact Kris.



Discipleship Ministries

LINK – Middle School Youth Ministry

Did you know the second Wednesday of each month there is a meal here at church? It is for families to come and eat together from 5:30 to 6:30. We are hoping to give families an opportunity to spend a little time together before parents send their sons and daughters off to All Stars for Jesus and LINK. Come check it out. The next meal is Wednesday, April 8th.

LINK is headed to Pump It Up on April 29th! We will load up the students as quickly as we can at 6:30 sharp and drive over to Pump It Up. Cost is \$5 and is from 6:30–8:15. If you would be interested in helping out with this event, let Jerri Gingerich, Sherri Becker, or Pastor Todd know.

Power Connection this summer! Power Connection is a weekend-long conference for Middle School students that happens two years in a row and then takes a year off. The dates for the conference are July 31st–Aug 1st. Cost is \$110. Check your mailbox for more information.

Sr. High Youth Ministry

Have you ever wanted to make a lasting impact on a student that could change their life? That is the opportunity that we have when we work with students. The Sr. High Youth Team is looking for a few more adults to work with our students. It is an amazing blessing to be able to walk with students. If you are interested, please see Pastor Todd.

Out Night Coming! Sunday, April 26th is Out Night. We'll load up the students in cars and head out to a restaurant to hang out for the evening. It is a great time to connect with students and see what's going on in their lives. We look forward to seeing everyone!

30 Hour Famine: Each year, we participate in the Famine. It is an amazing opportunity to learn about poverty in the world, experience hunger maybe for the first time, and help starving children. It is a favorite event each year for the students. The dates this year are May 15th and 16th. The Famine is a student-led event. We are looking for students who would be interested in helping plan and implement this event. Let us know if you're interested.

Blessings,
Pastor Todd
Pastor of Discipleship

Worship Ministries

[passion-ate love]

a night of drama and music
on the passion of Christ

tenderness
sentiment
respect
rapture
involvement
infatuation
fondness
flame
fervor
enchantment
devotion
crush
cherishing
attachment
appreciation
amour
allegiance
affection

There are many words in the English language that can be used to define the word love...but there is truly no substitute for the word. At best we can add descriptors to bring love to the next level.

Good Friday, April 10th, peer into the passionate heart of Jesus as the stories of those who walked with Him in his short life on earth are told, revealing a love that is risky, servant-hearted, sacrificial, overwhelming, and the love only a mother could know.

Come experience the 'PASSION'ate Love of Jesus, Good Friday, April 10th, 7 pm. Free and open to the public.

We will continue our season of Lent with services on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. During Holy Week, we will celebrate Maundy Thursday at 7pm. Good Friday will be a night of drama and music: "PASSION'ate Love of Jesus" at 7:00 PM, and then we will gather again on Easter Sunday morning to celebrate our risen Lord at our regular service times of 8:30 AM and 10:45 AM.

The Worship Summit Conference is again coming to Cedar Rapids May 1 & 2. Any who are a part of worship ministries that are interested in attending are encouraged to contact Leah and let her know in the event that we can offer a group discount. This year's line up includes Bruce Smith, Jared Anderson and... Sonic Flood! The early bird rate of \$49 expires April 15th. Workshops are geared towards all aspects of the arts: worship, teaching, creative arts, technical, vocal, instrumental, and visual arts. Leaders of any worship ministry teams are highly encouraged to attend.

~Leah
Director of Worship

Caring For People

THE CARING COLUMN....

Each month my goal in this column is to spread the word that Cedar Hills Community Church is full of caring people. In addition I want to share some of the caring opportunities available to the readers.

And then I wonder if those who care know that there is a column dedicated to caring. This month I have renamed this column "The Caring Column" in hopes that readers will know where to look for caring opportunities.

Some good news: four individuals stepped up to the request for hospital visitors. These individuals are Ken and Karen Bronkhorst, Linda Hoskins, and Carol Johnson. Don't be surprised if when you are in the hospital, one of these persons stops by to see you.

Some opportunities to care: several members of the congregation are out of work. If your business has openings please let me know, and perhaps one of our congregation members will fit the opening. If you know of employment opportunities not in your business, also let me know.

In our Church Library are several books which focus on how we can care more effectively. Titles and authors are listed below:

The Bereaved Parent, Harriet Sarnoff Schiff
When Is It Right To Die?, Joni Eareckson Tada
Where Is God When It Hurts, Philip Yancey
How Can I Help?, James E. Miller
The Compassionate Visitor, Arthur H. Becker

A thought: make caring a generational thing. On Thanksgiving Day, a farm family that I know distributed baskets of food to several families in need. After talking with a member of the family, I discovered this is a family tradition that goes back 25 years. In the beginning it was Mom and Dad. At five years of age, their children joined them. The kids are now grown and married. Now delivering baskets are Mom and Dad, daughters and sons-in-law. One of the daughters has already said, "My kids will join me when they are five."

How about you? Do you involve your spouse and children in your caring activities? Make caring a generational thing. Let me hear how you are doing this. We will share your activities with our readers next month.

One final thought: When you care...you make a difference.

~Pastor Doc

Stephen Ministry

April is Care Month!

Want to learn to care for people who are grieving and reach out to others in a distinctively Christian way? On Saturday, April 25th, Cedar Hills Community Church will host a Stephen Series Caring Ministry Workshop from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The half-day workshop is designed to both enhance participants' caregiving skills and to help congregations explore ways to expand their caring ministry. Registration begins at 8:00, and refreshments will be served.

One reason we're so excited about helping other congregations learn about Stephen Ministry is that it is making a significant difference in the life of our own congregation. Since we began Stephen Ministry in 2007, ten laypeople have gone through 50 hours of training in order to provide quality one-to-one Christian care to hurting people. If you think you might be interested in being a Stephen Minister, attending the workshop is a great way to learn more. Stephen Ministry brochures are also available at the welcome station and at the bulletin board as you enter the Multi-Purpose room.

Members of CHCC are invited to attend the workshop free of charge. However, it is still important to pre-register so that we will have plenty of materials on the day of the workshop. Please contact Dr. Leonard Ranson (Doc) at 396-6608 or e-mail him at doc@chccrca.org if you would like to be added to our congregation's list of participants. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity for personal growth and to learn more about Stephen Ministry.