

The Cedar Chips

ONLINE



publication of Cedar Hills Community Church

July 2010

Reflecting with Kent . . .

Maybe we should call 2010 the year of the baby. I'm amazed at the baby boom we are experiencing within our congregation. By my count, this year will add a baker's dozen—and counting. That's 260 new fingers and toes. Beware to those hoping for a baby; we've had three sets of twins so far this year. There may be something in the water.

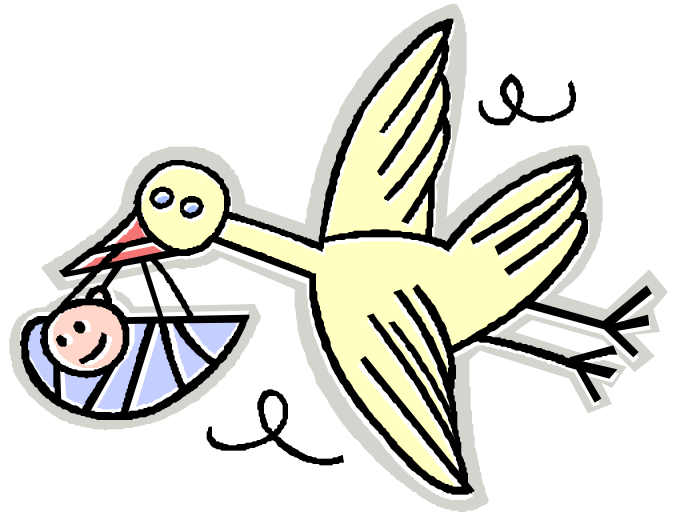
Babies come with hopes and dreams for all they can become. Part of each child's future is locked up in the DNA – traits predetermined by the gene pool. Part of what each new baby becomes is molded and shaped by the environment into which that child will grow. Put the two together and we are left to pray and watch each child become what God planned for them to become.

Babies come with no guarantees. No guaranteed straight A students, musical prodigies, or athletic super stars. No guarantees for success or even for health. So we invest our lives in our babies hoping for the best and then pray, pray, pray for them. That's what we do with babies.

There is another baby we expect to see delivered in 2010. The due date is 10/10/10. By that date, I think the pregnancy for this baby will have been close to three years. Longer than an elephant. Given that much time, this baby already has a name: The Bridge. CHCC is giving birth to a new church.

"Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."

~Acts 9:31



We have great hopes and dreams for this baby. We believe that this baby will bring glory to God. We believe that it will connect people to God; that it will reach people who would not be reached in any other way; that it will be part of growing God's kingdom; and that it will be a success.

Babies come with no guarantees, but this baby already has good DNA—a gift from its mother church. This baby will be nurtured and cared for by people who love God, love people, and love the church. And, this baby is being prayed for by dozens of people. Because of this strong foundation, I have very high hopes for the future of this baby.

I'd like to invite you to join us in intentional prayer for The Bridge between now and 10/10. We already have more than 50 individuals committed to regular prayer and would like at least 50 more. Please contact Tim or Kari Box (tkbox@mchsi.com, 363-4113) to become someone who helps nurture our baby, The Bridge, with your prayers.

That's what you do with babies.

~Pastor Kent

This Month's Vision

U-Turn Church

God takes an imperfect Church filled with imperfect people and transforms the world. Celebrate the U-turn life God offers to each of us.

July 4: *The U-turn Vision*

The truth of God turns the world around. Worship service will be held outdoors at the church – bring a lawn chair.

The Pressure is Off

The dog days of summer are a perfect time to relax and enjoy God's work. It is a perfect time to deepen our faith, discover new habits of spiritual growth, and overcome complacency by using the tools God offers to draw us near to him. The pressure is off of us and on God to do the work He promises. Don't miss this fun and rewarding three part series on growing God's way.

July 11 – **Prayer**

God knows what you need before you ask . . .

July 18 – **Word**

God's word always accomplishes its purpose . . .

July 25 – **Rest**

God promises an easy yoke and light burden . . .

**Grow deeper in worship every Sunday
@ 8:30 or 11:00**

Consistory News and Notes

The Consistory is the governing body of our congregation. It is a board composed of two pastors, 6 elders, and 6 deacons. It meets monthly to discern God's will for our congregation. It is then charged with the responsibility of leading the Congregation according to God's will. The elders and deacons teams each meet monthly as well to take up specific issues related to the spiritual health of the congregation. The following are the purpose statements that guide these three boards:

Consistory: Govern the church.

- Mission and vision
- Boundaries and limitations
- Consistory–staff linkage policies
- Consistory process

Deacons: Serve those in need.

- Special individual and family concerns
- Mission support and involvement
- Disaster response and volunteer service opportunities
- Hunger advocacy and Reformed Church World Service
- Caring for creation and simple living
- Stewardship education

Elders: Promote spiritual health.

- Oversee membership
- Safeguard doctrine and teaching
- Administer sacraments
- Administer discipline
- Oversee congregational care
- Encourage Prayer

The 2010 consistory includes Pastor Kent and Pastor Todd; the Board of Elders consists of: Beth Brockette (Chair), Karen Bronkhorst, Dana Chapman, Bruce Crowther, John Drzycimski, and Harlan Stientjes; and the Board of Deacons is comprised of: Jim Humphries (chair), Allen Lovell, Tracy Sankot, Jonna Tellinghuisen, Karen Thuerauf, and Cade Vander Broek.

We will be seeking nominations for the 2011 Consistory soon. We invite your prayers for the board and for the nominations process.

The Next Consistory meeting will be July 11 @4:00.

Go Deep

At CHCC we are on a mission to grow disciples deeply rooted in Jesus. This involves **Growing disciples...** (*We will engage in an equipping process which will focus on worship, scriptural reflection and service that calls all Christ-following disciples to the next level of spiritual growth.*)...**deeply rooted in Jesus.** (Spiritual growth brings radical change as our roots sink deeply into Jesus. At every stage of growth there is a need for deeper roots and this growth begins and ends with Jesus.)

The Bridge



coming 10.10.10
connecting people to God

mission

- we exist to glorify God.
- we exist to connect people to Jesus.

essential convictions

There is a bridge to God.

God longs to be in relationship with people and sent Jesus to bridge the gap between people and God. (John 3:16)

This bridge is good news.

God is reconciling the world through Jesus and this message must be proclaimed as Gospel good news. (Romans 1:16)

This bridge is for all.

Our community will create a safe place of warmth and hospitality for people of all beliefs to explore the claims of Jesus. (Luke 18)

The bridge depends on God's power.

Our mission will fail apart from the power of God. (Ephesians 6)

We are called to bridge barriers to Jesus.

Without compromising the Gospel we will eliminate everything else that keeps people from Jesus. (Mark 2:1-12)

values

God-centered – all that is said and done should honor and glorify God.

Truth – all we do points to **Jesus** who is the way, **the truth** and the life.

Compassion – all we do is driven by compassion for **people**.

Humility – all our decisions will flow from **humble hearts**.

Authenticity – all our work is done in **genuine relationships**.

Generosity – **all out giving is essential** to complete our mission.

Diversity – **all people** are welcome.

outcomes

God is honored.

Lost people come to Jesus.

The Bulletin Board



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The Red Cross Blood Drive
will be held July 22, 3-7pm,
at Cedar Hills Community Church



JULY SENIOR'S BREAKFAST

Amana Country Style
Breakfast at Ronneburg Restaurant
Sat, July 10 - 8:30am

Please contact:
Phyllis Baker 396-3917
Ann Baughman 396-0020



LINK SUMMER ACTIVITIES

July 7th- 3-6pm- Beach Time: We're heading to Palo Beach for some swimming and fun. We will cookout together there.

July 14- Lost Island in Waterloo! Come join the water park fun at Lost Island. Meet at the church at 9:30am and return at 6:00pm. Cost is \$24 and a registration form is needed.

July 21- 6:30-8pm - Messy Game Time: Bring clothes that you can get messy in. We will be having a crazy good time!

July 28- 6:30-8pm - Water Wars:
Water Balloon launchers. Tons of water games. What more do we need to say!

Children's Ministries



CAMP ROCK

Registrations for **Camp Rock** are still being accepted until July 8th. Contact Kris Crowther (kris@chccrca.org) or Andy Drzycimski (Andy.drzycimski@yahoo.com) soon.

Camp Rock is about creating leaders that love God, want to share their faith and become aware of the mission opportunities in our community. All participants must be 7th grade or older. Camp Rock dates are July 11-17.

VBS IS AUGUST 1-5



You can register on-line from our church's website. Just go to www.chccrca.org, click on the VBS High Seas Expedition, and sign up as a participant or volunteer to be a crew leader.

Crew leaders have the most important job in our VBS program. They are the ones who meet, greet, and get to know the students. They also become witness to the children by example. Sign up to be a **CREW LEADER**, it'll be the best JOB you've ever had. Crew Leaders **MUST** attend one of two training sessions being offered.



Those sessions are:

July 18th at 9:45 am
July 20th at 6:30 pm

UPCOMING DATES

August 28	Veggie Tale Movie Premier
September 12	Sunday School Kick-Off
October 3	Parent meeting-Faith at Home Preschool 3 yr olds
October 17	Parent meeting-Faith at Home Preschool 4/5 yr olds

Worship Ministries

THE SONGS OF THE MARTYRS

Lately I've been doing a lot of reading on the persecuted church. I often will read books that challenge my faith or perspective on Christianity, and I've found that reading the stories of others who have lost their lives for the sake of building the Kingdom of God challenges me greatly, on a number of fronts. They challenge the great comforts I seek to maintain as one living in North America. They challenge the things that fill my life. They challenge what efforts I take to maintain these comforts and my pathetically weak effort toward building the Kingdom of God.

This Fall, I have a chance to finish a Master's degree I'd started many years ago. Because of my recent studies on the persecuted church, I'd like to present a night of the songs of the martyrs. It will be a night to hear the scriptures and songs that are encouraging the persecuted church worldwide. It will be a night of hearing the stories of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and the daily hardships they endure for the sake of the Gospel. It will be a night of learning what Christianity looks like among those who literally take up their cross and follow Jesus, even though it means a life of torture and death.

I would like to invite you to be a part of this night, whether in the audience, or to join the choir for a few months this Fall. This is an opportunity to have your own faith stretched and deepened, to seek God in a way that may seem foreign to you. If you've been a part of a music group before, or maybe just sang in your high school choir 30 years ago, would you consider joining us?

Choir rehearsals will begin Wednesday, August 25 at 6:35pm in the MPR and will last for 1 hour. The concert is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13 at 7pm.

If you are interested in learning more about the persecuted church, here are some of my favorite books and resources so far:

The Heavenly Man: The Remarkable True Story of Chinese Christian Brother Yun by Paul Hattaway

Jesus Freaks: Stories of Those Who Stood for Jesus by DC Talk and the Voice of the Martyrs

or visit <http://www.persecution.com/>

Leah Carolan
Director of Worship

The Caring Corner

The City of Cedar Rapids authorized the city's police department to install cameras at certain locations within the city to catch speeders and other violators. In these locations there are signs posted indicating the area is policed by cameras. The police department does not know that from my office window I monitor what happens at the intersection of E Avenue and Stoney Point Road. That's right, I see some of you make moving stops and neglect your turn signals.

You might respond to my viewing the intersection, as one member once wrote to me, "you have way too much time on your hands" and you would be right. However, this week my watching paid off. A vehicle was traveling on Stoney Point Road from the direction of Morgan Creek and never slowed down when entering the intersection. The driver paid no attention to the four-way STOP signs. The motorist was piloting a big pick-up which in turn was pulling a long RV, which must have been thirty feet long. Thank God there were no cars in sight or in the intersection.

How did watching the traffic prove to be worthwhile? It provided me with an idea about caring. Without knowing the driver of the pick-up, I wondered if the driver did not care about others. . . . Now I know the driver might have seen there were no cars in the intersection and stopping was not needed. But for the sake of this column, let's assume other cars were not in the mind of the driver.

What a shame that would be. What a loss to that person's life not to care for others. Jesus knew what a loss that would be for He calls us to love one another. I also wondered if the driver cared for himself. Do you care for yourself? Jesus said "Love one another as you love yourself."

This is the point that makes my window watching worthwhile. God loves you and His love should cause you to love yourself. Each of us has the promise of Eternal Life because Christ died for us. His ministry on earth had a single purpose and that was to fulfill God's need for someone to be obedient "was obedient even unto death on a cross."

My prayer for you and yours this month is to Accept God's love for you; Accept Jesus' love for you; Love yourself; And care for others.

If you need some direction in this area, give me a call.

~Doc

Compassion Update



IS IT POSSIBLE?

"A letter from your sponsored child!" Who knew life would *stop* when we see that envelope in the mail? Letters provide a glimpse into the child's life and show their growth as they become more acquainted with us — their Iowa family.

We hope you are as inspired by their words as we are!

Nasazi in Uganda prays for "a van for the project so they can go places," and "a swing set for the project." How beautiful—praying for the needs of the project where she is educated—quite profound for a young girl who turns nine this month.

Esquipulas in Guatemala asks for prayers to "learn Social Studies," as this is an area in which he wants to excel. He says ". . . you must have a million angels surrounding you," when he got his birthday gift (new clothes). Simple things matter to this boy, who became a teen in March.

Elsyera in Indonesia calls us Papa and Mama. She requests prayers "for my Father who does not believe," and she drew us pictures of butterflies when Craig's Mother passed away—what a beautiful sentiment from a little girl who turns nine this October.

We hope you feel the power of their words. Nasazi dreams of becoming a tailor; Elsyera, a doctor. We are still waiting for the dreams of Esquipulas, Dhanai, and Marlon to be shared. We know these children will accomplish tremendous things through God, who makes all things possible.

Craig and Debbie Mrkvicka
cr4compassion@mchsi.com
Child Advocates for Compassion
www.compassion.com or 1.800.336.7676

ASSISTANTS FOR JULY

Welcome Center/Name Tags:

July 4	8:30	Leanne Moen
	11:00	Dianne Martens
July 11	8:30	Ulmers
	11:00	Mark & Amber Matson
July 18	8:30	Carol Ruedy
	11:00	David & Susan Wise
July 25	8:30	Karen Bronkhorst
	11:00	Sankots

Coffee Hosts:

July 4	Ken & Karen Bronkhorst
July 11	Theresa Listebarger
July 18	Wayne & Joan Koele
July 25	Mark & Cindy Espe

Nursery:

July 4	Outdoor Services
July 11	8:20 Hendersons
	10:15 Lympus/Jessica Wise
July 18	8:20 Kleinmeyers
	10:15 Lees
June 27	8:20 Oppermans
	10:15 Mullans
Greeters:	
July 4	8:30 Faye & Maribelle Benesh
	11:00 Dave & Susan Wise
July 11	8:30 Don & Dorothy Van Zee
	11:00 Don & Dorothy Van Zee
July 18	8:30 Rob & Raydell Wahlert
	11:00 David Ver Woert, Shannon, Kyle
July 25	8:30 Randy & Karen Whitehead
	11:00 Randy & Karen Whitehead

*Please arrange a substitute if unable to greet.



CALLING ALL WOMEN!!!

Join us Thursday, July 8 at 6pm for a **SIP OF SUMMER** and salad supper. Enjoy "mock-tails" like Sorbet Sunsets and Hulas and make long-lasting friendships. Rotate to the card stamping, rock painting, and flower arranging stations. Bring your favorite salad and a food pantry donation.



"THE GIRLFRIENDS" WOMENS MINISTRY PRESENTS... CHOCOLATE SPA RETREAT!

Saturday, September 18 from 9am-noon
Isaac Newton Christian Academy
1635 Linmar Dr NE

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL DATA (through May)

Budget	\$350,070
Total Contributions	\$321,702
Actual Expenses	\$312,915
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 8,787
General Budget Reserve Balance	\$ 65,088

June Contributions
(through June 13) \$ 30,168

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

Contributions through May 2011 were 8% higher (\$23,948) than 2009 while expenses have been down 8% (\$27,201).

Ministry Teams should be planning their 2011 Budget. Contact your team leader for the budget request form.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY?

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays

8:00am	Prayer Time	138
8:30am	Sanctuary Service	MPR
9:45am	Coffee & Fellowship	GS
11:00am	Celebrate Service	MPR

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

9:00am	Spare Timers	GS
6:00pm	Boy Scouts of America	GS, 135
6:45pm	PRISM® (begins July 20)	117

Wednesdays

9:00am	Women's Bible Study	117
10:00am	Open Hands Food Pantry	112,116
6:00pm	Sanctuary Worship Team	MPR

Fridays

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun Jul 4

Outdoor Services

9:45am	All-Church Breakfast	MPR
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Wed Jul 7

3:00pm	LINK - Beach Time!	Meet - GS
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Thu Jul 8

6:00pm	Sip of Summer Salad Supper	GS
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Sat Jul 10

8:30am	Senior Breakfast	Ronneburg in Amana
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Sun Jul 11 - Sat Jul 17

CAMP ROCK!

Wed Jul 14

9:30am	LINK - Lost Island!	Meet - GS
7:30pm	Municipal Band Concert	Outside

Thu Jul 15

	Cedar Chips News Due	Office
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Wed Jul 21

6:30pm	LINK - Messy Game Time	Meet - GS
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Wed Jul 28

6:30pm	LINK - Water Wars	Meet - GS
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JULY TEAMS & OTHER EVENTS

Thu Jul 1	4:30pm	Men's Bible Study	111
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Sun Jul 4	6:00pm	Multiplication Meeting	117
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Mon Jul 5	Food Pantry & Office Closed		
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Wed Jul 7	6:30pm	Deacons Meeting	138
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Thu Jul 8	5:15pm	Outdoor Service Team	138
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	6:00pm	Doc's Bible Study	138
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Sun Jul 11	9:40am	PRISM Intro Meeting	138
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	3:00pm	Prayer Group	138
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	4:00pm	Consistory	137
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Mon Jul 12	6:00pm	LINK Leadership	117
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Tue Jul 13	6:30pm	VBS Staff Meeting	113/114
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	8:15pm	PRISM Introductory	117
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Wed Jul 14	5:00pm	Grey Worship Team	MPR
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Thu Jul 15	4:30pm	Men's Bible Study	111
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	6:30pm	Boy Scout Parents	117
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Sun Jul 18	9:45am	Grow Rel. with Jesus	137
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	9:45am	Crew Leader Meeting	113/114
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	9:45am	Bridge Info Meeting	134/135
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	6:00pm	Church Multiplication	117
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Mon Jul 19	6:30pm	Life Group Team	117
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Tue Jul 20	11:45am	All Staff	117
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	6:30pm	Crew Leader Meeting	113,114
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Wed Jul 21	5:15pm	Connectors Meeting	138
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Thu Jul 22	6:00pm	Doc's Bible Study	138
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	6:30pm	Ministry Management	117
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Sun Jul 25	9:45am	Grow Rel. with Jesus	137
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	3:30pm	Elders	137
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Mon Jul 26	5:30pm	PMB Sewing Guild	137
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Tue Jul 27	4:30pm	Adult Discipleship	138
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	6:30pm	Exec Team meeting	111
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Wed Jul 28	5:15pm	Connectors	138
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	6:00pm	Welcome Team	138
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Thu Jul 29	6:30pm	Ministry Management	117
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