

The Cedar Chips

ONLINE



publication of Cedar Hills Community Church

May 2011

Reflections with Kent . . .

What if we could grow in generosity?

I've been thinking a lot about "What if I were more generous?" This prompted me to research generosity and here is some of what I found:

Generosity is rising in popular culture.

Generosity has several defining characteristics.

Generosity is,

- both giving and a willingness to give.
- a noble quality sought by many.
- giving to others beyond what is required of us.
- expecting no definite return.
- open hands.
- giving holistically of time, skills, knowledge, influence, empathy, money.

Biblical generosity is glimpsed in the stories of God's actions:

- Creation.
- Rescue from slavery.
- Manna and quail in the wilderness.
- Oil for the widow of Zarephath
- Food for Elijah.
- Shade for Jonah.
- The Temple.
- Sending Jesus.
- Lunch for 5,000 from five loaves and two fish.
- Full, breaking nets of fish that seemed scarce.
- Wine instead of water at the wedding feast.



- Banquet tables set for the homeless.
- God is not only generous, God is extravagant!
- The Bible speaks of abundance, not scarcity.
- God's generosity tilts toward the poor.

II Corinthians 8:7 – 9:15 tells us more about generosity:

- Generosity is excelling in the grace of giving with enthusiasm, not reluctance.
- Generosity is not an obligation, command or duty.
- Generosity measures the sincerity of a person's love.
- Generosity is good for us.

What if we could grow in generosity?

~Pastor Kent

What if we could grow in generosity?

This Month's Vision

Radical Generosity

What is Jesus worth to you? It's easy for American Christians to forget how Jesus said his followers would actually live, what their new lifestyle would actually look like. They would, he said, leave behind security, money, convenience, even family for him. They would abandon everything for the gospel. They would take up their crosses daily. But who do you know who lives like that?

May 1 – *What if...we had a Kingdom Vision?*

May 8 – *What if...we had Kingdom Values?*

May 15 – *What if...we had no Debt?*

May 22 – *What if...we had Radical Generosity?*

May 29 – *What if...we had a New Dream?*

**Worship Every Sunday
@ 8:30 or 11:00**

Worship @ The Bridge

Our daughter congregation, The Bridge just celebrated six months! We continue to reach people and we worship together every Sunday @ 10 AM at the Hotel at Kirkwood Center, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW. Please pray for the impact of this ministry and for those who lead. If you have not yet had a chance to visit and see first hand what God is doing we hope you will do that sometime. Thanks for your prayers and your encouragement!

Consistory News and Notes

Consistory has been spending more time in prayer, Bible study and discernment as we seek God's plan for CHCC. This process is both refreshing and challenging. We often feel like rookies in the art of listening to God. Please join us in praying earnestly that the future of CHCC would be the future God desires for us and that we would discover the specific steps God is calling us to take to realize that future.

The nominations team recommended the following revision of the By-laws, Section IV, Article 4 and 5: Consistory members shall serve for a term of three years with one-third of the Consistory (2 Elders, 2 Deacons) chosen each year as nearly as possible. *Consistory members shall be eligible for re-election to serve a second, consecutive three year term.*

Consistory members *retiring after serving two consecutive terms* shall be eligible for re-election only after having been out of office for a minimum of *one year*. A member serving out an unexpired term on the Consistory will be eligible to serve up to two three-year terms without a period of ineligibility.

After serving a first term, a Consistory member willing to serve a second term would be included in the current nominations process to discern if they are called to serve a second term. The nomination process spelled out in Article 6 does not change and applies to all nominees including those who may be seeking election to a second term.

Rationale:

1. We believe that consecutive terms allows gifted leaders to serve on the Consistory according to their gifts while eliminating some of the issues of continuity created by constant turnover.
2. We believe requiring a year off after two terms will create a healthy turnover that allows for the addition of new leaders.
3. We believe that placing one term members back into the regular nominations process will maintain integrity in the nominations process.
4. We believe this process will strengthen our Consistory leadership and our congregation.

The recommendation passed and will be implemented for the 2011 elections.

We see God at work in many ways and we are excited about what God is doing at CHCC!

Compassion Update



*Compassion Sunday's 2011 Theme Speaks
Volumes About the Why Goodbye?*

The other day we had a message from Compassion when we got home. We learned that our son in Guatemala was no longer part of Compassion's program. Of course, we called to learn the facts and learned that Esquipulas had not attended school for two months. The CDC staff made three visits to his home to talk with Esquipulas and his mother. When his behavior did not change, he was no longer eligible to be part of this wonderful ministry.

While saddened, we do understand that his mother wants him to continue attending school. Praise God! Esquipulas completed the fifth grade. We are awaiting his final letter, and ours has been written and sent to him. Our letter reminds him to stay in school; that he is always part of our family; that we will keep his photos on display in our home; and, that we will pray for him every day. We reminded him that God loves him and so do we.

No good-byes needed. He will always be part of our lives in a very important way. We thank God for bringing him into our lives. We have now written our first letter to Manuel, our new 14 year old son in Guatemala, and await our first letter from him. And so the circle of God's love continues. . .we never have to say good-bye.

Look for next month's article, where one of our CHCC Compassion families will share their story about their Compassion experience.

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

The Bridge Update



It is hard to believe but we have now completed six months of ministry at the Bridge since the launch on 10/10/10 @ 10. We appreciate all the prayer support, financial gifts and sweat equity that so many have invested as we partner with God on this important mission. While many of our updates are about steps that will certainly stabilize the Bridge and help us move forward, we covet your continued prayers as we navigate the opportunities God is giving us.

Celebrate with us about the following:

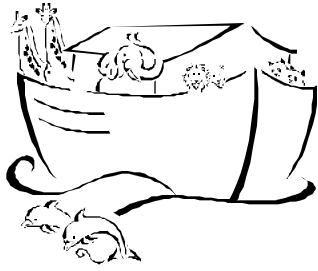
- Our attendance has been very stable. (The average is around 60.)
- Kidz' City children's ministry has started with a bang. (8-12 kids a week)
- The Lord has blessed us with a new trailer to help transport our equipment.
- The Lord sent us many qualified candidates to be the first pastor at the Bridge.
- A member of our teaching team, Layne, has felt the call of God to attend seminary.
- God's presence is upon us as we worship.

The Pastoral Search Committee has experienced tremendous unity as we sort through the candidates and consider who God is calling to serve at the Bridge. Our search was narrowed to three exceptional candidates and we are hoping to complete the task of calling a pastor in the next month. Pray for God's Will to be clear to us and to our candidates.

The biggest thing that can be done to support the Bridge is pray, pray, pray. We see more clearly than ever that the success of this kind of ministry is totally dependent on God alone. A second way to support the Bridge is to visit us Sunday's at 10. The participation of CHCC members is a tremendous encouragement and we appreciate it. We are building bridges into the community and know that God has many more bridges yet to be built.

The Bridge Team

Noah's Ark Preschool News



What a wonderful year we had at preschool! Thank you to all the great families who trust us with their precious little ones. We really love these children and have grown very attached to them. Saying good-bye will be hard, but they are ready to fly beyond the Noah's Ark nest. We are very honored to be able to serve the community for 42 years.

All the 'end of the year' programs are scheduled for the last day of regular classes. A reception will follow each program. All friends and families are invited to attend.

In April, all classes focused on the religious aspects of Easter, safety, and creation. The older classes learned about fitness, seeds, and poison control. All classes enjoyed a visit from the Police Pal and our visit to the CR Library. The older classes visited our Methwick friends one last time.

May is always a very busy month so please look at the calendar closely for special events. Registration for Fall is going very well. If you know anyone interested, please have them call or email us.

Our last day of school will be Friday May 27th. We will have a couple weeks off and summer school will begin Tuesday June 7th. We still have a few spots available if that's something you would like your preschooler to do.

In Christ,
Leslie Clauson, Director



Teddy Bear Clinic

Children's Ministries

Here is a new statistic....from birth to graduating High School, you have 940 weekends to spend with your child. Just another reason to make every moment you have, a moment to share your faith with your children. Your children are your "mission field."

Start your parenting while your children are very young, and be relentlessly diligent from that point on. Children begin absorbing values and beliefs as soon as they can understand language. They are like sponges, and they absorb everything in their environment.

God put us (parents) in charge and did not leave our children to fend for themselves. You must know your child and love him enough to do what's best whether he likes it or not.

Parenting is the highest calling that God has given you. Invest substantial amounts of time and energy into your relationship with your child and the activities he or she engages in. Parents should be mentors, coaches, disciplinarians and be responsible for preparing their children for a life of faith in God.



4th & 5th graders with their teachers, Matt Johnson & Bruce Boldt

May Calendar

- 4 ~ All-Stars For Jesus 6:30-8, K-5th grade
- 5 ~ MOPS, 9:15-11:15 (Last session until Fall)
- 11~ All-Stars For Jesus
- 15~ 3rd/4th grade parents attend Sunday School with their students for FAITH @ HOME.
- 18~ All-Stars For Jesus (last session until Fall)
- 22~ LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL until Fall.

~Kris
Director of Children's Ministries

ASSISTANTS FOR MAY

Information Specialists:

May 1	8:30	Leanne Moen
	11:00	Dianne Martens
May 8	8:30	Jack & Kate Ulmer
	11:00	Alan & Cydney Lovell
May 15	8:30	Carol Ruedy
	11:00	David & Susan Wise
May 22	8:30	Jim & Jean Vandivier
	11:00	Mark & Amber Matson
May 29	8:30	George & Marlene Milligan
	11:00	Tracy & Annette Sankot

Nursery:

May 1	8:20	Henderson Family
	10:15	Mullan Family
May 8	8:20	Joens Family
	10:15	Donnan Family/Carly Clauson
May 15	8:20	Paulsen Family
	10:15	Brown Family
May 22	8:20	Mottinger Family/Jenna Owen
	10:15	Maire Family/Jessica Wise
May 29	8:20	Sue Kleinmeyer/Jessi Schoettmer
	10:15	Oppermans/Carly Clauson

Coffee Shop: Sign up for a shift by email:

office@chccrca.org or stop by on Sunday
Bring treats or help in the Coffee Shop.
First shift @ 7:30am, second @ 9:45am.

Greeters:

Check your mailbox for Greeter's Schedule.

*Please arrange a substitute if unable to greet.

Children's Worship:

May 1	8:30	Maire Family
	11:00	Oppermans/Kelsey Clauson
May 8	8:30	Gaffney Family
	11:00	Crawford Family/Lauren Brown
May 15	8:30	Gleason Family/Libby Gleason
	11:00	Jungling Family/Alexi Grave
May 22	8:30	Hanson Family/Jessi Schoettmer
	11:00	Christiansens/Tehya Johnson
May 29	8:30	Shaw Family
	11:00	Meade Family/Kellen Brown

MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2011 Stewardship Goal: To grow in generosity.

We know that God is a good and generous God, and that everything we are and have belongs to God. Because of this we live as generous and responsible caretakers of all the resources God gives us. In response to God's abundant giving, we increasingly submit our resources to Christ's Lordship, displaying a spirit of generosity and cheerfulness in supporting the work of the church.

The Deacons and the Asset Management Team at CHCC are charged with the careful and faithful management of the resources given to the church. They have also taken up the call of encouraging growth in generosity and discovering ways to measure growth in generosity. Please pray for our congregation that we will all grow in generosity.

First Quarter 2011 Income	\$192,585
First Quarter 2011 Expenses	\$202,477
First Quarter Net Income (Loss)	(\$ 9,892)

April Contributions (through April 24)	\$ 72,569
May Budget Goal	\$ 83,750

Total Assets	\$ 139,079
Building Loan	\$2,427,344

*CHCC Coed Softball 2011 Season
Tuesdays @ Cleveland Park -May Schedule:*

May 3 @ 6:00pm
May 10 @ 7:00pm
May 17 @ 6:00pm
May 24 @ 7:00pm
May 31 @ 6:00pm

*"He who did not spare His own Son,
but gave him up for us all -
how will He not also,
along with him,
graciously give us all things?"
~Romans 8:32(NIV)*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY?

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

9:30am	Attendance Team	138
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

Thursdays

9:00am	Spare Timers	GS
6:30pm	Boy Scout Parent Meeting	138

Fridays

10:00am	Open Hands Food Pantry	112,116
7:00pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	MPR/GS
7:00pm	Overeaters Anonymous	138

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun May 1

12:00pm	Birthday Party	132
1:00pm	Baby Shower	GS/Kitchen

Sat May 7 MMOM - Sale

MPR/GS

Fri-Sat, 13-14

Plant Sale pick-up MPR/GS

Sun May 15 Cedar Chips news due

Office

12:30pm Lunch-current Member Class

GS

Fri-Sat, 20-21

30 Hour Famine All-Building

Thu-Fri, 26-27 Preschool Program

MPR/GS

Sat May 28

7am-12pm Grad Party - Mary Elise GS/Kitchen

3pm-8pm Grad Party - Hillary Harriman GS/Kitchen

Sun May 29

1pm-5pm Grad Party - Humphreys GS/Kitchen

Mon May 30

11am-4pm Grad Party - Owen GS/Kitchen

MAY TEAMS & OTHER EVENTS

Sun May 1

2:30pm Prayer Session 138

3:30pm Elders 137

6:00pm Church Multiplication 117

Mon May 2

5:00pm Stephen Leaders Meeting 138

6:30pm Stephen Supervisors Meeting 138

Tue May 3

10:00am Ministry Staff 138

6:30pm SUMMIT Leadership 116

Wed May 4

5:30pm Deacons Meeting 138

Thu May 5

9:15am MOPS GS

Mon May 9

6:00pm LINK Leadership

7:00pm Food Pantry Leadership Meeting 112

Tue May 10

11:15am Staff Tactical 135

Thu May 12

6:00pm Doc's Bible Study 138

Sat May 14

10:00am Loving Stitches 137

Sun May 15

4:00pm Consistory 137

6:00pm Church Multiplication 117

Tue May 17

11:45am All Staff 117

Sun May 22

3:30pm Elders 137

Mon May 23

5:00pm Noah's Ark Board 138

5:30pm PMB Sewing Guild 137

6:00pm Sunday School Team 114

Tue May 24

11:15am Staff Tactical 135

6:00pm Adult Discipleship Team 138

6:30pm Exec Team meeting 111

Thu May 26

9:15am MOPS Steering Team Nursery/GS

5:30pm Deacons/Asset Mgmt 138

6:30pm Ministry Management 116

Tue May 31

6:30pm Exec Meeting 111

Worship Ministries

THE AMERICAN DREAM

The month of May we enter a new series on the American Dream... How does the dream that drives our nation align with the Word of God?

This brings many questions to mind for me, because it forces me to look at all the ways society has shaped my belief structure... and all the ways my belief structure is running contrary to God's authority and Truth.

Worship is something we do that realigns things in our lives. With the constant pressure of an ever-changing world growing in stark contrast to the Truth of the Word of God, I need to worship to keep myself in check. I need to declare God's praises and justice and righteousness and my own human frailty to battle the message of the world that says, "Just believe in yourself." Oh wait, have you ever heard THAT one too? I remember the day I woke up from my earthly stupor and realized THAT expression put the power on me and not on God. "With God all things are possible." That scripture has never inserted the phrase "Just believe in yourself, and you can do anything you want." That's a lie. It's just not true. The American Dream has shaped you to believe something that doesn't align with the Word of God.

"But... but... but... that's a bit radical, don't you think?"

"Yes."

Regular worship keeps us in line. It helps us find our proper place in the grand scheme in the plan of the Kingdom of God. We are not of this world, just in it. But while we're in it, we have a choice whether to align ourselves with the earthly world and Kingdom of Darkness, or to align ourselves with the Kingdom of God and work towards his purpose.

Lord, would you reveal to us those things we have accepted as truth that are not of you? I don't want to play the American Dream. I want to transform it. Lord, reveal to us the deep secrets of your heart and your kingdom that will forever transform our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

~ Leah
Director of Worship

The Caring Corner

HELEN KELLER

There's a story about a child who, with one hand, began tearing the buttons off of her grandmother's dress, while holding her rag doll in the other hand. The child was making all sorts of sounds and wailing her arms hysterically.

Her father screamed, "How long will this last? How long can we put up with this?"

The girl's brother blurted out, "She's an animal."

But then, the child's mother walked into the room, quickly saw what was happening, and calmly placed two buttons in her daughter's hand. Immediately, the child became quiet. Holding the two buttons in one hand and her baby doll in the other, she walked out of the room.

The girl's baby doll did not have eyes. This little girl, Helen Keller, knew what not having eyes meant to her. Her mother had the gift of feeling what others feel.

For the past several weeks, I have been talking with some people in the congregation about feeling what others feel. I know we say, "I understand," when a friend or family confides in us. But, I am thinking about more than intellectually understanding. I want us to grow the ability to feel what someone else is feeling.

Jesus can be our example. Following his friend's death, Jesus stood with the sisters of Lazarus and wept just as Mary and Martha wept. When Jesus looked at Jerusalem, he wept.

I know there are those in this congregation who care...And those who are being cared for know others care.

What I am proposing is that we go further. Let's go beyond intellectual caring and care like Jesus, who felt the needs of others.

We can do it...With God's help.

Let's care together.

Doc

God loves you...

~ Doc
Pastor of Visitation and Care

Discipleship Ministries

30-HOUR FAMINE

May is a wonderful month, isn't it? We are far removed from winter and warm sunny days await us. God is good. I really love May. I love to be outside working in the yard, riding my bike, or doing a little camping/hiking if I'm lucky. I also really love May because it is the month that SUMMIT participates in the 30-Hour Famine.

This May will be the 6th time we have done the Famine. I was talking with the organizing team from World Vision last week and in the five years we have done the Famine we have raised \$9800!

I was blown away by that amount. That is enough money to feed, cloth, provide shelter and share Jesus with 327 children for a month! I love the 30-Hour Famine. The Famine allows us to learn about a problem in the world that we don't understand—being hungry. As I write this I just got done eating lunch. I went home and was complaining to myself because we "didn't have anything in the house to eat." Do you ever do that? Open up the fridge or freezer and look through it and find nothing to eat. Well, my fridge and freezer weren't totally empty and our pantry wasn't either. There just wasn't something there I wanted to eat.

Millions of people in the world would love to have my problem. It makes me sad just thinking about it. This is the reason I love the Famine. I need to be reminded how good I have it and about the great need that exists in the world. I have the leaders guide for the Famine open on my desk. It says a child dies every 10 seconds from a hunger related cause. The 30-Hour Famine gives us a chance to be part of the solution.

May 20-21 is the date for the 30-Hour Famine. Be on the look out for our students to be promoting the event. They will be looking for your support to make this Famine as successful as the past five. Thank you ahead of time for your support and generosity.

I will leave you with an encouraging fact. Since the Famine began in 1992, the total number of children who die each day from hunger related causes has fallen from 40,000 to 24,000. Help us keep making that number fall!

Pastor Todd
Pastor of Discipleship

Consistory

FOCUSED PRAYER

The consistory is focusing on prayers for God's leading and praying with a unified voice. We would like to invite the congregation to join us through these steps of assuring alignment with God's will and coming boldly before His throne as one body of Christ with one voice. We will be focusing on different scripture passages and prayers throughout the month and hope you will consider joining us on this prayer journey:

First Focus on Psalm 5:1-3

1. Give ear to my words, O LORD. Consider my meditation.
- 2 Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, for to You I will pray.
- 3 My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up.

Let's all pray together:

Lord, the status and honor You allow each of us amazes us. Even more privileged are we if we are in favor with You, so we call to You asking that You show us if there is something in our lives You wish us to change. We know if we seek first Your Kingdom and our personal relationship with You that all other things will be added unto us. Your wisdom and leading will come as well. We seek to please You, Lord. We know that You hear our unified voices and thank You for loving and hearing us. Just to say "Thank You" seems inadequate. We make it a willing, swelling gratitude to sit and talk with You! Please show us the direction You want us to take in our own lives so that we may more clearly hear Your voice to lead CHCC in the direction You want. We direct our request to You Lord and expectantly look up for Your reply. All this we pray in the loving name of our personal Lord and Savior, Jesus. Amen



PRAYER SESSION

Sunday, May 8, 2:30pm

Join us as we pray together,
striving to grow as disciples
deeply rooted in Jesus.



The Bulletin Board

RETIREES BREAKFAST

Sat, May 7, 8:30am
Butterfly Café
1616 1st Ave NE

RSVP to Fritz Diers at 396-4080

THANK YOU

Members & friends of CHCC thank you for your support of our Palm Sunday pancake breakfast. We had a record turnout and appreciate your generous contributions. If there is ever a project in or around the church that we can help out with, please let us know. We'd love to have the opportunity to return the favor!

Boy Scout Troop 85

YOU ARE INVITED

Saturday, June 4, 1-4pm

Open House at Cedar Hills Church
To Celebrate:

*Jack and Georgie Steele's
60th Wedding Anniversary*

Stop by the Gathering Space
between 1-4pm for dessert and
conversation.

OPEN HANDS FOOD PANTRY

Our pantry helps about 300 families each month, providing about a 3-day supply of non-perishable food. Each family can visit the pantry once a month.

How can You help?

1. Donate food or money to the Pantry. Food suggestions are found on the door of the food pantry, but all food is welcomed.
2. Volunteer to work in the pantry, pack bags or pick up bulk orders.
3. Pray for those to visit and serve in the pantry.

Interested? Call Karen Bronkhorst, 365-5410 or
Melissa Coeur, 265-1431.

Your help & prayers are appreciated!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

I want to thank all the people that prayed for my son when he was in the hospital and Doc for his visits. It was appreciated very much.

Sincerely,
Irene Valenta

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 31-August 4

Planning has started! If you are able to help in any way, please contact VBS Team Leader, Liz Posekany or a team member: Marlee Ellis, Allison Johnson or Kris Crowther.



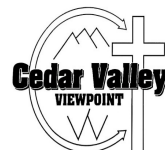
Call church for info: 396-6608.



YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

July 10-16
Register today to reserve your spot.

<http://www.cedarvalleyviewpoint.org>



YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT



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, 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!