

The Cedar Chips

ONLINE

publication of Cedar Hills Community Church



July 2011

Reflections with Kent . . .

What do you think when you see rain clouds on the horizon?

- Run for cover...
- Get an umbrella...
- This will ruin my plans...
- Hope it misses...
- We need rain...
- We don't need rain...
- Let it rain!

I love sunshine so I am not usually excited about rain. I imagine getting wet... and cold. I rarely have an umbrella which leaves me two options: I can proceed at my normal pace or I can run. There are differences of opinion about which method results in a drier experience. I am usually a runner.

What if we looked at rain different? What if our reaction to rain was always "Let it rain!"? Now I am not thinking about liquid falling from the heavens but I am thinking about the outpouring of God's grace. What if we looked forward to God raining down his grace on us with an enthusiastic "Let it rain!"?

How do you usually respond to the outpouring of God's Grace?

- Run for cover...
- That will make me uncomfortable...
- We never did it this way before...
- Hope it misses
- We need it...
- We don't need it...
- Let it rain!



There is a website out there called "Let it Rain" and their purpose statement is to be "purveyors of precipitation pleasure." I like that. Do we take pleasure in God's grace falling down on us?

I'd like to suggest a couple ways to step out into the rain of God's gracious downpour. First, it is not too late to follow Jesus through our 90 day summer reading program. You can pick up the readings on line, through email, Face book or with the reading guides distributed each week at the CHCC welcome booth. Discover how God's grace is revealed as we study the book of Luke. Second, come to worship every Sunday. Each week when we gather together we are immersed anew in a shower of Gods' grace. I leave each week feeling drenched in the love and goodness of God and you will too.

There are rain clouds on the horizon.

Let it rain!

~Pastor Kent



This Month's Vision

Surprised by Grace

God's goodness and love comes like a rain shower. Sometimes a sprinkle, sometimes a down pour – God's grace often falls on us when we least expect it in ways that can be quite surprising. One person who experienced this first hand was a prophet named Jonah. In July we will look at his story and be surprised by God's grace.

Will we run from the outpouring of God's grace or will we embrace the flood of grace that pours down on us?

July 10 – *A Deadly Plunge*

Jonah runs from God's grace: Jonah 1

July 17 – *Hearts Exposed*

Jonah is graciously spit out: Jonah 2

July 24 – *Never Ending Surprise*

God is true to His Word: Jonah 3

July 31 – *Grace Beyond Control*

God makes me so mad: Jonah 4

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

Worship @ The Bridge

Our daughter congregation the Bridge continues to meet for worship every Sunday @ 10 AM at the Hotel @ Kirkwood Center, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW. Please pray for us as we continue our search for that person who will be the first Bridge Pastor. Also stop by some Sunday and worship with us to see what God is doing at the Bridge.

Summer Reading Program

Have you been following Jesus through the 90-day summer reading program? It is not too late to start. We are reading together through the book of Luke and also meditating on short devotionals written by the members of CHCC. This daily reading program is available online at www.chccca.org. It can come to you by email, Facebook or with written weekly guides available at the welcome booth each week.

Consistory News and Notes

Devotions: The Transforming Power of the Spirit

2 Corinthians 3:1-18 We must trust and use scripture to enhance our understanding. We should continually have our eyes on what is pleasing to God. We need to be still and listen. We need to trust and rely on Him...that's scary.

Review Covenant:

Be not so quick to judge. It is not our place to judge. The board has grown in the area of not generalizing. We need to be able to listen to each other and validate our discernment. Asking each other and being honest.

Prayers of Discerning: 20/20 vision.

Long range vision. Patient endurance, keep my word, keep my works. Building Kingdom Capacity-Where do we as leaders fit into these categories? We need to be sure to keep the big picture in front of us. We all will continue to pray about the vision.

Governing

Review of the global ends mission policy from the CHCC policy.

Communication

1. Bridge Update-A new guy, Mark, helped lead worship today. Most of the worship team members are younger now. New leaders are coming forward. Keep them in our prayers as the old leaders are phasing out.
2. Nominations Team-formed.
3. Budget Team-Send out the timeline to the consistory.
4. Investigation concerning the Caring hands Fund. Outside audit completed. We will file charges along with other churches that were involved.

Prayer

Please keep the consistory in your prayers as we strive to serve the congregation and seek God's will.

~Pastor Kent



WHAT'S IT LIKE?

What must it be like to live without indoor plumbing? No electricity? Screened windows? Locking doors? A bed in which to sleep? A floor? Any appliances? And what would it be like without TV, X-Box 360, Wii, scooters, skateboards, or bicycles? It is hard to imagine, right? Well, poverty is an everyday experience for far too many people. How can you help? Watch for details about a celebrity dinner at CHCC for church family and friends. At this event, Debbie will share specific details about her recent visit to Honduras to visit our sponsor child, Marlon Daniel Soza Perez. She is busily working on her presentation to share many of her photographs taken during the week she was visiting San Pedro Sula and the Copán area in Honduras!

This presentation will be very beneficial for current Compassion sponsors, and for those who are interested in learning more about Compassion's programs as Debbie has learned first-hand from the Honduran country office staff how the students are being favorably impacted by the sponsors who provide support and encouragement. We look forward to sharing about Debbie's life-changing experience with all of you. God bless you for your compassionate hearts.

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

FOLLOWING JESUS

"Following Jesus" is the theme of our 90-day study of the Gospel of Luke. During the summer, we are encouraged to read a portion of Luke, the meditation, and pray about the reading. Perhaps, we even discuss with other members. I know that I feel a sense of connection when I read a passage each day. By the time you read this column, you will have read Luke 6:48. I like this passage for this reason: It is a helpful lesson that we can refer to when the stresses of life seem overwhelming.

Yes . . . we do live in a time of stress. I saw a story about a mother of four in Illinois, who said, "I am so tired, my idea of vacation is a trip to the dentist. I just can't wait to sit in that chair and relax." (LynNell Hancock).

One author, Richard Swenson, has this description of our time: "We have more questions than answers, more problems than solutions. Few know where we are headed, but universally acknowledge that we are careening along at breakneck speed." (Richard Swenson, *Margin*).

Jesus provides us with some guidelines for handling stress in the 6th chapter of Luke.

Step one: "Come to me." Jesus offers to us the power of God in times of stress. When stressful circumstances challenge us . . . turn to Jesus.

Step two: "Hear His words." The words of Jesus can bring comfort and peace. Make a list of some of Jesus' words that you can turn to in times of stress.

Step three: "Put in practice." Memorize words of Jesus so that when you are in times of stress, you can recall "those wonderful words of Jesus."

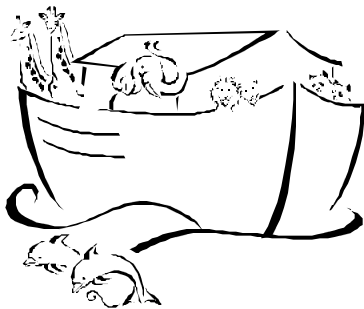
Remember we all have stressful times, but we have a source of help. And, that source is Jesus Christ.

God loves you,
~Pastor Doc

"He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built."

~Luke 6:48

Noah's Ark Preschool News



Summer school is off to a great start. We meet three mornings a week for three weeks in June and then again in July. Our summer school is made up of children returning to preschool in the fall as well as children moving on to Kindergarten. This can be challenging, but it is also a lot of FUN!

Registration is still underway for our 2011-2012 school year. We have spots available in our morning 3-year old program. If you know of someone who is interested, please have them call us at 396-3125 or contact us by email at: noahsark@chccrca.org.

Enjoy your summer!

In Christ,
Leslie Clauson, Director



Children's Ministries

Dads, I know June was Father's Day, but I wanted to share with you an article I ran across the other day. I think the advice is wonderful!!

Daughters, Dads, and Listening

by Lee Wise

Listen when life treats her well. Share the joys, freakish highs, and every level of joyful emotion in between.

Listen to the story of her life in grade three because you want her to tell you a whole lot more when she's twenty-three and forty-three.

Listen when she feels unlovely. Take just enough time to let her know in no uncertain terms how lovely she is to you.

Listen when she questions your standards, beliefs, judgment, and even your love. Listen and pray — like a drowning man in turbulent waters — because of your need to carefully respond instead of carelessly react.

Listen.

Care.

Love.

And listen some more.

Listen till you hear . . .

"Thanks, dad. Thanks for listening. I always knew I could come to you."

You will not regret it. I promise you. You will not regret paying the price to hear those words.

July Calendar

10 ~ Crew Leader Training, 9:45am

17 ~ Crew Leader Training, 9:45am

20 ~ Crew Leader Training, 9:45am



~Kris
Director of Children's Ministries

ASSISTANTS FOR JULY

Information Specialists:

July 3	8:30	Leanne Moen
	11:00	Dianne Martens
July 10	8:30	Jack & Kate Ulmer
	11:00	Alan & Cydney Lovell
July 17	8:30	Carol Ruedy
	11:00	Lonnie & Nancy Blackwell
July 24	8:30	Jim & Jean Vandivier
	11:00	David & Susan Wise
July 31	8:30	George & Marlene Milligan
	11:00	Tracy & Annette Sankot

Nursery:

July 3	8:20	Deveri Johnson/Emily Ellis
	10:15	Mottinger Family/Jessica Wise
July 10	8:20	Paulsen Family
	10:15	Baber Family
July 17	8:20	Maire Family
	10:15	Opperman Family/Carly Clauson
July 24	8:20	Loughners/Jessi Schoettmer
	10:15	Mullan Family
July 31	8:20	Henderson Family
	10:15	Brown Family/Carly Clauson

Coffee Shop: Sign up for a shift: office@chccrca.org or stop by on Sunday! Bring treats or help serve. 1st shift-7:30am, 2nd-9:45am.

July 3	8:30	Jon & Jenn Wagaman
	11:00	Mary Landhuis
July 10	8:30	Jodee & Brian Sanny
	11:00	*OPEN
July 17	8:30	*OPEN
	11:00	Sam & Amanda Kramer
July 24	8:30	Jon & Jenn Wagaman
	11:00	Kim Peterson/Mary Landhuis and Deb DeHaan
July 31	8:30	Jon Wagaman
	11:00	Amy Wallace/Jenn Wagaman

Greeters:

Check your mailbox for Greeter's Schedule.

*Please arrange a substitute if unable to greet.

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.

Children's Worship:

July 3	8:30	Gaffney Family
	11:00	Mead Family/ Kelsey Clauson
July 10	8:30	Oppermans/Jessi Schoettmer
	11:00	TeBockhorsts/Libby Gleason
July 17	8:30	Henderson Family
	11:00	Lauren/Kellen Brown
July 24	8:30	Shaw Family
	11:00	Gleason Family
July 31	8:30	Maire Family
	11:00	Opperman Family

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL DATA (through April)

Total Contributions	\$251,327
Total Expenses	\$256,409
Net Loss	(\$ 5,082)

June Contributions (through June 19)	\$ 42,270
July Budget Goal	\$ 83,750

"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 JULY?

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays

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

Mondays

9:30am	Attendance Team	138
5:00pm	Open Hands Food Pantry	112,116
6:30pm	Celebrate 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	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

Sat Jul 9

8:30am	Retiree Breakfast	Ronneburgs-Amana
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Fri Jul 15	Weston/Bredfield Rehearsal	MPR/GS
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Sat Jul 16	Weston/Bredfield Wedding	MPR/GS
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8:00am	Men's Breakfast	GS
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Sat Jul 23	Adoption Party	GS/Kitchen
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Sun Jul 24	All-Church Picnic	Church Lawn/GS
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Fri Jul 29	Thuerauf Rehearsal	MPR/GS
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Sat Jul 30	Thuerauf Wedding	MPR/GS
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Sun Jul 31	Vacation Bible School	MPR/GS
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JULY TEAMS & OTHER EVENTS

Sun Jul 3

6:00pm	Church Multiplication	138
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Mon Jul 4

Office and Food Pantry Closed

Tue Jul 5

10:00am	Ministry Staff	138
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6:30pm	SUMMIT Leadership	116
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Wed Jul 6

5:30pm	Deacons Meeting	138
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Sat Jul 9

10:00am	Loving Stitches	137
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Sun Jul 10

4:00pm	Consistory	137
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Mon Jul 11

6:00pm	LINK Leadership	
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7:00pm	Food Pantry Leaders	112
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Tue Jul 12

11:15am	Staff Tactical	135
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Thu Jul 14

6:00pm	Doc's Bible Study	138
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Sun Jul 17

6:00pm	Church Multiplication	117
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Tue Jul 19

11:45am	Staff Meeting	138
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Wed Jul 20

6:30pm	VBS Leader Meeting	116
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6:30pm	Crew Leader Meeting	114
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Sun Jul 24

3:30pm	Elders Meeting	138
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Mon Jul 25

6:00pm	Sunday School Team	114
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Tues Jul 26

6:00pm	Adult Discipleship	138
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6:30pm	Exec Team Meeting	111
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Wed Jul 27

6:00pm	Welcome Team	138
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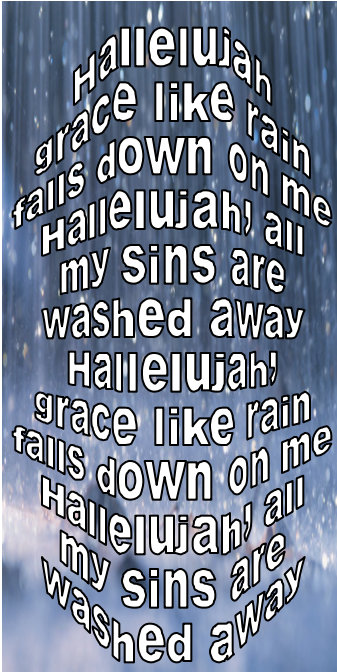
Thu Jul 28

9:15am	MOPS Steering Team	Nursery/GS
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6:00pm	Ministry Management	116
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Worship Ministries

Discipleship Ministries



what if rain were a
valuable commodity

if you had it, life
would be good

would you keep
it for yourself

would you run in it freely

would you
expect it to
rain more

would the
thought of too
much rain **scare you**

how would you deal with rain

would you
try to stay dry

what if the rain was **grace**

and it were a
valuable commodity

if you had it, life would be good

do you keep it for yourself
do you run in it freely
do you expect more

does the thought of too much grace **scare you**

do you
try to keep
it off you

do you deny it from others

July 10.17.24.31

~ Leah
Director of Worship

SUMMERTIME

Ah, summer. Isn't it awesome? I love being able to drive with my windows down, wear shorts and of course sandals, flowers blooming and summer youth ministry.

There is a full program in place for the summer and I am as excited as ever for what will take place. My PEAK Team (SUMMIT student leadership team) has stepped up this summer with helping brainstorm and plan events. They are leading the way to making it the best summer SUMMIT yet.

A team of four SUMMIT students and two college students are helping to lead LINK again this summer. I had students help lead and run LINK last summer and it was awesome. Students served the LINK students and got a chance to continue to grow in their leadership.

New this summer is The Great Escape - Escape to SUMMIT. A team of adults of incoming freshman have put together three events just for the incoming freshman. The goal is to have an opportunity for they connect over the summer, hear about what SUMMIT is and help them transition into SUMMIT. We had over 30 8th graders at LINK this past year. So, we are excited to spend time with this group during the summer.

Here's a look at what's planned this summer:

LINK

June 29th - Lost Island in Waterloo: 10:00 - 6:15

July 13th - Beach Time at Palo: 2:30 - 6:30

July 20th - Water Wars: 6:30 - 8:00

SUMMIT

June 26th - Lost Island in Waterloo: 10:00 - 6:15

Cost \$24

July 10th - Community Service and Pool Party

July 17th - Water World VI - 6:00 - 8:30

It is going to be a great summer of ministry and time with students. If you have a son or daughter in LINK or SUMMIT, I hope you encourage them to come to these planned events.

Blessings,
Pastor Todd
Pastor of Discipleship

The Bulletin Board



VOLUNTEER FOR ALL-STARS FOR JESUS!

Attention! If you are high-school age or older, you can volunteer to help with All-Stars for Jesus! Make a difference in the lives of elementary students.

All-Stars For Jesus meets on Wednesday nights during the school year, in two 12-week sessions. Our goal is to reach children in our community, those who know Jesus and especially those who don't.

Please contact: Kris Crowther, Director of Children's Ministry
at 396-6608
or kris@chccrca.org



CHCC COED SOFTBALL

COME AND SUPPORT THE TEAM!

Tuesdays @ Cleveland Park:

July 5 @ 7:00pm
July 12 @ 6:00pm
July 19 @ 7:00pm
July 26 @ 6:00pm



CHCC LIBRARY

Have you checked out a book from the church library? Please remember to return your books so they are available for others. Return books to the check-out area by the fireplace. Thank you for your help.



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!

The Bulletin Board

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC CONNECT & ACQUAINT

Sunday, July 24

noon

in the Gathering Space and church lawn
at
Cedar Hills Community Church

Enjoy great food,
Outdoor games for all ages
Time to relax and visit with others!

Would you like to connect with more people or invite a friend who does not attend any church?

If you answered YES to either option, plan to attend and invite a friend!

PRAYER SESSION

Monthly Prayer Sessions will not meet in July or August but will resume:

Sunday, Sept 11, 3PM

Email prayer requests to:
prayer@chccrca.org



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 31 - Aug 4, 5:45-8pm

All Children everywhere can sign up for VBS at:
www.chccrca.org

Children, ages Preschool (4/5 year-olds, who have completed one year of preschool) through 5th grade are welcome!



RETIREES BREAKFAST

Sat, July 9, 8:30AM
Ronneburg Restaurant
4408 220 Trl
Amana, IA 52203

RSVP to Ann Baughman at 390-0020
or Phyllis Baker at 396-3917

VBS CREW TEAM LEADERS

Must attend one training session. Choose from the following:

July 10 @ 9:45AM
July 17 @ 9:45AM
July 20 @ 6:30PM

