

The Cedar Chips

ONLINE

publication of Cedar Hills Community Church



September 2011

What Matters Most

Reflections with Kent on what we believe and why we believe it.

What matters most? This seems like a simple question but set a handful of politicians to discussing it and it will get complicated quick. What if we turned professors or philosophers or English students to consider what matters most? We certainly would get a flood of words and thoughts that do not agree. But what if we asked followers of Christ – or even members of our own congregation – what matters most? Certainly God-loving disciples of Jesus would agree about what is most important. Not going to happen.

One of my mentors always said if we want a church of perfect agreement well then we need to have a church of one. And even then there is no guarantee. According to the Bible, we are one in Jesus and yet it can be a challenge to recognize the unity we have in Jesus. We know we are one body with one Lord and one hope. We have one God and one faith. We are one but this oneness seems elusive when we get into the nitty gritty.

We have so much to disagree about it can get complicated. But can we disagree and not be disagreeable? Can we disagree and still like each other? Love each other? One of my mentors also says that if we both agree about everything then one of us is not necessary. Sometimes our differences add spice and variety and we love that but sometimes our differences of opinion bump up against important values and convictions. Sometimes they even rub against what we think matters most. Is that okay?

It should be no surprise that the Bible helps us with this question. Two verses in particular come to mind. Colossians 3:14 says, *“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”* And 1 Peter 4:8 gives the same powerful message, *“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”* I take the “above all” to point to what matters most – the love we share in Jesus.



“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Col. 3:14

On most days I am convinced that above all we have so much to agree about that our disagreements hardly matter. We are one in Jesus, loved by God, called to reach out with the Gospel. As we grow more in love with God, we grow more deeply rooted in Jesus and we serve others more love binds us all together as one. I believe this is where we are growing as a congregation and it is a very beautiful thing.

I see growth in what matters most – love. I see growth in our unity at the same time we are growing in diversity. I see growth in our appreciation for the love lavished on us by a good and generous God who touches our lives and transforms our community. I see growth in our desire and capacity for reaching out to others with this same love. I see growth, above all, in our ability to be bound together in perfect harmony in love.

On 9/11 we will begin a new series of messages called Faith Apps. I am praying that God will use these messages to anchor our faith to the love that matters most, unify our congregation around the truth that matters most, and reach the world with the hope that matters most. I ask you to join me in prayer for what matters most and join me in worship that makes all the difference.

See you on Sunday.

~Pastor Kent

This Month's Vision

Nudge

We want to see the lost saved and we believe that God saves those who come to faith in Jesus. We also believe that God uses each of us to reach those He wants to save one nudge at a time.

September 4 – *Nudge Tools*

Faith Apps

What do the ancient prophets and modern technology have in common? They both offer powerful tools to grow our faith. We will dig deeply into word pictures that help us grow a more passionate love and a more vibrant faith. Faith Apps is sure to give us tools to grow deeper.

September 11 – *Love me App*

We long to love and be loved.

September 18 – *Grow me App*

We long to grow in our faith.

September 25 – *Send me App*

We long to impact others.

September 4 – *Nudge Tools*

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

Worship Together

One of the best ways to grow a deeper and more vibrant faith is to worship together with others on a regular basis. Our worship is designed to help each of us encounter the love of God while being touched by transformational truths about God. As we discover who God is, how God works, and what God wants to do, our faith grows deep. If growing is a priority, then you will want to make worship a priority – the two go hand in hand.

Worship @ The Bridge

Our daughter congregation the Bridge worships Sunday @ 10 AM at the Hotel @ Kirkwood Center, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW. The Bridge was started to reach people with God's love. This fall is an exciting season for us to reach out. Please pray for the following:

- That we reach new Kirkwood students.
- That our 9/11 kickoff which features a dramatic presentation of the Gospel called Witnesses – will reach people.
- That our 1 year anniversary service on 10/9 will reach people.
- That all our teams and leaders and activities will reach people.

Consistory News and Notes

Jonna opened our August meeting with a song of praise - focusing on the invitation to God and scattering the uninvited. The second song meditated on clean/pure hearts. We used a unified prayer to seek how God wants to grow us as individuals and the congregation followed by a silent moment. Each of us offered 1 personal & 1 church-wide prayer on a slip of paper for our prayer warriors to pray over during our meeting.

Dana led a think tank on "What is working well" and "What is not working so well" at CHCC. "What do we think God is saying to us?" She shared learnings from the Global Leadership Summit focusing on how action trumps everything. Are we prepared to take the actions God leads us to take? Watched "Engage" video from willowcreek.com

Kent shared a structure proposal and led a discussion based on the extensive review conducted in the spring. We are moving to a staff management model for our team-based ministry. Discussed the need for volunteers as well as staffing needs and opportunities.

Motion made to proceed with seeking a staff hire to focus on middle school, high school and young adults. Motion passed. Motion made to form a search team to fill this position. Motion passed.

Thanks for your continued prayers for CHCC, the consistory and staff as we begin a very exciting season of our ministry. God is doing amazing things and we anticipate that God will be touching CHCC with even greater blessings and opportunities.

~Pastor Kent

Compassion Update



CAN YOU IMAGINE YOUR CHILD . . .

Serving as your primary caretaker? In the role as head of your household? Finding they are at risk of abuse or exploitation? We pray that we only have to *imagine* how horrible that situation is for anyone. All we want to do is protect the child.

For children in Third World countries, these situations are far too common. *Fortunately*, Compassion provides that lifeline for these children enrolled in their programs, as well as providing help to their caregivers in need by assisting with:

- Legal Aid: Girls are raped, teenagers are falsely accused of murder, parents can't afford lawyers. Compassion is there.
- Foster Care: A child is orphaned and Compassion works with the local church to intervene.
- Cottages: Compassion's development center-sponsored facility (including house parents) provides a homelike setting for children without care.

Compassion, working with their local church partners identifies children in high-risk circumstances, including the child's physical and mental health, nutrition, shelter, clothing, and counseling.

Let's talk about how you can help protect God's children from the unimaginable. 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

Caring Corner

A HELPFUL VISIT

Recently I read a book by Katie Maxwell entitled "Bedside Manners: A Practical Guide to Visiting the Ill." This book, offered through the Stephen Ministry, provides the reader with helpful hints for visiting the ill and terminally ill in hospitals, shut-ins, and nursing homes. There is even a chapter on assisting adults when they visit children.

One section focused on praying with those in the hospital. The author suggested, "Ask if the patient has any specifics he/she wants you to pray about." That sentence jolted me to a realization. Many times when I pray, I am asking God to intervene in the life of the patient without knowing what is really on the patient's mind. In addition, I am thanking God for what I think He has done without knowing if this is what the patient thinks has been done or what is ahead.

As I reflected on this sentence, I remembered the conversation, recorded by Mark, in which Jesus asked a blind man, "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51) Bartimaeus responded, "Rabbi, I want to see."

Jesus asked the man what he needed. And, the man told him.

The take-away for me from Jesus' question and Katie Maxwell's comment, is in the future I will ask the patient what he/she would want me to lift up to God. The patient's agenda will become my agenda, rather than vice versa.

I expect there will be times when the patient will be reluctant to say what is really on their mind. Perhaps they will say "Whatever you want." Or perhaps, "Nothing special." Or "I leave that up to you."

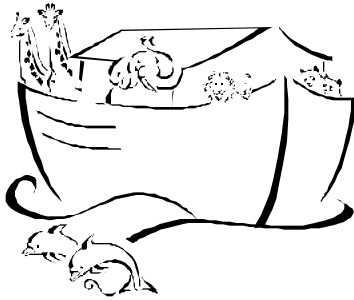
When I get that answer or when you get that answer, our response might be to ask, "Are you sure?"

I believe, in time, patients will be comfortable saying what is really on their minds.

"Bedside Manners: A Practical Guide to Visiting the Ill" is a book I recommend for your consideration. I learned a great deal from it. If you are interested in this book, let me know.

God loves you.
~Pastor Doc

Noah's Ark Preschool News



We have been very busy gearing up for the new school year. The classrooms are clean, toys sorted, crafts are prepped, and lesson plans are prepared. We had our orientation night on August 16th. Orientation allows the children an opportunity to meet their teachers, see their classroom, and meet their classmates. While the children are busy playing, I meet with the parents to go over our Parent Handbook and any other questions they may have. Our goal is to have a smooth transition for everyone when school begins.

GOD has blessed us with 89 students enrolled for fall. There are a few openings in our morning 3 year old class. If you know anyone interested, have them call us for more information. We are excited for classes to start September 6th. We have lots of new ideas that we are excited to see come together.

Laurie Church, Jan Fick, Marcia Bruggink, Lori Larson, Angie Happel and I will all be returning to teach this year. We are thrilled to have Kris Crowther & Bridgit Humphreys back as our substitute teachers. These ladies are a pleasure to work with everyday and make my job a lot easier. I feel blessed to work with fellow Christians that are passionate about teaching young children.

Please pray for all us as we begin this new school year, thank you!!

In Christ,
Leslie Clauson, Director

Children's Ministries



TELL YOUR FRIENDS, TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW.....*THE FALL SESSION IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES IS ABOUT TO START!!!*

Sunday School will begin on September 11 at 9:45. Children ages Pre-K 3 through 1st grade will start their experience in Room 113. Grades 2nd through 5th will start in Room 114.

All-Stars For Jesus is loaded with great plans for the students this year. ASFJ starts on September 14 at 6:30 until 8pm. Parents please bring your children into the building and register them for the year.

MOPS can't wait to get going this fall. The children's care staff is ready for another great time with the MOPS' children. MOPS is for any mom who is pregnant or has children through Kindergarten. We start on September 15 at 9:15 am through 11:15. MOPS meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month throughout the school year.

Special note to: Nursery and Children's Church Staff For your convenience, serving schedules and the monthly calendar are posted on the bulletin board by the mailboxes. Thank you to all of the loving people who serve in these areas. Both the Nursery and Children's Church run year round with two shifts. Thank one of these volunteers next time you see one.

~Kris
Director of Children's Ministries

"But Jesus called the children to him, saying, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'"

~Luke 18:16 (NIV)

ASSISTANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Information Specialists:

Sep 4	8:30	Leanne Moen
	11:00	Dianne Martens
Sep 11	8:30	Jack & Kate Ulmer
	11:00	Alan & Cydney Lovell
Sep 18	8:30	Carol Ruedy
	11:00	David & Susan Wise
Sep 25	8:30	George & Marlene Milligan
	11:00	Tracy & Annette Sankot

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 shift-10am.

Children's Church:

Sep 4	8:30	Maire Family
	11:00	Gleason Family/ Libby Gleason
Sep 11	8:30	Gaffney Family
	11:00	Strecker Family/ Kelsey Clauson
Sep 18	8:30	Oppermans/ Jessi Schoettmer
	11:00	Mead Family/ Alexi Grave
Sep 25	8:30	Shaw Family
	11:00	Christiansens/ Tehya Johnson

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.

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL DATA (through July)

Total Contributions	\$439,240
Total Expenses	\$446,710
Net Loss	(\$ 7,470)

August Contributions (through August 21)	\$ 46,272
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September Budget Goal	\$ 67,000
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*"For God so loved the world
that He gave His only son
that whoever believes in him
will not perish
but have eternal life.
~John 3:16*



ART OF MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

Weekend of October 8

*For couples who want
a better marriage:
Get to the heart of God's design for
your marriage!*

Contact: Jennifer Curtis: 361-5406
mamanjen@yahoo.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER?

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
6:40pm	Sanctuary Choir	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

Fri Sep 9

4:30pm	Wedding Rehearsal	MPR
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Sat Sep 10

8:30am	Retiree Breakfast	Butterfly Café
3:30pm	Wedding - Deerberg	MPR

Sun Sep 11

3:00pm	Prayer Session	138
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Thu Sep 15 Cedar Chips Due

office

Sat Sep 17

8:30am	Men's Breakfast	GS
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Sun Sep 25

12:15pm	New Member Workshop	GS
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Mon Sep 26

6:00pm	Stoney Meadows Meeting	GS
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Thu Sep 29

5:00pm	CHiCC Café	GS
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SEPTEMBER TEAMS & OTHER EVENTS

Thu Sep 1

6:00pm	Advent by Candlelight -Planning	138
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Sun Sep 4

4:00pm	Financial Peace Class	113/114
6:00pm	Church Multiplication Team	138

Tue Sep 6

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

Wed Sep 7

5:30pm	Deacons Meeting	138
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Sat Sep 10

10:00am	Loving Stitches	137
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Sun Sep 11

4:00pm	Financial Peace Class	113/114
4:00pm	Consistory	137

Mon Sep 12

6:00pm	LINK Leadership	
7:00pm	Food Pantry Leadership	112

Tue Sep 13

11:15pm	Staff Tactical	135
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Thu Sep 15

6:30pm	Boy Scout Parent Meeting	138
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Sun Sep 18

4:00pm	Financial Peace Class	134/135
6:00pm	Church Multiplication	138

Tue Sep 20

11:45am	All-Staff	138
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Thu Sep 22

9:15am	MOPS Steering Team	Nursery/GS
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Sun Sep 25

3:30am	Elders	137
4:00pm	Financial Peace Class	113/114

Mon Sep 26

5:00pm	Noah's Ark Board	138
5:30pm	PMB Sewing Guild	137
6:00pm	Sunday School Team	114

Tue Sep 27

11:15am	Staff Tactical	135
6:00pm	Adult Discipleship Team	138
6:30pm	Executive Team	111

Worship Ministries

We've talking a lot about nudging this past month. I hope you've found helpful the many evangelism tools presented. Just having a domino on my dresser every morning has reminded me of the four people for whom I'm praying. We've heard stories of the many 'nudges' you've been able to give. May God be blessed and His Kingdom expanded as we continue to 'nudge' even beyond the completion of the NUDGE series.

Lately I've been reading a profound, awesome, inspiring, and wonderful book called, "Prison to Praise." It has changed my spiritual life. It's a simple read, and a fast read. It's about the life story of a criminal turned army chaplain and the great power he found in praising God.

Imagine this: You are in a tough scenario. You plead with God to get you out. He doesn't seem to answer. Nothing's changing. You wonder if God has heard you, so you plead some more. Still nothing. You plead for months and nothing seems to go in your favor. And then someone tells you to actually **thank** God for the circumstance. Not to thank God *in spite* of the circumstance, but to actually thank Him **for** it. You try it, and finally God breaks through. All the while, God was waiting for you to acknowledge His hand in letting you experience what you did, because He knows better than you the condition of your heart and what it will take to establish the character of Christ within you.

The Bible tells us to give thanks in all circumstances, not in spite of them. By doing so, we are agreeing with His Word that He works all things out for the good of those who love Him and keep His commandments. This includes the bad stuff. He is using it to work out His good in you. But can you agree with Him by praising Him for it? It seems odd, or even contrary to what we've been taught. But I promise you, this will change your view of God's work in your life.

We often sing songs about praising God, but up until this point, my mind has revolved around praising God for all the positive things, or trying to find the positive in any situation. But now I praise him for the hurt, the pain, the situations I don't understand, because I rest in His Word that "...in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been **called according to his purpose.**" - Romans 8:28. Try it. You won't be disappointed!

~ Leah
Director of Worship

Youth Ministries

LINK – Fall Kick-Off

Students and parents are invited to a LINK Kick-off on September 14 at 6:30. Students, bring your parents with you so they can enjoy a night of fun, letting the junior high kid in them loose. Students and parents will participate together in kick-off activities to start up LINK. Don't miss it!

LINK Schedule

9/14 - Kick-off
9/21 - Get to know you
9/28 - Regular
LINK meets every
Wednesday, 6:30 – 8pm in
the Gathering Space.



SUMMIT Kick-Off

For high school students the action starts on 9/18 with a Scavenger Hunt and Bonfire. Bring a friend and help start an amazing year of growth, fun and friendship. On 9/18 meet at 6pm in the Youth Room!

SUMMIT Schedule

9/18 – Kick-off
9/25 – Movie Night
10/2 – Soul Surfer
10/9 – Soul Surfer
10/16 – Soul Surfer
10/23 – Bloomsbury Farm

SUMMIT meets every Sunday night from 6 – 8 PM in the Youth Room.



Youth Pastor

The consistory has approved moving forward with hiring a youth pastor who will focus on junior high, high school, and young adult ministry. We are drafting a job description and are forming a search team which will begin seeking qualified candidates soon. The time line for this hire will be as soon as possible. Until we fill this position our volunteer staff are prepared to lead this ministry. If you have questions or concerns about SUMMIT or LINK, please direct them to Pastor Kent.

Parent Booster Club

New this year is our youth ministry Booster Club. We are seeking parents who are willing to assist in any way possible as we implement our youth ministry plans. Transportation, food, set-up, promotion, planning - these are just a few of many ways parents are needed to support SUMMIT and LINK. Contact Pastor Kent if you would like to be part of the Booster Club.

~ Pastor Kent

Adult Discipleship Classes

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know him better." Ephesians 1:17

Do you desire for God to be active in your everyday life? Adult Discipleship wants to help you with Scriptural study and reflection necessary to partner with God. Classes start, Sunday, Sept 11 at 9:45 AM. Live out a life pleasing to God in a culture dominated by a secular worldview. Join us as we seek to know Him better!

Matthew - Welcome to a journey of discovery through the book of Matthew, a great link to all the prophecies in the Old Testament! How do the people react to God's timing and His Son? Jesus was rejected because he wasn't exactly what they wanted.

13 sessions ~ Joanne Lodge

Adult Faith Quest – Have you ever wondered what our 8th graders learn about in CHCC's Faith Quest class? Here is your opportunity to find out. Renew your own Faith Quest Journey! Topics include: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Questions of Faith, The Bible, Sacraments, Worship, Spiritual Gifts, and The Church.

13 sessions ~ Bruce Crowther

The Truth Project – Who is God? How does God fit into today's current events? If you have ever asked yourself questions like this, join us in the Truth Project DVD-based study. Look at the relevance and importance of living everyday life from a Biblical perspective. To allow time for the video and discussion, each class will start immediately after the first service and finish just prior to the start of the second service. www.thetruthproject.org

13 sessions ~ Cydney Lovell & Gary Mills

Multigenerational - Sticky Faith - Increase personal contact and relationships between high school students and adults to develop a faith that sticks! We are formed and reformed by the power of God's Word. Re:form your faith into a sticky faith.

6 sessions ~ Kent Landhuis

Revolutionary Parenting - **Starts October 30**

Do you want to raise children who will love God passionately when they're adults? You'll need a plan! Develop goals that are tailored to your unique family and create a lasting legacy of faith in your children.

6 sessions ~ Kris Crowther

Bridge Update

One essential component of the Bridge is continued prayer because we know that The Bridge is completely in God's hands. It is so wonderful to know God is in charge! So join us in bringing to God our praises and our requests.

Praises:

- The Bridge is almost 1 year old. We will celebrate this milestone on 10/9/11.
- We made it through the first summer.
- Our first Backyard Bible Club reached more than a dozen kids.
- We have excellent leadership serving the Bridge.
- We see new faces every week.
- We are getting closer to hiring our planting pastor.
- Great relationship with the Hotel.
- Our finances have been strong.
- Support and encouragement from CHCC.

Requests:

- Pray for a special Gospel presentation on our kick-off Sunday 9/11 called Witness. Pray that God would use this presentation to draw someone into the kingdom.
- Pray for new Kirkwood students to be reached.
- Pray for a new student small group to be formed.
- Pray for the kick-off of Our Children's ministry – Kid City. Ask for enough workers to reach the kids at the Bridge.
- Pray for the teaching team to be creative.
- Pray for a nursery team to be formed.
- Pray for success in calling our first pastor.
- Pray for the women's small group to continue to grow.
- Pray for several individuals with special needs.
- Pray for stamina and energy for the leadership team.
- Pray for our one year anniversary celebration on 10/9/11.

Your continued prayers make a difference.

~ Pastor Kent



The Bulletin Board



NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL MENTORING!

Current research shows that if students make a bond with several adults in their church, the chances of those students staying in the church for a lifetime doubles!

The last Sunday of the month, meet with 3-4 students who have been assigned to you for the last 15 minutes of Sunday School. During this time, take your students somewhere in the church to bond with them. Informal questions will be provided to help encourage dialog. This is your opportunity to make a meaningful connection in a fun and informal way!

Interested? Contact Kris Crowther: kris@chccrca.org or 396-6608.



LADIES - SAVE THE DATE ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

November 20 at 3:00PM and 6:30PM

Mark your calendar today. If you would like to help, we welcome your assistance!

Please contact:
Sally Donnan at 396-9842 or
Kris Crowther at 396-6608



PRAYER SESSION INVITE!

Sunday, Sept 11, 3PM

Bring your prayer concerns and praises.



RETIREES BREAKFAST

Sat, Sept 10, 8:30AM
Butterfly Café
2727 6th St SW

RSVP to Betty Long at 396-9043



SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH

The Open Hands Food Pantry is in need of non-perishable items such as: canned potatoes, rice, noodles, canned vegetables, packaged dinners and peanut butter. In June, Open Hands Food Pantry helped 368 families (1,322 people and 781 were children). Bring items to church, drop them off under the Missions bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Donate money by designating your check to the Open Hands Food Pantry. Or volunteer to help in the pantry: call Melissa Coeur 265-1431 or Karen Bronkhorst 365-5410.

Run for Hunger - Kaci Maire is running a race to support an RCA mission to help feed hungry families in India, Nicaragua, and Malawi. Visit RCA.org/Kaci to find out how to support this cause.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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!