

CLEVELAND CHURCH OF CHRIST

Vol. 26

May 2008

No. 5



FILL MY CUP LORD

By David Kester, Minister

As the applause gradually faded away, I wondered if anyone realized what had really happened. If asked, I am sure that most people would have said they had heard a great organ solo and they were applauding the virtuosity of the organist. However, I knew some things about the organist and the song he played that most people did not know. The organist was playing his own arrangement of the song. He had played that song until he had it memorized. It was his favorite song but it was more than a song. It was a prayer, a plea, and that night, it was a public testimony of his longing for God. The words to the song he played were "Fill my cup Lord. I lift it up Lord. Come and quench this thirsting of my soul. Bread of heaven feed me 'til I want no more. Fill my cup. Fill it up and make me whole." That song was a prayer that came from the depths of his soul.

Few in the audience knew the organist's heartache and weariness, his failures, brokenness and wrestling with God. It was there in the music if you listened closely enough, from the hushed beginning, to the times the organ roared like thunder, until the last quiet refrain drifted away. "Fill my cup Lord. Fill my cup Lord. Fill it up and make me whole." When he finished playing, the crowd applauded. It was understandable, but I have never applauded a prayer. Instead, I sat there with my eyes filled with tears, knowing that long after the rest of the service had faded from my memory I would still remember the prayer of my friend.

"Fill my cup Lord. Quench this thirsting of my soul. Feed me, 'til I want no more. Fill me up and make me whole." That song was an earnest plea, a prayer and an affirmation of faith. His faith had not failed even though sorely tested. His faith sustained a broken heart when nothing else could. His faith affirmed confidence in God's ability to fill a thirsting soul. The song was a plea and an affirmation that no matter what the circumstances God can fill a thirsting soul.

God has invited the thirsty to come to Him and drink. He promised to quench the thirsty soul. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." (Matthew 5:6) He told the woman at the well, "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14) He said, "He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35) Revelation ends with this invitation, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." (Revelation 22:17)

If your life is dry and you are thirsty, remember there is one who can quench your thirst. God invites all who are thirsty to come and drink. He promises to satisfy the thirsty, to fill their cup and make them whole. He will do that for you, if you come to Him.

You are invited to **DOWN BY THE CREEK BANK**, a musical presentation by the young people of our congregation, which will be presented Sunday, April 27 at 9:00AM.

CHRISTIAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP, a campus ministry at the University of Minnesota and one of the missions we support each month, will have its third annual retreat at our church April 25-27. We will have a potluck dinner in their honor after the worship service on April 27. Bring some food to share and spend time with the students at Christian Student Fellowship.

FRIENDS OF ANNA invite those who helped in the fundraising efforts to a picnic (hot dogs/chips/beverage/ice cream bars) Sunday, April 27, at 5:00PM at the softball concession stand shelter. The Dickie family will be presented with the proceeds of the fundraisers at this event. Donations to cover the food costs are requested.

MAY 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Thurs, May 1 — National Day of Prayer
- Sat, May 3 — Work Day at the church – 9:00AM
- Sun, May 4 — Communion Meditation presenters training – after the worship service
- Sun, May 4 — 7th-12th Grade Youth at church – 6:00PM
- Th-Sat, May 8-10 — Pine Haven Work Weekend
- Sun, May 11 — Mother's Day observed (USA)
- Sun, May 11 — Building Offering
- Sun, May 11 — Movie Night at church at 6:30PM – showing *The End of the Spear*
- Tues, May 13 — Dorcas Fellowship at church – 1:30pm
- Tues, May 13 — Church Board Meeting – 7:30pm; Wayne F will host
- Wed, May 14 — Wednesday Program – 5:45pm Meal and 6:30pm Adult Bible Study
- Thurs, May 15 — Ladies Nite Out at Old Country Buffet in Mankato – 6:00PM
- Sun, May 18 — Special Offering will be received for camp scholarships
- Mon, May 19 — Elder's meeting at church – 7:30PM
- Mon, May 26 — Memorial Day observed (USA)
- Wed, May 28 — Cleveland High School Baccalaureate at school – 7:00PM
- Friday, May 30 — Cleveland High School Commencement at school – 7:00PM

COMING LATER THIS YEAR

- Sun, June 8 — Worship Leaders training – after the worship service
- June 15-19 — Vacation Bible School at church in the evenings
- October 11-19 — New Orleans Mission Trip

NEW ORLEANS TRIP UPDATE Those going to New Orleans in October are reminded that the second payment installment (\$100) is due by May 1. Make your check to the Church of Christ and mark New Orleans on the memo line.

EARLY BIRD YOUTH REGISTRATION for Pine Haven is **MAY 1**. Register by May 1 and save \$10 on youth camp sessions.

WORK DAY AT THE CHURCH An outdoor workday has been planned for Saturday, May 3 beginning at 9:00AM. Bring rakes and gloves as we prepare the yard for summer.

PINE HAVEN CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY announces its annual **WORK WEEKEND** Thursday, May 8 through Saturday, May 10. There are jobs for all ages. You are welcome to come for some or all of the weekend. Bring some hand tools, if you wish, and a warm sleeping bag. Meals will be provided.

BUILDING OFFERING will be received on Sunday, May 11. In March, \$3,859.57 was given to the building fund. As of April 1, \$350,604.90 remained to be paid on the building loan.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP OFFERING To encourage young people to attend camp at Pine Haven Christian Assembly, the church provides partial scholarships to those attending camp each summer. This year we plan to provide \$70 scholarship to those who attend 5-12th grade camps. We will also provide \$30 scholarships to those who attend 4th grade camp. We currently have \$250 in our scholarship fund and will need to raise an additional \$1600 for scholarships and transportation this

year. If camp has made an impact on your life, we encourage you to contribute to our camp scholarship offering on Sunday, May 18.

VBS 2008: VEGGIE TALES RETURNS Who can forget the lovable Bob the Tomato and slightly off-key Larry the Cucumber? This summer's Vacation Bible School will feature a whole new gang of fun-loving, but rather lazy veggie characters in "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything." We will learn right along with the pirates how God can make heroes out of all of us.

The VBS dates are scheduled for Sunday, June 15 –Thursday, June 19. We will run in the evenings from 6:00 – 8:30 on Sunday and 6:30 - 8:30 all the other nights. Registration via our website or find forms at the church.

Volunteers are still needed. If you are unavailable during VBS, we could use your help before with decorating. If you are available during all, or even part of that week, we have opportunities to help with music, teaching, crafts and in the kitchen. Talk to Connie P if you are willing to help.

THE 30-HOUR FAMINE BY THE NUMBERS

- 2** ice packs for bruised heads while playing sardines.
- 4** volunteer drivers and vans to take the kids to Mankato.
- 23** participants, the most ever! — 21 kids (15 girls + 6 boys) and 2 adults
- 30** hours spent without food!
- 472** dollars donated to ***Kids Against Hunger*** to help purchase food that is shipped around the world.
- 1086** dollars raised for World Vision's work in alleviating hunger around the world. This is the most money we have raised through the 30-Hour Famine.
- 7344** meals packed for ***Kids Against Hunger***, which is enough to feed seven people three meals a day for a year.

MISSION UPDATE FROM GRACE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN INDIA We began supporting Grace Christian Ministry in February of this year. We recently received a report describing some of the work taking place there.

Babu Samuel says, "Our Mission work is going on well. Schools are closed for summer vacation. We had a convention at our new Mission station called Charuvely, a predominantly a Hindu region. Last week, we started a church in a small rented room.... Praise God, there were 11 people on the first Sunday. We also started two more mission stations. We had a seven days fasting and prayer at our Pathanapuram church and all our church members attended. We prayed for a fresh reformation of India so that many may come to Christ. We also prayed for America, and each of our prayer and financial supporters by name. It was blessing.

Thanks for the support from your church. Kindly convey our love and thanks to everyone. Mercy and I extend all our thanks for your strong work to help us. We are blessed by your effort. We promise you that we in turn will be faithful to the Lord's work and with funds, we receive. We pray for you.

GRADUATES Please inform the church office of any graduating high school or college senior. We would like to be able to recognize their accomplishments.

ORPHANED DISHES If you are missing dishes, check the kitchen pantry area for your orphaned dishes.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- 6 individuals from our congregation attended the MN Christian Convention on April 4-5.
- Dozens of individuals and families benefited from the clothing distribution held at our church on Saturday, April 19. Thanks to everyone who contributed clothes!
- Rebecca Phillips, a graduating senior at the University of MN – Morris will be part of a Senior Art Show April 24-May 17 at the Humanities and Fine Arts Gallery. Becky will be displaying paintings. Congratulations Becky!

SNACKS are needed for the Sunday 10:00AM Fellowship Time. Bring 8-10 dozen snack items. Coffee will be made. Volunteers are responsible for setting up, serving and cleaning up on your service day.

CASSETTE TAPES of the worship service are available upon request. **PRINTED COPIES** of each Sunday's sermon are also available. Contact David K if you are interested in a copy of the sermon. You may also receive a copy of the sermon each week via **EMAIL**. Send your request to office@clevelandchurch.net.

PRAYER is an important ministry of the church. We have many people who are willing to pray for you if a special need arise. To activate our prayer chain, call David K at the church office (507) 931-5924 (w), or the parsonage at (507) 931-4044 (h), or (507) 380-1985 (c), with your request. If you are unable to reach David, please call Carrie M at (507) 357-6296 (h) or (507) 357-6444 (w) or (507) 261-0279 (c).

BIRTHDAYS

May 1 – Bruce O; **4** – Shirley J, Katie S; **9** – Kim Miller; **11** – Carter K; **13** – Lana F; **14** – Amy P; **17** – Rick B; **19** – Joann H; **22** – Virginia G, Maren S; **23** – Harold P; **23** – Cameron S

ANNIVERSARIES

May 3 – Bill & Tanya A; **5** – Jeff & Vanessa J; **10** – Bill & Nancy C; **25** – Ken & Sandy S; **31** – Larry & Lana F

SERVING LIST

A PDF file of our April–July 2008 Serving List Chart may be downloaded from www.clevelandchurch.net. See "Resources," then click "PDF Downloads."

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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David Kester, Minister

Minister/Office Email: office@clevelandchurch.net

Newsletter Email: newsletter@clevelandchurch.net

Website: www.clevelandchurch.net

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00am – Bible Classes for all ages

10:00am – Fellowship Time

10:30am – Worship Service

Office Phone: (507) 931-5924

Parsonage Phone: (507) 931-4044

If you wish to no longer receive our email newsletters **or** to update your email address, please reply to this address: newsletter@clevelandchurch.net

If you wish to email our minister and/or the church office use: office@clevelandchurch.net

Thank you,
Church of Christ meeting at Cleveland, Minnesota