

CLEVELAND CHURCH OF CHRIST

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WHAT WE CANNOT DO, JESUS CAN DO

By David Kester, Minister

It is not easy for me to admit there are things I cannot do. I have always thought that if you worked hard enough, tried hard enough, and used your head that you ought to be able to figure out how to accomplish almost anything. That is my first reaction to most situations. Shortly after I moved to Cleveland, I had to have some work done on my car in St. Peter. I did not want to ask for a ride home, nor did I want to spend the night in St. Peter, so I put my bike in the backseat of the car and peddled home. It seemed better to peddle up out of the valley than admit that I needed help.

I once slide into the ditch in my Gremlin. I thought I could get out by myself. When I found out that I could not drive out, I thought I would push myself out. When that did not work, I thought if I could just get the wheels spinning, then maybe I could push the car out of the ditch. So, I put the car in gear, wedged my window scraper against the accelerator and gave a mighty shove. The wheels gained traction and the car shot across the road into the ditch on the other side! It was not quite what I envisioned, but I really do not like asking for help.

I have not completely grown up from the little boy stage that says, "I can do it myself." However, the truth is that there are some things that I cannot do myself, even when I try my hardest. I cannot water ski. I cannot golf. I cannot march in step and play the tuba at the same time. I cannot ride up the hill from St. Peter, at least, not anymore. I cannot skate backwards, not on ice skates or roller skates.

I can do many things. Although, as I get older, I find I cannot do some of the things I used to be able to do. I have learned there are some things I cannot do no matter how hard I try. Now it does not matter much that I cannot water ski, skate backwards, or march in step and play a horn. It does matter greatly that I am unable to save myself. My best efforts are not enough. Even when I try to do right, to often I fail. I am not able to live a perfect life, and the truth is that too often I do not even try.

The apostle Paul would have understood that. In Romans 7:19 he wrote, "For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing." It does not always matter how hard we try. We cannot do some things by ourselves. We are not strong enough to live a righteous life in our own strength. The apostle Paul realized that and said in anguish, "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24) If we are not strong enough, who will save us? The apostle Paul knew the answer to that question. He ended this rather gloomy section of scripture by declaring triumphantly, "The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does (save us.) (Romans 7:25, *The Message* translation) What we cannot do in our own strength, Christ does for us.

**"That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults,
in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.
For when I am weak, then I am strong."
2 Corinthians 12:10**



Emily P publicly professed her faith in Jesus on Saturday, June 21, and was baptized at Pine Haven Christian Assembly. We rejoice with Emily and her family and with the angels in heaven. Pray for Emily as she continues to walk with the Lord.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COMING IN JULY

- July 4 picnic at the parsonage (David K's home) at Noon. Read below.
- Dorcas fellowship Tuesday, July 8, at 1:30pm at the church.
- Board meeting, Tuesday, July 8, at 7:30pm. Ken S will host.
- Building Offering on Sunday, July 13.
- Ladies Night Out on Thursday, July 17, at 6:00pm at the China Buffet on Madison Avenue in Mankato.
- Registration deadline for August 16 MN TWINS GAME is Monday, July 21, 2008. Read below.
- Elder's meeting Monday, July 21, at 7:30pm.
- We will lead services at Le Center Central Health Care on Friday, July 25, at 11:00am.

COMING LATER THIS YEAR

- Valleyfair Day sponsored by Crossroads College on Monday, August 11, 2008. Read below.
- ~~MINNESOTA TWINS GAME — You are invited to a Twins game Saturday, August 16. Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. This trip is in conjunction with Cleveland Community Ed. Cost including budget, transportation, a regular hotdog and soft drink is \$34. Pick up a registration form in the church foyer.~~
- Friend Day for our congregation on Sunday, September 7, 2008. Read below.
- Viking/Packer Football Game on the big screen, outdoors at Mary and Mark H's home in Faribault on Monday, September 8.
- Crossroads College Day at church on Sunday, September 28, 2008
- New Orleans Trip, October 11-19. Read below

NEW ORLEANS TRIP UPDATE: October 11-19, 2008, ten individuals from our congregation will be working in New Orleans to help with the rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Katrina. You could join them. Five spaces have recently opened up for the New Orleans trip. Contact David Kester if you are interested in going. Cost for transportation, motel, breakfast and lunch while in New Orleans is \$410. You would also be responsible for meals on the trip, evening meals and any incidentals.

(From June 2008 Newsletter: Mike W, Judy L, Graydon D, Laura D, Deb G, Ciara G, Ben T, Pam A, Patty Z, and David K will join with 70 other individuals from around Minnesota to help rebuild homes in New Orleans.) Those going to New Orleans in October are reminded that the third payment of (\$100) is due by July 1. The final payment will be due September 1. Make your check to the Church of Christ and mark *New Orleans* on the memo line.



YOU ARE INVITED TO A FOURTH OF JULY PICNIC

Come to the parsonage (David K's home) at noon. Bring something to grill and a dish to share. Bring a lawn chair, if you have one. Beverages and table service will be provided.

BUILDING OFFERING will be taken on Sunday, July 13. In May, \$5,621.00 was given to the building fund. As of June 1, \$345,424.55 remained to be paid on the building loan. Thanks to all who have faithfully given to the building fund.

VALLEYFAIR DAY

All those in grades 7-12 are invited to Valleyfair on Monday, August 11. Cost for the day is \$25 plus food. Sign the list in the church foyer if you would like to attend. Adult chaperones and/or drivers may also be needed. Sign the list, if you can help in this way.



FRIEND DAY for our congregation has been scheduled for Sunday, September 7. Mark the day on your calendar and plan to attend. Friend Day has provided a great opportunity for us to invite our friends to worship with us. Several people who are now a part of our congregation first worshiped with us because someone invited them to Friend Day. Plan to invite some friends again this year. Wouldn't it be great if we had 500 people at Friend Day this year! All would take us for each of us to bring a few friends. Invitations will be available at the church in a few weeks. Begin to ask God whom He desires you to invite to Friend Day. You do not even have to wait to September – you could invite them now!

PARKING LOT UPDATE

The first section of the parking lot has been completed. Sixteen different individuals helped form and pour 98 yards of concrete between June 9 and 18. We are pleased that no money was borrowed and only funds specifically designated for the parking lot were used in the project. The good news is we still have money in the parking lot fund to continue the project! We may pour additional concrete later this summer. (You can help!)

We have many people to thank for the work done so far. Men, women, boys (between the ages of six and eighty-two) helped with the project. One day the average age of the crew was a mere 58 years of age. Some great lunches were provided to the crew. Thanks Lowen, Nancy, Joanne and Dale! Orbbe C shared his skid steer, which did the work of many men. Steve H provided a laser transit, metal stakes, a rebar cutter and other equipment and a carpenter's expertise.

Special thanks goes to Doug S who supervised the project, shared equipment, ordered materials, and was the first person on the job site every morning and the last to leave each night. Doug put up with an inexperienced crew and never called us anything worse than "gentlemen." Thanks, Doug.



2008 PINE HAVEN CAMP

The camp season is only two weeks old and we have already had eight campers attend Pine Haven. We have reached our goal for camp scholarships. We still need additional help with transportation. Drivers are needed for six campers on Sunday, July 27, and Saturday, August 2. We also need drivers for six campers on Sunday, August 17, and Friday, August 22. The church will help with gas expenses.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Emily P made a second trip to the Minnesota State High School track meet where she finished tenth in the 3,200 meter run. Congratulations Emily!
- The Bob Guentzel Memorial Pancake Breakfast raised over \$3,000 towards surfacing the parking lot. Thanks to all who participated and contributed to this project.
- We received the gift of a vastly updated copier from Crossroads College. It is now ready to go!
- Connie P has directed Vacation Bible School for ten years. Connie plans to step down from her position as VBS director. We will miss Commodore Connie. Thanks for your years of hard work.
- Vacation Bible School offerings for Rubens (the boy the VBS children sponsor in Haiti) totaled \$680. \$360 will go to support Rubens for another year. The other money will be used to purchase Christmas and birthday gifts for Rubens. Any remaining funds will be used to purchase necessities for Rubens and his family.
- In a recent email, Dale M (Chinhoyi Christian Mission in Zimbabwe) mentioned some health problems. Please remember Dale and his family in your prayers.

SNACKS are needed for the Sunday 10:00AM Fellowship Time. Bring 6-8 dozen snack items. Coffee will be made. Volunteers are responsible for setting up, serving and cleaning up on your service day. Sign up on the list on the kitchen serving-counter at church.

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 arises. 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) 261-0279.

BIRTHDAYS

JULY 1 – Ken K, Doug S; 7 – Alisha G, Aarin C; 10 – Grant D; 11 – Jo R, Cory B, James T; 12 – Joyce C, Trevor W; 15 – JoLene G, Mary H; 16 – Kurt N; 17 – Alec R, Zack S; 25 – Steve H; 26 – Daniel P, Tony S, Amy D; 27 – Linda M, Marge A, Jesse T; 29 – Krysti B

ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE 1 – Scott & Roxanne T; 7 – Scott & Debra S; 8 – Don & Nan C, Jim & Deb E; 26 – Mark & Mary H; 28 – Russ & Judy L; 29 – Art & Betty D

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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Cleveland, MN 56017

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