

CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN CLEVELAND, MN

AUGUST 2008
Vol. 26 No. 8



DAVID KESTER 1957 - 2008

We announce the sudden, unexpected death of our pastor, David Kester. David died of natural causes on Tuesday, July 22, 2008, at his Cleveland, MN home. Scores of people from the community and farther, his family, our church family, and friends attended David's visitation on Friday, July 25. At his July 26 funeral, about 500 people met to remember David and thank God for his life on earth and the new life he now experiences in heaven.

David was born in Ladysmith, WI, on October 1, 1957 to Roger and Velma (Churchill) Kester. David attended Flambeau High School, Tony, WI, Minnesota Bible College (now named Crossroads College), Rochester, MN, and Lincoln Christian Seminary, Lincoln, IL. David ministered to churches in Highbanks and Jump River, WI, and Brookings, SD. We welcomed him to Cleveland in November 1987.

David had a passion for missions and served on short-term mission trips to Alaska, New Orleans, Israel, Zimbabwe, and India. He was actively involved in parachurch ministries including Christian Student Fellowship Board, Pine Haven Christian Camp Board, Crossroads College committees, jail ministries, and the local food shelf. David was a gifted preacher and writer and a published author. David was active in our community of Cleveland, MN, serving on committees and coaching Junior High Football. David was an avid reader, fisherman, sports enthusiast, trivia buff, and Scrabble player. David loved to be with, and serve, others. He especially loved to spend time with his brother John fishing and talking about everything under the sun.

David is survived by his mother, Velma; three sisters: Ruth (Kerry) Picker, Mary (Mark) Howells, and Lois Kester; one brother: John (Cheryl) Kester; 9 nieces and nephews; 10 grand nieces and nephews, and his "Band of Brothers" in Cleveland, MN. He was preceded in death by his father, Roger Kester.

"**What We Cannot Do, Jesus Can Do**," was the title of the front article David wrote for our July newsletter. He wrote about his Gremlin/ditch episode. He wrote about some of the things he could not do (but which he confessed didn't really matter in the big picture), like not being able to play golf." In conclusion, David reminded us of Romans 7, which asks us "...who will rescue me from this body of death?" (vs24) David posed, "If we are not strong enough, who will save us?" The response came from Apostle Paul (in vs25, *The Message* translation), "The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does (save us)." David concluded, "What we cannot do in our own strength, Christ does for us."

With our hearts heavy, a bit numb, a bit unbelieving, we are facing our earthly future without David Kester. He was our spiritual advisor, helper, fellow worker, friend, and brother. He was a gift to us all. How can we plod on without David? David would have answered that, 'What we cannot do in our own strength, Christ does for us.' Please, join with us, by praying we will be faithful to the direction Jesus leads us.

Lord, help us throw ourselves on You and Your loving grace. Jesus, You are the rock in our lives, and in our deaths. Help us let You carry us where You want us to go. Thank you, Lord. — B. Lloyd, Cleveland Church

Visit our website www.clevelandchurch.net to see: **ABOUT DAVID KESTER** — Includes David's obituary, order of service for his funeral, along with some of the funeral messages (PDF format) given by participants. At the bottom of that same page are **PICTURES** taken at David's visitation and funeral. Memories of David and/or condolences can be sent to David's family and/or the Cleveland church family through the website. To do that, use the form on our **GUESTBOOK** webpage. To see messages sent to us in regard to David's life and death, click **RESPONSES re DAVID KESTER**. To access some **SERMONS by DAVID KESTER**, click that link to find included there David's final message (PDF) which he preached for a funeral on July 21, 2008 the day before his own death.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AUGUST 2008

- Building Offering, Sunday, August 10
- Crossroads Day at Valleyfair, August 11
- Dorcas Fellowship Tuesday, August 12th at 1:30pm at the church
- Church Board meeting, Tuesday, August 12th at 7:30pm. Greg S will host.
- Prayer Meeting, Sunday, August 17 at 6:00pm at the church
- Ladies Night Out, Thursday, August 21, at 6:00pm at Ooodles Café in St. Peter.
- All Church Picnic and Lake Event at the Guentzel's following the worship service Sunday, August 24th. Please bring a dish to share. Meat for grilling, tableware, and beverages will be provided.

COMING LATER THIS YEAR:

- Viking/Packer Football Game on the big screen, outdoors at Mary and Mark H' home in Faribault, Monday, September 8
- Crossroads College Day at our church, September 28
- New Orleans Trip, October 11-19

ABOUT FRIEND DAY:

The Cleveland church elders, after prayerful consideration, have decided to not have Friend Day this year. We encourage you to invite your friends to join us for Worship each and every Sunday. We seek God's guidance as we move forward in our transition without David. We appreciate your support and ask for your continued prayers.



OUR SYMPATHY:

We express our sympathy to the family of Don Chadderdon. Don died unexpectedly, at his home, on Thursday, July 17, 2008. Funeral services for Don were on Monday, July 21.

THANK YOU'S:

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot begin to express what is on our hearts. We know each one of you shares in our grief at the sudden loss of our beloved pastor, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, great-uncle, confidante, and friend.

You all have been incredible with your support through prayers, food, cards, gifts, and help with all the details for David's memorial service. Having the arms of his extended church family around us at this time helps us to go forward as he wanted us to.

II Corinthians 4:8,9; 16-18: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed...Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Let us encourage one another with these words that David so often shared with us.

Love, Mary & Mark H & Family

The family of Don Chadderdon wish to express their thanks and gratitude for all that you have done for them through prayers, cards, food, gifts and phone calls.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED:

We have recently received memorial money in memory of Don Chadderdon and David Kester. Thank you.



CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Brian & Kelly E on the birth of their son Riley Alden on July 26, 2008. Riley joins big brother Brody at their St. Peter home.

BUILDING OFFERING:

Our monthly building offering will be received on Sunday, August 10. As of June 30, \$341,466.18 remains to be paid on the building loan. Thanks to all who have faithfully given to the building fund.

PINE HAVEN CAMP:

Camp sessions left for this season are

4th Graders – Aug 10-13

Family Weekend – Aug 14-17

5th-6th Graders – Aug 17-22

Motorcycle Weekend – Aug 22-24

Last Chance Camp – Aug 29-Sept 1

Scrapbook Weekend – Sept 4-7

Scrapbook Weekend – Sept 11-14

NEW ORLEANS TRIP UPDATE:

October 11-19, nine individuals from our congregation will be working in New Orleans to help with the rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Katrina. We need someone to take David Kester's spot. There are another 5-9 spaces available, also, so several can now plan to go to New Orleans! Contact Graydon Dickie if you are interested in going. The total upfront cost (for transportation, motel, breakfast and lunch while in New Orleans) is \$410 per person. You would also be responsible for meals on the trip, evening meals, and any incidentals.

Those already committed to going to New Orleans in October are reminded that the final payment is due September 1. Make your check to the Church of Christ and mark *New Orleans* on the memo line. For any other information, contact Graydon.

UPDATED PRAYER CHAIN INFORMATION:



We are updating our Prayer Chain lists. If you are already on either phone list or email list OR would like to be added to the lists, please contact Carrie M on Sunday, August 17 after the worship service. To activate our prayer chain, email your request to prayerchain@clevelandchurch.net, or call Carrie M at (507) 261-0279 (try her first) with your request. If you are unable to reach Carrie, please call Betty L at (507) 931-5947 to leave a message.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Food Shelf Volunteer: We need a representative from our congregation to be a committee member. This is a great way to serve Christ in our community. Please see Graydon Dickie or one of the other elders if interested.

Communion Preparation: We are recruiting volunteers to help prepare communion during the coming year. There is a sign up list in the foyer.

Sunday Fellowship Snacks: We need volunteers to help with snacks on Sunday mornings. Fellowship Time. Bring 6-8 dozen snack items. 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.

GUEST SPEAKERS for SUNDAY WORSHIP in AUGUST:

8-03-2008 Rick Walston – Crossroads College

8-10-2008 Brad Dewing – Christian Student Fellowship

8-17-2008 Randy Hardy – Faribault

8-24-2008 Monte Ball – Crossroads College

8-31-2008 Brad Dewing – Christian Student Fellowship

BIRTHDAYS:

August 4 – Max M, 5 – Roxanne G, Jacob S; 6 – Mel L; 7 – David R; 8 – Tanya A, Nick C; 10 – Marilyn F, Emily K; 11 – Brian S; 12 – Laura C, Judy L, Andrea S; 15 – Tina B; 16 – Gregg G; 17 – Lowen R, Gladis S; 18 – Ann J, Shane R; 19 – Orbbe C; 22 – George S; 23 – Bev H, Sandor R; 24 – Eli A; 25 – Karen R; 26 – Gary G, Wayne F; 30 – Jim R; 31 – Jim Ely, Peter M, Jarod S

ANNIVERSARIES:

August 10 – Mel & Monie L; 11 – George & Marilyn S; 14 – Gregg & JoLene G; 19 – Sandy & Mike S; 22 – Patti & Bruce Z; 24 – Orbbe & Joyce C; 25 – Greg & Neysa S; 26 – Don & Lois L; 27 – Doug & Annette S, Glenn & Cindy S; 31 – Lenny & Jenni S

SERVING LIST:

A PDF file of our August–November 2008 Serving List Chart may be downloaded from www.clevelandchurch.net. See “Resources,” then click “PDF Downloads.”

CHURCH OF CHRIST

900 State Highway 99
Mail to: PO Box 307
Cleveland, MN 56017

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. – Bible Classes for all ages
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

Website:

www.clevelandchurch.net

Office Phone & Fax: (507) 931-5924

Office Email:

office@clevelandchurch.net

Elders Email:

elders@clevelandchurch.net