



THE SPIRIT IS WILLING BUT THE FLESH...

When Jesus took his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane, he gave them directions to watch and pray. He tells Peter, *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."* (Matthew 26:41). He came to the disciples not once but three times and found them sleeping. The spirit was willing but...

How often we find ourselves in the same situation. We want to do the right thing or say the right thing but it just doesn't happen. We want to serve but we just can't seem to gather the strength or the time. We know we need to spend quality time with our Lord - that He patiently waits for us but it's hard to get up early or stay up later to spend that time. The spirit is willing but...

What I find troubling is that sometimes my spirit may not be too willing. I get caught up in my own perceived problems or my ego tells me I don't need God today. If I have the time and the inclination, I may serve in some way. If not, no big deal. Even though I am constantly reminded of the blessings I have, I still complain. Even though I know that there are those in need, I choose not to see or hear them.

The only prayer I have on such occasions is the tax collector's prayer, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." The Psalmist puts it this way: *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."* (Psalm 51: 10-12)

We here at the Cleveland Church of Christ are going through a transition. There will be some challenges to be sure; but there will be some exciting opportunities to serve as well. Let us pray for one another that God will grant us a willing spirit to serve and to use our gifts for His glory.

The old hymn says, Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to thee...
Take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of thy love...
Take my feet and let them be, swift and beautiful for Thee...
Take my voice and let me sing, always, only, for my King...

Lord, forgive us when we fail to follow your word. Give us willing spirits and the strength and ambition to serve you. Thank you, Jesus, for loving us so completely.
Abba, we belong to you. In Jesus name, amen.

- Sherm Rupe, Elder of the Cleveland Church

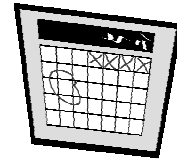


THE CLEVELAND CHURCH ELDERS ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

Randy Hardy has answered the call to be our interim pastor. Randy and his wife Laura live in Faribault, where Randy recently completed an interim ministry with St. Luke's Church. Randy will begin his interim ministry on October 26.

OCTOBER 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Indicates a fuller announcement is also posted in this newsletter



- Crossroads College Fall Homecoming and President Inauguration – October 2-3
- Fall Educational Kick-Off – Sunday, October 5 from 8:45–10:00am
- Soup & Sandwich Supper – Wednesday, October 8,
Including Operation Christmas Child box wrapping event at church at 6 pm*
- Building Offering – Sunday, October 12
- New Orleans Mission Trip – October 11-19*
- Dorcas Fellowship – Tuesday, October 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the church*
- Bible Study & Prayer Time – Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30pm at Betty L's home*
- Choir Practice – Wednesday, October 15 at 7:30pm at church*
- Ladies Nite Out – Thursday, October 16 at 6:00pm at Emma Krumbes, Belle Plaine*
- Women of Faith Conference – October 17-18 at Excel Energy Center, St. Paul, MN
- Congregational Annual Meeting – Sunday, October 19 at 12:00pm*
- Church Board meeting – Tuesday, October 21 at 7:30pm. David P will host.
- Bible Study & Prayer Time – Wednesday, October 22 at 6:30pm at Betty L's home*
- Choir Practice – Wednesdays, October 22 & 29 at 7:30pm at church*
- Praise & Prayer – Sunday, October 26 at 5:00pm at church*
- Youth Group Kick-Off – Sunday, October 26 at 6:00 pm at church*

COMING LATER THIS YEAR

- Daylight Savings ends November 1 – Set your clocks back one hour that night.
- Filled shoeboxes need to be returned to our church by Sunday, November 16
- National Missionary Convention – November 20-23 in Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 27.
- Drive-Through Live Nativity – December 5-6 at Crossroads College, Rochester, MN

DID YOU KNOW...?

- 22 people from our congregation attended our September 20th “Energizing our Sunday Bible School” workshop. Thanks to Judith Kirk of Hope Summit Christian Church, Rochester, for sharing her ideas with us.
- Benjamin T was baptized on Sunday, September 21, 2008!
- Roxanne G (Ben T's mom) joined the Body at Cleveland on Sunday, September 21, 2008.
- Over \$2500 was given to Crossroads College on our annual Crossroads College day on September 28.
- Our Sunday School program will be referred to as JAM Session this year (Jesus And Me). Our Kick-off on October 5 was a great success! 48 students signed up for Sunday JAM SESSION. Some of these are brand new to our program!
- Congratulations to Emily P for being crowned 2008 CHS Homecoming Queen.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY goes to JoLene and Gregg G. JoLene's father, John, passed away. The funeral was Friday September 12 in Waconia, MN. Please remember JoLene and her family in prayer.

SUNDAY MORNING GUEST SPEAKERS

10-05-2008 Brad Dewing, Campus Minister, Christian Student Fellowship, St. Paul, MN
10-12-2008 John Kester, Pastor, Pleasant Grove Church of Christ, Stewartville, MN
10-19-2008 Fanny Nyamutora, Pastor, Harare Christian Church, Harare, Zimbabwe
10-26-2008 Randy Hardy, Faribault, MN, begins as our Interim Pastor

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

If you are interested in adding to your library at home, there are “**FREE**” books for you to have. Please stop by Classroom 1 to look through an old variety of books.

JAM SESSION = SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES

8:45 A.M.

Pre - JAM Fun : ALL AGES (1ST GRADE – ADULTS) in Fellowship Hall
ACTIVITIES AND GAMES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

8:45 A.M.

Pre-K – K in Nursery for their own Pre-JAM & SINGING
THEN CLASS ROOM TIME in Room Three (UPDATED 10-10-2008)

9:00 A.M.

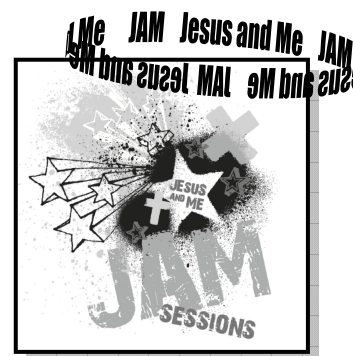
1st – 6th GRADERS in Sanctuary
SINGING WITH CLASS ROOM TIME TO FOLLOW
ROOMS ARE: **1 - 3 GRADERS** in Room Five
4 - 6 GRADERS in Room Two

9:00 A.M. **7th – 12th GRADERS** in Room Four

9:00 A.M. **WOMEN'S STUDY** in the Library (*WOMAN OF GOD*)

9:00 A.M. **ADULT STUDY** in the Fireside Room (*THE NEW TESTAMENT COMMUNITY*)

9:00 A.M. **ADULT STUDY*** in the Fellowship Hall (*BACK TO BASICS*) * begins on Nov 2, 2008
(UPDATED 10-10-2008)



Infants are welcome to come with parents to an adult class.

SUNDAY JAM SESSION will be starting Sunday, October 12. (Our Sunday School program will be referred to as JAM Session this year (JAM = Jesus And Me).) We will start our Sunday morning program at 8:45am. Starting fifteen minutes earlier than we have in the past will give the Adults involved in our Sunday School an opportunity to build relationships with our students by playing games and doing crafts right along with them! We'll all meet in the Fellowship Hall together until 9:00am and then split up into classes.

Pam A will be teaching Pre-K through Kindergarten in the Nursery. Julie D will be teaching First through Third grades in Room #5. Ellen D will be teaching Fourth through Sixth grades in Room #2. Roxanne G will be teaching Jr and Sr High Students in Room #4. Connie P will be leading our children in worship every Sunday prior to the class time.

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS for WOMEN

The past few months has led us into a study of the women of the Old and New Testaments. It has been a very interesting study. Our discussions have revealed that women of today have some similarities to the women of old. In the next couple of weeks, we will be finishing up our study of *Woman of God*. Future plans include a series based on *The Purpose Driven Life*. All are welcome. This class meets in the Library and starts each Sunday at 9:00am.

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS for MEN & WOMEN

This class has been "axing their way through Acts" for the past several months. It has been a good exercise in the study of the first Christians and the early church. We have a great group of knowledgeable people who add to our discussions each week. We are all amazed at the time, effort, and sacrifices that were made to bring the Word to the Gentiles. We will now begin spending some time in general studies and will undoubtedly find another interesting avenue to pursue in our quest to be like Jesus. This class meets in the Fireside Room and starts each Sunday at 9:00am.

"BACK TO BASICS" CLASS for MEN & WOMEN to start November 2

Randy Hardy will lead a class for adults that will help us understand what kind of church the Cleveland Church of Christ is. We will discuss who we are, as well as what and why we believe. This class is for anyone interested in learning more about the Bible and the New Testament Church. We will also highlight some of the biblical characters foundational to Christianity. This class is for adults who may be new to the Cleveland Church, and it is for those who have been here for some time and want to know more about us as a church. This class will begin on Sunday, November 2 at 9:00am.

BUILDING OFFERING

Our monthly building offering will be received on Sunday, October 12. As of September 9, \$ 334,315.07 remained to be paid on the building loan. Thanks to all who have faithfully given to the building fund.



NEW ORLEANS MISSION TRIP UPDATE

On October 11, 72 people representing 10 Minnesota Christian Churches will depart for a week of practical ministry in New Orleans. Please keep the Cleveland team members in your prayers: Deb & Ciara G, Pam A, Patty Z, Judy L, Kim S, Ben T, Graydon & Laura D.

DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

Dorcas Fellowship is open for all women. It meets monthly, typically on the second Tuesday of the month, in the afternoon. The Dorcas Fellowship offer a time to get together to visit but also it is a time to minister. The focus of their ministry is praying for needs they are aware of and sending cards of encouragement. Dorcas Fellowship will meet Tuesday, October 14, 1:30pm at the church.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Church of Christ has been scheduled for Sunday, October 19 following the worship service. A lunch will be provided. We encourage all members and other interested individuals to attend this meeting. Those who are responsible for submitting reports for the annual report are encouraged to have them into the church office as soon as possible.

BIBLE STUDY

A Home Bible Study & Prayer Time will be held on Wednesdays, October 15 and 22, at 6:30pm at Betty L's. We will continue our study topic of "What the Bible says about Grief."



SING...SING...SING! I welcome you to "sing a joyful sound" in choir this year. Practice will begin on Wednesday, October 15 at 7:30pm. We will be working on several pieces for the upcoming seasons, and so I encourage all members to attend all choir practices. I'd love to have *ALL* of you join us this year!! Jolene C

LADIES NITE OUT

Once a month, on the third Thursday of each month, ladies of all ages gather in one of the area eating establishments at 6:00pm for a meal and fellowship. We pick a different restaurant each month to eat at each month. Ladies from outside our congregation join with us in this activity and it's a fun time of visiting. Someone else fixing our meal is a real treat. Come and enjoy!!! On Thursday, October 16 at 6:00pm, we will eat at Emma Krumbes in Belle Plaine. If you want to car pool, meet in the church parking lot at 5:00pm. We will pull out of the lot by 5:10pm.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

Please join us on Sunday, October 26 at 5:00pm as we praise God. We will sing your favorite song, read your favorite verse from scripture and pray together. It is rumored that a trip to the DQ may follow. ☺

YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF

Students in grades 7-12 are invited to "**Fire Up Your Faith**" at the church on Sunday, October 26 from 6:00-8:30pm. The evening will start by making homemade pizzas, followed by activities and finishing up with a bonfire. Any questions - contact Deb or Gary G.



SNACKS are needed for the Sunday 10:00am 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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



PREPARE - Get ready to pack a shoebox or two or twelve to give to Operation Christmas Child. In 2007, this ministry of Samaritan's Purse collected more than 7.6 million shoebox gifts for poor, sick, and suffering children in over 104 countries. In the past 15 years, more than 61 million boxes have been given out! Last year, our congregation delivered 111 shoeboxes to the Mankato drop-off location. Let's try to top that number this year!

EAT & WRAP - On Wednesday, October 8, come at 6:00pm for a soup and sandwich supper here at church, and help wrap empty shoeboxes for people to use to pack with gift items. If you are able, bring scissors and scotch tape to use in wrapping. We already have some Christmas wrapping paper, but if you have some extra, bring that along also.

PICK-UP, SHOP & RETURN - See our foyer display for instructions for packing a shoebox and other helpful information. Empty shoeboxes will be available for you to take, or use one of your own shoeboxes. The display will be fully set up by Sunday, October 12 (not the previously announced late September date). Filled shoeboxes need to be returned to our church building by Sunday, November 16. If you have further questions, contact Betty Lloyd.



ABOUT OUR PRAYER CHAIN

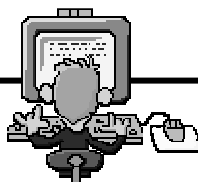
Prayer is an important ministry of the church. As of this print, nearly 50 family units are involved in our prayer chain. Submit a prayer request by emailing Carrie M and Betty L in one email: prayerchain@clevelandchurch.net

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."

BIRTHDAYS: October 01 - Brody E, Evan K, David O; 04 - Ellen D, Nancy C; 06 - Ben T; 07 - Art D; 08 - Rupert G; 09 - Pam B; 11 - Kelsey S, Roger S; 12 - Deb E; 13 - Dale M, Reid N, Mathan S; 16 - Stella P; 17 - Megan E, Patrick E, Mamie S; 19 - Mary Den H; 22 - Ken D, Sharee S; 23 - Brady S; 29 - Josten S

ANNIVERSARIES: October 08 - Art & Amy P; 09 - Kurt & Mary N; 12 - Jim & Karen R; 14 - Ryan & Jocelyne C, Lisa & Peter K; 15 - Mike & Kim W; 25 - Ryan & Krysti B; 27 - Ken & Lisie D; 31 - Roger & Andrea S



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

ALL SUNDAYS unless noted otherwise
8:45am Pre-JAM Fun for all ages
9:00am JAM Sessions = Bible Classes
10:00am Fellowship Time
10:30am Worship Service

Website: www.clevelandchurch.net
Office Phone & Fax: (507) 931-5924
Office/General: office@clevelandchurch.net
Secretary: lisa@clevelandchurch.net
Prayer Chain: prayerchain@clevelandchurch.net
Email Newsletter: newsletter@clevelandchurch.net
Webmaster: webmaster@clevelandchurch.net

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

Thank you,
Church of Christ meeting at Cleveland, Minnesota