

CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN CLEVELAND, MN

MAY 2009
Vol. 27 No. 5



FRIENDSHIP IS A GIFT FROM GOD

By Randy Hardy, Interim Minister

What is friendship? Who are your best friends, and why? Two unexpected examples of friendship came to my mind as I thought about this topic. Both come from the movies.

The first is from the wonderful movie “E.T.” The extraterrestrial visitor lies formant in a cold coffin, apparently dead. His friend, the little boy, Elliot, weeps over his body and sobs, “E.T., I love you.” At this point, E.T.’s heart light glows and the lovable creature revives, to the delight of Elliot (and the audience).

The second is from the movie “Driving Miss Daisy.” This is the story of Miss Daisy Werthan, the stubborn, bossy, Jewish Atlanta widow who – at the insistence of her son – begrudgingly takes on Hoke, a black man, as her chauffeur after she’s crashed her new 1948 Packard into a hedge.

Over the course of the next 25 years, as she ages from 72 to 97, Hoke and Miss Daisy progress from a strained master/servant relationship into an enduring and committed friendship. The movie is the story of the companionship that develops between these two – how their relationship becomes closer and deeper, and how, as Miss Daisy ages and becomes more vulnerable and fearful, she comes to accept Hoke as her best friend.

The closing scene in the movie brought a lump to my throat and tears to my eyes. Miss Daisy is in a rest home eating a meal, lonely and sad. But her face lights up as Hoke comes to visit her; they share a time together that is so tender and full of love that you envy such a sense of caring between two human beings.

The Old Testament tells the beautiful story of Naomi and Ruth, a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law who both lost their husbands. Naomi, an Israelite living in Ruth’s homeland of Moab, longs to return to her own country. Ruth, still young and marriageable, displays her loyalty to Naomi by going with her and caring and providing for her.

The loving commitment of Ruth to Naomi is evident in her promise: “Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried.” (Ruth 1: 16, 17)

Then there is the friendship of David and Jonathan. You remember how it began, don’t you? David, the shepherd boy, had just gone to battle with the Philistine giant Goliath and had defeated him. Jonathan and the entire Israelite army watched in amazement, and when it was all over the Bible says, “that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.” (1 Samuel 18:1)

The word ‘knit’ literally means “chained”; this is, the soul of Jonathan was chained to the soul of David. They were bound to each other in an inseparable relationship and union. They were in a true sense “soul brothers.” At a great risk and considerable inconvenience, he accepted full responsibility for David’s care. One relationship of this caliber can support us in the fiercest of storms.

At one time or another, each of us needs someone to be there to rescue us at the brink of failure, to communicate confidence and worth in the face of impending defeat and discouragement. All of us are in need of at least one faithful friend or mate who will look us in the eye and say, “I will never leave you. You may grow old and gray, but I’ll never leave you. Your face may wrinkle and your body may ruin, but I’ll never leave you. The years may be cruel and the times may be hard, but I’ll be there. I will never leave you.”

My heart is stirred by a desire not only that I might have friend like that in my life – this is surely wonderful – but also that I may be such a friend to another. Would you ask Jesus, our best friend, to make you a friend like that?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS for MAY 2009

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

** Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.*

- PHCA Summer Camp Youth Registrations due in for EARLY BIRD SPECIAL – May 1*
- Crossroads College Dream Banquet and Commencement, Rochester, MN May 1 & 2*
- Church and Parsonage Work day – May 2*
- Sunday, May 3 bring in clothing for May 9*
- National Day of Prayer for America – May 7
- FREE Clothing Distribution at church – May 9* (Cleveland City Garage Sales – May 9)
- Mother’s Day – May 10
- Building Offering – May 10*
- Dorcas Fellowship – May 12*
- Church Board Meeting – May 12
- PHCA Summer Camp Work Weekend – May 14-16*
- Ladies Nite Out – May 14*
- June Newsletter articles due in – May 21*
- Memorial Day – May 25
- Fishing Extravaganza, May 22-26*
- Cleveland School Baccalaureate – May 27*
- Cleveland School Commencement – May 29*

COMING IN JUNE

- Prime Timers on Campus at Crossroads College, Rochester, MN – June 1-4
- PHCA Summer Camp 11th-12th – June 14-20
- July Newsletter articles due – June 18
- Cleveland Cherry Creek Days – June 19-20
- Father’s Day – June 21
- PHCA Summer Camp 9th-10th – June 21 -27
- PHCA Summer Camp Family Week – June 29 – July 4

**CROSSROADS COLLEGE
2009 DREAM BANQUET FUNDRAISER**

Friday, May 1, 2009
6:00 Registration, 7:00 Dinner, 8:00 Program
Rochester International Event Center
7333 Airport View DR SW
Rochester, Minnesota
Featured Speaker: Frank Reich

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
FOR SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS**

If you register for a PHCA youth camp by May 1, 2009, your registration fee will be \$10.00 off the registration fee price listed on the registration form. For example: If camp fee is listed as \$150.00, if you register before May 1, 2009, the Early Bird fee is \$140.00 for that youth camp session.

SIGN UP FOR SUMMER CAMP

Our camp notebook with registration forms and signup sheets is available for all in our church foyer. Sign up to attend a camp session or two. Or perhaps you, as an adult, would be willing to transport our youth to and from camp for one session or more. If you can drive, sign your name on the appropriate list in the same camp notebook at church. Registration forms can also be downloaded from www.pinehavencamp.org to mail in. Or register online at www.pinehavencamp.org. They are asking for a \$10.00 minimum deposit.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS will be available to PHCA youth campers who attend our church. One-half of their camp session fee will be given each of our youth campers. In order to do this, we are asking for contributions to the camp scholarship project. When writing a check to donate to the camp fund, please indicate “camp fund” on your check’s memo line. Volunteer drivers will be given \$75.00 for helping with transportation.

CHURCH AND PARSONAGE WORK DAY

We need your help with the church grounds and at the parsonage on Saturday, May 2. Bring a rake, come at 9:00 a.m. to the church, and together we will tackle some spring projects.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Yes, there are plans for continuing our Wednesday night Bible study. MAY dates have not been set yet, so watch for details in our Sunday bulletins.

**SUMMER CAMP 2009 SCHEDULE
PINE HAVEN CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY**

Based on grades going into Fall 2009
Cleveland is in Zone A = Z.A.

May 14-16	Work Weekend
June 14-20	11th and 12th
June 21-27	9th and 10th Z.A.
June28-July4	Family Week
July 17-19	Mature Adult
July 24-26	Ladies Retreat
July 26-Aug1	7th and 8th Z.A.
Aug 9-14	5th and 6th Z.A.
Aug 14-16	Motorcycle Weekend
Aug 16-19	4th Grade
Aug 20-23	Family Weekend
Sept 4-7	Last Chance Camp
Sept 10-13	Scrapbook Weekend
Sept 17-20	Scrapbook Weekend

BRING CLOTHING DONATIONS

On Sunday, May 3, you may bring in your donations of good used clothing to church. These donations will be given out at our May 9 free clothing distribution. We will also need individuals to help sort the clothes and to display the donations for the distribution. If you can help, contact Mary Howells, 507-334-2707.

FREE CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

Good used clothing will be distributed free to our church family and the surrounding community. The Free Clothing Distribution will be on Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. here at the church. Contact Mary Howells at 507-334-2707 for further information.

BUILDING OFFERING We will receive our monthly building fund offering on Sunday, May 10.

DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

Dorcas Fellowship is open to all women. It meets monthly, typically on the second Tuesday of the month, in the afternoon. Dorcas Fellowship offers 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. This month's Dorcas Fellowship will be on Tuesday, May 12 at 1:30 p.m. at the church.

PINE HAVEN CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY...

announces its annual **WORK WEEKEND** Thursday, May 14 through Saturday, May 16. 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.

LADIES NITE OUT

Ladies, join us on Thursday, May 14 at 6:00 p.m. at East Side Restaurant in WOW! ZONE which is just east of Mankato's hilltop Hy-Vee. Please note the date change to the 2nd Thursday of the month. Plan on coming – it's Dutch treat and all ladies, young and old, are welcome. We let someone else do the cooking and enjoy a fun time of visiting.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES TO BE RECOGNIZED ON MAY 24

We will honor our High School Graduates with a Continental breakfast on Sunday, May 24 at 10:00 am. We will also make a special presentation to them during the worship service. This year we have five young people graduating from Cleveland High School. Cleveland's Baccalaureate service will be held on Wednesday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m. and Graduation will be held Friday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Ashley Huettl-Anderson (daughter of William and Tanya Anderson of Cleveland and Nicole Huettl of Madison Lake) Ashley is interested in pursuing the culinary arts of food and the accounting field.

Brandon Koppelman (son of Peter and Lisa Koppelman) will graduate from Cleveland High School on May 29. Brandon has been accepted to South Central College in Mankato.

Daniel Phillips (son of David and Sheila Phillips) and **Nico Jaeger** (Foreign Exchange Student from Germany, son of Paetra and Dieter Jaeger, Host parents David and Sheila Phillips) will graduate from Cleveland High School on May 29. Daniel will be attending Minnesota State University this fall and Nico will be returning to Germany June 10.

Emily Phillips (daughter of Brian and Connie Phillips) will graduate from Cleveland High School on May 29. Emily will be attending Gustavus Adolphus College majoring in Biology.

WE ALSO WISH TO EXTEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS

and prayers for individuals who have completed secondary education.

Vanessa Jaster from our church family will graduate May 14 from South Central College in Mankato with an A.A.S. degree in Child Development/Paraprofessional. She is currently continuing her education at Rasmussen for an A.A.S. degree in Medical Assisting and plans to graduate in the summer of 2010.

Bre Theis (daughter of John and Candi Theis) of Le Center will graduate May 14 from South Central in Mankato with a medical coding degree.

3rd ANNUAL FISHING EXTRAVAGANZA

Dates: May 22-26, 2009

Cost: FREE

What: Fishing and Camping

Where: Baudette, MN

Worship and Fellowship every night
Sunday Service



14 Camp sites (some with electricity)

Fishing on Rainy River, Lake of the Woods

Local Hotels are available for the faint of heart

You must have reservations by May 9, 2009

Questions or Reservations Contact:

John Taplin – 320-808-6795

Jeremy Schneider – 320-491-7264

Steve Goodwin – 218-738-3188

Sponsored by New Life Christian Church
Alexandria, MN

MAY 2009					1	2
Email: clchurchlisa@live.com						
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A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR OUR JUNE NEWSLETTER

Our church secretary Lisa will be busy preparing for her son's high school graduation activities. Let's give Lisa a boost by making the newsletter gleaming a snap. Please make an effort to get your June newsletter news to her no later than Thursday, May 21. Don't wait for her to ask you if you've got anything for the newsletter (which is a good policy for ALL 12 MONTHS). How about an even bigger surprise?!? Get your June announcement to Lisa even a week early, by May 14!

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

On March 29, Gary & Nancy Kunz joined our church family by transfer. That same morning, Iris Krenik confessed her faith and joined our Cleveland family by transfer. Tim Possin was baptized by immersion into Jesus on April 5. Pat Hoggarth joined our church family by transfer on April 11. Pam Burns and Sandy Mulvehill also joined our church family by transfer on April 12. We welcome all seven of these individuals into our Cleveland church family. Pray for their growth in Christ. May we all faithfully serve our LORD together.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MOW THE LAWN(S)

We need volunteers to help mow the church lawn and/or parsonage lawn. A riding mower, string trimmer, and gas are available to use in the parsonage garage, or you may use your own mower, if you'd like. A signup sheet with details about the job is on the foyer table at church.

OUR PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer is an important ministry of the church. We have nearly 50 family units that are involved in our prayer chain to pray for you and yours as special needs arise.

- **TO SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST:** Email clchurchprayer@live.com or call Betty 507-931-5947 (leave a message)
- **TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PRAYER CHAIN:** Contact Betty

DID YOU KNOW...?

- We had approximately 70 people attend the 2 showings of "Fireproof" on March 29. If you missed the viewings, you can still see the movie by borrowing the copy from the church library.
- We received a memorial gift in memory of David Kester from Marcella Lentsch.

NEW CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES

Due to some technical difficulties in early April, all the church email addresses have changed. Our website is still www.clevelandchurch.net ...that has NOT changed. Four of our new emails are as follows:

OFFICE/GENERAL clchurch@live.com
 SECRETARY LISA clchurchlisa@live.com
 PRAYER CHAIN clchurchprayer@live.com
 EMAIL NEWS clchurchnews@live.com



♥ ♥ ♥
HEART TO HEART

"Heart to Heart" is a local outreach project formed last month by three women of the Cleveland Church of Christ family. It is goal of this project to help those in the church family and others in Le Sueur County who may have fallen on hard times.

The "Heart to Heart" project collects personal need products for children and adults. The products are distributed monthly to those in the church family who need them. Whatever is left will be taken to Le Sueur County Human Services to be given to their clients in need.

- ♥ Shampoo ♥ Conditioner ♥ Deodorant ♥
- ♥ Tooth Brush ♥ Tooth Paste ♥ Lotion ♥
- ♥ Soap ♥ Razors ♥ Tampons/Pads ♥

Iris, Mary Lou, & Nancy write: "We ask for your help by donating these listed items and putting them in the plastic tub(s) located in the church foyer. Hypoallergenic products are welcomed as well as traditional products. Thank you for your help."

If you have need of these items, or have questions about this project, please call or contact:

Iris (507-380-2692); Mary Lou (507-931-0160)
or Nancy (507-317-6992)



CREATION CONNECTION

A VBS Science Adventure

By Roxanne Goodrich, VBS Co-Director

Kids! Pre-School through 7th Grade!

Join us for Vacation Bible School the evenings of Monday, June 22nd through Friday, June 26th as we explore God's incredible creation through scientific discovery! Come and experience hands-on science laboratory experiments. Biblical Truth and science go hand in hand as we observe some of God's most extravagant creatures! From creepy, crawly insects to bald eagles - come see for yourself creation at its best! We will praise God exploring the wonders of His creation.

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Serving Sack Suppers
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School

HELP WANTED for VBS

Calling any and all to volunteer for this year's Vacation Bible School! *Creation Connection*, a VBS Science Adventure, will be held Monday, June 22nd through Friday, June 26th. We have Theater Positions, Science Lab Positions, Craft Station Positions, and Snack Station Positions available. **THESE POSITIONS PAY WELL** - the payoff will be a really good time and the satisfaction that you are helping the kids learn the truth about God's world! What could be better? What could be more important? Call Ellen Dickie or Roxanne Goodrich for information! Thanks!

<p>CHURCH OF CHRIST 900 State Highway 99 Mail to: PO Box 307 Cleveland, MN 56017 OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ INTERIM PASTOR: Randy Hardy</p>	<p>ALL SUNDAYS unless noted otherwise</p> <p>8:45am Pre-JAM Fun for all ages 9:00am JAM Sessions = Bible Classes 10:00am Fellowship Time 10:30am Worship Service</p>	<p>www.clevelandchurch.net</p> <p>OFFICE PHONE: (507) 931- 5924 OFFICE/GENERAL: clchurch@live.com PRAYER CHAIN: clchurchprayer@live.com SECRETARY Lisa Koppelman: clchurchlisa@live.com</p>
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BIRTHDAYS: May 1– Bruce Oles; 4– Shirley Jacobson, Katie Schmidt; 9– Kim Miller; 11– Carter Kern; 13– Lana Filter; 14– Amy Poll; 17– Rick Brunson; 19– Joann Hale; 22– Virginia Gish, Maren Schettler; 23– Harold Polenske, Cameron Schmidt; 26– Ryan Brockberg

ANNIVERSARIES: May 3– Bill & Tanya Anderson; 5– Jeff & Vanessa Jaster; 25– Ken & Sandy Schmidt; 31– Larry & Lana Filter

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