

**CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MEETING IN CLEVELAND, MN**

**AUGUST 2009**  
Vol. 27 No.8



**(MAKE) THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY,  
BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL**

**Ephesians 5:16**

By John Kester, Pastor

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to attend a Twins game at the Metrodome. My favorite place to sit at the time was in the lower deck in dead center field. We got there early enough to get seats in the very first row in our favorite section. With a tall soda and a tub of popcorn, we settled in to watch the game. Because we were in the front row, I found I could stretch out my legs through the railing in front of me and I got really comfortable. We were having a good time and enjoying the game when a pretty exciting thing happened. A ball was smashed to dead centerfield right at me. I could see that it was coming right to me. It looked like it would be right in my hands. But as it got closer, I realized it was going to go just over my head. All I had to do was stand up and the ball was mine. But as I tried to rise, I realized I had a problem. My feet were stuck through the railing in front of me and I could not get up. All I could do was reach as high as possible and hope that it would be good enough. As it turned out it was not good enough. The ball sailed over my fingers by mere inches and a fan somewhere behind me was able to collect the souvenir. I had the chance to catch a homerun ball at a major league baseball game and I missed the opportunity because I was not ready when the chance came.

In the big scheme of things, it is not very significant that I was unready for the opportunity to catch a homerun. But I think my experience at the baseball game that day is a good illustration of what happens in my life far too often. I get myself all settled in and comfortable – with no thought given to what chances might come my way – and when an opportunity to serve Christ comes along, I am, too often, unprepared to take advantage of the opportunity.

Paul says in Ephesians 5:16 to make the most of every opportunity. I think for that to happen that means we have to imagine what the possibilities might be before we ever find ourselves in a given circumstance. It is hard to make the most of our opportunities if we are not even aware of what the opportunities might be. That means a trip to the park might be a chance to make a new friend. A night at the pool might be a chance to renew old acquaintances. A visit in the office might result in the chance to talk to someone about being a follower of Jesus. An unplanned conversation might result in someone sharing deep hurts. The possibilities are endless if I will open myself up to the chance that God might use me and this situation for His glory.

But in order for this to happen, I have to decide if I will share my time with the people I meet. It is easy for me to let my personal agenda get in the way of spending time with people. But when I resist the urge to excuse myself and go about my business and instead open myself up to the possibilities before me I have found God using these chance encounters for His purposes. I hope I have been making the most of the chances God brings my way. I hope I will not allow myself to be ruled by my agenda, but that I will make the most of every opportunity for the glory of God.

---

**THANK YOU**

We will be honoring our Interim Pastor Randy Hardy and his wife Laura with a fellowship/potluck meal on Sunday, August 2. Please bring a dish to share and plan to stay to say thank you to Pastor Randy and Laura for their ministry to us this past year.

**WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!**

On Sunday, July 12, Harold and Donna Polenske, John, Cheryl and Olivia Kester joined our church family by transfer. We welcome these individuals into our Cleveland church family. Pray for their growth in Christ. May we all faithfully serve our LORD together.

## THANK YOU

Dear Friends –

Cheryl, Olivia and I are so grateful for the way you have welcomed us to the Cleveland community and congregation. We appreciate everyone who helped us unload the truck, who shared food, who loaned vehicles, who has shared their knowledge and expertise to get us acquainted and acclimatized to a new home. You have blessed us and made us feel so loved and welcomed.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Love, John, Cheryl and Olivia Kester

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Chalan Schmidt and Dan Carrigan (granddaughter of Darlene Schmidt) on the birth of their son Spencer R.W. on July 13, 2009.

## AUGUST 2009 CALENDAR

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

\* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- Fellowship/Potluck meal in appreciation of Randy and Laura Hardy – August 2\*
- Monday night Bible Study begin new topic – August 3, also meeting on Aug 10, 17, 24, 31\*
- Education Committee meeting – August 5\*
- Building Offering – August 9\*
- Worship Committee meeting – August 9\*
- Crossroads Day at Valleyfair – August 10\*
- Dorcas Fellowship – August 11 at 1:30 p.m.\*
- Church Board Meeting – August 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- PHCA 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> (Zone A) – August 9-14
- PHCA “Motorcycle Weekend” – August 14-16
- Rock The River Tour in St. Paul– August 16\*
- PHCA 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – August 16-19
- September newsletter articles due to Lisa K – August 20
- PHCA “Family Weekend” – August 20-23
- HEART TO HEART item distribution – Aug 29\*

## COMING in SEPTEMBER

- PHCA “Last Chance Camp” Sept 4-7
- Labor Day – Sept 7
- PHCA “Scrapbook Weekend #1 – Sept 10-13
- Crossroads College Homecoming – Sept 16-18\*
- PHCA Scrapbook Weekend #2 – Sept 17-20
- Friend Day at church – Sept 20\*

## SUNDAY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

We have Sunday school classes for everyone! “Life Lessons,” a class for all ages, is held in the Fellowship Hall. “World Religions,” an adult class, is held in the Fireside Room. A third class for women “Sharing Your Faith” is meeting in the Library. All these classes meet each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

## MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

A new Bible Study series will begin on Monday, August 3 at 6:30pm at the church. It will be based on the book “3:16” by Max Lucado. This study will explore in depth God’s love for us as promised in John 3:16.

In the first chapter of his book, Max says, “*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*” “A twenty-six-word parade of hope: beginning with God, ending with life, and urging us to do the same. Brief enough to write on a napkin or memorize in a moment, yet sole enough to weather two thousand years of storms and questions. If you know nothing of the Bible, start here. If you know everything in the Bible, return here. We all need the reminder. The heart of the human problem is the heart of the human. And God’s treatment is prescribed in John 3:16. He loves. He gave. We believe. We live.”

If you would like to be part of this study, see John Kester for a copy of the book and the study guide.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members of the Education Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, August 5 at 7:00pm at the church.

## BUILDING OFFERING

Our monthly building offering will be received on Sunday, August 9. Thanks to all who have faithfully given to the building fund.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Members of the Worship committee will meet on Sunday, August 9 after the worship service.

## CROSSROADS DAY AT VALLEYFAIR

Crossroads College invites 7<sup>th</sup> graders on up to their annual Valleyfair Day on Monday, August 10. Cost for the day is \$25 plus food. A signup sheet is on our foyer table, for youth to sign and adults to volunteer to chaperone and/or transport the youth that day. A poster with details about the day is on our foyer bulletin board. If you have additional questions, contact Deb Guentzel at 931-3591.

## 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 offers a time to get together to visit but also it are 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, August 11 at 1:30pm at the church.

## CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Members of the Church Board will meet on Tuesday, August 11 at 7:30pm at the church.

## PINE HAVEN CAMP

Camp sessions left for this season are:

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 5th-6th Graders     | – Aug 9-14   |
| Motorcycle Weekend  | – Aug 14-16  |
| 4th Graders         | – Aug 16-19  |
| Family Weekend      | – Aug 20-23  |
| Last Chance Camp    | – Sept 4-7   |
| Scrapbook Weekend 1 | – Sept 10-13 |
| Scrapbook Weekend 2 | – Sept 17-20 |

## ROCK THE RIVER TOUR

*“Follow me and I will make you Fishers of men.”*  
– Jesus Christ

Sunday, August 16, 2009  
2:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Harriet Island Regional Park, St. Paul, MN

*GOOD NEWS* from Franklin Graham  
Enjoy up to 7 hours of GREAT MUSIC!  
Great Food and Fun!

Sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic  
Association and Samaritan's Purse

For more information, visit [rocktherivertour.com](http://rocktherivertour.com)  
or see the church foyer bulletin board.

## HEART TO HEART

The “HEART TO HEART” personal need products for children and adults are distributed the last Saturday of every month here at the church from 10:00am to Noon. If you wish to donate items to the HEART TO HEART project, information and a place to put donations are located in our church foyer. Donations are welcomed and encouraged on an ongoing basis. Thank you for your help in this ministry!

## CROSSROADS COLLEGE 2009 HOMECOMING September 16-18 in Rochester

**GRICE LECTURESHIP:** Three in-depth lectures on theology/ministry with guest Dr. Donald Carson, Research Professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

**ALUMNI BANQUET:** Celebration of Crossroads' legacy and God's work, with recognition of John Enabnit ('73) as 2009 Distinguished Servant Award, and honoring classes of 1994, 1984, 1969 and 1959.

**VISITATION OF CROSSROADS CLASSES:** Sit in the classroom and walk the halls once again, and meet current students, professors and staff.

You thought the Fall Season was going to be dull and boring...!?! NOT SO. ...it's time to take a break, come to Crossroads, gather with friends, and see how everything is going. Mark your calendars now!!

**FRIEND DAY** has been scheduled for Sunday, September 20. 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 it would take is 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 have to wait until Friend Day; you can bring your friends to church any Sunday.

## MISSION NEWS

Almost all mission organizations are struggling with finances right now. Please keep the work of the LORD in your prayers. Ask God how you can help meet the needs of His workers both locally and around the world.

Dale Marshall, former missionary to Zimbabwe and newly retired, is now living in Idaho. Our congregation will continue to support Dale & Linda, but in a smaller monthly amount compared to when they were in Zimbabwe. Our church board voted that the difference in dollars will be used to support another Zimbabwe missionary, Fanny Nyamutora, of "African Harvest – Zimbabwe." Fanny is married to Martha and they have 3 sons. The "African Harvest – Zimbabwe" website can be found at [www.zimharvest.org](http://www.zimharvest.org).

## PRAYER CHAIN NEWS

Our prayer chain is alive and well! If you know of a need and wish to have prayer support, don't hesitate to contact our prayer chain lead volunteer. You may email your request to [clchurchprayer@live.com](mailto:clchurchprayer@live.com) or call Betty Lloyd at 931-5947 to leave a message. If you would like to join this ministry as a prayer volunteer, contact Betty to learn about options for serving in this work.

## MEMORIALS RECEIVED

We have recently received memorial money in memory of Don Lloyd. Thank you.

## ORPHANED DISHES

If you are missing dishes, check the kitchen pantry area for your orphans.

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

- John Kester was installed as our preaching minister on Sunday, July 12, 2009.
- Another BIG section of our church parking lot is now a concrete surface. This July pouring of cement completed the west end of our lot. Thank you (again) to those who helped make this happen!
- A new Kurzweil electric piano was purchased for the church with memorial money.
- The following went to Family Week Camp at Pine Haven: Pam Aanas and five family members.
- The following went to Adult Weekend Camp at Pine Haven: Mark and Mary Howells.
- The following went to 7th-8th Grade Camp at Pine Haven: Erika Wobbrock, Mamie Schoknecht, Jordan Phillips, Jacob Schettler, Claudia Theis, Megan Gjemse, Holly Gjemse, and Tony Siebert.
- The following went to the Ladies Retreat Weekend at Pine Haven: Kim Wobbrock, Marilyn Fahning, Carrie Muell, Connie Phillips, Mary Lou Guentzel, Deb Guentzel, Joann Hale and Mary Den Herder.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

900 State Highway 99

Mail to: PO Box 307

Cleveland, MN 56017

OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ

PASTOR: John Kester

ALL SUNDAYS unless noted otherwise

9:00am JAM Sessions = Bible Classes

10:00am Fellowship Time

10:30am Worship Service

[www.clevelandchurch.net](http://www.clevelandchurch.net)

OFFICE: (507) 931- 5924

GENERAL: [clchurch@live.com](mailto:clchurch@live.com)

PRAYER CHAIN: [clchurchprayer@live.com](mailto:clchurchprayer@live.com)

SECRETARY Lisa Koppelman: [clchurchlisa@live.com](mailto:clchurchlisa@live.com)

**BIRTHDAYS:** August 4– Max Miller; 5– Roxanne Goodrich, Jacob Schettler; 6– Mel Lloyd; 7– David Rupe; 8– Tanya Anderson, Nick Compton; 10– Marilyn Fahning, Emily Kern; 11– Brian Schmidt; 12– Judy Lloyd, Andrea Schmidt; 15– Tina Brunson; 16– Gregg Giersdorf, Gladis Samuel (missionary to India daughter); 17– Lowen Richter; 18– Ann Janovsky, Shane Rogers; 19– Orbbe Chadderdon; 21– Lori Moon; 22– Ava Peterson, George Schmidt; 23– Bev Hesch, Sandor Rozsa; 24– Elias Anderson; 25– Karen Rogers; 26– Wayne Fahning, Gary Guentzel; 30– Jim Rogers; 31– Jim Ely, Peter Menten, Jarod Schmidt

**ANNIVERSARIES:** August 10– Mel & Monie Lloyd; 11– George & Marilyn Schmidt; 14– Gregg & JoLene Giersdorf; 19– Sandy & Mike Simon; 22– Patti & Bruce Zuelch; 24– Orbbe & Joyce Chadderdon; 25– Greg & Neysa Schettler; 27– Glenn & Cindy Schmidt, Doug & Annette Swedberg; 31– Lenny & Jenni Schmidt

If you wish to no longer receive our email newsletters **OR** to update your email address, please reply to this address: [clchurchnews@live.com](mailto:clchurchnews@live.com)