

CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN CLEVELAND, MN

MAY 2010
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THE TRUTH

By John Kester, Pastor

You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:32

We live in a culture where truth claims are looked at skeptically. To claim that you know the truth and that the opinions that others hold are simply wrong, is seen as the height of intolerance. And intolerance is bad, very bad. Yet over and over again Jesus refers to truth as if it is real and as if we can know it. He suggests that truth is not an evil thing that people use to control the behavior of others, but that truth is the means by which we find freedom in our lives.

Jesus made a startling truth claim in John 14:6. He said "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This verse contains two very important insights into this idea of truth. It tells us that Jesus defines truth, not a set of ideas or a system of belief. Jesus simply says that He is truth. Truth is centered in Him. But perhaps even more significant is the fact that truth is necessary to approach God. We dare not suggest that truth is irrelevant when Jesus says it is the pathway to God.

The implications of this verse are staggering. If we want to know the truth about physics or geology or economics or whatever area of study we might engage in, we must begin with Jesus. It is impossible to discover truth when we do not make Jesus part of the equation. We cannot know truth if we do not know Him.

Many people try to separate what we believe about God from what we believe about the way the world works. But that is a futile way to approach life. We do not only find spiritual truth in Jesus. All truth is found in Him because He is truth. One reason so many people feel empty and that life has no meaning is because they have removed Jesus from the equation. When you remove the source of truth from life, than nothing makes sense.

The second idea is equally important. We cannot approach God apart from the truth found in Jesus. He is the only way to God. This is an absolutely exclusive claim. Jesus leaves no wiggle room for people who want to suggest there are other ways to know God. It is only in Jesus that we find the way to the Father.

Why do we bother making a case for truth? Truth matters because truth and life are tied together by the words of Jesus. We can't have life unless we have truth. We can't have truth without Jesus.

There are a lot of complex, difficult things to understand in our world. Sometimes the truth is hard to discern. The only way to discover what is true in the midst of so much confusion is to look to Jesus. He will reveal what is true and He will point the way to the Father. In such a complicated world, it is good to know where to find truth.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY 2010



All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- May 2 – Elders Meeting after worship service*
- May 6 – National Day of Prayer Cleveland Community Service*
- May 7 – Crossroads College Dream Banquet Rochester, MN*
- May 8 – Commencement at Crossroads College
- May 9 – Mother's Day
- May 9 – Monthly Building Offering
- May 11 – Dorcas Fellowship*
- May 11 – Church Board meeting*
- May 13-15 – Pine Haven Christian Assembly Work Weekend*
- May 15 – Free Clothing Distribution*
- May 15 – Cleveland City Garage Sales
- May 17-20 – Crossroads College Prime Timers on Campus, Rochester, MN
- May 20 – June Newsletter articles due
- May 22 – Cleveland City Clean Up Day
- May 23 – Prayer Meeting*
- May 29 – Heart to Heart distribution
- May 29-31 – Pine Haven Christian Assembly Fishing Weekend*
- May 31 – Memorial Day

COMING IN JUNE

- June 2 – Cleveland School Baccalaureate 7:00pm - John Kester to speak
- June 4 – Cleveland School Commencement 7:00pm
- June 13-19 PHCA 11th & 12th Grade camp
- June 18-19 – Cleveland Cherry Creek Days
- June 20 – Father's Day
- June 20-26 – PHCA 9th & 10th Grade camp John Kester at camp
- June 27-July 2 – PHCA Family Week



WELCOME BACK!

We would like to "Welcome Back" our winter snowbirds from the south. It is nice to have you back with our church family.

THE TRUTH PROJECT

On April 28th, we began a new Wednesday night study. The Truth Project is a Focus on the Family produced video series that focuses on a Christian worldview. The lessons will address many big issues such as what is the meaning of Life? Why did Jesus come into the world? What is Evil and where did it come from? Who is God? This series will discuss these and many other thought provoking questions. Come and have your thinking challenged. We will meet from 6:30-8:00pm. All are welcome.

ELDERS MEETING

The Elders will meet on Sunday, May 2 directly after the morning worship service.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Abraham Lincoln, The President who proclaimed the first national day of prayer in 1863 once said, "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I have nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that about me, seemed insufficient for the day."

On May 6, in conjunction with a nationwide focus, the Cleveland Ministerial Association urges the community to join us in observing a day of prayer here at the Church of Christ at 6:30pm.



Dream Banquet '10

Friday, May 7, 2010
Rochester Int'l Event Center

Special Guest Speaker – Mr. John Foppe
Silent Auction and Refreshments 5:30 - 6:30pm
Dinner and Program 7:00pm

This is a free event, but registration is required.
Deadline is April 26 to reserve your space.

Call 800-456-7651 or email

smoreland@crossroadscollege.edu

DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

The ladies will meet on Tuesday, May 11 at 11:00am at church to pool rides to Ellie-Gail's Deli in Elysian for lunch.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Members of the church board will meet on Tuesday, April 13 at 7:30pm at the church.

PINE HAVEN CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY



PHCA announces its annual WORK WEEKEND Thursday, May 13 through Saturday, May 15. 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.

FREE CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

We will be hosting our third annual free clothing distribution on Saturday, May 15, 9 am-1 pm. Please drop off good quality used clothing at the church beginning May 8 and through May 14. Children's clothing is especially needed. Clothing can be placed in the small classroom next to the Nursery (i.e., Room 1). Please contact Mary Howells if you are willing to set up, organize or help distribute the clothing.



PRAYER MEETINGS

"Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees." Corrie ten Boom
We want to avail ourselves of the power that is available when we pray. For this reason, prayer meetings have been scheduled for the following Sundays: May 23, June 27, and July 25. We plan to gather from 12:00-12:45pm and approach God together in prayer.



NEEDED TO MOW THE LAWN

We need volunteers to help mow the church 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. If you wish to use the church equipment, talk with Pastor John Kester to arrange to get equipment from the parsonage garage. A signup sheet with details about the job is on the foyer table at church.

PINE HAVEN FISHING CAMP

Memorial Day Weekend!
May 29, 30, and 31, 2010
With Early Worm start May 28 after 3pm

Novice and experienced fishermen and women welcomed. Days will consist mainly of fellowship and fishing.

Camp Deans & Fishing Enthusiasts:

Bob Wetmore 507-644-2020 or
507-430-3988 or awfun@redred.com
Dwight Hollingsworth 507-430-2102



CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

In an effort to encourage attendance at life changing weeks of camp, the church board has approved paying half of the tuition for each youth from our congregation who wishes to attend a week of camp at Pine Haven. Last year almost \$3,000 was needed to fund these scholarships and pay for transportation to camp. We anticipate a similar need this year. If you have a heart for kids and camp, we encourage you to give to the scholarship fund.



PHCA 2010 CAMP SCHEDULE

Based on grades going into Fall 2010
Cleveland is in Zone A

May 13-15	Work Weekend
May 29-31	Fishing Weekend
June 13-19	11th & 12th Grade
June 20-26	9th & 10th Grade (Zone A)
June 27-Jul 2	Family Week
July 2-4	Ladies Retreat
July 16-18	Adult Weekend
July 25-31	7th & 8th Grade (Zone A)
Aug 8-11	4th Grade
Aug 12-15	Family Weekend
Aug 15-20	5th & 6th Grade (Zone A)
Aug 20-22	Motorcycle Weekend
Sept 3-6	Last Chance Camp
Sept 9-12	Scrapbook Weekend 1
Sept 16-19	Scrapbook Weekend 2

DID YOU KNOW...

Money came in for our Building Fund in memory of Arthur and Evelyn Poonyo and Charles Kinson.

HEART TO HEART

Donations to HEART TO HEART are welcomed and encouraged on an ongoing basis. Donated items can be placed in the marked plastic tubs in the foyer. The following is a list of items that are needed on a monthly basis. Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Toothpaste & Brushes, Shaving Cream, Razors, Baby Products, Toilet Paper and Kleenex. We appreciate any help you can give. Our next distribution will be on Saturday, May 29.



KATRINA SWEDBERG IN INDIA

Katie Swedberg left on January 22, 2010, to train for mission outreach in Wollongong, Australia with "Youth with a Mission" (YWAM). After 3 months of training, Katie traveled on April 19th to serve with a mission outreach team in India. Her plans are to return to Australia on June 27 and then to the USA by July 3. Katie is the daughter of Doug & Annette Swedberg. She is one of "our own."

If you would like to send Katie a message, please email her at skatrina@ywamwollongong.org (while in India) she would love to hear from you. Visit Katie's blog about her training/mission at www.katrinaweds.blogspot.com

LOVE AND RESPECT MARRIAGE RETREAT

Because this series was so well received on Wednesday evenings this winter, we are offering this outstanding material in a retreat format. This retreat will be offered on June 11-12. On Friday evening we will begin at 6:30pm. Then on Saturday we will come back for two more sessions. The morning session will begin at 9:00am. A lunch meal will be provided. Then the afternoon session will begin at 1:30pm. We encourage all couples who want to improve their marriages to take part in this retreat.



Mark your calendars NOW! Vacation Bible School is being planned for August 1-5, Sunday through Thursday. More information coming later.

REBUILDING TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

Begin to plan now for a rebuilding trip to New Orleans in October of 2010. Dates are October 9-17. The cost will be approximately \$425. Cost includes: roundtrip by coach bus, 6 night hotel accommodation, complimentary hotel breakfast and group t-shirt. This trip is open to adults and teens 16 years and older if accompanied by a parent or guardian.



BIRTHDAYS: May 1– Bruce Oles; 4– Shirley Jacobson, Katie Schmidt; 9– Kim Miller; 11– Carter Kern; 13– Lana Filter; 14– Amy Poll; 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; 31– Larry & Lana Filter

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Church Web: www.clevelandchurch.net
Office Phone: (507) 931-5924
Office Email: clchurch@live.com
Prayer Chain: clchurchprayer@live.com

OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ
PASTOR: John Kester
CHURCH SECRETARY: Lisa Koppelman

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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