



## THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

By John Kester, Pastor

**Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward  
love and good deeds... Hebrews 10:24**

Over the years I have made many New Year's resolutions. I have resolved to eat less and exercise more many times. Those resolutions have met with at best temporary success. Some years I resolved to read through the Bible in that year. Sometimes I accomplished the goal, other times not. One year I resolved to write a letter of encouragement to someone each week. That lasted 5 or 6 weeks. I have discovered that when it comes to making changes in my life that are significant I am pretty weak-willed. In fact, my will is sometimes so weak that I have started telling people who share concerns with me that I will pray for them whenever I think of them. I stopped saying flat out that I would pray for them because sometimes I forgot, and I didn't want to tell people something that wasn't true. It's hard to be disciplined about things that really matter.

I have discovered that one of the things that keeps me on track is sharing my resolutions with someone else. One year I resolved to read one significant book a month before I read any other book for fun. When I made that resolution known to some people, it kept me focused on my goal. That year I read some stuff I thought I should but never would have read without the resolution. I read the *Brothers Karamazov* and the *Gulag Archipelago*. I read *Between Two Worlds* by John Stott and *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. I read Billy Graham's biography and a book by the British theologian G.K. Chesterton. My resolution was achieved that year because other people knew about it and could hold me accountable.

I think we would do a far better job of making changes in our lives if we were willing to do it in community. When I was a senior in college I was in the best shape of my life. My fitness level was high because I played basketball with a bunch of guys who were better athletes than I was. They could run faster and jump higher than me. The only way for me to compete was to work harder than the rest of them. So I ran laps hard at the beginning of practice. When we ran sprints, I sprinted even when some of the rest jogged. Because I was working in community it encouraged me to do my best.

The Sunday of the Christmas program I asked those present to write down what they might give to God this year. I guess you might call this a resolution. If you did that, I suggest you share your commitment with at least one other person. It will help you fulfill what you started out to do. If you haven't decided how you will be different, I challenge you to think what you could do to serve God better with your life. Then share it with someone so that together you and your friend can live lives that honor God.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY 2011

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

\* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- January 1 – New Year's Day
- January 2 – Elders Meeting after worship service
- January 9 – Monthly Building Offering
- January 9 – Worship Committee meeting
- January 11 – Church Board meeting at 7:30pm
- January 12, 19, 26, – Bible Study at 6:30pm
- January 16 – VBS meeting after worship service
- January 20 – February newsletter articles due
- January 20 – Ladies Night Out at Jackos\*
- January 30 – Prayer Meeting at 4:00pm

### COMING IN FEBRUARY & MARCH 2011

- February 8 – Church Board meeting at 7:30pm
- February 13 – Monthly Building Offering
- February 17 – March newsletter articles due
- March 3-4 – “Set Apart” conference for women, Northwestern College, St. Paul
- March 9 – Teen Challenge presentation at church during the worship service

### YOUTH GROUP

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 5 – 7th-12th Youth Group 7:15pm – 8:30pm
- Jan 8 – Rescheduled Progressive Dinner 3pm\*
- Jan 12 – 7th-12th Youth Group 7:15pm – 8:30pm
- Jan 16 – 6th- 8th Youth lunch & games after church
- Jan 19 – 7th-12th Youth Group 7:15pm – 8:30pm
- Jan 23 – Sledding at Christensen's
- Jan 26 – 7th-12th Youth Group 7:15pm – 8:30 pm
- Jan 28 – Youth Post Game Fun at church
- Feb 11-12 – Youth Rally and Ski “SnowFeast” in Kimball, MN \*
- Coming in March – “30 Hour Famine”

### YOUTH GROUP PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Youth Progressive Dinner has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 8 beginning at 3:00pm.

### YOUTH GROUP SNOWFEAST

Grades 7th-12<sup>th</sup>, Mark your calendar for February 11-12, Youth Rally and Ski “SnowFeast” in Kimball, MN. Cost is \$35.00 for the conference, \$15.00 for a lift ticket, \$15.00 to ski and \$19.00 to board. Any questions, please see Katie Swedberg.

### THANK YOU!

The Kester family would like to thank the congregation for the kind Christmas gift. We would also like to thank all the individuals who blessed us by sharing gifts with us. Most of all, we are grateful to those who included us in their family gatherings this Christmas. It was a delight to get the chance to spend time with so many different families the last few weeks. Thank you for blessing us. John, Cheryl, Olivia & Jade Kester

### THANK YOU!

To those who donated to Santa Anonymous, we say a heartfelt 'Thank You.'

### ADDITIONS TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Congratulations to Brenda Davis. She was baptized on November 14. She was joined by her husband Steve Davis who transferred his membership the same day. The Davis' live in rural Le Center.
- Congratulations to Gabriel Schettler who was baptized on November 21. Gabe is the son of Greg and Neysa Schettler.
- We welcome Will Vossmeier who transferred his membership on December 26. Will resides in Waterville, MN.

### OUR CONDOLENCES

- We offer our condolences to the family of Dean Hardy who died December 15, 2010. Dean was the pastor here in Cleveland from 1953-1958.
- We offer our condolences to the family of Leona Morsching who died December 18, 2010. Leona was the daughter of Rose Oles.

### BIBLE STUDY



A new Bible Study series will begin at 6:30pm on Wednesday, January 12. This study will be a verse-by-verse walk through of the book of Ephesians. Many of the Apostle Paul's letters were written to respond to problems in a particular congregation. Ephesians, however, was written primarily to encourage Christians to remain faithful and to stay united as the people of God. Come join us as we discover the wonder of being one in Christ Jesus.

## DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

Ladies of the Dorcas Fellowship will NOT be meeting the months of January thru March. They will resume in April.

## LADIES NIGHT OUT

On Thursday, January 20 at 6:00pm, the ladies will be meeting at Jockos in Cleveland to share a meal. Come and enjoy a fun time of visiting.

## DID YOU KNOW...

- Carter Kern was honored on December 3 at the Vivere Gala in the Twin Cities, an event hosted by the American Cancer Society. Carter has been in treatment for cancer since August 2009. Carter's mom, Becky, was the guest speaker at the gala.
- "Commendable Clippers" is a program to honor Cleveland school students who display 6 good character traits. In December, our own Ethan Muell and Brooke Phillips were selected as 2 of the honorees.
- See our foyer bulletin board for SEASONS GREETINGS from Fanny & Martha Nyamutora, missionaries in Zimbabwe; Babu & Mercy Samuel, missionaries in India; and Christian Student Fellowship, a campus ministry in St. Paul, MN.
- Memorial money was given in memory of Norman Poono, Stella's brother.
- You can view our 2010 Christmas season pictures at [www.clevelandchurch.net](http://www.clevelandchurch.net).

## 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. You may also call the church office at 931-5924. If you would like to join this ministry as a prayer volunteer, contact Betty to learn about options for serving in this work.

**BIRTHDAYS:** January 1– Ethan Muell; 2– Ryan Chadderdon, Lois Lloyd, Patti Zuelch; 5– Izze Christensen, Eddie Hall, Andrea Hoffman, Asia Kern; 8– Noah Schettler; 10– Bill Morsching; 12– Ciara Guentzel; 13– Mary Meyer; 15– Steve Davis; 18– Jolene Christensen, 19– Laura Dickie, Art Poll; 24– Troy Miller; 25– Sam Samuel (missionary son in India); 29– Selena Ely; 30– Gunnar Janovsky

**ANNIVERSARY:** January 8– Dale & Liz Rogers

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

While we greet each other at our worship services, we may not really know each other that well. We'd like to feature someone each month in our newsletter. Please meet Evelyn Engelrup.

## EVELYN ENGLERUP

**Birthplace** – Le Center, MN

**Family** – Tom Engelrup & two nieces

**Hobbies** - Crocheting

**Fondest Childhood Memory** – Summers in northern Minnesota near Bemidji

**Favorite Bible Verse** – John 3:16

**How I Became a Christian** – I wanted to know all about the Bible and its teaching.

**I Will Never Forget** – Gordon Dickie

**My Biggest Challenge** – Telling people about accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior

**A Life Lesson I would Like to Pass On** –

Make Jesus Savior and Lord of your life.

Prepare for the life hereafter — where do you want to spend eternity?

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Prayer Chain: [clchurchprayer@live.com](mailto:clchurchprayer@live.com)

**OUR HEAD:** Jesus Christ

**PASTOR:** John Kester

**YOUTH ASSOCIATE:** Katrina Swedberg

**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

All 2008, 2009, 2010

Cleveland Church of Christ monthly newsletters  
[http://www.clevelandchurch.net/index.php?p=1\\_212](http://www.clevelandchurch.net/index.php?p=1_212)