



*I've Been Thinking about . . . Sabbatical*  
by Pastor Chris

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."  
—Mark 6:30-31

Christians need rest after an extended time of ministry. That is why CCC has a reduced ministry schedule during the summer, why we honor our ministry volunteers' decisions to step aside after a time, and why our personnel policies allot sabbatical leave for pastors.

Pastoral ministry has both unique joys and unique demands. Over a period of several years, the accumulation of those demands can drain a pastor's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual vitality. That is why the generous and caring church—such as CCC—grants sabbaticals to her pastors.

Our English word "sabbatical" derives from the Hebrew word *shabbat*, which refers to an intentional, purposeful cessation of work. In Genesis 2:2, God ceased from his work of creating the universe.

A sabbatical provides a pastor with the opportunity to rejuvenate his body and soul, refresh his relationships with family, and deepen his relationship with God.

September 1 marks my seven-year anniversary as senior pastor here at CCC. Consequently, I will take my sabbatical from September 1 through November 20.

CCC's sabbatical policy directs a pastor to create a sabbatical plan that shows a balance of physical rest, personal recreation, intellectual stimulation, spiritual renewal, and family enrichment. Accordingly, I have developed my sabbatical plan, which the elders have approved. There is some overlap in the areas to be balanced. For example, God has designed me in such a way that intellectual stimulation *is* personal recreation. My weeks allotted to "rest, relaxation, and recreation" will include both physical rest and spiritual renewal through stillness, silence, solitude, and surrender before the Lord. I will thoroughly enjoy everything in my sabbatical plan, which appears below:

### Sabbatical Plan

**September 1-November 20. Take the course "Augustine: Philosopher and Saint."**

This CD course consists of 12 lectures by Dr. Phillip Cary, Professor of Philosophy at Eastern University. Nothing is more fun than a great university lecture!

In conjunction with the course, I will read Augustine's two most important and influential works:

- *Confessions*. This is Augustine's own account of his early life. It is considered to be the finest autobiography ever written. It is a splendid account of his spiritual journey as, over time, Christ found Augustine.
- *City of God*. Augustine wrote this tome after the Visigoths sacked Rome in AD 410. Augustine develops a Christian philosophy of history as he moves through the turmoil and upheaval of man-made states (the City of the World) and continues to the realization of the kingdom of God (the City of God). *City of God* is a massive work, so I may not finish it during my sabbatical, but I should get well into it.

Also, in conjunction with the course, I will read two important books about Augustine:

- *Augustine of Hippo* by Peter Brown. This is the definitive biography on Augustine.
- *Augustine the Theologian* by Eugene TeSelle. This excellent book traces the theological development of Augustine's mind.

## **“What will I Sacrifice to Know Christ & Make Him Known?”**

Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries

*Howard Lundeen*

*“In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness;” (Psalm 45:4a NIV)*

Although this is a psalm to a king at the time of his wedding, it is viewed as prophetic of Christ and his bride the church. In this sense, and in light of the fact that in Ephesians 5:1 we are told to be imitators of God in the way we live and in Philippians 2:5 we are instructed to have the attitude of Christ Jesus, I view this instruction to a king (prophetic of our King Jesus) as something we should do as members of the true church. We should go forth confidently on behalf of truth, humility and righteousness.

Jesus, the Truth (Jn. 14:6), came bearing witness to the truth (Jn. 18:37) in a spirit of unselfish humility we are all called to emulate. He was willing not only to leave the glory of being in the presence and fellowship of God the Father, but to place aside the nature of sovereign God to humbly take on the likeness of man. Jesus was willing to come as a servant who was willing to give up his life to supply our need for redemptions and righteousness. I know I find myself falling far short of this attitude myself. Do we as a church reflect this spirit of humble service?

As I look at myself and gaze upon the church, Christ’s bride, I must ask the question, “What will I/we sacrifice to know Christ and to make Him known?” In all honesty, I have to believe that we are not willing to sacrifice near as much for others as we are for our comfort, convenience, and pleasure. God’s command to love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourself (Mk. 12:30-31), pales as I view how sacrificially attached we are to personal gratification and the temporal rewards of this world and our culture. I have to believe if I/we were living to please God, we would be living much more sacrificially in an effort to lovingly serve others, to help them know the truth and to experience the blessing of a redemptive relationship with Him.

It’s my prayer that we as members of God’s family will victoriously advance the kingdom of God by humbly being witnesses for truth, humility, and righteousness!

Sabbatical: Some of you, I am sure, are interested in knowing who will be speaking Sunday morning while Pastor Chris is on sabbatical. Plans are nearing finalization and at this time I would like to inform you of who will be speaking during the month of September:

September 5<sup>th</sup> - - - - Dan Hedge  
September 12<sup>th</sup> - - - - Dan Hedge

September 19<sup>th</sup> - - - - Jeff Stebbins  
September 26<sup>th</sup> - - - - Bob Schaus

We know we are going to miss Pastor Chris and yet I see this as an excellent opportunity to hear the truth of Scripture proclaimed by others who love God deeply and will communicate somewhat differently. We are seeing God’s hand at work all around us in many unique and fascinating ways; therefore, I have to believe that He has a special blessing of growth designed for us even during Pastor Chris’s absence.

Prayer: The other evening I was especially challenged while listening to a member of our congregation share how God had clearly answered several prayer requests during a given week. I would like to share four items I believe we need to be passionately seeking God’s wisdom and provision for:

- Children’s Sunday School teachers: We have several who will not be returning this year. Please pray that God will raise up people who truly are called to replace them.
- Our MAKs ministry: We also have a few ladies who are stepping down from leadership in MAKs; please pray for some women with a vision for this ministry to replace them.
- Extending for the Kingdom: We faithfully prayed for God’s leading and blessing throughout our capital campaign portion of “Extending for the Kingdom”. Right now the plans for our potential facility expansion are being developed. We need to pray for the development of these plans and for clarity and unity as we collectively seek to move forward. I believe our fervency of prayer in this realm has decreased; so, please consider how God may be calling you to an increased devotion to prayer.
- Small group opportunities and leaders: Our desire is to provide more small groups for people. Please pray for God’s leading in this and for additional leaders.

*Pastor Howard*

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## H.T.C. Heart Thoughts for Cornerstone

By: Pastor Zach Marino

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I admit, I've let myself get a little too busy. At the beginning of July I started my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Seminary (only 3 left!) and was leading 13 students and 3 adults to Columbus, Ohio for our National Conference. That same week we had a celebration ceremony of a young man that passed from this life into the arms of his Savior, Jesus Christ. After Challenge, it was a challenge. Keeping up with school, getting FOCUS groups organized and moving, and having "Zach time," provided a major challenge. That is the main reason I didn't get an article in last month and for that I apologize. Currently I am speaking at Camp Shamineau in Motley, MN for the last week of Summer Camp! I am communicating God's truth to students in grades 7-9! It's been awesome so far and I trust the week finishes off strong! I want to share something with you that God challenged me with even before I hit the Camp for the week. I want to share with you about my knowledge of prudence. What does it mean to be prudent?

Define prudence. Go ahead, in your mind, define prudence. For me I always pegged prudence to be "conservative, restrained, especially in dealing with our resources." However, I read Proverbs 15:5 tonight and got my definition shook up. Here is God's word defining prudence "**A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.**" Did you catch it? Prudence is defined in context with obedience. To be prudent is to listen to and obey those people in your life who are much wiser and have more life experience than you!

Wow. Whew. So, first, I need to recognize those people who have this position in my life. My dad and mom for sure and my fellow co-workers at church. I am the youngest staff member and currently work with Howard, a young, 70 year old retired math teacher, who has taught me so much about prayer! Chris, a young 50 year old teacher of the Word has taught me so much about the priority of God's authority through scripture and how it needs to be always looked to for first rule in our lives, plus just some great jokes. :) Gloria, a passionate woman for leading others into the throne room of heaven through music, has taught me a lot about practical ways in serving and leading a diverse body of believers when it comes to worship, thanks Gloria :) And Merilee. Probably the most organized person I've ever seen! Her peaceful spirit brings peace to me each and every day I work. She is patient and keeps me grounded in reality when I sometimes float off :) For all these people, as a young man, I must strive to listen and obey. Especially, as scripture says, with my father. I respect my dad so much and whenever I have a chance to glean wisdom from him, I just sit and listen, and then try to do what he says : )

To all you "youngsters" out there, listen. Be quiet! And listen. Don't think you have all the answers, because you don't, I don't. I do know however that we need to listen and obey. It's a two-part deal. You must listen but also must do what you're told! In a culture where youth reigns, it's much harder to live this way. However, when we start living prudently, and making decisions informed by the more experienced, Christ-centered generations, our lives will be much healthier and Christ-centered.

Sit. Listen. Respond. Live a prudent life.

Pastor Zach

**“Seeing Biblically”**

**By: Jeff Stebbins**

*CCC Missionary*

*Resource Exchange International-Vietnam*

**Lifescopes**

Last month I described how salvation--our new, eternal life in Christ—‘turns the lights on.’ Jesus is the Light of the world (Jn 8:12); if we believe in Him, He fills us with the Holy Spirit, who brings us out of darkness into light, so we can see, can understand. Let’s continue this metaphor (sight = knowledge), because the Bible uses it often, in a variety of ways. The more we read and know Scripture, the more we know God, and can see things (ourselves, others, the world, the future...) as He sees them, as they *really* are.

When I recently turned 50, my doctor prescribed an unpleasant procedure somewhat like getting speckled. He used an *endoscope*, a flexible instrument for seeing inside the body. God, however, needs no endoscope to “search the heart and examine the mind” (Jer. 17:10, cf. I Sam. 16:7). He created us and knows us inside and out (Ps. 139:13-16). The more I study what the Bible says about me (and others), the more will I gain deeper understanding of people--how God has created us, how sin ruins us, how God rescues us, and more. In the Bible, God’s insights enable us to look within (*endo* = ‘within’ + *scope* = ‘to look’) human hearts and minds to see what He sees!

On Sept. 24, 1861, the Union Army sent a man 1,000 ft. up in a balloon to see, and telegraph the precise location of, a Confederate army three miles away. For the first time in history, gunners were able to destroy an enemy they could not themselves see. The secret, of course, was the *perspective* gained by altitude.

On the internet, *MSN* and *Google* have mapping functions, which enable us to look down upon where we are and see the way to where we want to go. Those pictures, of course, come to us from satellites with a *perspective* we don’t have at ground level.

Knowing God’s Word gives us His perspective. From Heaven, He looks down upon *everything* (Ps. 33:13-14), and this enables us to trust in His unfailing, loving care (Ps. 33:18-22). This *biblical perspective* is the key.

What about the future? Upcoming years--even hours or minutes--remain beyond our ken, because there are no crystal balls, no futurescopes. Economists’ forecasts about the length of this recession are barely more reliable than my predictions about who will win the 2013 World Series. I don’t even know last year’s winner.

Biblical prophecies tell us some of *what* will happen, but little about *how* or *when* it’ll happen. Still, though we can’t see what’s ahead, we belong to the One who holds the future, who sees the beginning and the end of all things (Is. 46:10). And “*I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day*” (II Tim. 1:12, NIV). What we cannot see, we can entrust to God, who sees it all!



2200 4th Street NE - Waseca, MN 56093

PHONE: (507) 835-2235

FAX: (507) 833-8857

E-MAIL: [ccc@ccecfca.com](mailto:ccc@ccecfca.com)

Website: [www.ccecfca.com](http://www.ccecfca.com)

PRAYER REQUESTS: [prayer@ccecfca.com](mailto:prayer@ccecfca.com)

*A heart for God and you*

## Sunday Worship Events



**Resuming  
9/12/10**

<b>First service:</b> 8:00 - 9:15am
<b>Fellowship:</b> 9:15 - 9:30am
<b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30 - 10:30am
<b>Second Service:</b> 10:45am - 12pm
<b>Prayer Meeting:</b> 5:00 - 6:00pm

## Staffed Office Hours

	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Monday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm
Tuesday:	=====	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm
Thursday:	=====	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm

### Christ Community Church Mission Statement

**As a local body of believers, we will seek to glorify God in worship, in evangelizing the unsaved and in teaching Christians to obey everything Christ commanded. To that end, prayer will be our foremost task, Scripture will be our authority, God's Holy Spirit will be our source of power and love will be our motivation.**





**\*\* Women's Ministry \*\***

**COMING EVENTS**

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Karen Gibson would like to do one-on-one mentoring/prayer/Bible study.  
Please call her with any questions, 507-231-6157 or contact Janis Campagna, 507-327-9513.

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**September**

**\*To Live Is Christ\***

Monday morning/Thursday evening Bible study  
*The Life and Ministry of Paul*  
Begins Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>  
Register now!

**September 18<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Living Proof Live – with Beth Moore\***  
**Simulcast at Faribault Evangelical Free Church**  
**Tickets: \$15.00 in advance - \$25.00 at the door**  
**Tickets will be available Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> at the Information Booth**  
***Volunteers needed the day of the event – sign up at the Info. Booth***

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**October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Fall Retreat at Camp Victory**  
Mark this date on your calendar!!

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**October 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Women of Faith**  
Excel Energy Center, St. Paul, MN  
Tickets available now!

**Be sure and mark these events on your calendar!!**



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While my theological education has exposed me to Augustine, I have never had the opportunity to take a course exclusively on Augustine. Augustine is the greatest of the Church Fathers, and he is arguably the most important Christian writer outside of the Bible. His influence remains strong today, even in Christ Community Church. CCC, as a Protestant church, is a product of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation. The Reformers (such as Luther and Calvin) drew heavily from Augustine due to his teachings on salvation and grace. I will enjoy this opportunity to make friends with Augustine!

**September 1-14.** Rest, relaxation, and recreation.

**September 15.** Fly with Rhonda to Orlando, FL.

**September 16.** Rhonda and I enjoy Disney World with Walter Eriksen (our church's second pastor).

**September 17-18.** Americans Serving Other Nationals (ASON) Board meetings in Melbourne, FL. These will be enjoyable as Rhonda and I spend time with our friends on the board without the pressure of preparing for the following Sunday. It is always exhilarating to learn what God is doing throughout the world through ASON-supported national ministries.

**September 19.** Rhonda and I worship at St. Andrew's Chapel in Orlando, pastored by R. C. Sproul. We return home in the evening.

**September 20-21.** Rest, relaxation, and recreation.

**September 22-23.** Rhonda and I get away to Superior Gateway Lodge (just north of Two Harbors).

**September 24-30.** Rest, relaxation, and recreation.

**October 1-3.** Participate in the Desiring God Conference. The conference is entitled "Think: The Life of the Mind and the Love of God." It will explore the expression of love for God through the development of a vibrant intellectual life. It will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Speakers include R. Albert Mohler, R. C. Sproul, Thabiti Anyabwile, Francis Chan, Rick Warren, and John Piper. Rhonda will attend at least a part of the conference with me.

**October 4-5.** Participate in the NCD Pastors' Teaching Conference. This conference is based on Article 8 of the EFCA Statement of Faith and is entitled "Article 8 Living: Fleshing Out Compassion and Justice in Our Churches and Communities." The conference will take place at Camp Shamineau.

**October 5-8.** Personal Retreat at Camp Shamineau using spiritual retreat resources from LivingStone Monastery, an evangelical monastery.

**October 9-16.** Rest, relaxation, and recreation.

- Go with Rhonda to see the autumn colors in Red Wing.
- October 14. Go with Rhonda to a performance of the Minnesota Orchestra.  
Go out for fish and chips at a British restaurant after the concert.
- October 15. Go with Rhonda to a performance of Triple Espresso.

**October 16-21.** Go to visit my mother, brother, and sister in North Carolina. (Mom likely will have moved to my sister's home in North Carolina.)

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# MAKS



**ALL MOMS WELCOME!!**

*FRIENDS, FUN & FELLOWSHIP!*

**Bring a friend!!**

*Fall is almost upon us and MAKS wants to help energize you during this busy season.*

MAKS is a moms & kids group that meets the first & third Tuesdays of each month in the Fireside Room from 10am to noon. We spend time working & learning together as mothers.

**September 21st**

**Fall Kick-Off**

Come and join us!



**Come prepared to relax, laugh & meet other moms.**

## **MISSIONS BUZZ**



### **Upcoming Missionary Visits**

We're looking forward to September 19th, when Jeff Stebbins will be speaking in our morning worship services. Jeff & Beth are currently based in Colorado and serve with the Navigators through Resource Exchange International.

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**October 22-25.** Participate in Lausanne III at Columbia International University (CIU) in Columbia, South Carolina. The first Lausanne conference was held in 1974. Since then, the Lausanne movement has been a major force in world evangelism. The third Lausanne conference will be held in October in Cape Town, South Africa. CIU (where I earned my doctorate) is an official "Globalink" site for the conference. CIU's website states:

Utilizing access to the Lausanne Congress as a Globalink site, Lausanne III @ CIU will be a combination of videos from Cape Town, small group discussion and live interaction with CIU faculty and students in South Africa. All these components will be brought together for a unique educational experience. Conference attendees will join with Undergraduate, Seminary and Doctoral students as our faculty guide participants through the issues presented.

**October 26-28.** Resume visit with my mother, brother, and sister in North Carolina.

**October 29.** Return home.

**October 30-November 20.** Rest, relaxation, and recreation.

Thank you very much for what will be my first sabbatical after 28 years of pastoral and missionary ministry. I look forward to a season of refreshment from the Lord. I'll see you on Sunday, November 21.

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## Building Committee Update



**The Building Committee has met with I&S Engineering and commissioned them to develop plans as instructed by Church action in July. At this time work is beginning on the plans and we are anticipating another meeting with I&S late in September with a target date for plan completion of November 15th. The Building Committee welcomes suggestions and questions, and people are encouraged to visit with Building committee members at any time.**

# SEPTEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team	<b>3</b> <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <u>9:30am</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	<b>6</b> <i>Labor Day - The church office will be closed.</i> <u>6:30pm</u> Outreach Commission	<b>7</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Women's Min. <u>7:00pm</u> Congregational Care Comm. <u>7:00pm</u> Property Comm.	<b>8</b> <u>6:00-7:30pm</u> AWANA Open House <u>6:00-9:00pm</u> <i>Amazing Race!</i>	<b>9</b> <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study	<b>10</b> <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <u>8:00-9:15am</u> Worship Service <u>9:30-10:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45-12:00</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	<b>13</b> <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts	<b>14</b> <u>7:00pm</u> Children's Commission	<b>15</b> <u>6:00-7:30pm</u> AWANA <u>6:00-7:30pm</u> Jr. High <u>7:30-9:00pm</u> highRise	<b>16</b> <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study	<b>17</b> <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <u>8:00-9:15am</u> Worship Service <u>9:30-10:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45am</u> <i>Under- Shepherd Meeting</i> <u>10:45-12:00</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	<b>20</b> <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts	<b>21</b> <u>10:00am</u> MAKS <u>6:30pm</u> Elder Board Meeting	<b>22</b> <u>6:00-7:30pm</u> AWANA <u>6:00-7:30pm</u> Jr. High <u>7:30-9:00pm</u> highRise	<b>23</b> <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study	<b>24</b> <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <u>8:00-9:15am</u> Worship Service <u>9:30-10:30am</u> Sunday School <u>10:45-12:00</u> Worship Service <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	<b>27</b> <u>10:00am</u> Women's Study <u>6:30pm</u> Precepts	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <u>6:00-7:30pm</u> AWANA <u>6:00-7:30pm</u> Jr. High <u>7:30-9:00pm</u> highRise	<b>30</b> <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Study		