

I've Been Thinking about . . . The Olive Tree
by Pastor Chris

A boy watched his grandfather wipe the sweat from his brow as he dug in rocky soil. As the grandfather planted an olive tree seedling, the boy asked, "Grandpa, how long will it take before we can eat olives?"

The grandfather answered, "Well, it'll take about ten years for the tree to produce its first olives."

"But Grandpa," the boy replied, "why are you planting the olive tree now? You are so old!"

The grandfather's eyes shifted to a far-off look as he answered, "Others planted and I ate. I plant so you can eat."

An olive tree can continue to produce abundantly for centuries. The olive tree is so valued that in Israel and Jordan, a person's wealth can be measured by the number of olive trees he owns.

In Bible times, prophets, priests and kings were anointed with olive oil. The olive served as a staple food. Lamps with wicks soaking in olive oil provided light in homes and in the temple. Olive oil soothed and healed wounds, as in Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan.

David writes in Psalm 52:8, "I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God."

We too can be like olive trees. We can anoint our leaders with the oil of our prayers. We can bring spiritual food to a famine-plagued world. We can be the light of the world, shining brilliantly for Jesus. We can soothe and heal wounded souls with the balm of God's promises and the encouragement of the Scriptures.

The grandfather left a legacy. Will we leave a legacy? May we be like olive trees, bringing blessing both to those around us and to future generations.

[Adapted from a devotional by George Kelsey in *Stones of Remembrance 2: Wheaton's Living Stones* (Wheaton, IL: Wheaton College, 2006), 114]



“God is Waiting”

Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries
Howard Lundeen

“...This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Return to me,’ declares the LORD Almighty, ‘and I will return to you,’ says the LORD Almighty.” (Zechariah 1:3)

Zechariah was sent by the Lord to prophesy to the children of Israel who had returned from captivity to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Work on the temple had stalled and they needed to step up to the task they had been called to do. One of the first statements Zechariah makes was that God’s people needed to “return to the Lord.” As part of the National Day of Prayer on April 5th, we were encouraged as a nation to call on the Lord, seeking his guidance and forgiveness. The church in America also needs to come humbly before God seeking his forgiveness and revival. How assuring it is to know that when we ask for forgiveness, God has promised to forgive (1 Jn 1:9)! We know that He is eager to restore his relationship with us. In James 4:7-8 we are told, “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.” God is waiting; are we willing and eager to return to Him?

Adult Discipleship: Because of interest expressed by several people to extend the Adult Sunday School through June, it has been decided to offer one adult class from 8:15 to 9:15 AM each Sunday morning from May 29th through June 26th. Everyone is invited to join the excellent Tommy Nelson, DVD, study from the book of Ecclesiastes, entitled, “A Life Well Lived”. The class will meet in the Fireside Room.

National Day of Prayer: The prayer open-house from 6:30 to 9:30 PM on the National Day of Prayer, May 5th, went well; however, the number of people who participated was less than anticipated. Prayer guides were made up to help people as they prayed for our nation and church. We have some left over guides which could be helpful in your personal or family prayer times (one section lists the names of local, state & national leaders who represent us). If you would like a copy of the prayer guide, please let me know.

MCMA Annual Meeting: It was an honor to represent our church at the Minnesota Church Ministries Association annual meeting on April 28th held at Prairie Hills EFC in Eden Prairie. Tim Johnson, the Executive Director of MCMA, spoke at our church three Sundays during Pastor Chris’ sabbatical. I expressed our thanks to MCMA, and especially to Tim, for his ministry with us. His “Gospel Nudge” message and workshop definitely had a positive impact upon our people. I still frequently hear people speaking about nudging others closer to Christ.

Family Care Fund: I want to say a special thanks to all who have contributed to the FCF and the Tim Voigt Care Ministry. Because of your generosity, we have had the joy of helping Tim and several others who have experienced financial need. The data below represents activity with the FCF fund from mid-April to mid-May:

Receipts: \$4,386.94
Expenditures: \$2,851.83 --- (\$430.00 assistance with usual requests,
the rest was payment on bills for Tim Voigt)

Tim Voigt Care Fund – ledger record
Receipts \$3,845.00
Expenses Paid \$2,421.83
Remaining Balance \$1,423.17

Pastor Howard

H.T.C.
Heart Thoughts for Cornerstone

By: Pastor Zach Marino

While filling up my Santa Fe with gas after a great road trip and opening gig at the Remedy Drive show in Elkhart, Indiana, the Lord decided to speak very clearly to me about a common sickness we all share.

I walked inside the gas station and there was the clerk, about my age, male, standing behind the counter looking at what seemed to be a very inappropriate magazine. When he saw me, he was nice, asked what I needed help with, got my gas paid for and I left. However, when I left that gas station, the Holy Spirit clearly convicted me. You see, when I first walked in the door and saw him looking at that magazine, my heart condemned him. In my mind and heart I said "I can't believe he's looking at that magazine in public!" Boy, did I have it all wrong. Was that how Jesus would have responded, condemning him on the spot? I mean, think of when a woman caught in adultery was brought before him, being accused of getting caught in the act...he first exposed the hearts of her accusers and silenced them (like he did me) but then turned to her and said, "Neither do I condemn you. Now go, and leave your life of sin." It wasn't the place of those leaders to judge this lady and it wasn't my role to judge this guy. Even though I didn't say anything to him, I still committed that sin; yes, sin. You see, I know we all share this common struggle of judging others. That's why Jesus speaks to this....

In Matthew 7:1 he says, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Jesus knows that we have no grounds for judging others even if our lives are kept a little "cleaner" than another person's. According to Isaiah 64:6 "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags..." Even if we are "better" than another person, it's not about how many good or bad things we do, it's about Christ. Are our lives mirrors that clearly reflect the heart of Christ? My duty in that gas station was not to address the actions, it was to address the heart issue. However I couldn't do that because my heart was having issues...it was focused on selfishness rather than selflessness. It takes a lot to have your heart beat for others and not always for yourself. The eyes of our heart must start seeing the needs of others so we can be Christ in all circumstances, to all people. Isn't our journey with Christ really a journey with each other? I believe it's "our" problems instead of "my problems." As we rub shoulders with common sojourners, whether they believe in Christ or not, we all deal with the same sin problem. We all share struggles stemming from our sin nature. Isn't that why God gave us each other though? Instead of judging our common sojourner, we feel for them, our heart breaks for them, not because it's the natural or "nice" thing to do, it is what we have been created to do. Yet, it's a common struggle we all share that forces us to live outside ourselves, and live in community.

We have been created to live in community, let's start living like it.

Loved by God,

Pastor Zach Marino



Summer K.I.C.K.s

Kids in Christ's Kingdom

June 13-16, 2011

KICKs is a summer outreach ministry to the community at Vista Villa. Our goal is to share God's love, bring the message of salvation, and build relationships with kids and their families.

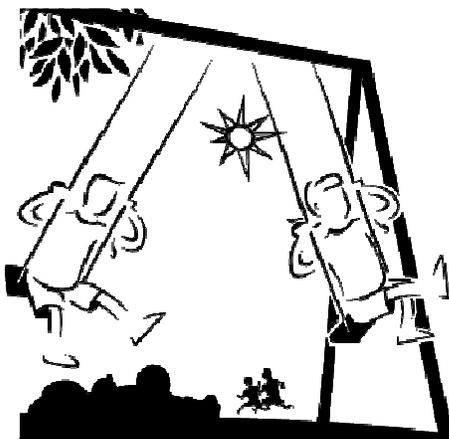
Please be in prayer for this upcoming ministry, that relationships from last year will be renewed & strengthened, and that the hearts of children and their families would be open to hearing God's Word.

MAKS (Moms And Kids)

ALL MOMS WELCOME!!

Please join us in the park this summer for MAKS!

MAKS in the Park!



June - August
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
10:00 am

Southview Park, Waseca
Bring a picnic lunch

Questions: Stacy Dufault 833-2325

Invite a friend!!



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E-MAIL: ccc@ccecfca.com

Website: www.ccecfca.com

PRAYER REQUESTS: prayer@ccecfca.com

A heart for God and you

Sunday Worship Events



Adult Sunday School (thru June): 8:15am

Worship Service: 9:30am

Prayer Meeting: 5:00 - 6:00pm

Staffed Office Hours

	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Monday:	=====	Noon - 5:00 pm
Tuesday:	=====	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm
Thursday:	=====	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday:	=====	9:00 am - 4:00 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

Would you like to share your gifts and talents serving in Women's Ministry?

Here are some areas to serve:

Saturday Studies Fundraisers Bible Studies Fellowship Retreats Media / Marketing
Events held outside of church

Contact Sara Stensrud if interested in further details.

Watch for further details in the bulletin for **LADIES NIGHT OUT**
Come for fun & fellowship!

Coming this Fall – Kings & Prophets
"The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"

Monday evenings 6:30 – 8:30

Starts September 12, 2011

Must register by August 28th - Open to Men... Women... Couples

Mark your calendar for the Women's
FALL RETREAT 9/30-10/1 at Camp Victory

***** Women of Faith *****

October 21st – 22nd



JUNE 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Young Adults	2 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team	3 <u>6:15-7:30am</u> Men's Group	4
5 <u>8:15-9:15am</u> Adult S.S. Class <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Worship Service <u>11:00</u> College Ready <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer <u>6:00pm</u> 21 Laws	6 <u>6:30pm</u> Outreach Comm. <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> SUSTAIN	7 <u>6:30pm</u> Women's Min. <u>7:00pm</u> Congr. Care <u>7:00pm</u> Property Comm.	8 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Young Adults	9 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team	10 <u>6:15-7:30am</u> Men's Group	11 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Journey Men Leaders
12 <u>8:15-9:15am</u> Adult S.S. Class <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Worship Service <u>11:00</u> College Ready <u>11:00</u> 20.20 Focus <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer <u>6:30pm</u> Small Group Leaders Mtg.	13 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> SUSTAIN	14 <u>7:00pm</u> Children's Commission	15 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Young Adults	16 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team	17 <u>6:15-7:30am</u> Men's Group	18
	KICKS - Kids in Christ's Kingdom - Outreach at Vista Villa					
19 <u>8:15-9:15am</u> Adult S.S. Class <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Worship Service <u>11:00</u> College Ready <u>11:00</u> 20.20 Focus <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer <u>6:00pm</u> 21 Laws	20 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> SUSTAIN	21 <u>6:30pm</u> Elder Board Meeting	22 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Young Adults	23 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team	24 <u>6:15-7:30am</u> Men's Group	25
		Youth Missions Trip to New Orleans - June 17-26				
26 <u>8:15-9:15am</u> Adult S.S. Class <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Worship Service <u>11:00</u> College Ready <u>11:00</u> 20.20 Focus <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	27 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> SUSTAIN	28 <u>7:00pm</u> Adult Disciple- ship Comm.	29 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Young Adults	30 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team		