



## *I've Been Thinking about . . . Thermostats* by Pastor Chris

Thermometers measure temperature. They only read thermal conditions. But thermostats control temperature. They influence thermal conditions.

God calls the church to be not a thermometer, but a thermostat. The church is called not to read the culture and then alter her message accordingly. The church is called to influence the culture by the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

Athanasius was a thermostat.

From her earliest days, in fidelity to Scripture, the church had believed and taught that God is one God in three distinct Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each of whom is fully God, of one and the same divine substance.

Tragically, in the fourth century, a church leader named Arius began teaching a false doctrine called Arianism—that the Son is a created being, not God, and therefore of a different substance than the Father.

Arius's teaching gained traction, and the church became alarmed. The Council of Nicea met in 325 and used Scripture to formulate the Nicene Creed, which repudiated Arianism by stating that the Son is God, begotten not created, and of one substance with the Father. The church affirmed the full deity of the Son, and Arianism was laid to rest.

Lies rise from the dead, however, and in the middle of the fourth century, Arianism experienced such new life that the theologian Jerome later complained, "The whole world groaned and marveled to find itself Arian."

So God raised up Athanasius, a bishop of high intellect, sharp theological skill, devout heart, and keen instinct for the power of the pen. Athanasius almost single-handedly defended the full deity of the Son, and was exiled five times for doing so. Yet Athanasius did not yield, did not relent, did not give up. He persevered in teaching the full deity of the Son, even though the culture had pretty much adopted Arianism.

Athanasius finally prevailed, although, having died in 373, he did not live to see his victory. In 381, Athanasius, though dead, still spoke (Heb 11:4), and the Council of Constantinople adopted a slightly modified version of the Nicene Creed:

"We believe . . . in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father. . . ."

Arianism was defeated.

Athanasius was a thermostat. Against the Arian culture of his day, he fought courageously for the biblical doctrine of the full deity of the Son, even through the hardships of repeated exiles. For this he was nicknamed Athanasius *contra mundum*, "Athanasius against the world." He persevered as a thermostat until the Truth penetrated the culture.

C. S. Lewis says of Athanasius, "He stood for the Trinitarian doctrine, 'whole and undefiled,' when it looked as if all the civilized world was slipping back from Christianity into the religion of Arius. . . . It is his glory that he did not move with the times; it is his reward that he now remains when those times, as all times do, have moved away."

Had it not been for Athanasius the thermostat, we all might be Arian today!

### **“Do You Know”**

*Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries*  
**Howard Lundeen**

This past week while visiting with an active member of our congregation, I was somewhat taken back by the fact that he was quite uncertain about what is happening in our men’s ministry. Do you know the name of our men’s ministry? Do you know what the men’s ministry calls their latest initiative to help us as men grow and mature in our relationship with Christ and our level of commitment to Him? If you cannot answer these two questions, this article should be informative to you. In addition to updating you on our “Men’s Ministries”, I would like to share a little information from our Women’s Ministries as well – so you will be “in the know”.

**Men’s Ministries:** The official name for our men’s ministry is “Journey Men”. Keith VonEnde is the leader and the leadership team meets at 6:00 AM on the second Saturday of each month. Following the leadership team meeting, all men - young and old - are invited to attend “Next Man Up” which meets from 7:30 to 9:00 AM. (men often bring a breakfast snack with them which they enjoy eating while visiting with other guys). “Next Man Up” is a monthly forum where we as men join together, address challenges we face in life through relaxed, open, candid dialogue and earnest searching for biblical answers. If you would ask the men who have been attending what they think about Next Man Up, I’m confident the responses would be very positive. Next Man Up is for men who...

- Are committed to living a Christian life that is high impact, highly effective, highly potent and stands up under the pressure, strain and eroding forces of everyday life.
- Are committed to holding each other accountable to living an active Christian life by being involved in a personal ministry.
- Encourage each other and offer assistance to each other when a brother is wrestling with life.
- Understand that to make a difference you first need to become the difference you seek.
- Realize that to live a sedimentary Christian lifestyle is to deny God’s call in their lives.
- Are courageous enough to be the “Next Man Up”.

I personally sense God’s special hand of blessing upon this ministry effort. We are seeing the number of attendees increase each time. If you would circle the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month with the intent of joining us from 7:30 to 9:00 AM, I know you would find this time enriching, enjoyable, and contagious.

A couple special Journey Men’s events coming up:

**June 22-24 - - - Fishing trip to Lake Mille Lacs --- if interested check with Pat Davis - - - 835-3078**

**July 13-14 - - - Promise Keeper event in Cedar Falls, IA - - check with Keith VonEnde - - (612) 804-5015**

**Women’s Ministries:** Did you know that Mary Milton recently accepted the position of Women’s Ministries coordinator? Their mission statement is: “*As women of Christ Community Church, we desire to know and love God more completely and have that love overflow into our relationship with others.*” They pursue this goal by offering Bible studies, training and fellowship opportunities. Just recently they had the opportunity to host “Disciplemaking Pathway”; From Matthew 28:18-20 participants looked at how Jesus lived and how He wants us to live...Engage, Establish, Equip and Expand. It was excellent training that challenged and encouraged everyone! Spring Bible studies are now finishing and Women’s Ministries is looking forward to summer and fall Bible studies along with some fellowship times with “Movie Night” and “Coffee and Conversation”. It is exciting for them to see women come together and study God’s word, pray together, build relationships and serve others!

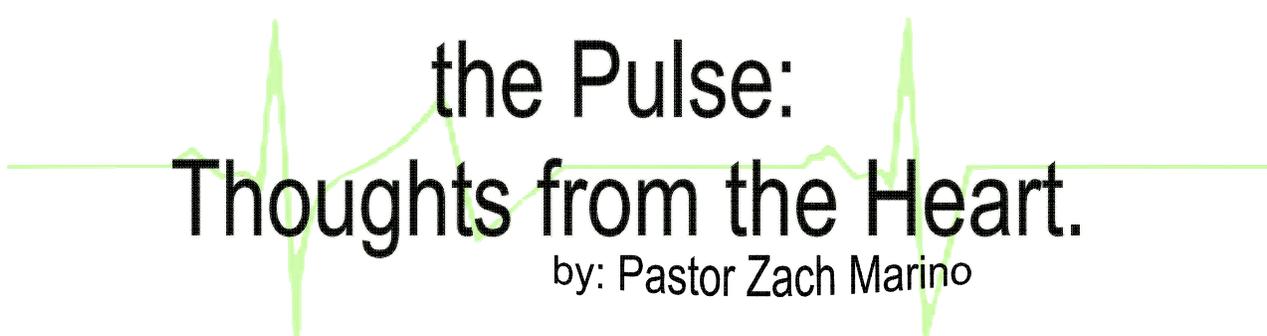
A couple special events that Women’s Ministries have planned:

**June 20<sup>th</sup> - - - Ladies Movie Night – 7:00 PM at church**

**Mid June - - Ladies Bible study – “The Attributes of God”**

Seeking to know Him & make Him known,

*Pastor Howard*



# the Pulse: Thoughts from the Heart.

by: Pastor Zach Marino

I trust that the previous Cornerstone articles have been encouraging and challenging as God speaks through His Word! This month I want to share a little snippet of my journey through the book of Proverbs!

## (1) Message: “Invite from Perspective...Wanna Journey?”

### Proverbs 24:3-5

*“By wisdom a house is built; by understanding it is established. By knowledge rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant wealth. A wise person is mightier than a strong one; a knowledgeable person than a powerful one.”*

Living wise; living with understanding is what makes life valuable and meaningful. Your house is valuable not only because it is built securely but because the activity that takes place is birthed everyday from **wise and informed decision making**. I wouldn't limit this text to say that your physical house can be filled with physical blessings if wisdom is used in financial decision making.

Wisdom and Understanding also are compared to “strength” and “power.” I can become strong minded, physically strong, physically powerful or socially powerful, yet if I lack wisdom and understanding in how to manage and utilize these **gifts**, what good are they? It's very clear here that all these things are important, but none of them mean anything without wise and knowledge people behind them.

For me, I must continue to seek wisdom and understanding in leading my new marriage, household, the ministry God has given me oversight to, and my seminary studies. I can do a lot and accomplish much in those areas but it won't really be worth anything unless wisdom and understanding fuel my actions. I must work at these things with Godly wisdom and understanding (perspective). I must start living in the reality that each opportunity provides a journey for me to take, rather than a means to an end. My seminary studies have put me on a journey of true personal, spiritual and emotional transformation. It doesn't stop with a degree but really just begins. What about you?

What fuels your actions on a daily basis? What **perspective of life** are you living out of?

Do you view people as means to an end or a journey worth taking?

Do you view your job as a means to an end, or a journey worth taking?

Do you view your marriage as a means to an end, or a journey worth taking?

Do you view your faith as a means to an end, or a journey worth taking?

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### *I've Been Thinking about . . . Thermostats*

William Wilberforce was a thermostat.

Wilberforce was a British politician who was elected to Parliament in 1780. Four years later, he became a Christian.

As a Christian, he pushed Britain's Parliament to abolish the slave trade. But his efforts repeatedly failed. Slavery was economically advantageous for slave traders (lucrative income) and slave owners (no payroll). Thus, powerful people kept slavery firmly entrenched in the culture.

Year after year after year, Wilberforce introduced bills in Parliament to abolish the slave trade. Year after year after year, he was defeated.

Discouraged, he was about to give up his abolitionist efforts. But Christian friends, including John Wesley and John Newton, encouraged him with Scripture. So even in repeated defeats, Wilberforce persevered in his seemingly futile effort to abolish the slave trade in the British Empire.

As Wilberforce persevered, pro-slavery forces lashed out at "the damnable doctrine of Wilberforce and his hypocritical allies." Wilberforce was personally targeted and vilified. His opponents became so nasty that one friend feared the day when he would read about Wilberforce being "carbonated (broiled) by Indian planters, barbecued by African merchants, and eaten by Guinea captains."

In 1807, Wilberforce finally won. Parliament passed his bill to abolish the slave trade throughout the British Empire!

He then worked for the abolition of slavery itself, until poor health prevented him from leading the final charge. In 1833, three days before his death, Wilberforce learned that final passage of the emancipation bill was ensured in committee. That precedent led to the abolition of slavery in America.

Wilberforce was not a thermometer; he did not read the slavery in his culture and then accommodate his career in Parliament accordingly. He was the thermostat who influenced his culture to abolish slavery.

Like Athanasius, we live in a culture of doctrinal errors. Our pluralistic culture sees Christ as only one among many ways to God; our secular culture sees Jesus as only a great moral teacher. Will we influence people to see Christ as the Word who is God become flesh? Will we lead people to know Jesus as *the way, the truth, and the life*?

Like Wilberforce, we live in a culture of ethical aberrance. People's desire to do whatever they please is the root of no-fault divorce, abortion on demand, and same-sex marriage. Will we influence our culture toward God's truth about right and wrong?

Will we the church be thermometers that read the temperature of the culture and then alter our message accordingly? Or will we the church be thermostats that influence and change the culture by the power of God?

Let future generations say of us, "It is their glory that they did not move with the times; it is their reward that they now remain when those times, as all times do, have moved away."



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

### Upcoming Events



### LADIES' MOVIE NIGHT

**Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 pm**

**Come for lots of fun & fellowship!!**

**Food too!**



### SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

*The Attributes of God*

Starting mid-June

Stop by the Information Booth for sign-up and more details  
or call Mary Milton 507-362-8468



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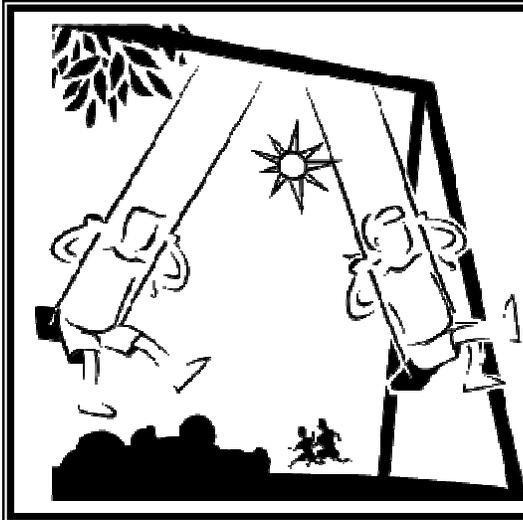
### **The Pulse: Thoughts from the Heart**

A wise and informed person views life as a journey worth taking. It makes opportunities more about the people involved than the end result. Wealth is an end result, but making loving decisions in an unlovable circumstance only extends the life of healthy relationships. What informs your perspective on life? I would challenge you to re-think your source and please, give the Bible a shot if you haven't already. It truly has changed mine, I know it can radically empower yours.

**The Reality is...Your perspective on life will determine your actions. Determine who/what is informing your perspective, because it's more important to take the journey than arrive at the destination.**

ALL MOMS WELCOME!!

Please join us for *MAKS in the Park* this summer!



June - August  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays

10:00 am

University Park, Waseca  
Bring a picnic lunch

Questions: Call Stacy Dufault 461-6236

Invite a friend!!

**NEWSFLASH....NEWSFLASH....NEWSFLASH....NEWSFLASH....**

**KICKS: KIDS IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM -  
Ministry at Vista Villa Sunday, JULY 8, 2012**

This year we are focusing on a one-day event involving the whole CCC church. We will begin with a hamburger/hotdog meal with sides furnished potluck-style. CCC is invited to share their blessings over lunch with our new friends at Vista Villa. Rather than a week-long event, we will spend the afternoon at Vista Villa with games, crafts, music and teaching times. We plan to finish with time at the Waterpark in the evening.

***Please pray about how God may desire that you help in this ministry this summer. We will need help with:***

- Celebration meal
- Set up
- Bible teachers
- Group leaders
- Crafts
- Snacks
- Games
- Clean-up

***We appreciate your willingness to help in this "away game" event!***

For more information contact:

Rhonda Johnson at 835-3107 or Stacey Dufault at 833-3565

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>June</b>				<b>1</b> <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <u>9:30am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	<b>4</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Sustain <u>7:00pm</u> Congr. Care	<b>5</b> <u>10:00am</u> MAKS - at University Park <u>6:30pm</u> Children's <u>7:00pm</u> Property	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team	<b>8</b> <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	<b>9</b> <u>6:00am</u> Journey Men <u>7:30am</u> Next Man Up
<i>Pastor Howard &amp; Carol will be on vacation through June 12th</i>						
<b>10</b> <u>9:30am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	<b>11</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Sustain <u>6:30pm</u> Outreach	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <u>7:00pm</u> Small Group Leader Mtg.	<b>14</b> <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team	<b>15</b> <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <u>9:30am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	<b>18</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Sustain <u>7:00pm</u> Women's Ministries	<b>19</b> <u>10:00am</u> MAKS - at University Park <u>6:30pm</u> Elder Board Meeting	<b>20</b> <u>7:00pm</u> Ladies' Movie Night	<b>21</b> <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team	<b>22</b> <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	<b>23</b> <u>10:00am</u> Bridal Shower
<i>Pastor Chris &amp; Rhonda will be on vacation through June 26th</i>						
<b>24</b> <u>9:30am</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	<b>25</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Sustain	<b>26</b> <u>7:00pm</u> Adult Discipleship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <u>Noon</u> Men's Study <u>6:15pm</u> Worship Team	<b>29</b> <u>6:00am</u> Men's Group	<b>30</b> <u>3:30pm</u> Progressive Picnic



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**Summer Worship Schedule**  
 Beginning Sunday, May 27th & continuing through  
 September 2nd, we will be on our summer schedule with  
 one Sunday worship service starting at 9:30am and  
 no children's Sunday School classes.  
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**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.

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