



UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 1 7 pm QC Bandits Game
- July 3 7-10 pm SOLID Youth Freedom Faith Film @ Hagge's Home
- July 5 AM Communion; Mike Mogard Preaching (E); 3-5 pm Mogard Reception in ROCK (see pg 10)
- July 5-10 Young Teen Camp (gr 5-7) @ Pine Lake
- July 6 7-8:30 pm Carnivore Christians in Youth Room (E)
- July 7 Ladies Bible Study— 9-10:15 am (E); 7-8:15 pm (DW)
- July 8 Time TBA SOLID Women's Wednesday Outing
- July 11 Eldridge Days
- July 12 Nurse Office Open
- July 12-17 Juniors 2 Camp (gr 3-5) @ Pine Lake
- July 14 Ladies Bible Study— 9-10:15 am (E); 7-8:15 pm (DW)
- July 15 8:30 pm Deacons
- July 18 7:30 am Trustees; 9 am Sharon Hojnacki Baby Shower in ROCK
- July 21 7-8:15 pm Ladies Bible Study (DW)
- July 26 Nurse Office Open; Don Green Preaching (E)
- July 27-31 Youth Camp with HH @ Lake Geneva Christian Center, Alexandria, MN (gr 10-12) (pg 5)

Cornerstone Connection

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

JULY 2015

Pastor Scott's Perspective - "Improving our Congregational Care"

Any pastor with a shepherd's heart would desire to know every individual in his flock so well that he would know exactly how to pray for them every day and would enjoy leisurely visits with each member on a regular basis. When I was pastoring a flock of less than 100 in Ely (MN), I was able to have a personal relationship with each member – and enjoyed that.

There are approximately 200 families (500+ individuals) who call Cornerstone their church family. (About a third of our people are absent from worship any given Sunday.) Not able to have a close personal relationship with that many people, and not knowing the needs of every member of the flock – and fearing that some needs for pastoral care are going unmet – is a burden for me.

What is the primary calling of a shepherd (pastor-teacher) in the New Testament? Feeding the flock, protecting the flock from false teaching, and equipping

believers for ministry. (John 21:15-19; Acts 20:28-32; Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 6:2-4; I Timothy 5:17; II Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 1:9; Hebrews 13:7-9)

The reality is that much congregational care is member to member. The pastors do what they can, but a truly caring congregation is marked by members caring for one another.

My highest priority in the use of my time is sermon preparation. The one time in the week I am able to feed the entire flock (or those in attendance) is the Sunday morning worship service. Nearly half of my work week is devoted to sermon preparation. My actual sermon writing day is Friday (and some on Saturday), but additional hours prior to

Friday are spent in study and prayer and research. This summer I am teaching an apologetics class that also requires a good deal of study and preparation.

The rest of my week varies but usually includes some of the following: staff meeting, lunch appointments, counseling, hospital visitation, leadership development, leadership responsibilities and planning and administration, prayer meeting, IPT sessions, men's breakfast, missions committee, newsletter articles, gatherings with other pastors, home group with deacons and wives, mentoring, lunch with lunch buddy at Ed White, Young at Heart meetings, etc.

In this season of life and ministry, I feel called to invest as much as possible in developing younger leaders and multiplying my ministry and leadership through mentoring and discipling. Most of my closest relationships are with church leaders and potential church leaders. The model for

(continued on Page 2)

A Word From Pastor Mark

Dads matter. Dads are an integral part of a family. I hope the dads in our church were encouraged on Father's Day by the messages that Pastor Scott and I preached. If you did not hear it please go to our website and read or listen (www.cornerstone-eldridge.org or cornerstone-dewitt.org).

Why do dads matter? I could give you many reasons but we are going to briefly touch on four.

First, **dads reveal and represent our Heavenly Father.** Dads reveal who God is. We do it by our words and actions. First, our words. Dads are called to teach our kids who God is. Deuteronomy 6:4-7, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Dads, you have great power at your disposal to see that your family is blessed greatly. And it starts with you. Growing in a personal relationship with Jesus,

(continued on Page 3)

Pastor Scott's Perspective *(continued)*

this, of course, is Jesus. He ministered to crowds, and had at least 120 committed followers by the end of his life, but most of his time was spent with the Twelve – and especially Peter, James, and John. Jesus did not divide his time equally among 500 people.

Much of my ministry to members and attenders – other than leadership development and mentoring – is crisis ministry. Prayer before surgery. Hospital calls. Marriage counseling. Individual counseling. Funerals. IPT prayer sessions. Crises vary from week to week, but sometimes are quite time-consuming. I regard this as a vital part of my pastoral ministry and make it a high priority (assuming I know the need). *If you haven't had much personal interaction with me recently – thank the Lord. It probably means you have had a relatively crisis-free life recently.*

My general philosophy of ministry is that most of my time should be spent doing ministry that I am primarily or uniquely called and gifted and trained to do. Thus most of my ministry time should be spent on preaching and teaching, leadership development, training & equipping others, crisis ministry, crisis counseling, pastoral care that can best be done by an ordained pastor, etc. Shepherding care and congregational care and other ministries that can be done by others should be done by others using their gifts (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12).

Having said all that, let me add this: *you do not need to be going through a crisis in order to gain access to my time or ministry. You just need to ask. Please do.* All of us pastors are very willing to make time for anyone who asks.

If you are in need of some pastoral care, the best

thing to do is to call the church office (or email me) and make an appointment to see me. Almost always I will be able to make time to see you that same week.

–Or *Invite me out for lunch.*

–Or *Invite me into your home.*

–Or *Come to prayer meeting and arrange to talk with me before or after.*

–Or *Come to Wednesday morning men's breakfast at Denny's.*

–Or.... **Just ask.** I will be glad to schedule a time with you that will fit into both of our schedules.

If you are involved in a ministry and would like some pastoral input, invite me to your next meeting or make an appointment to see me. I will be glad to do whatever I can to help your ministry be successful and fruitful. *Please ask.* Equipping members for ministry is an important part of my job – let me know how I can help.

The reality is that much congregational care is member to member. The pastors do what they can, but a truly caring congregation is marked by members caring for one another.

We remind you that the number one way you can be cared for in our church body is by participating in a home group / life group.

If you are not in a life group, contact Pastor Mark. If you are in a life group that is not functioning well, contact Pastor Mark.

The subject of congregational care has been discussed by the Deacon board at our retreat and several meetings. We recognize that there are some gaps that need to be corrected and filled. Some of our members are not receiving the care

they need or would like – care we would like to do a better job of providing.

Our church leaders are taking two important steps to provide better congregational care. (The membership will have opportunity to vote on both of these.)

1) *Revising the church constitution and by-laws to change our leadership structure so that we will have both elders (including pastors) to provide overall spiritual leadership AND deacons (men and women) to assist in congregational care and other responsibilities.*

2) *Beginning the process of searching for an Associate Pastor in Eldridge.*

With Pastor Mark now serving as Campus Pastor in DeWitt and preaching twice a month there, he has significantly less time available for pastoral care and other duties in Eldridge that he used to do so well. His absence from Eldridge on Sundays – and during half the week – is leaving some gaps. Some of those gaps are being filled by other leaders and members, but there is a need for an Associate Pastor in Eldridge – thus freeing up Mark to devote himself full-time to building up the DeWitt campus. *Among other duties, the new Associate Pastor will work closely with the new Deacons to provide significantly improved congregational care.*

In the meantime, if you need pastoral care, **please ask.** All of us pastors stand ready to serve you, but we need to know what your needs are and how we can help. We don't always hear what the needs are in our church body. If you know someone who needs pastoral care – don't assume we know – please let us know. *Let's work together to make Cornerstone the kind of church body that excels at caring for one another.*

July

Food Pantry

needs are

School supplies.

Please place items on

stand next to

Nursery.

Thank you!

A Word From Pastor Mark *(continued)*

committing to regular worship and ministry will bless you and your family. And if you have sons it is even more essential that you walk close with God and commit to being connected to a church. Dads who occasionally attend church will raise boys that won't go to church when they are older. Boys take their cues from their dads. Prove to your boys that worship and ministry is essential by living it out.

Dads reveal our wonderful Heavenly Father; dads also represent our heavenly father. What does your Heavenly Father look like? He looks like your father. And that reality can be good or bad depending on what your dad was or is like. If your dad was or is easily angered and harsh then your Heavenly Father is perceived to be easily angered and harsh. If your dad was or is distant how does your Heavenly Father look to you? What if your dad was or is loving and protective and positive then your Heavenly Father is perceived to be as well.

That is a scary thought that how our kids see us is how they will naturally see their Heavenly Father. God puts a huge responsibility on

our shoulder to reflect His character correctly. The fact is we will all fail to measure up. We need God's power and forgiveness to keep seeking to reflect His character.

If you know Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, your Heavenly Father totally accepts you, is totally pleased with you, deeply loves you, and completely forgives you.

Why do dads matter?

Second, **dads pass on their values to their children.** Children watch their dads to find what's important. Dads try to protect their kids from learning the lessons of life the hard way. Dad's teach hard work, respect for authority, faithfulness, a never-give-up attitude, keeping your word, doing things the right way- even when it hurts, sacrificial love- dying to self for the better of the family. What values are you teaching your kids or grandkids?

Why do dads matter?

Third, **dads provide security for their children.** Dads are inherently protective of his family. That is something that is hard wired in him. Children experience security when dad is around because his

radar is always searching for danger to protect his family from it.

Dad sets boundaries on what are acceptable behaviors and activities. And when kids cross the boundaries discipline is enforced. Kids may scream out that they hate to be disciplined but deep down there is security in knowing where dad's lines are. That provides freedom within those boundaries. Kids who do not have boundaries keep pushing to see where the line is. If no boundaries are ever expressed then children feel unloved.

Why do dads matter?

Fourth, **dads define their children's worth and identity.** When kids are young they don't know who they are, don't know right from wrong, or who God is. Sons and daughters often look to dad for their worth. Sons and daughters need from their father the answer to their deepest inner questions. See sermon for more details. Dads, we have the opportunity to change the world one child at a time. That is a challenge we can all get behind.

Outdoor Baptism

@ The Hansels -

August 23rd

If you are interested in getting baptized and/or joining the church at our annual outdoor baptism please let Pastor Mark know soon. It will be a wonderful time of testimonies and fellowship with the Eldridge and DeWitt campuses.

Moldova Ministry Update, by Teresa Bivens

On or around September 1-11, a team of six will be traveling to Moldova for another medical mission. Team meetings have begun, and we look forward to what God will do with this eclectic group! Four from Cornerstone (Pastor Drew, Valerie Van Ee, Scott Bivens, and I) will be joined by two from Moline's First United Presbyterian (Mike Holle and Rhonda Mc Kinley). Please pray for the Holy Spirit to empower and guide us as we prepare!

You may be wondering how we ever got involved with Moline's FUP. In 2006, when Scott and I first got involved with this mission, he talked about it with a co-worker, Rick. Rick was interested as a youth worker at his church, FUP, and his youth pastor, Isaac Terwilliger, had been looking to get involved in a foreign mission. Within a few years, Rick and Isaac went on trips with Lucy to consider the feasibility of taking teams there. In 2009, I co-led the first youth trip with Pastor Isaac and Rhonda

McKinley, and it was a great experience! Since then, other members of FUP have gone multiple times, including taking a second youth trip in 2013. We welcome the involvement of our brothers and sisters in Christ from FUP!

An exciting purchase has been made in the village of Furceni – the village we took a construction trip in the fall of 2011. The Orhei church purchased a house and will be turning it into a church for the small congregation there. Having a place to worship and invite villagers makes a big difference in this mission. The purchase was made possible by a private donor from CBC and an amazing fundraiser by FUP's youth group. With the money left over, the Orhei youth will purchase gas for their chainsaws and food and go into villages to cut fire wood for vulnerable families.

Church Financial Report

Giving to the General Fund (church budget) during the first three Sundays of June averaged \$12,600 per Sunday.

This is below budget of \$15,038 and less than a year ago. Giving for the April – June quarter is also running below budget. All bills are paid. We are still in good financial condition but do need an increase in weekly giving.

Pastor Drew's Webb of Worship



As we approach our nation's day of independence I can't help but have that classic Lee Greenwood song running through my head. You know how it goes: "I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free; and I won't forget the men who died and gave that right to me..." As I think about that song and think about our country I can't help but think that sometimes "no, I'm not proud to be an American." Do I appreciate our rights and all those who fought for them? ABSOLUTELY! I

can not overstate the importance of those who fought to defend our freedoms and the opportunity to be able to believe what I want and the freedom to say what I want. These fundamental rights do not exist in all parts of the world and there is a possibility they may not always exist here. Somewhere in the midst of our great nation's progress it lost the plot, it went off course.

First there's our sordid history of race relations and slavery. Such slavery is, of course, most notable in the form of Africans who were shipped to the Americas to become slaves. Many generations would come after them and would also be consigned to a life of slavery as 2nd class humans. In actuality many people did not even consider them 2nd class humans, but rather something more akin to an ape. As you are well aware it took our nation a long time to leave the issue of African slavery behind. Standing here today with our view towards the past I think it's safe to say that the issue is not really that far behind us. While there are not any African-Americans in slavery at the moment it is clear that many in our nation

still hold to a view that those of African descent are not human. The very recent news of Dylann Roof's attack at a historic church in Charleston, South Carolina has the nation reeling and struggling as we try to figure out how to move past the issue of race in our country.

Does this represent all of America? Certainly not, but it's still a link to our nation's past and this mentality is dying a much slower death than one would expect in the 21st century.

We are no longer a Christian nation and that saddens me, though there are benefits to it. One such benefit is that Christianity is less cultural now than it was in generations past. At times in the past to be American was to be a Christian, regardless of whether one truly was a follower of Christ and believed in Him for his/her salvation. However, now that we are in a post-Christian culture many have dispensed with truth and replaced it with relativism, with their own version of the truth. God's order for what is right and wrong has been flipped on its head in our nation. Even the order that He set forth from the beginning when He created man and woman in His own image has been called into question.

Alas, as I look over the world of Christianity and consider those outside of Western culture I can't help but think there is a marked difference between Christians in the West and those in other countries, where they often suffer persecution. Here in the US (at the moment) life is easy for a Christian. I can have everything I want, I can be a Christian and even speak up for God's name without fear of losing my life. The cost of

discipleship in my life is minimal, to say the least. I have made a few sacrifices for God, but they truly do not stack up to the sacrifices that Christians in persecuted lands make. To think of the 21 Coptic Christian men beheaded earlier this year is to conclude that I have not sacrificed in the least bit for God's name. I may have gone without something but I have not truly partaken of Christ's sufferings.

Am I proud to be an American? I wouldn't so much say yes, as I would say that I am extremely BLESSED to be an American. I suspect that the blessings I have received in my life, simply because of my being a citizen of the United States, are far beyond what I can possibly imagine. There are the basics such as freedom of speech, freedom to worship, freedom to choose the path of life that I feel called to and to even make as much money as I want. There is no limit to what I can do as this country affords many opportunities to better oneself. Am I proud of those who have given their lives to defend our country? YES! The giving of one's life for our nation is perhaps one of the most Christ-like things that anyone could do.

For me to truly be proud of our nation though I would love to see the United States move back to the forefront of world missions. I would love to see our nation forsake the erring of its ways and make a wholesale returning back to God. He may perhaps place His hand upon our nation again if our nation would begin to value the life of every baby, not just the wanted ones. These are the things that would make me proud to be an American.

Hideyo's Hopes & Happenings: S.O.L.I.D.'s Almost Cancelled Mission Trip...

This month, in Pastor Scott's Perspective, he wrote of CBC's desire to better serve our congregations needs. I was so pleased to read his mentioning of the apostle Paul's, writer of the "Pastoral Epistles," as well as 2/3 of the New Testament books, clarification on an important part of Christian pastor's job description...

"The gifts [Christ] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-12

One very important part of what we pastors do, and are biblically called to do, is hand over the "work of ministry," a.k.a. serving the vulnerable, to "the saints," or the congregation and people of the church, "for building up the body of Christ," a.k.a. the Christian church. So, the church, alongside the pastors, is supposed to do the "work of ministry," and serve and love the vulnerable, as the pastors are supposed to disciple and model that same service to and for the church.

Jesus showed us that we need to and how to do this: He disciplined His disciples, and Jesus "sent out the seventy" in Luke 10:1-3 = "... the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.'"

A "vulnerable" group, who almost suffered "the loss of being able to be sent out by Jesus," was our SOLID youth mission trip youth. After 2 months of asking the church body, we still did not have enough adult chaperones to go on our World Changers Mission Trip. Legally, we need 1 adult sponsor/ chaperone per 5 youth of the same gender. Until our last minute volunteer, just a few days before we were scheduled to leave, we were going to have to cancel or cut youth from the trip. That

would have been more than a crying shame, since at this year's mission trip we shared the gospel of Jesus Christ 421+ times, saw 19 new salvations, AND 1 salvation came within our own youth group!

For future reference and information, adult chaperones on youth trips, particularly World Changers are not forced to sleep on the floor with tons of teenagers, play gross games, etc. If they'd rather stay in a nearby hotel, they may do so, many such sponsors and crew chiefs did just that last week. Please, do not let such details limit you from doing what the church has been called to do, "the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." And, I'd say: 421+ sharings of the Gospel & 19 new salvations can be considered as "building up the body of Christ."

Just look at what you'd miss out on... **AND** think of the eternal salvation & change that could have been thwarted...



Upcoming Youth Events:

CBC Goes to Bandit's

Ballpark: July 1, 2015 7pm Davenport, IA {1st come 1st serve free tickets available @ CBC Office Eldridge}

Faith Film Fest Fridays = Nights where S.O.L.I.D. gets together and watches **PG-13** (or lower PG, G, etc.) that have theological stints to them, which help illustrate and illuminate Christian faith issues, like a "parable," and are theologically discussed following the films. Food & Films are provided...

July 3rd, 2015 = Freedom & Faith + Fireside Chat @ Bill & Nancy Hagge's home in Princeton, IA

Carnivores: July 6th, 7:00-8:30pm in Youth Room. "Crazy Love" Chapter 11

Women Wednesday Outing: July 8th. Time TBA. Afternoon for Youth girls. We will be going to see a movie, eat some yummy ice cream, etc. Please bring your own money to pay for the movie and ice cream.

Summer Camps: (Here are a few options for your youth to go to, since if your youth goes on the World Changers mission trip June 15-20th, they'd have a hard time going to Pine Lake...)

Pine Lakes: 2015 YOUTH DATES were in June... so if you missed Pine Lake Camp S.O.L.I.D. youth [going into grades 10-12] will be going to **Lake Geneva Christian Center: Alexandria, MN = July 27-31, 2015 [Cost = \$219 if postmarked by June 29th & \$269 after June 29th]**

ALL Necessary Information & Registration Forms can be found at: <http://msmstudent.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2015CampReg.pdf>

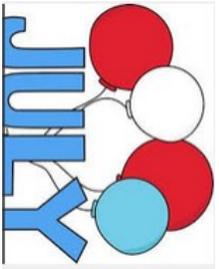
MAIL Registration Forms & Payment [Before 6/29/15 = \$219 or After = \$269] to:

Lake Geneva Christian Center
605 Birch Ave
Alexandria, MN • 56308

SPECIAL NOTE: Pastor Hideyo will be going to camp with the 10-12th graders and take a van so the first 12 youth to register will have a ride up to Alexandria, MN

July

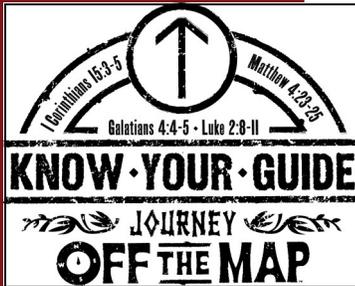
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2015			1 6:30 am Men meet at Denny's on NW Blvd., Davenport 7:00 pm Prayer 7:00 pm QC Bandit Game	2 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK	3 7:00-10:30 pm SOLID Youth Freedom Faith Film at Hagge's	4 Independence Day 
5 7:45-8:10 am Prayer AM Communion Eldridge- Mike Mogard 3:00-5:00 pm Mogard Reception in ROCK July 5-10 Young Teens (gr 5-7) Camp at Pine Lake	6 7:30-9:00 pm Women's Basketball in ROCK 7:30-9:00 pm Carnivore Christians in Youth Room (<i>Crazy Love</i> , Ch. 11)	7 9:00-10:15 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00-8:15 pm DeWitt Ladies Bible Study	8 6:30 am Men meet at Denny's on NW Blvd., Davenport 7:00 pm Prayer Time TBD SOLID Women's Wednesday Outing	9 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK	10	11 Eldridge Days
12 7:45-8:10 am Prayer Nurse Office Open July 12-17 Juniors 2 (gr 3-5) Camp at Pine Lake	13 7:30-9:00 pm Women's Basketball in ROCK	14 9:00-10:15 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00-8:15 pm DeWitt Ladies Bible Study	15 6:30 am Men meet at Denny's on NW Blvd., Davenport 7:00 pm Prayer 8:30 pm Deacons	16 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK	17	18 7:30 am Trustees 9:00 am Sharon Hojnacki Baby Shower in ROCK
19 7:45-8:10 am Prayer	20 7:30-9:00 pm Women's Basketball in ROCK	21 7:00-8:15 pm DeWitt Ladies Bible Study	22 6:30 am Men meet at Denny's on NW Blvd., Davenport 7:00 pm Prayer	23 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK	24	25
26 7:45-8:10 am Prayer Nurse Office Open Eldridge — Don Green	27 7:30-9:00 pm Women's Basketball ROCK July 27-31 Youth Camp with HH @ Lake Geneva Christian Center, Alexandria, MN (gr 10-12)	28 August Newsletters due 7:00-8:15 pm DeWitt Ladies Bible Study	29 6:30 am Men meet at Denny's on NW Blvd., Davenport 7:00 pm Prayer	30 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK	31	



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2015						
5	6 Pinky Stainaker Brent & Tammy Bullock David & Laura Engle	7 Elijah Graham Dan & Debi Allison Steffan & Sandy Nass (25 yrs.)	8 Jerry Carter Greg & Becky Choate	9 David Holt Danny Percuoco	10 Benjamin Boddicker	11 Marcia Boddicker Ryan & Deana Trotter
12 Bryan Witzenburg	13 Mike Loehr	14 Emery Newton Darell Nigh Caden Ridgley	15 Debi Allison Izalah Rowe	16 Hunter Orcutt Blake & Jessica Hasenmiller	17 Francis Nass Chad White Jeff & Colleen Olson	18 Grant Olson
19 Mike Phares Jessica Witzenburg	20 Yorton Hagedorn Grace Henningsen Marc & Kelly Orcutt	21 Suzy Gainer Jim McGimpsey	22 Leah Carlson Julie Davis Alden Roy Neal & Erika Keppy	23 Jacob Connor Todd Connor Tom Gebauer Robert Scott	24 Kendra Ervin Kevin Purcuoco Clint & Jenny Burklew Jim & Cassie Ferrer Jerry & Jeannie Newton	25 Chuck Agan Joe Collins Mike Mohr Corbin Suiter
26 Jamie Bynum Drake Marti Mark & Julie Bader Howard & Lelana Keeney	27 Joe Roy Bryan & Jessica Witzenburg	28 Andrew Rhodes	29 Michael Christopherson Alexandria Hawley Gerald Hodgett Alexander Simmons	30 Kurt Lease Sharon Greving Kevin Hagedorn	31 Jim Ferrer Stan Howell Anna Marie Percuoco Dale & Phyllis Arentson Don & Lori Paulus Lee & Tracy Randall Jacob & Stacie Salowitz	

From Sandy Nass, Director of Children's Ministries



As I follow up with VBS families, I marvel at how Awesome our God is. A few years ago, Cornerstone leaders faithfully met in prayer asking God to show us His vision for our church. The end result was this: *Becoming a spiritually dynamic body, making a significant impact in vulnerable families, through our neighborhood schools.*

During VBS week we saw God's ongoing faithfulness in fulfilling this vision. We had 446 different kids walk through our doors, and over 100 volunteers show them the love of Jesus. Cornerstone is 'home' to about 100 kids; many of the additional kids came because they received invitations at school. Of those kids, the number who could be classified as 'vulnerable' was startling to me: vulnerable because they're living lives without any knowledge of the love of a heavenly Father and the result of lives lived in a culture where 'anything goes' and kids 'who are resilient' bear the brunt of the pain and scars of broken families and broken lives. We live in a community where more kids know Sunday as a day to play championship games than a day to worship the One who created us.

But, God IS faithful and His Spirit reigned at Cornerstone during VBS:

One volunteer wrote: *"I witnessed our mission of serving vulnerable families in an area that we may not usually consider; families with differently-abled members, whether physically or cognitively, and wanting to have their child be part of a Christ-centered activity. I saw the love our youth (Chelsey and Lauren Blake, Grace Hansel, Brittany Bullock, and Jackson Z.) poured out on this little girl to include her in the activities of "normal" kids. I also saw several children in her group gravitate towards her to help. I must admit*

this was truly the most touching VBS I have had in all my years...I had to hold back tears as I watched how this little girl was loved on by our kids."

Another wrote: *"The first day 5 unchurched 5th-graders prayed to receive Christ after the lesson with little or no prior knowledge of the Gospel or the Bible. I met with them each day for follow-up as we were rushed the first day and I wanted to make sure their commitments were solid. After reviewing the Gospel, and the lessons, I had them practice sharing the Gospel to learn how to share with a friend, and to reinforce their understanding.*

Friday, 4 new guys joined us. Even though 9 was a large group, I kept the original 5 with me and explained, "This is not practice; this is for real. You guys need to tell them how to become part of God's family and go to heaven. » With a little help, they did a great job; I was proud of them. They have learned the basics of the message of the Cross. The 4 new guys all accepted Christ. But just as important, the original 5 are on their way to becoming real disciples of Jesus."

Another volunteer wrote, *"_____ is definitely one of the vulnerable children Pastor preaches about. Her mother is a drug addict and she came to live with her dad by default. Her situation is not good. It was a miracle that (dad) let her come to VBS because he is anti-God."* This little girl received Jesus as her Savior.

Another mom wrote, in regard to her son who is from a vulnerable background and received Jesus at VBS, *"Last night _____ prayed for all the other people that have not taken Jesus into their hearts."*

This year we modified the 'salvation room' slightly. Our Bible teacher, Hot Cocoa (Anna Marie Percuoco) and her sub, Cocoa Puff (Steffan Nass), pre-

sented the gospel in her lesson and then had kids raise their hands if they'd like to speak to an adult in more detail about the Gospel. Our hope to talk more about the Gospel to the kids in whom the Holy Spirit was working, worked well. Our groups of 1-4 kids enabled us to answer questions and facilitate their commitments to Jesus. 153 kids prayed to receive Jesus, and while we accept not all of those will grow into fully devoted followers of Jesus, we know those 153 plus others, who weren't ready to commit yet, demonstrated spiritual interest, learned who Jesus is, and had their questions answered. We trust God will use the seeds that were planted in His timing.

Please pray for all who attended VBS, especially those that prayed to give their lives to Christ. Many don't have anyone praying for them and won't be disciplined. Pray that Satan won't snatch away the seeds that were planted, that those kids who received Christ will sense the Holy Spirit in their lives and that those Holy Spirit filled lives will speak to their parents. Pray that God will show YOU one vulnerable child who needs the love of God, and that you will be the hands and feet of Jesus to him or her.

Thank you, Nick and Sarah, for the gifts you bring to VBS: for your love of the LORD, for the joy with which you serve Him, and the way you motivate all of us to be our best as we serve under your leadership. Thank you to our pastors who work all week alongside us doing the very thing you teach us to do; your actions speak louder than words. Thank you to all the volunteers in every area. What a great example of the Body of Christ fulfilling it's purpose - to point a dying world to The Living Savior, and of Cornerstone fulfilling it's vision.

Remaining Pine Lake

Camp 2015 Dates

4th of July Family
Camp July 2-5

Young Teens
(Grades 5-7)
July 5-10

Juniors 2
(Grades 3-5)
July 12-17

Women's
Retreat
Sept. 18-20

Men's
Retreat
Sept. 25-27

Fall Scrapbooking
Retreat
Oct. 8-11

Camp Brochures are
available in the Church
Office.

Sonshine Community Ministries, by Jan Kloss

Greetings! Summer is already bustling...

First, 18-22 Sonshine kids attended VBS, along with many other kids in the surrounding area. I fretted as to how I would transport my Davenport kids and Mt. Joy kids. I asked for volunteers and they came forward. Thank you Julie, Teresa, Dan, Louise and Claudia. I also fretted because I was volunteering in the Salvation Room and I didn't want to be late if the kids I was driving weren't ready on time. Bless their little hearts, each morning every child was waiting for me as I drove up. Tony was also able to bring kids from Country Estates and we were on time each morning. Everything went "smooth as silk" each morning for all the volunteer drivers. What a blessing to bring kids to VBS to

hear the gospel in such a clear and fun way. So many made commitments to the Lord. I was blessed to be part of such a great week.

Second, YouthWorks is here. This is our 4th year of being part of this program. Each week (for 7-8 weeks) new groups of teens and their leaders come to the QC from all over the U.S. to volunteer at different sites. They stay at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Davenport. For Sonshine they love on our kids with Bible Stories, games, helping them with crafts, and more. And this summer we are including Country Estates. Tony took a group of teens and their leaders to the River Bend Food Bank where they packed 100 boxes of produce and then distributed them to families in Mt. Joy, Country Estates and the

Pleasant Valley area. This is one of my favorite programs. These kids are enthused about ministering to our kids and our kids love the positive attention.

One final thing; Tony & I were able to send 6 of our kids to Wildwood Hills Horse Camp this week. This is a great Christian camp where vulnerable kids enjoy a week of swimming, the outdoors and "having" a horse of their own to take care of and ride. Three of the kids had never been to camp before.

Thank you for your prayers and support that help us to do what we do.

World Refugee Day, by Gail Welchman

Immigrant is defined as: A person who has fled his or her homeland because of persecution, or fear of persecution, based on religious beliefs, race, nationality, social or ethnic group, or political opinion.

Saturday, June 20, was World Refugee Day, which acknowledges and honors the hundreds of thousands of persons who have had to flee their homes. Almost half of them are children. World Relief, Quad Cities, acknowledged the local refugees with a walk, games, food, and fellowship.

World Relief Quad Cities works with those persons who have been placed by our government in this

area in order to help them find a home, furnish it, have food to eat, find jobs, and get the children enrolled in school. There are many ways you can help, from cash donations to buying groceries, setting up an apartment, providing transportation, teaching English, or by being a friend. You can volunteer alone, or with your small group, or a group of friends.

Save the Date: August 1 - Join with Burmese refugees and World Relief for a picnic at Maple Ridge Apartments, Rock Island. (see page 10)



In Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones this past month:

Judy Neilsen and her family on the death of her brother, Mike Walton.
Robert Brabant and his family on the death of his wife, LuAnn Brabant.
Shane Knoche and his family on the death of his Aunt, Helen Knoche.

Summer Electives

Now —August 30

- "Discovering Jesus"

taught by Nick Hansel in ROCK 214

- "Old Testament Survey"

taught by Stan Howell in ROCK 215

- "Apologetics"

taught by Pastor Scott in

ROCK 216

- "Emerging Adults"

taught by Pastor Hideyo in ROCK 213

Urban Edge Ministries, by Lori & Terry Major

We thank God for you, our dear brothers and sisters in Christ, and for your continued prayers. We have an increase in the number of children coming for the summer Sunday school and on Thursdays. Please continue to pray:

- For open hearts that want to know Christ and grow in Him
- For the adults in the children's lives to have the same desire

As Terry and I get older, sometimes we feel tired as we work with children who are undisciplined and loaded with energy and we wonder how we can keep up with them. We ask that you pray Psalm 71 with us. "My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone. O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come." Psalm 71:15-18.

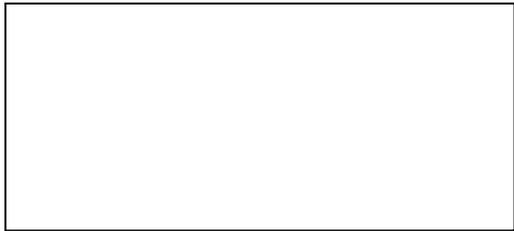
Both Terry and I feel blessed to have known Christ from childhood and to have been taught by God from youth. We cherish your prayers and support. * **Please follow us on Facebook at Urban Edge Ministries.**



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Aug 1 Maple Ridge Converge Serve

Cornerstone will be joining with World Relief and three other QCA Converge churches – and with some Burmese believers – for a “Party at the Ridge” outreach event at Maple Ridge apartments in Rock Island on **Saturday, August 1 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm.**

- 9:30** – Hand out school supplies to residents.
- 10:30** – Ethnic dancing by Burmese Christians, Worship music with Americans & Burmese, and a brief, translated Gospel message by a Burmese church leader.
- 11:30** – Lunch featuring American and Burmese food
- 12:30** – Water games and other games for all ages

Come for all or part of the event. Meet some Burmese believers. Show God’s love to refugees and other residents of the apartment complex. Bring your children for a cross-cultural experience.

Come and join us on Sunday Mornings!

	CBC Eldridge (DeWitt High School Media Center)	CBC DeWitt
Family Sunday		
School Opportunities	9:45 am	8:45 am
Worship Service	8:15 & 10:45 am	10:00 am

Eldridge Days Porta Potty Clean-up Team



In years past Cornerstone has been responsible for collecting garbage and cleaning porta potties during the Eldridge summer festival which includes the Moonlight Chase. This year we have decided to serve our community by just focusing on cleaning the porta potties.



We are looking for volunteers to serve a 90 minute shift on Saturday, July 11th. This is a great team project to do as a family. Please let Pastor Mark know if you can help at 563-285-8080, 563-659-1474 or zev4cbc@gmail.com.

Open House Reception for Mogards

Mike (Mo) & Emily (Pearson) Mogard will be at CBC Eldridge on July 5. Mo and Emily will be preaching and sharing a report of their work in SE Asia during both the July 5 worship services in Eldridge.

Also on July 5th, there will be an open house reception for the Mogards from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the ROCK Center. Light refreshments will be served. This is an opportunity for any Cornerstone member or attender (Eldridge or DeWitt) to visit with Mo and Emily and learn about what God is doing through them.