

The Chimes

The monthly newsletter of the Community Church of Hudson

March 2010

Volume 43 Number 3

It's Time To Get Ready for Church Camp 2010!

Church camp is an activity that can have a positive lifetime influence on an individual. That is why we are encouraging as many of our young people as possible to attend the Village Creek Bible Camp in Lansing, Iowa. This is an excellent camp with outstanding leadership, very good Bible teaching, and a large variety of exciting activities. And since people come from Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin, there are plenty of opportunities to make new friendships. Summer camps are available for those from third grade through high school, and run from Sunday afternoon to the following Saturday morning. There are sessions beginning in June and continuing through August. Camp registration forms are available in the narthex and in the church office. See this form for details on sessions and dates. You can also visit www.villagecreek.net for more information. In order for more children to be able to attend these camps, our church board has agreed to pay half the basic cost of the camp. This makes the camper's cost only \$135. This includes six nights' lodging and food for the entire week. It also includes many of the camp activities. Some activities, such as horseback riding, paintball, and the challenge course, have an additional cost. We do not want anyone to miss out on these opportunities, so if you cannot afford the reduced price of \$135, please talk to Pastor Ron. There are people in our church willing to help financially. Please note that **registration needs to be in by March 11** in order to get the early discount. The cost is \$20 more person after that deadline.

March Happenings

Official Board

Monday, March 1

Orchard Hill Lenten Lunch Series

Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Men's Breakfast

Saturdays, March 6, 27

Youth Bowling Trip

Sunday, March 7

Mission Board

Monday, March 8

Catholic Worker House

Wednesdays, March 10, 24

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thursdays, March 11, 25

Deacon Board

Monday, March 15

Visitors: Q&A To Be Held March 7

In recent weeks we have been blessed to have many families visiting our church. We love to see new faces and we want you to feel welcome here. So, I am inviting you to join me for a question-and-answer session in our Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 7, at 9 a.m. Donuts, coffee, and juice will be available. Hopefully, this will be a time when you can get your questions answered. I will be glad to talk about any topic that is important to you.

I am very pleased to be here at the Community Church and believe that we have a great vision and that we are moving in the right direction. I would love to have the opportunity to share our vision with you.

The Fellowship Hall is located in the basement of our Education Building. You do not need to RSVP to attend. I do hope to see many of you there.

Pastor Ron Bartlett

Bringing God's Love to the Community



Community Church Scholarships

Community Church Scholarship applications are now available. All application forms, along with all of the supporting documents must be completed and returned to the Church Office by noon on **Friday, March 26, 2010**, or if you plan on mailing your application and supporting documents, the postmark date needs to be no later than March 26 to be considered. Any church member planning on attending an institution of higher learning in the 2010-11 school year may apply. Information and applications are in the narthex.

Help Us Decorate for Easter!



You can help decorate the altar this Easter by purchasing an Easter lily or azalea in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The flowers can be taken home after worship service on Easter Sunday. An order form is enclosed. Cost is \$10 for a lily and \$20 for an azalea. The deadline to order is noon on Monday, March 22, 2010.



Reminder: Please remember that when Hudson schools close or dismiss early due to weather, all church activities scheduled that day will also be cancelled.

Community Church of Hudson

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Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. to Noon
www.communitychurchofhudson.org

Ronald Bartlett

Pastor

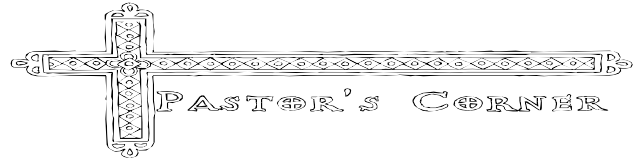
CCOHPastor@msn.com

Home: 988-9801

Joleyne Kramer/Nancy Colwell

Secretaries

CCOHSecretary@msn.com



In the book, The Me I Want To Be, by John Ortberg, John tells of a picture of himself that his mother gave him because she was tired of looking at it, and that now hangs in his closet. John says it is a picture of him before he learned how to sin. He looks at the picture and ponders all the potential that young boy had as he was growing up. John wonders about the person he might have been and the person he actually is.

We all wrestle with the “me” we want to be or could have been and the “me” we truly are. We face a gap between the two. Who can do something about that gap? Who has the power to forgive it? Who can begin to change it? Only Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ gives us both a compelling vision for transformation and a pattern of behaviors that provoke transformation. We all can become “the me I want to be.”

This is the topic we will be focusing on in the weeks following our Easter celebration. I am challenging each of you to join us in the discussion of the topic, “The Me I Want To Be.” I will be preaching a series of sermons on the topic, our adult Sunday school classes will be discussing the topic, and I am encouraging each family to pick up a book and a small group study guide and join us in this adventure.

Of all the things we do in the church, spiritual growth is the most important. This five-week adventure will help us grow spiritually to be the person we have always wanted to be. I would like to know if you plan to join us so that we can order the material we will need. Please sign the tear-off tab in the weekly bulletin and mark what materials you would like to receive. We will order these and have them ready a week before the adventure begins.

Pastor Ron



As we continue the application process for joining the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, I thought it would be good to publish some of their *Position Papers* so that we can become better acquainted with their stands on various issues. This month we will look at Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide.

—Pastor Ron

CCCC STATEMENT REGARDING EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

Reason for this Statement

The Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC) has consistently affirmed that all human life is a gift from God and is therefore sacred. This principle applies to life from the moment of conception to the moment of death. Modern society is increasingly faced with questions regarding individual autonomy in relation to both how people choose to live and how they choose to die. We of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference believe that God's written Word teaches principles which provide clear guidance in making decisions about life and death. We maintain that the continuum of life, from conception to the moment of death, should be lived in obedience to God's Holy Word.

Definition of Terms

1. Euthanasia literally means "good death", derived from the Greek "eu" (good) and "thanatos" (death). Euthanasia is generally considered in two distinct forms:

a. *Active* Euthanasia is generally defined as the intentional bringing about of an easy and painless death to a person suffering from an incurable or painful disease. Active euthanasia is the direct and intentional killing of one human being by another as a deliberate act of commission.

b. *Passive* Euthanasia is generally defined as the cessation or withholding of the employment of extraordinary measures which would artificially prolong physical life when there is believed to be irrefutable evidence that life without such measures cannot long continue. Passive euthanasia may be considered an act of omission by refusing to sustain life through technology or by other means.

2. Assisted Suicide is generally defined as the intentional intervention by any individual with the intent to produce the death of another individual; in this context, often considered for the purpose of relieving pain and suffering.

3. Physician Assisted Suicide is generally defined as a physician offering assistance with the intended purpose of either hastening death or terminating a person's life through the actions involved in one or both of the following roles:

a. providing information about how to commit suicide in an effective manner;

b. providing the means necessary for an effective suicide; which may include writing a prescription for a lethal amount of medication, providing moral support for an individual's decision to commit suicide, supervising the actual suicide, and helping the individual carry out the necessary physical actions to effectively complete the suicide.

Biblical and Theological Considerations

1. *Man as the Image of God:* Man was created in the image of God, and was given dominion over the earth as the representative of God's sovereign rule over all creation (Genesis 1:26-28). As the image of God, man has the design and capacity for unique fellowship with the Triune God and with his fellow man (John 17:20-24; 2 Corinthians 13:14). Man bears the responsibility as God's image to reflect His holy nature (1 Peter 1:15,16). Man as God's image deserves to be respected, valued, and loved; and so God commands, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18, Mark 12:28-34). Anyone who willfully injures or destroys God's image without His explicit sanction demonstrates a lack of love and reverence for God Himself.

2. *The Image of God and the Intentional Destruction of Human Life:* The fact that God still values sinful man as the bearer of His image is revealed in His abhorrence of the murder of Abel by Cain (Genesis 4:9-11), and in His statement to Noah following the great flood: "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man" (Genesis 9:6). The Sixth Commandment states, "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13). Scripture sanctions the destruction of human life only under the following circumstances: when the governmental authority acts to resist and punish evil (Genesis 9:6; Romans 13:1-5), or when it is unintentional or accidental (as may occur in self-defense or to protect other Bible based sanctions for permitting the intentional destruction of human life).

3. *The Body as the Temple of the Holy Spirit:* The Apostle Paul wrote the following about Christians in First Corinthians: Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body (1 Corinthians 6:19,20; cf. Romans 8:9-11). This passage teaches that our bodies are God's temple and possession, and we are therefore responsible to Him to be good stewards of our bodies. This truth refutes the popular concept held by many that they have an autonomous right to do as they wish with their own bodies: such thinking is a rejection of God's declared purposes for our bodies as revealed in Scripture; and, as such, is an expression of sinful rebellion against our Creator.

WELCOME TO

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School

There are Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m. each week. Our current classes are:

3 years-kdg., taught by Jacquie & Kelci Judas

1st-2nd grade, taught by Tom Glessner

3rd-4th grade, taught by Sara Cartney

5th-6th grade, taught by Carol Bartlett

7th grade confirmation, taught by Diana Rokusek

8th-12th grade, taught by Melissa Seeber

There are also adult Sunday School classes offered at 9 a.m.

Confirmation Calendar

The students in our confirmation class have trips scheduled to serve supper at the Catholic Worker House on Wednesdays, March 10 and March 24.

Adult and Family News...

Family Night Meals

Family Night meals are served every Wednesday evening starting at 5:45 p.m. The first Wednesday of the month is pizza night. The men make the meal the third Wednesday. Volunteers are needed to prepare and host the second and fourth Wednesdays, and occasional fifth Wednesday. We also need help with cleanup after the meal. If you can help, please sign up on the tear-off tab in the bulletin.

Garage Sale Set For May 7-8

The Adult & Family Board is participating in the Hudson city-wide garage sales Friday, May 7, and Saturday, May 8. If you are cleaning out your closets or cupboards, please save items that we can sell at our garage sale. You may bring those items to the church any time to the drop-off locations by each entrance of the Education Building. We will make space to store items upstairs until the sale. Please mark your boxes 'Garage Sale,' and do not price the items, as the garage sale volunteers will do this as they set up. Please watch the bulletin and upcoming issues of *The Chimes* for other ways you can help us with the sale this year.

Children & Youth News

CHAOS

The junior high youth (grades 7-9) go to CHAOS, held at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Transportation is available via the church van, which leaves at 6:15 p.m.

The Big House

Sr. High youth (grades 10-12) attend The Big House at Orchard Hill Church each Wednesday.

There are **no youth activities** on Wednesday, March 17, due to spring break.

Senior Youth Bowling Outing March 7

Our Senior High Youth (8th-12th graders) will be having a bowling party to Valley Park Lanes on Sunday, March 7. Please meet at the church at 4 p.m. and we will travel by church van. Following the bowling, we will return to Hudson for pizza at Pastor Ron's house. All youth are encouraged to invite friends and recent visitors to our church!

Upcoming Retreats at Village Creek

Scrapbooking—March 12-14, 2010

This weekend is designed for the enjoyment of all adults, with time for silence and solitude, extended prayer, or scrapbooking.

Couples Retreat—March 19-21, 2010

This retreat challenges and encourages you to have the marriage God intended. Enjoy fellowship, music, and relaxing activities while building your relationship with your spouse and Heavenly Father.

4-State Men's Retreat—April 16-18, 2010

This is a great opportunity to bring a friend or two for a weekend of male bonding, challenging and fun activities and truths from the Bible presented by speaker Terry Baxter.

4-State Women's Retreat—April 23-25, 2010

The theme of this retreat will be based on the studies done by Mike Bickle in his book, *Seven Longings of the Human Heart*. The speaker at this retreat is Bethany Hackmann.

Optional activities at each retreat include trail riding, paintball, zip-line, and hiking. Brochures and registration forms for these retreats are available in the office and in the narthex.

(CCCC's position paper on euthanasia and assisted suicide, continued from page 3)

4. *Suffering and Death for the Christian:* Death was the consequence for man's sin (Romans 6:23); but the Good News is that, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ have given believers ultimate victory over death (1 Corinthians 15). Because of the wonderful glimpse of resurrection life in Revelation chapters 21 and 22, it is only natural that Christians will at times long for the release which death will bring from the sorrows and suffering of this world (2 Corinthians 5:1-8; Philippians 1:19-26). Scripture, however, teaches that some suffering is a normal part of preparing believers for eternity. Suffering is part of the cross which God has ordained that Christians should bear for the sake of growth in faith and Christian character (Luke 14:27; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-9).

There is no spiritual benefit from needless physical suffering; to the contrary, the church is called to continue in Christ's ministry of relief to those who are suffering (Psalm 72:12-14; James 5:13-15). Christians should encourage medical intervention which relieves physical pain and suffering in order that we may maintain our ability to witness to the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Corinthians 6:12). If pain is not completely eliminated, Christians should see this as an opportunity to share in the sufferings of Christ; knowing that He has promised His faithful presence with them (Psalm 23:4; John 16:33; Philippians 3:10,11). Sharing in the fellowship of Christ's sufferings precedes sharing in the fellowship of His resurrection.

Application of Biblical Principles

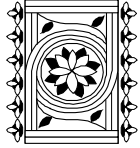
1. *Life Support and Active Euthanasia:* Modern technology has placed before Christians the option of artificial life support. God has given man the intelligence to develop technologies which save physical life; and prolonging this mortal life is praiseworthy if it provides additional opportunity to glorify God in ministry (Philippians 1:19-26). If a physical condition of progressive deterioration develops from which there is no medical hope of recovery and which has not been healed through intercessory prayer, there is no theological reason to prolong life artificially using modern technology. The determination to discontinue (or not to initiate) artificial life-support should be made only after thorough medical and pastoral consultation. There is a profound difference between allowing a person to die comfortably without life-prolonging measures, and actively causing the person's death ("active euthanasia"; whether by suicide, assisted suicide, or so-called "mercy-killing" by someone else). Although the motive of wanting to end suffering may seem reasonable enough, the practice of active euthanasia is an irreversible decision made by fallible humans at a time of great vulnerability. Active euthanasia sinfully destroys the temple and image of God. Instead, Christians need to follow the precedent of Holy Scripture and historic church tradition, and leave the timing of death in the hands of God.

2. *Compassion and Hope:* Both caregivers and those suffering from a life-threatening illness may experience physical, emotional, and/or spiritual pain when faced with a prolonged dying process, especially if there is any amount of unrelieved suffering present. Artificial life support has the potential for extending such suffering; and for this reason, people should make their explicit wishes known through available legal documents (such as Living Wills and Advance Directives for Health care). Christians should encourage the use of appropriate palliative and comfort measures for those faced with incurable life-threatening conditions: people skilled in pain and symptom control can do much to relieve physical suffering in most cases (organizations such as hospice may provide invaluable help in these efforts). Christians should remember that the temporary "sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18; cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

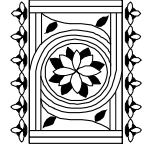
Conclusion

We of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference hereby:

1. Encourage all efforts to relieve unnecessary pain and suffering utilizing whatever appropriate measures are available, while always remaining obedient to God's Holy Word, and with the intent to affirm the sanctity of human life as created in the image of God;
2. Encourage our membership to make their explicit wishes known through available legal documents;
3. Oppose all efforts to condone or practice any form of Active Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide;
4. Encourage local churches and individual believers in their responsibility to support patients and their families in biblical decision-making as well as providing comfort through a ministry of presence to those facing a most difficult time in their lives.



Around Our Church Family



The 2010-11 Church Directory is currently being updated and should be available in the narthex before the end of March. The directory has a complete list of church boards and an address and phone listing of all members. Each family in the church should have a directory in their home. Remember to pick one up!

Men's Breakfasts Scheduled For March 6, 27

Two opportunities exist for the men to get together in March. We will meet for breakfast on March 6 and on March 27 at 7:30 a.m. in the church basement. All men are welcome to attend. We will eat breakfast together and then will discuss our topic for the morning. We are usually done by 9 a.m. For March 6, the reading assignment will be 1 Corinthians 13-15. For March 27, the assignment is 1 Corinthians 16 and 2 Corinthians 1-2.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is up and running! There is still time to join us. We meet at the church on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at 4 p.m. If it doesn't work to join us but you still want to participate, you can make the shawls and bring them in. We will be happy to teach you if you want to learn. Anyone age 10 & up is welcome to join us. We have patterns, yarn, and needles at the church that you are welcome to come and pick up. We will stay on Thursdays as long as we need to, so that you can come in anytime that works for you. If you want to come in after 6:30 p.m., please call and let us know you are coming. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Colwell, Pam Wessel or Linda Braden.



Jeanne Hansen – recovering from knee surgery

Randy Trotter – has been diagnosed with cancer

Ella Engel – diagnosed with juvenile diabetes

Pat Staack – undergoing treatments for pancreatic cancer

Betty Chvojka – dealing with post-polio syndrome

Manami Bjorndal's family, here, in Japan, and in China – needs our prayers

Beverly Holmes – residing at Ravenwood

Our US Service persons – Chase Feener (Afghanistan), Matt Welch (Florida), Jacob Kafka (Japan), Aneika Kafka-Jackson (Oklahoma), Ryan Anderson (Hawaii), Randy Kafka (Afghanistan), Mike Kriz (Virginia), Jeremiah Koch (Tucson), Josh Jackson (Afghanistan), Curtis Bartz (California), Paul Runez (Afghanistan).

To add a person to our weekly prayer list, please call the church office no later than Friday at 9 a.m. When hospitalized, please notify us as hospitals do not notify your church.

Prime-Timers Invited to Lenten Lunch Series at Orchard Hill

Orchard Hill Church is hosting its annual Lenten Lunch series Wednesdays during Lent. Each luncheon begins with a meal including two soups, fresh bread and desserts. The lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., followed by music and a speaker from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. A \$2 donation is suggested. Orchard Hill Church is located at 3900 Orchard Hill Drive, Cedar Falls.

Speakers will include:

March 3 – Father Ken Glaser, St. Stephens Catholic Student Center

March 10 – Dave Van Netten, Grace Reformed

March 17 – Judy Marshall, Harvest Vineyard

March 24 – Mike Brost, Orchard Hill Grundy Center Campus

Official Board Minutes, February 1, 2010 meeting
(approval pending)

Present: Melissa Seeber, Paul Seeber, Jo Kramer, Jacquie Judas, Ron Bartlett, Tom Petersen, Brandy Wilson, Pam Wessel, George Wessel, Deb Williams and Marilyn Gallery.

Melissa called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for serving this year. Pastor Ron had an opening prayer.

Melissa explained her goals for the coming year: efficient meetings, good communication among board members, unity, and being positive. A good attitude and enthusiasm are contagious.

Melissa also expressed that she hopes all board members gain some personal satisfaction from serving on the board, and that all might gain more leadership skills. In line with that, Ron led the board members in a fun and interesting game revolving around team building.

Pastor's Report: Ron will not be micro-managing every committee. He will certainly help when asked, but each committee is autonomous and free to make its own decisions. The application to join the CCCC has been sent and received. Someone from the CCCC will now interview Ron and/or the church board. The process is moving forward.

Secretary's Report: George Wessel made a motion to approve the January minutes; Tom Petersen seconded; all voted aye and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Income to the General Fund for the month of January 2010 totaled \$16,396.25. Expenses for the month totaled \$10,295.26. This resulted in a General Fund month-ending financial accounts value of \$33,936.85. With 8.3% of our fiscal year completed, our receipts are 11.4% and our disbursements are 7.2% of our \$143,500 annual budget. Non-routine January receipts included \$50 for the sale of a laptop computer and \$560 for Haiti relief efforts. Non-routine January disbursements included \$62 for the purchase of some curriculum resources (using the remaining balance in the library fund). Strayer Memorial balance on January 31 was \$143,532.04. The Van Fund balance on January 31 was \$2449.69. The Haiti relief fund balance on January 31 was \$560. The Library Fund balance was \$ 0.00. Pam Wessel made a motion to approve the report as presented; Jacquie Judas seconded; all voted aye and the motion passed.

Committee Reports: All church committee monthly reports are on file with the church secretary. Items of note are: Mission and Evangelism Board agreed to donate \$1000 to Hanken Missions; Adult and Family has decided to have a garage sale in May; the men decided to donate proceeds from the 1/27/10 supper to Haiti relief.

Tom Petersen has ordered three new driving horns and an instruction book for the bell tower. Money will come from the Strayer Fund for this. Tom will install the horns.

Building Committee: Some slight changes have been made in the plan, with possibly a few more changes to come. They are very close to getting some bids. An item will be put in the bulletin asking for any last comments or questions. Tom will also set stakes out so people can see what the outside dimensions of the building will be.

George Wessel reported that 57 pledges have been received, totaling \$113,025. Those pledging have increased their pledges an average of 5.19%.

New Business: Melissa said she hoped there could be continuity on the board by having the same 1 or 2 people from each committee attending the board meetings. Co-chairs might be the solution to this. She also reminded everyone to read all contracts made by church committees carefully, and to know what is in them. Check with Melissa or George if there are questions. We want to be good stewards of the church's money.

Ron then closed with prayer and the meeting adjourned.

Marilyn Gallery, Secretary

Community Church of Hudson

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Treasurer's Report

Community Church of Hudson Financial Scorecard:

The table below shows the General Fund's monthly income and expense data for the month of January 2010.

General Fund Monthly Cash Flow –

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
January 1 (start of fiscal year '10)			\$27,836
January	\$16,396	\$10,295	\$33,937

With 8.3% of our fiscal year completed, our income is 11.4% and our expenses are 7.2% of our \$143,500 fiscal year budget. Non-routine receipts included \$50 for the sale of a laptop computer & \$560 for Haiti Relief donations. Non-routine expenditures during the month included \$62 for the purchase of curriculum resources - which used the remaining balance in the library fund.

Questions regarding your pledge or the scorecard should be addressed to Treasurer, Brandy Wilson, at 988-2097.