

C/HP Messenger

Volume 4 Issue 8

August 2010

This Month's Events

Monday, August 2
Kingman Christian Church
GB/S Clergy Cluster

Sunday, August 8
FCC, Scott City
High Plains District Cabinet

Tuesday, August 10
China Buffet, Colby
HP/N Clergy Cluster

Wednesday, August 11
FCC, Garden City
HP/S Clergy Cluster

Saturday, August 14
FCC, Lyons
Central District Cabinet

Thursday, August 19
Park Place CC, Hutchinson
Mid-KS Clergy Cluster

Monday, August 30
FCC, Pratt
Mid-KS Disciples Men 5th Monday

Currents in the Stream

Recently my family and I rented a movie entitled "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief." As you might guess, this movie is a fantasy movie loosely touching on ancient Greek Mythology. Besides it being entertaining, what caught my attention the most were the last lines of the movie. "The first rule of battle strategy is don't let your opponent distract you."

Perhaps my mind works in strange ways, but when I heard those words, I was reminded of how church life sometimes has felt like I'm part of a cosmic battle between the forces of good and evil or the inevitable conflict that occurs when the Kingdom of God clashes with the Kingdom of worldliness. I was also reminded of Paul's declaration to the Ephesians when he wrote, "our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness (6:12)." These thoughts coupled with the last line of the movie led me to ask what is it that distracts us in the church from growing closer to God and experiencing life in the Kingdom of God?

Fears over institutional survival brought on by declining membership and giving was one thought that came to mind which distracts us from fulfilling our mission. Relational conflicts where we fail to forgive one another distract us from living out Christ's command to love one another as he has already loved us. Sometimes I have noticed how our decision making process distracts us from the church's mission when following Roberts Rules of Order takes on greater authority than the teachings of scripture. At other times I have noticed how our country's political campaigns have become more and more a distraction to the church's mission as candidates for office have tried to claim to be the candidate of faith (something the church has contended with at least since the time of Constantine).

Jesus proclaimed during his life on earth that in his coming, the Kingdom of God had come into the world. He invited people to enter into new life which was to be lived out in the presence of and under the guidance of God and which led them to love the Lord their God with all of their hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and their neighbors as themselves. As such, we were to be movements of wholeness in our fragmented world, and thereby make disciples of all people.

Perhaps it is time for us to recognize that the enemy we struggle against is not the person who is sitting in pew next to us, or in front of us, or the one who has answered a call from God to serve the church as a pastor or teacher or prophet or evangelist. The enemy we strive against are those powers which know strive to keep us distracted so that we will be hindered in fulfilling our purpose of being out posts of the Kingdom of God. Then again, perhaps I haven't got a clue about what I have written.

Ken

P.S. For those who are wondering. I started my weight loss challenge July 1 weighing in at 240 pounds. This morning (July 26) the scales read 225.

Ken's August Schedule

- 1 Church Visit—Great Bend
- 2 GB/S Clergy Cluster, Kingman
- 3-6 Office
- 7 Day Off
- 8 Church Visit—Utica
HP District Cabinet, Scott City
- 9 Office
- 10 HPN Clergy Cluster, China Buffet, Colby
- 11 HPS Clergy Cluster, Garden City
- 12 Office
- 13 Day Off
- 14 Central District Cabinet, Lyons
- 15 Church Visit—Pratt
Elder's Training, Kinsley
- 16-18 Office
- 19 Mid-KS Clergy Cluster, Hutchinson, PPCC
- 20 Day Off
- 21-22 Colby
- 23 Office
- 24 Staff Meeting, Topeka
- 25 Office
- 26 Day Off
- 27-28 Boundaries Training, Camp T.
- 29 Church Visit—Groveland
Church Finance Workshop, McPherson
- 30 Office
Mid-KS Disciples Men 5th Monday, Pratt
- 31 Office

Schedule is subject to change.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Aug. 13-14 Youth Sponsor Retreat,
Disciples Center at Tawakoni
- Aug. 13-14 KCYF Cabinet Orientation,
Disciples Center at Tawakoni
- Aug. 27-28 Clergy Boundaries Training,
Disciples Center at Tawakoni
- Aug. 29 Financial Safeguards for Churches,
FCC, McPherson

**2010 Regional Assembly
Salina, KS
October 22-23, 2010**



**Keynote Speaker
Newell Williams**

**Early Registration
Adult \$45.00 Youth \$30.00**

**Registration (after September 20)
Adult \$55.00 Youth \$40.00**

**Pre-Assembly Dinner with Robert Welch
Thursday, October 21, 6:00 p.m.
Adult \$15.00**



Central District Family Ski Trip

March 21-25, 2011

Crested Butte, Colorado

For more information please contact:

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CHURCHES PRAYING FOR CHURCHES

- Aug. 1 - Lewis Christian Church, Lewis
Keith Shrum, Pastor
- Aug. 8 - First Christian Church, McPherson
John Gran, Pastor
- Aug. 15 - Shelton Memorial CC, Ulysses
Bill Harrold, Pastor
Kelly Rae Howard, CE
- Aug. 22 - First Christian Church, Hutchinson
Pastor
- Aug. 29 - United Christian Church, Osborne
Dennis Davenport, Pastor

This newsletter is sponsored by the Central High Plains Districts Office of the Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ). The office is located at 5230 Broadway Ave., Great Bend, KS 67530. Phone: 620-792-6490. Kathy Foster is the editor.