

# The Spotlight

Volume 30, Issue 6

June 2010

## Welcome Back, Pastor Les



Pastor Mark will be on sabbatical this summer from Monday, June 7th, through Sunday, August 8th. We are very pleased to announce that during his absence, one of our former pastors, Dr. Leslie Pearson, will rejoin the congregation along with his wife, Roz.

For those of you who have joined SRCC since 1996 (and for those of you who are too old to have working memories), Pastor Les served as pastor of our church from 1990 - 1995. At the end of that period, he retired from full-time ministry. Since then he has been busy working at Sam's Club as a greeter for 13 years, driving cars for a local dealership, and filling in as interim pastor for various congregations. (He has even been preaching twice a month for the Chinese Church using an

interpreter.) Les served six Covenant churches during his full-time ministry from 1956-1995 and was also a chaplain for a penitentiary in Sioux Falls, SD (1970-1975). Les married Roz in 1976. Roz retired from the Mayo Clinic about six years ago. They live in Rochester but enjoy going to Arizona for a couple months each winter.

While serving as our interim pastor, Les will be preaching on Sunday mornings with a focus on two areas, Christian Apologetics and Personal Spiritual Growth. He will have office hours from 9:00 to 1:00 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the church. He will also be available for visitation to those who are in the hospital or at home.

It is truly a wonderful thing that God reunites people from time to time to allow them to share experiences and grow from new points of view. Don't let these summer months go by without spending some time getting to know and appreciate this wonderful Christian couple that God has returned to our midst!

The Elders (Jerry Huebner, Steve Lewis, Chris Roberts, Seth Robinson)

# A Time to Work, A Time to Rest

**Sabbatical:** from the Hebrew word 'shabbath' meaning 'rest' from which we get our English word 'Sabbath'. Entries in Webster's Dictionary include "a break or change from a normal routine," and "a leave often with pay for rest, travel, or research."

This will be the second sabbatical I have had while serving here at Salem Road. That means I am completing 14 years of ministry in this place! I am amazed at how fast the time has gone and grateful for your continued support of me, Melinda and the ministry. I do not take my time with you for granted. Therefore, I'm especially looking forward to this sabbatical in order to recharge my heart and soul so that I might better serve you when I return.

In the above definition of sabbatical it says a time for "rest, travel, or research." I'm incorporating all three ideas into my time away. I plan to rest which actually means for me a 'change of routine' where I'm not expected to prepare a Bible study or sermon every week. I can relax quite well under those circumstances.

**A time to travel.** I'm kicking off my sabbatical with a trip to the Ozarks June 7-11. I will be hauling two horses and one parishioner with me to southern Missouri for a week of riding and camping. Dwight Boyum is going to enjoy the thrill of the outdoors on horseback with me. I trust he will have more of an appreciation for my fine animals than Dr. Marty Wolfe who is fond of saying "a great big animal with a little bitty brain!" Of course I've told Dwight he rides at his own risk, ha.

I would also like to spend a week in the Dakotas either at Custer or the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I'm currently reading a biography on Roosevelt which I'm finding to be a rich resource for quotes. For example, one of my favorites: "There's something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of man."

**Research.** I have one main research project which I intend to engage and that is trying to crystallize my beliefs concerning the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, or Communion.

You've heard me say over the past few months how I think this should be more celebrative and joyful. Dr. David Byer has graciously offered to send me and Melinda to Fairfax, Virginia to attend a church service where he says he had one of his most joyful experiences of participating in the Eucharist. If time permits, we are anticipating such an experience ourselves to see how others worship and serve.

Finally, speaking of worship and service. My intent is to attend several different churches during my sabbatical in order to see what others are doing. I always come away from these visits with a greater appreciation for our worship team and service. Salem Road Covenant worships, serves, and cares for one another as good, if not better, than many other congregations. That is a testimony to your faith in action. Thank you.

May the Lord bless and keep each and every one of you in his tender care while Melinda and I are away.

Pastor Mark



### **Wanted: A Few Good Hands!**

Many of you have served on this one-day event of community service designed to show the love of Jesus all over Rochester. Our church site will be Crossroads College. There will be a variety of jobs

## **Lake Beauty Bible Camp**

**Town Hall Meeting** - On May 18 Brian Alnes, Executive Director, was here along with Paul Zahasky, board member, to present the Master Site Plan for Lake Beauty. This plan will preserve and extend the life of every existing structure that has future purpose, while increasing the year round usability of the camp, increasing the capacity for simultaneous guest groups, creating new lodging and ministry opportunities for adults and families. Master Plan booklets are available in the hall along with a proposed draft resolution to be voted on at LBBC's annual meeting on October 30. Brian welcomes your questions and comments.

**Summer Camp** - In June we have one camper, Calli Reinhart, attending Super High camp from June 13-18.

**4th of July Family Camp** - July 2-5  
Speaker: Dr. Larry Lindquist, the director of the MA Christian Studies program at Denver Seminary. Pick up a "Youth & Family Summer Ministries" Brochure in the hall rack for more details.

for all skill levels. Sign up online at [www.rochestercaresfest.org](http://www.rochestercaresfest.org) or on the flyer in your mailbox. State our church name and Crossroads College for a site if you want to be with our group. Direct any questions to Larry Edmonson, our church site leader.

### **Schedule for the day**

8:15-9:00 a.m. Check-in, Pick up t-shirt, team devotions  
9:00-4:30 p.m. Serve our city!  
5-6 p.m. BBQ celebration at Graham One!



Seth Boyum, Zechary Novinger, Alexa Zerbe, Stacy Parker - our high school graduates at the senior breakfast on May 23rd .

## **Friendship Place**

Volunteers are still needed for the summer program from 1-3 p.m. during the weeks of July 5-9 and July 12-16. Volunteers will read with children, participate in games and crafts, and generally just have fun with them in a one-to-one fashion. Friendship Place staff will lead the sessions, but we need plenty of volunteers to work and play with the children. Contact Greg Stewart if you can help or call Linda Richardson (753-2280)

Friendship Place Kids will be at Camp Victory the week of August 9. Teen volunteers are needed. Contact Greg Stewart.

# Update from the Elders

## **Sunday Morning Prayer time**

In the upper room from 9:00 to 9:15 AM. You are invited to join in whenever you feel led to do so.

## **Communion:**

Anyone who is unable to be in church but would like to participate in communion can request the Elders bring communion to them. The Elders have been doing this for a couple of years.

Sunday morning communion seems to be working well. People are more involved in the process when moving forward than when being served in the "pews." We will continue to review the communion process.

## **Contemporary witness:**

It's important for a growing fellowship that we know one another. Sharing our walk with God with our fellow believers is an effective way of doing that. Please consider sharing what God is doing in your life. We're seeking a least one or two people to share each month. This is not only for adults, but for young folks as well.

## **Sabbatical:**

Pastor Mark will be on sabbatical from June 7th until August 9th. In his place will be Pastor Les Pearson (Mark's predecessor). We're looking forward to having Les with us again. We pray that Pastor Mark will have a very encouraging time studying and experiencing a time of solitude and a more intimate time with our Lord. We're looking forward to Mark's return and waiting to hear how God has

revealed Himself to him during his time away.

## **Benevolence:**

The money you provide for the SRCC Benevolence fund is used wisely. In the past six months we have helped six people with financial needs via cash, gas cards, etc. We have distributed \$397 and have a current balance of \$3012.

## **The Purpose of Salem Road**

### **Covenant Church:**

We have prayerfully prepared and distributed the SRCC Identity Statement to clarify who we are and how we participate in God's work in this community. It's important that we not forget how to worship our Lord; how to improve our relationships with one another; and how to share our walk with God with others who need His healing touch or helping hand.

### **Transitions:**

Chris Roberts has replaced Lee Riegler on the Elder board. We miss Lee's great leadership. Chris is providing new perspectives on the church family and is fully engaged in his new role. Regardless of your situation, please consider how you might serve as an Elder, a Ministry Team Leader or as a member of a Ministry Team. There is much work to be done.

In His service,

Pastor Mark, Steve Lewis, Chris Roberts, Seth Robinson and Jerry Huebner

## June Dates

### June 5 - 8:00 - 12:00 Church Work Day

We will have jobs for all ages: painting stripes on the parking lot, staining the partitions around the garbage and propane tank areas, cleaning windows and chairs, and trimming trees. Bring paint equipment, gloves, and tree trimming tools. We will have other tasks identified by the 5th. Hope to see you then.

### June 5 - 4:30 p.m. Barn Bash at Evingers'

Help Pastor Mark kick off his sabbatical with fun on the farm for the whole family. Bring your food, drinks, lawn chairs and a dish to pass. Dessert, plates, & utensils provided. The grills will be hot and ready to go at 5:00. You could bring a kite to fly.

**June 6 - Noon - Middle & High School Paint Ball at Peterson's**, 3925 Meadow Ridge Drive SW. We'll start with lunch and then head to the woods for Paint Ball fun.

**June 24 - 27 - Covenant Annual Meeting** in St. Paul - You are welcome to come for the evening worship services, Thursday - Saturday evenings (7-9pm) and on Sunday morning (10-noon) at the St. Paul RiverCentre. There will be a picnic on Saturday from 2-6 p.m. on Raspberry Island in celebration of the Covenant's 125th anniversary. Our missionaries, Nils & Erika Clauson will be consecrated at the worship service on Sunday morning.

**June 28 & 29 - 10:30 - 4:00 Scrap-booking** FIG with Margaret & Sheryl in the Fireside Room. Bring your project, lunch, and drinks. We'll provide snacks. Come for what ever time works in your schedule.



- 1 - Karen Danielson
- 5 - Josia Novinger
- 11 - Doris Bjaastad
- 20 - Nga Edmonson
- 22 - Lou Ellen Wolfe
- 22 - Chris Roberts
- 28 - Miranda Wolfe
- 28 - Jodi Ouverson

### June Anniversaries

- 3 - Brad & Jeanette Lorang
- 5 - Bruce & Kay Johnson
- 10 - Randy & Sonja Reimer
- 10 - Chuck & Lisa Lucas
- 15 - Chris & Daphne Roberts
- 16 - Mike & Doris Bjaastad
- 16 - David & Julie Warner
- 23 - Lee & Marilyn Riegler
- 25 - Gene & Margaret Hokanson
- 26 - Ron & Sheryl Peterson
- 29 - Dave & Karen Danielson

### Set Up

- 6 - Ouverson
- 13 - Reimer
- 20 - Huebner
- 27 - L. Roberts

### Ushers

- Reimer
- Hanson
- Therneau
- Engstler

### Greeters

- 6 - Stewart
- 13 - Naatz
- 20 - Bjaastad
- 27 - Bredeson

### Nursery

- Robinson
- Roberts
- Reimer
- Ouverson

### **Births**

Eric Henry Strength on May 15, 2010  
Parents: Dana & Stephanie Strength  
Grandparents: Terry & Nancy Driscoll