



# Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 26, NO. 9

April, 2015

## Holy Week



### **Palm Sunday ~ March 29th**

**Worship—10:00 a.m.**

A Family Fifth Sunday celebration highlighted by a Palm Procession with HCC's Children. Reception following worship (Education Hour following the reception)

### **Maundy Thursday ~ April 2nd**

**6:30 p.m.—Meal      7:15 p.m.—Worship**

We will gather at 6:30 for a brief Seder service followed by a meal of simple finger foods. At 7:15 we will begin our worship in the Campbell Room with Communion and then move to the sanctuary for a Service of Tenebrae (The Extinguishing of Lights).

Please bring fruits, relishes, cheeses, vegetables, breads, etc to share with our HCC family, friends and guests.



### **Good Friday ~ April 3rd**

**12 Noon—3:00 p.m.**

Heights Community Service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
2747 Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights

Meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

You may come for all or any portion of the service.

Pastor Roger and Joe LaGuardia are preaching The last two meditations.



### **Easter Egg Hunt**

(for children through Grade 3)

**Saturday, April 4th ~ 11:00 a.m.—Rain or Shine**

Please call or email the church office to register by Monday, March 30th.

### **Easter Sunday ~ April 5th**

**10:00 a.m. Worship**

The church will be full of new life as we joyfully Celebrate the resurrection in song, word and prayer.

Following morning worship, we will gather in the Campbell Room to share and celebrate. Everyone is asked to bring your favorite finger food to share with our HCC family, friends and guests.



### **Resurrection, So What?**

The celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday is foundational to the Christian faith. Yet, once the lilies start to fade what real difference does the resurrection make in our lives. For our worship over the three Sundays following Easter we will explore how this central event in the New Testament narrative changed the lives of the first disciples and see what lessons there may be for us.

**We invite You and Your Family to join us!**

# Along The Path . . .



There is a file folder on my computer titled “Transformation.” Transformation is one of those churchy buzzwords that have been well used since... well, since before I came to HCC. Church transformation has become a goal of many denominations (including ours) as a way to reverse the trend of declining membership and failing congregations. Our region even has a transformation team that occasionally puts on seminars or webcasts.

I have a bunch of stuff in my “transformation” folder: downloaded articles, quotes, information about a conference I attended several years ago, and several other documents. I read and collected all this stuff several years ago because I was trying to figure out what church transformation was all about and how to go about doing it. After all, HCC looked a lot like a church that was in need of transformation.

Four or Five years ago I stopped collecting stuff in that folder for two reasons. First, I felt like I had learned what they had to say, which was: 1. Transformation in every church looks different. 2. There is no one way to go about doing it. 3. It takes a lot of trial and error.

The other reason I stopped was that we were already busy with the work of transformation and I didn’t really have time or care to keep stuff about how someone else was doing it.

Well I looked back through that folder and one of the documents there is titled “Reliable Signs of Transformation.” In the document are actually two lists, “Reliable Signs...”, and “Unreliable Sign of Transformation.” Here’s the list of Reliable Signs of Transformation:

1. The congregation has a deep sense of knowing who it is
2. Sees God acting in and through their life as a congregation.
3. Low level of conflict and high level of mutual regard
4. Willingness to tackle difficult issues
5. Make room for the other openings to God and growing understanding
6. A deep sense of humility and gratitude, filled with grace and graciousness.
7. The gifts of the spirit are visible growing in the lives of people and in the church
8. An awareness that being one body does not mean being all alike and each person is treated with great respect
9. A deep desire to continue growing in faith
- 10 A process has been in place long enough for changes to have become lasting.
11. The past isn’t always lurking around the corner
12. The past is valued for what it was. The losses have been acknowledged and what is of value informs the present and points to the future.

Now these 12 items are not a goal that we’ve reached. After all, transformation is a never-ending journey. But I see lots of indications that, together, we are moving along that path. I see it in our new mission focus, in the programs we’ve put on and the stands for issues of justice and welcome we’ve taken. I feel it in a renewed sense of energy. I’ve even felt it in some of the difficult discussions we’ve had in Board meetings. We are a community in the midst of discovering what new things God has in store for us and while it is sometimes overwhelming, it is also invigorating and exciting.

So as we enter this season of resurrection and new life, my prayer for us is that the sense of transformation will continue to grow and blossom bringing hope and joy to each of you. May it be so!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

# *...from your Prayer Ministry*

***Real friendship is shown in times of trouble; prosperity is full of friends.***

~Euripides

One of the well loved hymns we sing is “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”. The melody’s catchy and the words are full of comfort.

*“Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.”*

The greatest gift we have received from God is Jesus.



--Jesus, the human being who embodied the loving spirit of God.

--Jesus, who hung out with some who were considered “unsavory characters” and offered them as much kindness and respect as one would expect to see offered to the most highly esteemed person in any community.

--Jesus, who demonstrated God’s own love for every person by surrendering his life rather than betraying his principles or his friends. Genuine love demands all ... total love always involves some self-sacrifice, some offering of self and sometimes, at a great cost.

This is the message of Easter: the celebration of the unmeasureable love of God for every human being demonstrated by the death and resurrection of Jesus, our human brother.

*“They will know we are Christians by our love.”*

*... ’til next time, let’s keep loving and praying for each other*

## **BECAUSE YOU CARE**

### **Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization**

Shirley Reading	C.D. Clark	Mary Rogers	Henry Sharpley
Grace Loudenstein	Lyubov Nikolenko	Lisa Peabody	Rita Brady
Alma G. Jones	Nancy Wilson	Scott Lemmon	Paul/Shirley Hummel
Cas Castleberry	Patty Monroe	Samarra States	Baby Emma Freudi
Joe/Barbara Tolley	Janelle Eccleston	Celina/River McWilliams	

# Children's Corner

## Easter Egg Hunt

When: **Saturday, April 4th**  
Time: **10:00 a.m.—12 Noon**  
Where: **Heights Christian Church**  
Who: **Children through Grade 3**

Fourth graders and older are invited to help hide eggs at 10:00 a.m. and help the younger children find eggs at 11:00 a.m.

Friends and family are welcome!  
We're egg-cited about having you join us!

Registration is a **must** on or before  
Monday, March 30th  
Please notify the church Office  
by calling 216.561.4800  
or email us at [kese.hcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kese.hcc@sbcglobal.net)

Refreshments will be served

~ **This is a FREE Event** ~

## COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE



The HCC community Garden has a limited number of plots available for this growing season. If you'd like to grow your own fresh vegetables (or know someone who would) contact the church office or

go online at [www.heightscc.org//index.php/outreach/daleford\\_community\\_garden](http://www.heightscc.org//index.php/outreach/daleford_community_garden) (where forms are available).

## 5K WALK & RUN FOR THE KIDS Saturday, May 2nd

Join Cleveland Christian Home at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in fighting against child abuse and neglect! Registration includes all day admission to the Zoo and Rainforest, a t-shirt, and a light breakfast. To register, go to [cchome.org](http://cchome.org).

## CHURCH CAMPS AT CAMP CHRISTIAN

**Rabbit Camp: Grades: 2, 3, 4 June 7-10**  
For parents who want a shorter camp experience for their children  
You Pay \$140 + HCC scholarship \$60 = Total \$200

**Otter Camp: Grades: 3, 4, 5  
June 21-27**



**Chi Rho Camps: Grades: 6, 7, 8  
June 7-13 June 28-July 4 July 12-18**

**CYF Conference: Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
June 14-20 July 5-11 July 26-August 1**

Otter, Chi Rho & CYF Conference  
You Pay \$250 + HCC scholarship \$120 = Total \$370

## EARLY BIRD RATE ONLY—IN BY MAY 1ST

Children's Education Committee are making scholarships available for all HCC families

**Registration Forms** are available in the church office or you may go online at [www.ccinoh.com](http://www.ccinoh.com)

**All registration forms should be returned to the church for the minister's signature.** The church staff will mail all registration forms. If additional financial assistance is needed for camp fees, a scholarship application is also available. Please fill it out and submit it to the regional office.

## HCC'S ANNUAL GIANT GARAGE SALE

**Saturday, April 18—9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

We are anticipating a "GIANT" turnout for our annual sale and count on you to help us get the word out to your family, friends and neighbors.



Items are needed for the Tiffany and church tables and small furniture items are welcomed. We can use it all!

You know the drill . . . Volunteers are needed for each section to set-up on Friday evening and during the day of the sale.

Tables are still available for \$25 each. Call the church office at 216.561.4800 to reserve a table.

## CWF LUNCHEON

**April 22nd—12:30 p.m.**

Our speaker will be Annette Sutherland who will show pictures and talk about their "Amazing Trip Thru India." All are welcome to join us in the Campbell Room.

## IN CELEBRATION OF HCC'S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

Did You Know how Heights Christian Church first became a Shalom Congregation?

In 1981, at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) held in Anaheim, California, it was determined that Peace With Justice would become our church's national priority. The Shalom Congregational Program came into being sponsored by the national Depts. of Christian Education and Church and Society in the Division of Homeland Ministries. The Ohio Disciples Office also voted to become a Shalom Region and shortly thereafter Heights Christian Church voted to become a Shalom Congregation. The following goals were agreed upon:



- ▶ As a congregation we would focus with intentionality on the biblical vision of Shalom found in the Old Testament and on Jesus' ministry in the New Testament.
- ▶ That we would infuse peacemaking throughout our church programming

A Peace Task Force was formed to educate ourselves on peace and justice issues and to plan ways to keep the issue of peace in front of our congregation through presentations, discussions and peace projects. In 1987, the first Peace Pole and meditation bench was installed near the Tower entrance. It was designed by George Hayward. In 2003, with the help of a Shaker City Grant, Rev. Linda Walling and Donita Singerman planned an enlarged Peace Garden next to the Daleford side of the church. Three Peace Poles were included representing twelve languages spoken by members of our congregation.

It was decided that we begin a custom of having our youth begin each Sunday service by carrying a light into our worship. This flame would be used to light Peace Candles on the Communion Table and at the end of the service the light of Peace would be carried back out into the community and world.

Several years later, Giving Gardens were planted to share with our neighbors. When the property across the street on Daleford became available, we contacted the City of Shaker to explore the possibility of buying it for a parking lot for our church. Because of it being in a residential area the city would not approve this plan. Instead we offered an idea for a group of Community Gardens and a Labyrinth Walk including another Peace Pole. Dedication was on May 2013 with Mayor Earl Leiken as one of the prime speakers. The Peace Task Force became a standing committee of the church in 2014 and continues its work.

### Steele Mansion

This month's special event to highlight our theme "Building Community" in celebration of our 85th Anniversary will be, Sunday, April 26, after church we will have a light lunch here and then car pool to Painesville to have a guided tour of the historic Steele Mansion beginning at 2:30 p.m.

It will end with a delightful tea and coffee with "decadent desserts" and conversation in the Gathering Room. Cost: \$20.00 per person. Reservations are a must by April 22nd. Call the church office 561-4800. More information will follow.



Note: the Mansion is handicapped accessible with a ramp and elevator.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m.      Worship Service  
 11:00 a.m.      Coffee Fellowship  
 11:30 a.m.      Education Hour

(Nursery & Preschool care provided)

### STAFF

Minister                                      *Rev. Roger D. Osgood*  
 Minister of Outreach                      *Rev. Joan Brown Campbell*  
 Director of Music                              *Dale Hukill*  
 Director of Gospel Music                      *Willie J. Wright, Jr.*  
 Office Manager                                      *Kese Webb*  
 Facilities Coordinator                              *Mike Faust*  
 Childcare    *Rosie Scott*

### OFFICERS

Moderator    *Mike Singerman*  
 Vice Moderator    *Jane Troha*  
 Secretary    *Grace Loudenstein*  
 Assistant Secretary    *Karen McKeehan*  
 Treasurer    *Neil Chase*  
 Assistant Treasurers    *Jim Donald, Shirley Reading*

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### EMAILS:

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### *Edwins Leadership and Restaurant Institute*



At  
 Shaker Square



### *“The Gold Within—Feel Us: Life As A Myth, Poetry and Drumming”*



Writers/ Performers



Director

HCC Gospel Choir

