



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 28, NO. 2

August, 2016

Close Out the Summer with Worship (and a picnic)

- August 14** The preacher of the morning is Minister Michele Moreland who will be sharing a message on Faith.
- August 21** "Shame and Rejoicing," based on Luke 13:10-17. Pastor Roger preaching.
- August 28** Join us on Sunday, August 28 for an especially Intergenerational Worship experience at 10:00 followed by a Church Picnic on the church grounds. We want to celebrate the children and youth who have attended Camp Christian this summer and recognize the beginning of a new school year with a Backpack Blessing. If you are returning to school (at any age!) and want a special prayer offered for your new academic year, make plans to bring your backpack or book bag to church with you!

All Church Picnic/Cookout

There will be an all church picnic on Sunday, August 28th following worship. HCC will provide burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, buns, condiments, and beverages. We are asking church members to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert along with your own place setting (plate, silverware, cup). This will be a great opportunity to celebrate the summer and gather with HCC friends for good food and good fun!

All are welcomed!

◆ **SAVE THE DATE — SEPTEMBER 11, 2016** ◆

Kick-Off Sunday and 2nd Hour Celebration of Pastor Roger's completion of 10 years of ministry at HCC. Plan to join us as we kick-off the next 10! Details to follow.

Along The Path...



Well, here we are at the dog days of August already. It is hard to believe that children will be starting back to school in just a couple of weeks.

At this time of year I try to maintain a balance between enjoying the last couple of weeks of summer and beginning to anticipate the new church program year. And there is much to anticipate already. Staff and ministry teams are already at work making plans for meaningful worship, exciting educational opportunities, fun fellowship events, and important and significant service to the community. On August 16th the church board will be meeting and the primary agenda item will be planning for the year ahead and we welcome your ideas and suggestions. You can share them with any of the board members, or come to the board meeting on the 16th.

But beyond the planning, we need everyone's presence and participation. As a community of faith we do best when we come together for worship, service, and fellowship. We are all needed to live into God's vision of this community we call Heights Christian Church. See you Sunday!

...from your Prayer Ministry

I was chatting the other day with Donna Zimmerman who, with Joan Fronck manages the "more urgent" sector of our Prayer Ministry. (More about that at a later date.) We were reflecting together on the many serious concerns our Prayer Ministry addresses and I commented on how some families seem to get "more than their share" of suffering at times. Another time we can think together about the redemptive role of "suffering" in our lives. Current writers, and actually, many mystics convey that suffering is not the result of our sin or "original sin" but actually as the means through which we come to know, appreciate and love God.



At any rate, my friend Donna led me to a resource she uses for daily reflection which gives her the inner strength to deal with some very challenging situations. It's called *JESUS CALLING*, authored by Sarah Young. In that particular day's thought, Sarah offered this powerful thought from God's perspective: (I paraphrase): There is every reason to welcome challenging times as opportunities to trust me and know that there will never be any circumstances that are too much for you to handle. When the path before you is dotted with difficulties that seem huge because you are measuring your strength against those challenges, you should remind yourself that by your own strength, you wouldn't make it beyond the first hurdle. I can guide you, strengthen and support you and even keep you in perfect peace, if you will stay close to me, every step of the way. The real challenge is learning to trust me and stay close to me, no matter what happens.

... 'Til next time, let's pray together for continued trust in God's commitment to us.

BECAUSE YOU CARE **Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization**

Neil Chase	Elizabeth Newman	Jesse Hall	Grace Loudenstein
C.D./Lois Clark	Shirley Reading	Lisa Peabody	Mary Rogers
Joe Feudi	Janelle Eccleston	Patty Monroe	Alma G. Jones
"Cas" Castleberry	Lyubov Nikolenko	Henry Sharpley	Nancy Wilson
Peggy Yeager	Joe/Barbara Tolley	Sidney Mallory, Jr.	JoAnn Brown
Merle Passell	Natalie Eichar	Paul/Shirley Hummel	

Deaths

July 18 — *Frances Sgro*
Mother of Valentina Sgro

July 25 — *Dorothy Mathis*
Mother of Kese Webb

Moderator's Musings

The summer has been filled with tragic and troublesome events which we acknowledged in July at our Service of Lamentation. It was a beautiful, meaningful and heartfelt way to mourn the dead, acknowledge our feelings of helplessness and frustration and turn to God for succor, support and comfort. As I looked at our congregational leadership team that morning, Pastor Roger, Minister Michele, Kate, Ben and our new Worship Ministry Team Leader, Larry Watson, I was filled with gladness that we have such an able group on hand to guide us as we enter a new program year. My mind echoed the lyrics of a favorite hymn, *Gather Us In*:

*Here in this place the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day.*

I truly believe that God has graced us with God's presence, witnessed by the presence of our leaders and the strength of our members. In the same way, I know the faith and commitment of our congregation, ready to respond to the needs of our neighbors, near or a world away. As we move into our fall programming, I believe it is time to get out of our building, small and confining, and embrace the wider community in new and meaningful ways. God knows that God's people are hurting in so many ways. It is time for Heights Christian to take a leap of faith and get out and get going! We need to not just be a church, we need to do church, do love and do peace in this time and in this place.

Yours in Christ,



Welcome Kate

It is such a pleasure to welcome Kate Gillooly to the HCC congregation. As Director of Congregational Development, one of Kate's responsibilities will be in the area of Christian Education and Youth. She brings years of experience and lots of ideas to share with us as we begin to plan this year's programming for our children and youth. Volunteers are always welcome to assist in the Sunday school and for special activities. If you would like to help out, please contact Kate Gillooly at katehcc@sbcglobal.net) or Lynda Ackerman at (llackerman@att.net). We'd love to hear from you!

Newsy Notes: Sunday school continues during the summer; teachers are looking forward to time together with your children. Many HCC young people enjoyed a wonderful time at Camp Christian this summer; we know it was the best time ever! And the youth garden is doing great, too! Thanks to Andrena Jones-Sharp for coordinating this activity. School will be starting soon, so enjoy each of these special summer days!

Worship Ministry

Are you interested in serving in some capacity during worship service at Heights Christian in the upcoming church year, beginning in September? Volunteers are needed to serve as Greeters, welcoming folks into service; as part of the Diaconate, collecting the offering; serving Communion and collecting the sign in sheets after service; and as Liturgist, leading the Call to Worship, reading the Scripture and the call for and blessing of the Offering.

Should you be interested in serving in one or more of those positions please contact Larry Watson, Team Leader of the Worship Ministry, at 216-509-5892 or clarrywat@yahoo.com. If you served last year we will be contacting you to determine your willingness to serve again this year.

Study the Bible
with us



Summer Bible Study

The invitation is still open to join us for

Summer Bible Study
Thursdays—1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. **Worship Service**
11:00 a.m. **Coffee Fellowship**
(Nursery & Preschool care provided)

STAFF

Minister	<i>Rev. Roger D. Osgood</i>
Assistant Minister	<i>Min. Michele Moreland</i>
Minister of Outreach	<i>Rev. Joan Brown Campbell</i>
Director of Music	<i>Ben Malkevitch</i>
Director of Congregational Development	<i>Kate Gillooly</i>
Office Administrator	<i>Kese Webb</i>
Facilities Coordinator	<i>Mike Faust</i>
Childcare	<i>Rosie Scott</i>

OFFICERS

Moderator	<i>Jane Troha</i>
Vice Moderator	<i>Valencia McMillan</i>
Secretary	<i>Grace Loudenstein</i>
Treasurer	<i>Mike Singerman</i>
Assistant Treasurers	<i>Neil Chase, Jim Donald</i>

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To all HCC members, I want to thank you for the warm welcome you have shown me as I begin my position as Director of Congregational Development. I am enjoying the process of getting to know you and hearing your dreams for Heights Christian's future. My areas of responsibility include Christian Formation (Education) for all ages, Evangelism and Outreach, and Mission, particularly in helping us continue to discern God's mission for us individually and as a congregation as we become closer partners with God and God's mission in our community). I am grateful for opportunities to collaborate with members and staff, as well as some city officials and other leaders in the neighborhood. I welcome your perspective and your input regarding Heights Christian, our ministry together, and issues of concern and opportunity in our community. Feel free to contact me with your ideas and/or to set up a time for further conversation. I am at church Monday through Thursday mornings and most Sundays.

Kate Gillooly

Update on the Anthology: "Building Community with Peace and Justice"

Good news! In record time, we have sold 135 copies and are now working on the second printing to be ready soon. We have cleared approximately \$1,000 and proceeds will go to Peace and Justice work. Look how far the Anthology has reached already...

Chicago, IL Palo Alto, CA Chapel Hill, NC Boston, MA Kingston, RI Tampa, FL
Newport, RI New York, NY Anchorage, Alaska Washington, D.C. Philadelphia, PA
Denver, CO Ashtabula, OH Sandusky, OH Shaker Heights, OH Cleveland Heights OH
Cleveland OH Berea OH Fresno, OH

We received a note back from one of our Amish friends which reads... "I received the "book" you sent. Thought I would sit down and just page thru it, but Hey! ... I started reading it and couldn't stop! I'm thinking although the world seems full of violence and chaos, there are still good people in this world. You're not just sitting back and letting the world take it's course. Your people are doers and you try to bring things to order. We plain people don't have phones, or cars or electric but our preachers really tell our congregation to pray for the world and our leaders. We thank God that in America we still have freedom of religion and the law still stands up for us. Thanks for the Anthology and keep up the good work! I will share it with our community and family", Annie.

So now put in your order for your friends and family by calling the church office at 561-4800. We will be running the next batch very soon. This would make a lovely Birthday or Christmas gift with a message of the importance of working for Peace and Justice.