



# Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 25, NO. 7

January, 2015

## NEW YEAR — NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND STUDY

January 11

**Regret, Remorse, and Repentance** Mark 1:4-11



January 18

**Special Events for Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday**

**Guest Preacher, Rev. Trayce Stewart—Luncheon follows Worship**



50 years ago this coming July, Rev Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke from the porch of Heights Christian Church to a couple thousand people. We will begin celebrate that defining event in the life of HCC this Sunday as Rev. Trayce Stewart, new church pastor of Second Chance Christian Church in Columbus, will be preaching on "Facing the Challenge of a New Age." Rev. Stewart is a native of Greater Cleveland and grew up at Bethany Christian Church.

The Gospel Choir will be singing "My Help (Cometh From the Lord)" and the Chancel Choir will sing a memorial version of "Precious Lord, Take My Hand."

A luncheon will follow the morning service. Before the luncheon, Rev. Stewart will share information about her new church and the new church movement. A free will offering will be collected to be given to new churches in the region.

January 25

**Where Are We Going Now?**

Mark 1:14-20



**Second Hour Studies will resume January 11th with:**

**Bible Study with Joe—Led by Joe LaGuardia**

*We Make the World by Walking*

The class will begin 2015 with Chapter 19 in this book: "Jesus Coming of Age." each chapter contains tree readings from Scripture that we also discuss in the light of the chapter.

**Adult Topic Study—Led by Brian Johnson**

*Where is God working in the World?*

In this six week adult study, we will be examining where it is that we see God's power actively working in our world. Our goal will be to think about God's plan as it is being actively pursued, and each week, members of the study group will be asked to bring with them their witness to that power: what it is that we see God doing or where it is that we see God at work. Moreover, each week, the study will concentrate on different ideas that have been taken up in the history of Christianity regarding how and when God's power is manifested in the world of human affairs. We will use these ideas to temper our won understanding of what it means for us to be living in God's world.



As always, Roger, Dale, Mike, Rosie, and Kese, want to express their gratitude for the kind and generous expressions of affection and appreciation from the congregation. Thanks for an assortment of greeting and gifts from the congregation and Elders. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to serve the members of Heights Christian Church.

# Along The Path . . .



New opportunities, new challenges, new resources, new mission! It's a new year, and the work of Heights Christian Church, the work of God, continues. As your pastor I am excited about what lies before us.

There are great new possibilities but that may mean we need to set aside some things that we are currently doing. So pay attention to both what the Spirit may be leading you to and what the Spirit may be leading you from.

"See, I will make all things new."

## ...from your Prayer Ministry

The aftermath of the busy season of gift buying, wrapping, decorating, cooking, entertaining comes bringing the time we've been waiting for: the time when we can sit down and appreciate the gifts of the season. "Now" we tell ourselves, "we'll have more time." Do you play this trick on yourself every year? What happens to me is that when that great day of "after-all-the-preparations" comes, I begin to see all that is waiting for me to "catch up on".



Richard Rohr reflects on all the time saving devices we have and says "time is exactly what we don't have!" When the new minutes of each new hour appear, they are stomped on by so many choices, so many opportunities, so many things to do!

Do you think you could set aside some moments of each day to reflect quietly on the words of Jesus: "*I have come to set captives free*"? We are the captives of a frenetic society that keeps rushing along at break-neck speed while Jesus quietly offers us a better life ... a freer life.

What are you willing to set aside so that you can hear the quiet words offering a peace of heart, a rich endorsement of who we are because of God-with-us? In the stillness of our hearts, we can hear the words of Hafiz, the poet saying of "the Beloved" ... our God ...

*Everything I have is also yours!*

Our wish for you is that you –we – will be able to allow ourselves to be set free by the miracle of God-with-us, God-within-us.

*... 'til next time, Christmas blessings of peace and calm be with all of us.*

### BECAUSE YOU CARE

#### Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization

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

#### Deaths

December 22	<i>Paul Brentlinger</i>	friend of Joan Brown Campbell
December 25	<i>Leslie Wanner</i>	sister of Jani McWilliams
January 1	<i>Ollie Gendraw</i>	mother of Donna Lewis
January 2	<i>Salvador Santiago</i>	father of Danielle McDonald

## From the Desk of Our Moderator ...



We now have a new year with new opportunities to do God's work in Shaker Heights. Thanks to all of you, Heights Christian Church is alive and active.

New projects have been approved to enhance our mission focus. You will hear more about time banking, choral and other opportunities very soon. For now we need to focus on keeping each other in the spirit of renewal and forward movement.

So what can you do?

**Care!** You can remain caring of each other and the community as a whole. Address issues that have relevance to you. Keep an open mind about community events, learn more before you act or react.

**Learn!** Christ was a great teacher. And we must continue his work by teaching others his messages. But we must do that from a position of knowledge. So use the opportunities offered to learn more about scripture and important social trends.

**Pray!** It may seem trite, but through prayer all things are possible. I have seen the strength in prayer that has overcome or lessened physical ailments. I have seen folks use the power of prayer to resist those pressures that might have sent them down the wrong path. Try and find a time for prayer every day.

**Work!** Please take up the call and find opportunities to use your time and talents to help others. This includes working on committees within Heights Christian, and look for options with our new mission initiatives. But that is a starting point, not the end. Search out options that fit your schedule and skills. They exist everywhere.

I hope 2015 brings you and yours a new vitality and a new perspective. And I hope Heights Christian Church is a recipient of some of that positive energy. For we have great dreams being developed and your energy will help make them a reality.

Peace, Mike

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## 2015 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN IS A SUCCESS



Thanks to your Fearless Generosity the stewardship campaign should see a nearly 2% increase in pledges for 2015 compared to your strong 2014 giving. In 2015, including pledges not yet received, we expect pledges to reach \$137,678 compared to \$135,293 last year.

So far 44 pledging units have committed for this year. More families increased their pledges than decreased them. That is great news!

Thank you for your Fearless Generosity. Your pledges will help us reduce the dray on the Endowment fund and make sure God's work gets done!

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### Third in a Series

#### **HCC OUTREACH COMMITTEE ALSO FUNDS GROUPS THROUGH GRANTS AND AWARDS**

In this series article on the workings of the HCC Outreach Committee, we detail funding amounts received by organizations through grants and other awards.

Four (4) groups have received funds through grants that totaled \$2,500.00. They included:

<i>Broadway Christian Church</i>	\$1,000.00	<i>I Can Bike Program</i>	\$500.00
<i>Camp Cheerful</i>	\$500.00	<i>Shaker Hts. Meals on Wheels</i>	\$500.00

A final grant, awarded prior to the HCC June 8 Annual Meeting, was an additional \$500.00 awarded to the Shaker Heights Meals on Wheels from Hunger Offering Funds. Additionally, this organization is presently using HCC office facilities due to a previous loss of funding.

We hope that these articles have been informative for you. Stay tuned for future articles about outreach and mission.

### 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*  
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## HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S 85<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!



Can you believe it has been 85 years since the idea of a Disciple Church being built in the Heights area was a germ of an idea. Our forefathers dreamed big and we now worship, do mission work and education on issues of the day from this beautiful church on a triangle in Shaker Heights.

Our 85<sup>th</sup> Celebration begins this month and will include special monthly activities ending with our Annual Dinner in June 2015. Because our theme for our work this year is "Building Community", each month we will go out, as a group, into the community to support a project, an entrepreneur, a restaurant, etc. who will welcome our participation and then, by our actions, spread the word to others. (Like a flash mob or as Doug McWilliams suggested we call ourselves "Chalice Chargers.") Things that are on the drawing board include a tour and lunch at Edwin's at Shaker Square; a trip to the 1867 historic, newly renovated Steele Mansion in Painesville that hosted past Presidents and celebrities and just opened it's doors as a new Bed and Breakfast; lunch at other Shaker restaurants like the Flying Crane, or Pearl of the Orient. Watch for the confirmed list that will be available very soon.

We encourage all to join this celebration. An 85th Anniversary Support Fund will be available to any family or senior needing assistance in order to participate.



... that on June 25, 1929 a meeting was called by F.D. Butchart of the Cleveland Disciples Union in Cleveland to determine if there was a need for a new Disciples Church in the Heights area.

During the 1920's, many families had moved up the hill from Cleveland to Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights. After determining there was a need, the first church service of worship for Heights Christian Church was held at what is now, Woodbury Upper Elementary School with Dr. H. Goldner preaching. In the sermon, he said, "People who sit down calculating, hesitating, afraid never get anywhere and never accomplish anything. It is the people who have faith, courage, daring and obedience to vision, that make things happen."

Just 9 days later, on October 29, 1929, the stock market collapsed and the country was plunged into the great depression. But our church prevailed. By December 31, 1929 the charter membership roll included 219 members. On January 1, 1930, Dr. A.J. Culler from Hiram College was called as our first pastor and a search for a permanent home began.

***This "Did You Know" column will appear monthly until our Annual Dinner in June to commemorate our church's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.***

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015!**