



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 27, NO. 7

January, 2017

JANUARY EVENTS

- January 15** **MLK Sunday** Second Hour
“Constructive Conversation around Faithful Responses to Racial Injustice” sponsored by the Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Commission of the Christian Church in Ohio.
- January 29** **Intergenerational Second Hour**
“Stagecoach Mary,” a presentation by Women in History.

Electrifying, Powerful Proposal Goes to Board!

At the January 17th Board of Trustees’ meeting, the Trustees will be addressing a proposal to install solar panels on the flat roof of the church building.

*In the heavens, the Holy One has set a tent for the sun, which
...like a strong man runs its course with joy. (Psalm 19:4-5)*

In 2013 HCC became a Green Chalice congregation through the Disciples of Christ, pledging to work faithfully to “walk gently on the earth” and to reduce the carbon footprint of the congregation. Many denominations and congregations, like HCC, are exploring ways to support, purchase, and share renewable energy resources as an alternative to fossil fuel energy. In these times, faith communities need to be models of caring for creation. The HCC Creation Care Team strongly believes that it is the business of the faith community to care for the environment.

To that end, after careful study and due diligence the Capital Reserve Advisory Committee (CRAC) has developed a proposal for the installation of solar panels on the flat roof area of the church. The benefits of this plan include:

- ▶ Forwarding the Green Chalice mission of HCC in caring for the environment.
- ▶ Reducing approximately 70% of HCC’s electric utility costs, thereby reducing this expense in our annual budget.
- ▶ Directing these savings (approximately \$4400 annually) to further reduce our use of the Endowment Fund for operational expenses.

As part of this project, on the recommendation of the Property Committee, the church’s two main electrical panels and two smaller electrical panels need to be upgraded. Because of the poor condition of these panels, they need to be replaced now.

The cost of the solar panel project totals \$96,650 of which \$24,000 is for the electrical upgrades. When HCC was blessed with monies from the sale of Campbell Court, our Board designated a specified portion of the funds for use in making the church building ready for and supportive of HCC mission projects. These particular monies are set aside, with the intent that they be used, not saved. They are not a part of the permanently invested Campbell Court funds and are also separate from the HCC annual operating budget. Approximately \$55,000 would remain in this account after the solar project.

In order to provide information to the congregation, copies of the proposal are available in the narthex and Campbell Room, and will be posted on the church website (heightscc.org). Please read the proposal and, if you have questions, feel free to contact any member of the CRAC committee (Lynda Ackerman, David Blackwell, Cindy Maxey, Jim Nicks, Scott Phelps, Mike Singerman, Pastor Roger or Jane Troha) or any Trustee.

Along The Path . . .



After the flurry of activity that takes place from Thanksgiving to Christmas to New Year's Day, January can easily settle into a slog of routine, cold weather, ice and snow, and not much to look forward to until spring decides to show its face in March or April.

Our faith and church life can do the same thing. After the high of our Christmas Eve service, and especially this year when Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Sundays, it would be easy to take a break from church and faith, pull the blanket up on Sunday morning and just hibernate for a few weeks.

However, humans are not designed for hibernation and just as our physical selves need ongoing nutrition, so do our spiritual selves. We need the connection to God and to others that can only take place in the midst of a faith community.

So January at HCC will be an opportunity for all of us to recharge our spirits with an increased emphasis on prayer, meditation, and contemplation in the midst of our regular worship. If there has ever been a time when we need to be strengthened for the work ahead, now is the time. Come, be blessed and renewed.

Regan

...from your Prayer Ministry

Dear Friends, in this season of love, our world is shattered by violence, mistrust and greed. As a balm that soothes the soul, we offer you some words of the 14th century poet, Hafiz.

*When the sun within speaks, when love reaches out its hand and places it upon another,
Any power the star and planets might have upon us,
Any fears you can muster can become so rightfully insignificant.
What one heart can do for another heart,
Is there any beauty in the world that can match this?
Brotherhood, sisterhood, humanity becomes
The joy and the emancipation.*



*May we cherish this inner light that sparks love abundantly.
Christmas blessings to all*

BECAUSE YOU CARE Illness—Surgery—Hospitalization

Paul Campbell	Liz Perdue	Lisa Peabody	Grace Loudenstein	Natalie Eichar
C.D./Lois Clark	Elizabeth Newman	Shirley Reading	Patty Monroe	Janelle Eccleston
Joe Feudi	Henry Sharpley	"Cas" Castleberry	Alma G. Jones	Nancy Wilson
JoAnn Brown	Joe/Barbara Tolley	Merle Passell	Sidney Mallory, Jr.	Peggy Yeager
Paul/Shirley Hummel	Bernadette LaGuardia			

Moderator's Musings



Happy New Year! We are at that magical moment in a year when we have a clean slate on which to write the emerging opportunities and adventures for 2017 as they begin to unfold. A new year brings the possibilities of change for us individually and as a congregation. What an exciting and at times terrifying prospect!

Change can be hard. There is comfort in the status quo. Traditional ways of doing church are near and dear to our hearts. Maintaining things as they are and have been can bring comfort, reliability, calm and predictability. These are good but can lead into complacency, boredom and intransigence.

Change can be exciting! Exploring and adopting new ways of being church can energize us and push us outside our comfort zone into places where God has work for us to do. It can be unsettling, but what amazing potential there is for reward!

My New Year's resolution as your moderator is to ask God's guidance in finding the correct balance between customary and revolutionary in the life of our congregation! Many new initiatives are already in the works. Come and join Kate and me as we facilitate a book study exploring how God is moving us to better serve his mission in our neighborhood. Consider with open minds and hearts plans for becoming better stewards of God's creation through projects as small as our use of mugs at coffee hour or as big as installing solar panels on our building.

Think outside the box! Join in a new activity or ministry. Say "Yes!" with enthusiasm to new prospects for our beloved church community. Help us focus on ways to bring God's message to those who need to hear it, even if that means accepting new screens in the sanctuary! The sky's the limit! God will surely support us in our renewed, reconfigured ways of being his hands, head and heart in 2017! Happy New and Exciting Year!

Jane



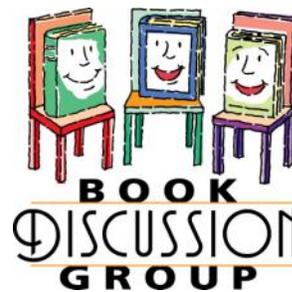
The Outreach Committee would like to send **special thanks** to the following persons who made our Krafty Kids Kare event successful. Our success isn't being measured by numbers but by the responses from the children and parents. Statement examples: " Hey Carlos this was fun, are you coming next year?" or " What time is it now? Oh no, I want more time!". Although these may not be the exact words, adult volunteers reported similar expressions they noted by the children. Great job: Donita Singerman and Lynda Ackerman(co-leaders for this event). Volunteers at the event:

Lynda Ackerman, Jane Troha, Lloyd Ackerman, Donita Singerman, Annette Sutherland, Bobbi Phelps, Freddie Holman, Mike Singerman; MyCom teen volunteers; Nick, Trent, Renesha, and Trinity. And of course Kese Webb for advertising and Mike Faust for getting those heavy tables for us.

Thank you for your generous donations to the Family Promise Holiday Wishes requests. Heights Christian Church was well represented.

We have collected lots of items for our Move Out bags. Thank you very much. Remember this Family Promise donation is ongoing throughout our church program year until the end June. Our gleening continues with the big jar in the Campbell Room.

Book Group: "Joining God"



What if the changing role of the church in society is actually a blessing? What would it look like to join with God in

mission to our neighborhood? How would we get started? Join us for a Book Discussion Group to explore the concepts put forth by Alan J. Roxburgh in Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World. We will meet for 4 Monday evenings (Jan. 9, 23, 30 and Feb. 6) beginning at 7:30 p.m. Jane Troha and Kate Gillooly will facilitate the conversations considering how HCC can re-engage with the mission of God and reimagining how we can be church in these times. Please call the church office or speak with Kate or Jane for more information.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. **Worship Service**
11:15 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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The Campbell Court liaison's would like to thank all those who participated in the Campbell Court caroling night by baking cookies, giving fruit, and caroling with us. It was great fun and the residents enjoyed it. A big thanks go to Debbie and Pastor Roger for a delicious taco meal for the carolers before we left.

Under the direction of Val McMillan we provided a Thanksgiving meal for 20 plus residents at Campbell Court who were there for Thanksgiving without family. Some ate on Thanksgiving and some shared in leftovers the next day. Thanks goes to Scott Phelps for delivering the food. ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Also, Roger, Ben, Kate, Michele, 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.

Peace and Justice



At our December meeting, we invited David and Chris Eggert to share with us the work of their organization which they founded called, "God Before Guns". This is a multifaith coalition working to reduce Gun Violence. It was created in May of 2013 in the wake of the terrible shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Ct. Their reduce gun violence through community engagement, education, advocacy and collaboration with other community partners. Watch for the excellent documentary film, "91%: A Film about Guns in America" which Adult Study will be showing after the first of the year and for other opportunities where we can lift our voices as Isaiah did "they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks" Thanks David and Chris for leading the way.

Christian Women's Fellowship

Our December program, "New Links To Interfaith Doors in Cuba" with Joan Campbell had to be postponed when her son, Paul became gravely ill and was hospitalized. Our love and prayers are with the entire family. Joan has rescheduled her presentation for January 25th.

HCC Christmas Caroling at Campbell Court Apartments

