



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 25, NO. 8

March, 2015



Finding The Gold Within

Saturday, March 21, 2015 @ 4:45 p.m.

Six young men from Akron, Ohio move from an adolescent support program into college and university life. Inspiring, heartbreaking, and unflinchingly honest, this film is not just about the journeys these men must take, but the journeys we all must share to bring about change.

Film Tickets: \$13—CIFF members
\$15—non members
\$13—students & seniors
(in person only)

online: www.clevelandfilm.org

Phone: (877)304.3456

In person: Film Festival Box Office in the Tower City Cinemas lobby

Discount code: CHURCH (to receive \$2 off ticket)

*Heights Christian Church
is a Community Partner
with the Cleveland International Film Festival*

SPECIAL EVENT AT HCC

“THE GOLD WITHIN—FEEL US: LIFE AS A MYTH, POETRY AND DRUMMING”

Sunday, March 22nd—4:00 p.m.

- ◆ A Live Theatrical Presentation with Q&A
- ◆ A 10 minute clip from the film
- ◆ Music from our own Gospel Choir

Conceived and directed by Karina Epperlein

Written and performed by:

Brandyn Costa, Darius Simpson
Imani Scruggs, Shawntrail Smith, Stacey Starr

A reception will follow in the Campbell Room

Special request: HCC members are asked to provide an appetizer for this event



This event is underwritten through a grant from the Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Commission of the Christian Church in Ohio. We are grateful for their support.

Along The Path . . .



The coldest February on record! We set records for average low, average high and the most days of sub-zero temperatures. And while the total snowfall was only 7th highest, because of the cold temperatures, most of Northeast Ohio was covered in snow the entire month.

Weather like that is enough to wear us down, keep us inside, and make us long for sunshine and warmer weather.

But even with the cold and snow, planning and ministry have continued at HCC! On Monday, March 9th the Ties That Bind Community Choir will hold its first rehearsal. On Tuesday, the Trustees will meet and vote on a number of proposals, including a trial organizational restructuring that will free us up for more ministry in our community. And on Saturday, March 21 we are a community partner with the Cleveland International Film Festival on a great documentary; followed by a presentation here in our sanctuary Sunday afternoon with the filmmaker and some of the young men featured in the film.

And if that is not enough to warm you up, March 29th begins Holy Week, with a Family Fifth Service on Palm Sunday, our Maundy Thursday service on April 2, and the Easter Egg Hunt and Easter worship on April 4 and 5.

February is over, and spring and resurrection are on their way! Hallelujah!

Roger

... From your Prayer Ministry

It's March and we're shivering, yearning for sun and warmth and grass ... will the snow and ice ever be gone? We say, trying to find something positive about this, "Well, at least we're not in Boston or Maine—or Canada!" That doesn't really help much, though, does it?

There's a Facebook video that 's circulating which features an eagle approaching her nest, which is filled with new eggs. The temperature outside is zero but there is heat visibly escaping from those eggs, which protect the tiny embryos growing speedily into little eaglets. The mother eagle resumes her place on the nest and continues the incubation of her babies.

So what does this have to do with Lent? Everything! It has to do with admitting how reliant we are upon God. It directs us to give a little extra time each day ... it can be in spurts of seconds or minutes but it involves recognizing in the midst of our days, that we are as helpless as those little developing eaglets spared in zero degree weather by a thin shell and a mother's warm body.



Lent is not a time to be scrutinizing ourselves and feeling despair over our habitual patterns of sin, although this was the thought developed when we were taught that God was only to be feared. Jesus taught us that our God is so much a loving God, it is impossible for us to imagine the extent of His love! If we will allow it, God will envelope us in a love so warm, so healing and limitless, it could spare us from death of exposure were we naked, even in zero degree temperatures as the mother eagle spares her shelled-babies.

God's love is so enormous and healing, it can purify us, even in the moment of our death. God never gives up on us! If we can set aside some moments in this Lenten season when we can simply and silently "Be" in the presence of God, we can learn of that love. We can be transformed by the generosity of that love and all it takes is for us to say humbly, "I can't do this myself; I am flawed beyond human repair but You, O Lord, You can transform me! Lord, I believe; help my "unbelief".

... 'til next time, let's "reach out for God's unchanging hand",
knowing that it will be a loving, transforming hand.

MARCH WORSHIP

“Singing Through Lent”



- March 8** Rev. Joan Brown Campbell preaching – Psalm 22
- March 15** “Saved, Healed, and Delivered” – Psalm 107
- March 22** “Mea Culpa” - Psalm 51
- March 29** *Palm Sunday* (and Family Fifth Sunday)
The children will remain in worship for our traditional opening palm procession and a very musical Sunday.



IN CELEBRATION OF HCC'S 85TH YEAR

Did You Know that early childhood education to meet the needs of young families with children, has been a focus for HCC since its beginning.



In 1937, the first nursery school was quartered in the Sunday school rooms of the temporary wood frame building with a snow fence erected for an outdoor play area. In 1948, we founded the first Co-operative Nursery School in Shaker Heights. It has been operating over 60 years with certified leadership and parents serving forty some children each week.

When the third phase of our church building construction was planned and built in 1952, it included designated Nursery School space designed with the help of Elizabeth McColloch, a nursery school teacher and long time member of HCC. Later a permanent outdoor play ground was installed by the Daleford Road entrance.

During the years, other early childhood education programs have been housed in our building. The Shaker Family Center's indoor playground involving over 60 families met here in our building for several years. Members of our church were instrumental in the founding of the Shaker Family Center and took on meaningful roles in its formation and development.

This month's special event to highlight our theme “Building Community” in celebration of our 85th Anniversary will be “*Finding The Gold Within*” at the Cleveland Film Festival on March 21st. (Please refer to the front page.)

BECAUSE YOU CARE Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization

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

Death

January 31st

Pauline Foley, mother of Freddie Holman

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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BOOK CIRCLE AND CWF



...will meet together on Wednesday, March 18th in the Campbell Room at 1:00 p.m. for special desserts and book discussion on Heart Of A Woman by Maya Angelou.

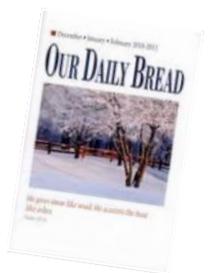
This date was changed because of our severe winter weather in February. The book on our reading list for March has been canceled.

Also because of our joint meeting with CWF and Book Circle on March 18th, the March 25th, CWF meeting is canceled. See you all on March 18th.

NOW AVAILABLE...

NEW "OUR DAILY BREAD" DEVOTIONAL

When reflecting on our daily devotional, two quotes to mind. This, from Our Daily Bread: "The answers to smart living are all in the Bible". The other, found in Joan Chittister's Foreword to Joan Campbell's volume of Prayers from Chautauqua "Prayer does not change God, prayer changes one who prays." (Sörem Kierkegaard).



Pick up the new booklet on the Narthex and Campbell Room tables and fill the dreary days of winter with a daily gift of the heart from its variety of authors.

THE GIANT GARAGE SALE—SATURDAY, APRIL 18th 9am-3pm



We are now taking reservations for tables @ \$25.00 each. It is a wonderful way to do your spring house cleaning and recycle those treasures you are not using. You can make money and the church does, too. It's a win/win situation. We need everyone's help to make this a huge success. Tell your friends to call the church office for a table at 561-4800. And at Set-Up on Friday night from 5:00—9:00 p.m. We all have a great time buying each other's treasures. Questions? Call Andrena Sharp at 216.848.0108

If you would like to be a part of the sale, please fill out slip below and return it to the church office.

Name _____

Phone/cell _____ Email _____

___ Rent a table ___ Country Kitchen ___ Bake ___ Price ___ Sell

___ Donate to Tiffany Tables ___ Furniture ___ Van/Pick up ___ Price/Sell

___ Thrift Shop ___ Set up tables ___ Clean up after sale

___ Food Court ___ Church Tables ___ Price/Sell