



# Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 28, NO. 3

September, 2016



## Celebrating and Caring for God's Creation

Throughout September we will be celebrating Creation in worship, music, education, and other activities. Come and invite your friends to be a part of this inspiring, thought-provoking, challenging season at Heights Christian Church (coordinated by our Creation Care Team!)

**Sunday, September 4**    **Labor and Creation**  
"And on the seventh day..."    **Genesis 2:1-3**

**Sunday, September 11**    **Celebration Sunday    Blessing of the Harvest**  
"And, indeed, it was very good"    **Genesis 1:29-31**

**Sunday, September 18**    **Energy**  
"...and there was light"    **Genesis 1:3-5**

**Sunday, September 25**    **Food Sunday**  
"Loaves and Fish"    **Matthew 14:13-21**



Our worship's focus on food will flow over into our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "100 Mile Potluck" which the Green Chalice Creation Care Team is hosting. It will focus on the importance and benefit of local foods and supporting local growers and producers. We are asking everyone to bring a dish or food item that has at least one ingredient that was produced or grown within 100 miles of Shaker Heights.

To reduce waste we are also asking everyone to bring dinnerware, silverware, and a glass or cup that you can take back home and wash. We will share recipes, local food resources, educational information, fun and fellowship! This will begin immediately after worship in the Campbell Room. Please save the date and plan to attend!

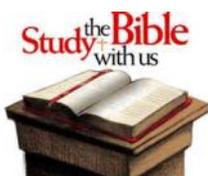
## 2nd Hour Adult Studies Beginning Sunday, September 18th

### **Bible Study with Joe**

Everyone is invited to join Joe LaGuardia for Bible Study. This year Joe will choose a reading from Scripture for each Sunday while at the same time working through Marcus Borg's book, "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time." The book is available from Amazon as a paperback or a Kindle e-book version. BUT: you don't need to buy the book. Joe will summarize each chapter for those who attend. All are welcome to share their own interpretations for a lively discussion each week.

**Topic Study** will be devoted to environmental issues with a guest speaker leading the conversation.

### **The Good News**



Our summer Bible Study under the capable leadership of Minister Michele Moreland will continue this fall. It is open to the community and meets on Thursday from 1-2:30 p.m. If you are available, you won't want to miss it. It is a highly engaging time of learning and sharing, interspersed with delightful doses of humor and drama to keep us all on our toes. Join the group, bring a friend and feel the Bible come alive!

# Along The Path . . .



Another year. Another year of worship, Sunday school, fellowship events, and community service. Another year of meetings, choir rehearsals, budgets, building needs, and care concerns. Another year that fuels our spirits and wears us out. Another year of doing all the stuff we always do and maybe trying something we haven't.

Or maybe not...

Change is all around us. In January we will have a new President. And sometime in the next days or weeks or months someone we know will die, someone will welcome a new child or grandchild, somewhere there will be a natural disaster, some building we've been in will be torn down and something new built in its place, some church will close, and someone will come up with the next "great new idea."

Nothing, nothing, ever stays the same, and nothing goes back to what it was. We can move forward, seeking God's direction and changing as we go. Or we can try to stay the way we are, or go back to what we were, fighting against the unstoppable force that is the future.

Change will happen and our choice is how we will react to that change. Will we embrace it? Will we seek it out? Will we let go of what was to make room for something new? And will we allow the Spirit to move among us, pushing us towards God's future?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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## *...from your Prayer Ministry*

There are so many definitions of prayer, so many books and sermons on how to pray, so many guided meditations, what could anyone possibly add?

It was so humid last week, a woman who was walking her dog approached another woman walking toward her and the first woman made a swimming motion with her arms, as if she were doing a breast stroke in a swimming pool. I was many yards away, but immediately understood her meaning.



Yes, I thought, prayer is like that. Those of us who devote some time each day to silence, who repeat our mantra, who breathe the sacred name in and out, we are swimming in prayer. Sometimes it feels oppressive and we can hardly breathe. At other times, we feel as if we are loved and we can almost touch the arms around us. And at many if not most times, there is nothing—only emptiness, silence.

People could make fun of us: "Don't you KNOW there is no water around you and you are doing a breast stroke in the air?" "Don't you realize none of what you are doing is REAL?" Of course. Some days we think we are fooling ourselves, we are over the edge, we are giving and not receiving. Wouldn't we send away any lover who would treat us so?

But after a while we can't give it up. We would miss it so. And the people who have also tried it, stayed with it, struggled mightily—even if they are far away from us—they understand immediately what we are doing—this motion in the air, this quiet as a stone, this little "plash" as a pebble hits the water. They understand, they smile, and they feel something very much like love.

Joe LaGuardia

*'til next time, we'll keep meeting you in prayer*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We are pleased to offer two classes for children and youth this year. Kindergarten through grade 4 will meet in one room and use Deep Blue curriculum published by Abingdon Press. The theme for September is "Joseph's Journey" and we will explore the adventures and themes of Joseph. Our older group (grades 5-8) will meet down the hall to discuss themes from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament).



September will focus on stories from Genesis, including Creation, Noah and the Flood, Abraham and Sarah, and Jacob Wrestling with God. Youth will have an opportunity to Dive Deep into the truths for today, using our "Submerge" curriculum.

Registration forms for Christian Education at HCC are being sent out to all families this fall. We need to update our rosters and contact information! Please fill out the forms and drop them off (or mail them back) to the church office as soon as possible. It will make our record-keeping much easier!

We are grateful to have ten people volunteer to teach this year. Their dedication, creativity and faithfulness make a world of difference for our children and our church. If you would like to be involved, please let Lynda Ackerman or Kate Gillooly know.

When you see them, please express your thanks and prayers for a productive year:

Lloyd Ackerman	Lynda Ackerman	Kellie Brown	Nancy Carpenter
Connee Choi	Greg Gillooly	Andrena Jones-Sharp	Amber Sharpley
Donita Singerman	Annette Sutherland		

### Calling all Middle School and High School students!

We would love to see you here at HCC on Thursday, September 1 at 7:00 pm for an amazing evening of poetry and poem-making! World renowned poet and poet therapist (and Shaker alum) John Fox will be here to lead us in writing and sharing poems as a way to lift our voices and make a difference in the world. This event is free and open to the public, so feel free to bring friends! Questions? Contact Kate Gillooly at 561-4800 or [katehcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katehcc@sbcglobal.net). Please let us know if you plan to attend.

**Also...**Is someone in your family off to college? We would love to be in touch! Please give the church office their address at school and any other contact information so we can let them know we are thinking about them!

### Kate's Cogitations

#### **Comfort and Challenge**

At its August meeting, your Board of Trustees began with reflection on scripture. The passage was Luke 10:1-11, the sending of the 70. We considered what the passage has to say to the leadership of HCC. One theme echoed a few times: getting out of our comfort zone. As people of faith, we know that God both comforts us where we are and calls us to take new risks and be open to new opportunities. How does God comfort you these days? How does God invite you out of your comfort zone to face new challenges and opportunities?

### BECAUSE YOU CARE Illness - Surgery - Hospitalization

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

