



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

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WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

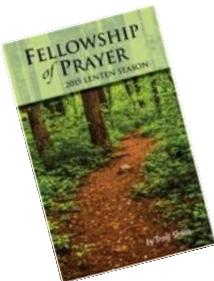
- February 1** Mark 1:21-28 "Surprise!"
Chancel Choir – Bach's "O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly"
- February 8** Mark 1:29-39 "Shh!"
Chancel Choir singing "Fix Me, Jesus"
- February 15** Mark 3:13-15 "Chosen and Blessed"

Singing Through Lent

February 18

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. The congregation will gather in the Campbell Room for a simple meal of soup and bread at 6:30 p.m. A service of the imposition of Ashes will follow in the chapel at 7:30 p.m.



Lenten Devotional

Fellowship of Prayer, written by Traci Smith, will provide a daily time of quiet reflection and prayer during Lent. Books will be available in the Campbell Room and at each sanctuary entrance.

February 22

First Sunday of Lent Psalm 25:1-10

Gospel Choir singing an "old-school church" medley

PASTOR'S CLASS FORMING



Pastor Roger will begin a pastor's class in early March for youth who are considering making a confession of faith in Jesus Christ. But we need to know who is interested now so that we can plan dates and times. This will likely take place weekday afternoons if possible. Please contact the church office (216-561-4800) or Pastor Roger if you are interested.

Adults...if you are a new member or a visitor who would like to know more about Heights CC, we are looking to set up a couple of meetings in March to share information about the church and answer questions. If you are interested let us know and we will contact you with dates and times.

Along The Path . . .



“Building Community.” It is the thrust of our ministry vision for the foreseeable future. It is also a phrase I hope you start to get a little tired of at point, because that will mean that we’ve said it to each other enough and done it enough that it has just become who we are and what we do.

Of course building community is not something we are unfamiliar with. We build community each Sunday as we greet each other in worship and as we gather during our fellowship time afterward. We do it in small groups, like our adult studies, our choirs, our women’s groups, and our care for each other. We build community almost organically, and sometimes we even think about it.

But what we want to do more of is sharing our knack for community building with a larger community. And do that intentionally. With that goal in mind the leadership of HCC has approved several new mission projects and I’d like to ask for your prayers and your active participation in these new ventures.

One that has already started is a **Single Parents Support Group** (called “The One/Third”) that is being led by Dahlia Cummings. Your prayers for Dahlia and the group would certainly be welcome, but she also needs your help in spreading the word among your contacts. The group is meeting on the 2nd Saturday of the month at noon here at the church and is open to any single adult raising a child or children (mom, dad, grandparent, foster parent, etc).

Another project is the **Ties That Bind Community Choir**, an outgrowth of our workshop this fall, and led by Willie Wright, our Gospel Choir Director. You can find more information about this on the back page of the newsletter. You are invited to come join the group and/or get flyers out to folks you know who might be interested.

A third project is still in the exploring and planning stages, and that is to develop a **Community Time Bank**. I am leading this effort and you will hear lots more as the process moves forward.

Other projects are also being worked on and will begin as leaders and/or money becomes available. And just as importantly, we’d love to hear your new ideas for community building.

It is an especially exciting time to be a part of our HCC. May our prayers and efforts, working with God’s Spirit, help build God’s beloved community right here in the Heights.

BECAUSE YOU CARE Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization

C.D. Clark	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

...from your Prayer Ministry

Today's article is dedicated to the memory of Marcus Borg, the gentle man with the great mind, the passion for learning and sharing that knowledge so easily and gracefully as in **Meeting Jesus for the First Time Again**. His most recent book, **Convictions**, boldly set forth his grave concerns for what Christianity in wealthy America means and challenged that identity. Thank you Marcus; you have left us with a guide for truly meeting Jesus anew, once again.

I was speaking with a woman shortly after January 1st and to no surprise, our conversation turned to "new year's resolutions". She said that a few years back, she decided to think of a word for the year rather than things to do. Her word for this year is REFLECT. I mentally translated: "Be Mindful"... Try to stay in the present moment so I have a sense of where I am, what I'm doing and pay attention to that rather than think of the long "to do list" I'm still adding to even as I begin to think of it!



Then I heard a Quaker gentleman comment on his own life. He said that, while he tries to live simply, he's not too attached to accumulating things etc. but he said "it's busy-ness that gets me off track. It's the busy-ness of my life that brings me chaos instead of simplicity." We have so many choices but still the same number of hours in each day. Yet because of those choices, those multiple ways we have of getting in instant communication with others, with news, with entertainment ...

we (I) often feel the "shoulds" crowding in. "I should be getting this, I should be doing that, I can't forget about reading that..." The NYTimes reported a couple of weeks ago that more and more people, especially young people, are deciding to take "unplugged weekends". "Reflect, be mindful, live simply." Sounds like it could be a recipe for a very different kind of year. Want to try it with me?

...til next time, let's reflect and be mindful together



Sunday, February 1st, the Seahawks and the Patriots play in the Super Bowl. Since 1999,

HCC children and youth have participated in Souper Bowl Sunday. See the difference? One is about football. The other is about feeding the hungry. Our children and youth will join in this national event by collecting a special offering on this Sunday. Please help support the cause when you see young people carrying Souper Bowl Pots!



BOOK CIRCLE AND CWF LUNCHEON

With Ash Wednesday being on the same day Book Circle is scheduled to meet, the CWF Luncheon and Book Circle will meet together on Wednesday, February 25th—12:30 p.m. Remember, the luncheon is "Potluck" so bring your favorite dish to share with the combined groups.



EDWIN'S RESTAURANT AT SHAKER SQUARE

...will be our special event for February highlighting the theme "Building Community" to celebrate HCC's 85th Anniversary.

On Saturday, February 28—12 noon til 2 p.m. a tour of Edwin's Restaurant has been planned. We will learn about Edwin's mission of training ex-felons in the food industry to work and serve at a top-class French restaurant.

The cost is \$10 per person. We will meet at the church that morning at 11:30 a.m. to carpool.

Reservations are needed by February 20th. Please call the church office at 216.561.4800 to sign up.



Did You Know . . . that the first meeting of the Christian Women's Fellowship was held on January 29, 1930 at the home of Mrs. M.D. Neff. It was a tea in honor of Mary Cullet, the wife of our first minister, Dr Arthur Culler. On that day the women voted to organize a Women's Association to include all women of the church. Raising money for their new church building and money for outreach causes set the plan of work for CWF and continues to this day.



