



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 26, NO. 8

February, 2016

Worship in February

Reflection and Refreshment: Lent and the Stewardship of Self



February 7

"Two Stories of Repentance and Call"

Isaiah 6:1-8 & Luke 5:1-11

February 10

Ash Wednesday

Our sister church in Cleveland Heights, Disciples Christian Church, will join us for our meal and service as we prepare to enter the holy season of Lent. A simple meal will be served at 6:30 pm with the service to follow in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm.

February 14

"Fasting? No Thanks!"

Luke 4:1-4

We have been invited to join Disciples Christian Church for Pizza, Movie, and Discussion in their fellowship hall at 5:00 pm. We will view a documentary that discusses trends in the modern church in America and contains some interesting and creative ideas for how to "be" church and how to approach mission. Disciples CC is located at 3663 Mayfield Rd, Cleveland Hts. Parking lot is in the rear of the building.

February 21

"Prayer: Hearing God's Voice"

Luke 9:28-36

February 28

"Food That Satisfies"

Isaiah 55:1-9

Lenten Devotional

Fellowship of Prayer Sarah Griffith Lund, takes you through the 40 days of Lent with stories of the possibilities of our lives, leading to the ultimate redemption and resurrection. Books will be available in the Campbell Room and at each sanctuary entrance.

REV. KRIS EGGERT JOINS PANEL DISCUSSION

On February 7th Rev. Eggert will be representing *"God Before Guns"* on a panel discussion for the Old Stone Church Visiting Scholars Program. The featured speaker is Dale P. Andrews, Distinguished Professor of Homiletics, Social Justice, and Practical Theology at Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

The program is free (though donations are invited) and registration can be done online at <http://www.oldstonechurch.org/programs/visiting-scholar-program>.

The schedule for the Sunday afternoon open forum is:

- 12:30 p.m. Gathering reception/refreshments available
- 1:30 p.m. Program begins
- 2:30 p.m. Panel discussion moderated by Mr. Leon Bibb
- 3:30 p.m. Closing prayer



Along The Path . . .



So often we think of stewardship as that thing we do in the fall, when everyone is asked to make a financial commitment to the church. We fill out pledge cards and turn them in and then except for writing a check every week, or month, we get to forget about stewardship until the next fall campaign rolls around. Stewardship, of course, is much more than that.

As far back as there are written records stewards have had broad responsibilities, managing an array of resources. Finances, property, mineral and water resources, even people. And, at its best, stewardship has meant using those resources in a way that ensured the success and well-being of everyone involved.

As God's people we too need to have a broader understanding of what stewardship is. So, as we move into and through Lent, our focus in much of our worship and study will be on the stewardship of self. How can we care for and strengthen our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual selves to make us better people and better prepared to engage in the ministries that we have been called to.

I hope you'll join me... *Roger*

...From your Prayer Ministry



It is January, and the snow has finally arrived. The Three Kings have returned home, and the Christmas star has disappeared over the horizon. What now? It is up to each of us to keep the star's light shining in the lanterns of our hearts.

Inspired by the evening with Daisy Kahn, and the Martin Luther King service, we can look at our tired and hurting world with new hope. Into a confused and hurting world come new voices, voices that continue the pursuit of peace and justice. The voices of four young girls, standing on the chancel steps, offered up a prayer for peace as they sang *We will live in peace* near the end of the evening with Daisy Kahn. The hope for peace continues with a new generation.

In his book, *With Open Hands*, Henri Nouwen writes:



"Hope means to keep living amid desperation and to keep humming in the darkness. Hoping is knowing that there is love, it is trust in tomorrow, it is falling asleep and waking again when the sun rises. In the midst of a gale at sea, it is to discover land. In the eyes of another it is to see that he understands you. As long as there is still hope, there will also be prayer....And God will be holding you in his hands."

As we enter into Lent in the coming weeks, may our prayers for our world be full of hope. May you find that quiet center, and feel the Lord's presence. For He is with us today as He has always been. May the light of Christ's love shine through your words, deeds and prayers.

You are always in our prayers

Written by Lynda Ackerman

BECAUSE YOU CARE **Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization**

Allen Crowley	Jesse Hall	C.D./Lois Clark	Shirley Reading	Lisa Peabody
Joe Feudi	Janelle Eccleston	Patty Monroe	Alma G. Jones	"Cas" Castleberry
Lyubov Nikolenko	Henry Sharpley	Nancy Wilson	Dorothy Mathis	Peggy Yeager
Joe/Barbara Tolley	Sidney Mallory	Paul/Shirley Hummel	John/Carmen Hassel	

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Go and do likewise. Luke 10:37



I'm sure you all remember the story of the Good Samaritan where Jesus teaches us about loving our neighbors as ourselves. The critical question, of course, becomes, "Who is our neighbor?" Christ's story illustrates that everyone is our neighbor and that we need to show kindness, love and mercy to all. Just as the Samaritan cared for the victim in the Bible story, we are clearly told to "go and do likewise."

Our congregation has been through some challenging times in recent years. We have prayerfully explored where our "New Beginnings" should be. We continue to ask God to stand close beside us and to help us discern the best path for our church.

We are off to a great start with the success of our financial stewardship campaign and the passage of a balanced budget for the coming year (see next pg.). We are reducing our Endowment draw to less than \$20,000, a remarkable feat considering we have drawn around \$40,000 each year for the past few years and up to \$70,000 in the years prior to that.

Filled with hope and promise, it is time for us to firm up our mission and our long range plans for our congregation. This is a responsibility of all of us collectively. Each of us is a significant stake-holder in our congregation's life and actions. In the coming months, let's strive to find our goal, identify our neighbors and their needs and move forth boldly into mission. We know Christ's charge for us and we need now to "go and do likewise." A favorite anthem challenges us to "go out to deep waters, where only faith will let you go." Brush up your faith, hop in the boat and row out into those deep waters with me!

Jane Troha

ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

Would you like to help increase the missions and finances of Heights Christian Church?

We use only parts of our building for HCC activities, and only part of the time. Several other organizations also make their homes in our building (and pay us to do so) — the Cooperative Pre-school, the Shaker Heights Youth Center, and FaithWorks Church, to name a few — but there is still room for more.



In our recent budgeting process and Board of Trustees meetings, there has been consensus that we should form a Building Use Committee, within the Administration Ministry Team, to assist

with finding and implementing ways to optimize the use of our building space for the benefit of our church and our community.

If you would like to be part of this effort (whether as a member or chairperson), please contact Carl Cormany, Administration Ministry Team Leader, at cecormany@gmail.com or 216-283-2309, or just say so when you see him.

MISSIONS MINISTRIES



Outreach donations: On Christmas Day gift baskets of fruit, meat, and cheese were taken to the Shaker Heights Police and Fire Departments.

The thought which drove this effort was: "While the rest of us were still in our PJ's opening presents, there were some who were working to care for others including but not limited to police/fire persons, hospital staff, bus drivers."

Volunteers from CWF, Peace and Justice, and Outreach will coordinate collection of items for Refugee Kits. School items have been chosen from the Disciples Home Missions list. This activity will cover the six weeks of Lent beginning on February 10th. Theme: **"Don't just give UP something for Lent-but Give something"**.



Look for baskets in the Campbell Room and at each entrance. Items needed: book bags, notebooks, 100 sheets packages of paper, bottles of glue, box of crayons, scissors, and pencils.

HCC SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7



No, this isn't a \$5 million dollar ad for 30 seconds of your time. It's for us giving to the Food Bank for all the people in our area who need food. When our children pass the kettles to you, please remember a family member or a person in the neighborhood who may need our help. 

HIGH SCHOOL PEACE AWARD



The Peace and Justice Committee  has notified Shaker Heights High School that Heights Christian Church will again offer the Peace Award to a junior/senior who writes the best essay about the work they have done to bring peace to the world. If you know of a teenager that has been giving back to the community in this way, encourage them to apply by talking to their counselor. A monetary gift and award plaque will be presented at our HCC Annual Meeting

BOARD OF TRUSTEES PASSES 2016 BUDGET

In January, the Board of Trustees passed a budget of \$237,000 for 2016 as shown below. This budget showed a significant decrease in the amount of the annual draw from our Endowment Fund, decreasing from \$45,300 to \$18,000. The Budget includes \$5,800 in outreach which is over and above our special giving and maintains our education and music programs. Thanks to the Finance Committee and other volunteers who worked on the budget since November.

INCOME

GIVING INCOME	\$145,850.00
BUILDING USE	\$46,030.00
GENERAL INCOME	\$1,800.00
FUND RAISING	\$6,400.00
TRANSFER FROM ENDOWMENT	\$18,000.00
MISSION REIMBURSEMENT	\$19,000.00

TOTAL INCOME

\$237,080.00

EXPENSES

PROGRAM CABINET	\$1,400.00
YOUTH/ADULT EDUCATION	\$4,100.00
OUTREACH EXPENSES	\$5,800.00
WORSHIP	\$1,000.00
MUSIC (exclude salary)	\$4,550.00
FINANCE/TREASURER'S EXP	\$2,450.00
PAYROLL EXPENSES	\$166,484.00
PROFESSION & CONTIN. ED	\$3,900.00
VACATION/SUBSTITUTION	\$900.00
OFFICE /ADMIN	\$5,400.00
PROPERTY	\$39,800.00
STEWARDSHIP/FUND RAISING	\$1,250.00

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$237,034.00

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*
Assistant Minister *Rev. Michele Moreland*
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 *Jane Troha*
Vice Moderator *Valencia McMillan*
Secretary *Grace Loudenstein*
Treasurer *Neil Chase*
Assistant Treasurers *Michael Singerman*
 Jim Donald

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**Thank
You**

... to everyone who worked so hard to make Jan. 14th, Thursday Evening with Daisy Khan a success. To those who moved furniture, cleaned our church, shoveled walks, set up the reception, worked on publicity, greeted folks as they arrived, stood outside to guide folks into the church and direct folks to parking, etc., etc., etc. Yes it took our village to make it happen and we did it collectively.

And a huge THANKS to Val McMillan for her hours of work to do the program, order buttoners for the ushers, flowers for the ladies, nametags for the Community Advisory Board members, took pictures of the event, and followed up afterwards. You name it, she had it covered.

What a blessing to the church and our work for Peace, Unity, Justice and Equality.

Kathie McWilliams



**Larry Watkins, Daisy Khan, Joan Campbell
Mayor Earl Leiken, and Ken Kovach**



**Women
From
Masjid
Bilal
Mosque
Share
Ideas**



Daisy with Imams from Masjid Bilal Mosque



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