



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 26, NO. 12

June, 2015

COMING UP IN JUNE!

- June 7** A baptism, a baby dedication, and our annual meeting! Doug and Jani McWilliams will join the Chancel Choir and Martha Cubberley in providing music for our service as we celebrate these important events.
- After worship WE WILL GATHER FOR A POTLUCK MEAL IN THE Campbell Room and celebrate all that we have done over the past year and elect new leadership. Our 2015 Peace Award winner will share her story and we will also hear from former Peace Award winners to see what has taken place with them over the past years.
- Everyone is asked to bring a dish according to the following schedule: A-D: salad/side dish, E-O: main dish, P-Z: dessert.
- June 14** We will move into the relative coolness of the Campbell Room for our service. After worship we'll honor past members of the Campbell Court board and others for their contributions to our ministries during our fellowship time.
- Beginning this Sunday, there will be a display of Art in the Daleford hallway created by participants in the Meditative Art Circle and other HCC members.
- Then at 4:00 pm the Ties That Bind Community Choir (directed by Willie Wright and supported by our mission dollars) will present their first public concert in the HCC sanctuary. Come out for what will be a joyous and spirit-filled time of singing and praise!
- June 21** *Father's Day*
- June 28** At the end of our service we'll move outside (weather permitting) to bless our gardens. After that, the final event to highlight our theme "Building Community" in celebration of our 85th Anniversary will be lunch in the garden at the Flying Crane Restaurant on Larchmere immediately after morning worship. The cost is \$12 (which will be collected at that time).

"TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN"

It seems like only a short while ago I took the Moderator reins from Lynda Ackerman's able hands. And two years later I'm the one passing off the leadership.

And a full two years it was. We have gone through the review of our church's direction, established a new mission theme of Building Community, and been blessed with funds for new mission efforts. There is a lot more to do, and I'm sure our 'community' will put the effort in to make it happen with new missions and continued good will.

Please read the Annual Reports for all the important detail of our community's activities. Please also attend the June 7th Annual Meeting to elect and support the new church leaders and the experimental church structure.

Volunteer your considerable talents and precious time to make missions come alive. Support the operating budget, knowing that Campbell Court funds are for mission. And pray for your leaders as they continue our rebirth.

Thanks for a fun two years. Your cooperation and faithful effort, along with Roger, Kese and Mike as solid and all-knowing staff, made it seem a lot shorter. It was a good way to start my retirement.

Yours in Christ, Mike Singerman



Along The Path...



You've heard the stories and read the articles of the decline of the church. You probably know folks whose churches have been forced to close and others who are cutting budgets and staff to try and make ends meet. Even the mega churches, once thought to be the future of Christianity, are being hit by declines in attendance and membership.

So are Christianity and the church coming to an end? Well, the church "as we know it" may be fading, but God's Spirit is still at work creating something new out of what was! I see it in the new mission projects we're beginning, the Community Choir (don't miss the concert 6/14) and TimeBanking (rollout this summer). I see it in seven young people baptized on May 31 and another on June 7. I feel it as we reorganize for more mission and less meetings. And I especially see it as you continue to give of yourselves to make Heights Christian Church not a church of the past, but a church of the future. It is my honor and pleasure to travel that journey with you.

...from your Prayer Ministry

Last month we reflected on how we, through our identity with Jesus, are "beloved by God." (Remember the Baptism of Jesus when a voice spoke from the heavens: 'This is my Beloved Son.')

As much as we want to think kindly and even lovingly toward others, it's often hard for us to be accepting, forgiving and loving toward ourselves. It's not easy to believe that there is nothing we can do to earn God's love, nor are we able to lose God's love by any of our thoughts or actions. But it's true! And love changes you; love transforms you if you allow it.



Remember ... Re-connect. Two important words if we are to have love transform us. Some contemporary psychological therapies suggest that we can change our behaviors, even our self-image by stating affirmations every day and often within that day. Consider this one: "God loves me more than I can imagine." Or, "God waits for me to listen."

A recent pamphlet from the Southern Poverty Law Center describes the 783 active hate groups that currently exist in the U.S. Those hate-filled hearts CAN be turned around by our own positive growth and prayer. We are all connected. Albert Einstein wrote that the thought that we are only individuals, unconnected to each other is wrong. He said that we have more points of connection than separation. We can affect each other. This month, let's keep repeating to ourselves affirmations such as "I am unconditionally loved by God." or "I can bring love to hate-filled hearts if I love unconditionally." We can make a difference.

... 'til next time, remember: our loving God is always waiting for us to turn to Him.

♥ BECAUSE YOU CARE ♥ Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization

Jesse Hall	Shirley Reading	C.D./Lois Clark	Paul/Shirley Hummel	Mary Rogers
Henry Sharpley	Grace Loudenstein	Liz Perdue	Lyubov Nikolenko	Lisa Peabody
Jim/Sue Millward	Rita Brady	Alma G. Jones	Nancy Wilson	Scott Lemmon
Cas Castleberry	Patty Monroe	Samarra States	Joe Freudi	Dorothy Mathis
Janelle Eccleston	Leo/Chris Ramirez	Joe/Barbara Tolley		

Births

Felix Salvador McDonald

Born on May 8th—7lbs-14ozs.
Brian/Danielle McDonald, parents

Jake Aaron Fisher

Born on May 26th—8lbs-8ozs.
Jack/Dell Bigham, great-grand parents



BUILDING COMMUNITY

Did you know ... that the vision of Heights Christian Church has always been to look beyond itself into the human condition around the world and find ways to serve. When we were just a fledgling church, we reached out to support Dr. and Mrs. Donald Baker who served as medical missionaries to the Belgian Congo for 30 years. During the early 60's, the Bakers returned to the U.S. and served as HCC Elders and Mrs. Baker taught in the Co-op Nursery School.

For decades Resettlement work was encouraged through our national Disciples office.

- ▶ In 1949, Christian Vipers, a professional photographer and his family were resettled from a Displaced Persons Camp after World War II.
- ▶ In 1960, Ben Camins, a Filipino, a theological student was fully supported while studying here and returned to the Philippines to serve as a pastor.
- ▶ In 1976, Pedro Quintana, a political prisoner from Chile, and his family were resettled here.
- ▶ In 1980, after the Vietnam War, three adult Vietnamese refugees held in Refugee Camps were supported by our church.
- ▶ In 1991, our most ambitious efforts began in resettling the Nikolenko and Petrenko families who were caught in the midst of a civil war in the Ukraine, and persecuted because they were Christians. Peter Nikolenko was a pastor and contacted Church World Service to help them escape. Tanya, Serge and their 3 children were the first to arrive. HCC members provided housing, tutoring in English and citizenship training. Jobs were provided by Dick Durham's painting and rehab business. They even set up Tanya in her cleaning business which continues successfully to this day.
- ▶ In 1992, (working with Ann Weisheimer who was at our Disciples headquarters) we arranged for the second wave of the Nikolenko family to come. Tanya's mother, Raisa, her father, Peter and two brothers, Alex and Greg and their families. (11 in all)
- ▶ In 1993, the third wave brought Serge Petrenko's family, father, mother and his two sisters and families. (10 in all.) And the final wave included Tanya's sister, from Siberia, who came with her family of four. (A total of 30 in all)

Today, as they celebrate 25 years here in America we are happy to report that all are U.S. citizens, own their own homes, their children have completed college, married and started families of their own. What a success story! The mother of this wonderful family, Raisa, resides at Campbell Court and now has a plot in our Community Garden. How fitting! And how much we have all learned from knowing them. The world and it's problems are more fully understood as we engage in this service of love.

Celebrating Our 85th Anniversary!

CONGRATULATIONS 2015 GRADUATES

<i>Bonnie Sutherland</i>	from Shaker Heights H. S. attending Clarkson University in 2016
<i>Chris Ackerman</i>	Masters in Public Health from Rutgers University
<i>Kayley Buddenbaum</i>	BS in Kinesiology from Miami University
<i>Christy Phelps</i>	Masters in Education from Southern Wesleyan University
<i>Carolyn Troha</i>	PH.D in Mathematics from the University of Kentucky



EXCITED AND READY TO GO!

It's that time of year when HCC's children and youth will attend Camp Christian for a fun filled week of fun. It's so cool to receive mail while away from home. Therefore, friends and family are encouraged to write the campers. The best and quickest way is to fax them at: (937)348.2845. Please be sure to use their first and last name.

CYF Conference	June 14-20	Billy Dunn
Camp Otter	June 21-27	Alexander Johnson, Claire Dunn, Madison Durham
Chi Rho Camp	June 28-July 4	Alicia Benson, Nyah Coles, Avery Dunn



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
(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 Wright*
Office Administrator *Kese Webb*
Facilities Coordinator *Mike Faust*
Childcare *Rosie Scott*

OFFICERS

Moderator *Mike Singerman*
Vice Moderator *Jane Troha*
Secretary *Grace Loudenstein*
Asst. Secretary *Karen McKeehan*
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