



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 26, NO. 9

March, 2016



Lent and Holy Week at HCC

Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ March 6th

“All Prodigals” Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Fifth Sunday of Lent ~ March 13th

“Trashing Judas” John 12:1-8



Palm Sunday ~ March 20th

Worship—10:00 a.m.

A service of celebration highlighted by a Palm Procession with HCC’s Children. A reception will follow worship (Education Hour following the reception)



Maundy Thursday ~ March 24th

We will gather for dinner and worship at 6:30 to commemorate and celebrate Christ’s Last Supper with his disciples.



Good Friday ~ March 25th

12 Noon—3:00 p.m.

Heights Community Service at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
2747 Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights
You may come for all or any portion of the service.



Easter Egg Hunt

(for children through Grade 3)

Saturday, March 26th ~ 11:00 a.m.—Rain or Shine

Please call or email the church office to register by Monday, March 21st



Easter Sunday ~ March 27th

10:00 a.m. Worship

The church will be full of new life as we joyfully Celebrate the resurrection in song, word and prayer.

Following morning worship, we will gather in the Campbell Room to share and celebrate with the HCC family, friends and guests.



We invite You and Your Family to join us!

Along The Path . . .



I will be especially glad when this winter is over. I know that it has not been a particularly harsh winter and Debbie and I were fortunate to get a mid-winter break. But the twin experiences of a broken pipe and subsequent flood of our basement, and my bout with kidney stones has made this particular winter one that I will be glad to put behind me.

Now I am not complaining or looking for sympathy. I know that in the greater scheme of things my troubles have been rather insignificant (though the kidney stones were *very* painful). Actually what I am taking away from this winter is gratitude. You see I am grateful to be part of a community such as this. Grateful for able leaders, open and caring hearts, willing hands, and people who can step in with grace, even when their pastor leaves them in the lurch at the very last minute of two significant events. And I am grateful that concern for me was your primary reaction.

It is important to remember that this kind of care and concern is not what most people experience in their lives, even their lives in communities of faith. Many people's experiences with church have involved judgment, hypocrisy, shame, and rejection. And many people who have never experienced church see it the same way. But we have something better to offer. We have a loving and caring God who calls us to love and care for each other and the whole world. And we have a caring community that tries, however imperfectly, to live that out. So be grateful and share the love!

...From your Prayer Ministry

Luke's Gospel tells us Jesus was tempted by the devil for 40 days in the wilderness. "And he ate nothing in those days; and when they were ended, he was hungry." (Luke 4:2b.) Then when the devil suggests that Jesus turn a stone into bread, Jesus reminds him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"



In my more literal moments, I read this passage and think, "I guess I'm never going to be able to live as Jesus did." No way do I go without food for more than a day, much less 40. Then I stop to reflect on what it really means to respond to life the way Jesus responded – to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned. Sometimes that's even more daunting than the thought of not eating for 40 days.

Fortunately, it's not all up to me – if I pay attention to what God is trying to tell me when I pray. This Lenten season, I've chosen Psalm 46:10 for reflection and discipline: "Be still, and know that I am God." It's become my sustenance when life gets too busy.

During Lent, may your reflections lead you to a nourishing relationship with the One who is always there for us, and always listening.

You are always in our prayers

Written by Karen McKeenan

BECAUSE YOU CARE Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization

Jani McWilliams	Allen Crowley	Jesse Hall	C.D./Lois Clark	Shirley Reading
Lisa Peabody	Mary Rogers	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	Merle Passell
Paul/Shirley Hummel				

Moderator's Musings

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Although we all know that we are in the contemplative, reflective season of Lent in the church calendar, and we are in the season of winter (about to end, hopefully) on the regular calendar, it seems to me that we are really solidly in the season of busy in the real life Heights Christian Church calendar! Things are hopping around here right now!

We have had two recent opportunities to gather with sisters and brothers from Disciples Christian Church and Dunham Avenue Christian Church for Ash Wednesday worship and for a movie viewing and discussion session. We are eager to continue engaging more regularly with these area congregations and are already planning on follow through activities and occasions for sharing time with them.

The Peace and Justice Committee has plans for many upcoming activities which are highlighted in an article in this newsletter. Be sure to be on board for these exciting opportunities!

Plans for redecorating the Campbell Room are in place and that project begins as this newsletter arrives to you. See the article in this edition for details. It will be great!

The Trustees have approved charitable donations from the Tithing Reserve portion of the Campbell Court funds to two deserving organizations to assist with capital projects they are conducting. The Board is contributing \$1000 to Family Promise to assist in their campaign to renovate their facility to provide their services to homeless families all in one central location on Kinsman Road. The Board also designated a gift of \$4000 to Hiram Farm. This farm provides services to people on the autism spectrum in a farm setting near Hiram, Ohio. It is in the midst of a final stage project to provide bathroom facilities and potable water on the site. How wonderful to be able to share our bounty with others!

Sadly, it is necessary to form a Music Search Committee due to the resignation of our Music Minister, Dale Hukill. It will be a challenge to fill Dale's shoes, but a very talented and capable group has been tapped to complete this task. Serving on the committee are Martha Cubberley, Dahlia Cummings, Bernadette LaGuardia, Danielle McDonald and Larry Watson. Pastor Roger and I will also serve ex officio. This committee is eager to explore the music needs of the congregation, so don't hesitate to find any one of us and share your thoughts, ideas and dreams for music in our church.

Well, Lent will draw to a close as Easter approaches, winter will inexorably yield to the warmth and sun of spring, and the season of "busy"..... somehow I believe that that season may stay with us as we move forward eagerly into the future of our life together as Heights Christian Church.



Mid-Week Bible Study

Mid-Week Bible Study will soon begin here at Heights Christian Church. Day and time will be determined by surveying the availability of the most Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Members, Friends, and Employees. Please call the church office with your time selection if you have not yet filled out a survey card. Leave your name and selection **before March 1, 2016**. Choose one: **Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.**; **Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.**; or **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.**

Missions Ministries



Used bicycles are needed for residents at the Men's Shelter. These bikes would be helpful for the residents to get around looking for work or getting to a job especially as Spring weather arrives. If you have a bike in good to fair condition which you are willing to donate to this cause, please contact Lloyd Ackerman at 216-521-1530.

Every five seconds a person is displaced in the world. The Disciples Christian Church supports the efforts of Church World Services (CWS). CWS helps refugees resettle and build their lives. Our Heights Christian Church donations of Refugee School Kits have begun to fill the containers in the Campbell Room and at each entrance. We will continue collecting through Lent. The kits will be sent to a Church World Services location. Thank you so much for your contributions.



Save the Date

CWF is planning a trip for the March/April meeting on April 27th to see places in Cleveland that were part of the Underground Railroad. Details will follow.

Peace and Justice Committee with Community Advisory Board

Intercultural-Interfaith Dialogue Groups will begin in March and April. The goal is to promote understanding between faiths and cultures and thus build community. The first three will begin at the following locations:

Heights Christian Church
Wednesday, March 2nd at 1:30 p.m.
Leaders: Lloyd Ackerman
Nancy Hayward, Kathie McWilliams

The Greenbriar Apartments. #201
Thursday, March 3rd at 1:30 p.m.
Leader: Kathie McWilliams

Shaker Heights Library
Wednesday, April 6th at 6:45 p.m.
Leaders: Andrena Sharp, Nancy Carpenter
More details will follow

Please contact one of the leaders to let them know you will be there.

New Books Available

The *Our Daily Bread* devotional prayer on January 16th reads: "The more we live on a diet of God's word, the more we grow. How true! The meditation conveys that growth without nourishment is spiritual immaturity. Enjoy the little lessons in this booklet of March-May, available on tables leading to the sanctuary .

Campbell Room Redecoration

The Board of Trustees has approved a plan to redecorate the Campbell Room! Since this is the area where HCC most often greets the public, it was deemed time to change and update the space. CWF has done an amazing job of caring for this room throughout the years and now it is time for the next step. This will be a multi-stage process beginning with the removal of the wallpaper and repainting the walls and woodwork in a more neutral palette. The project will be funded from the Capital Reserve Funds in the Campbell Court Mission account.

A Decorating Committee has been working with a professional interior decorator, thanks to Nancy Carpenter, and has a tentative color scheme, pending testing the colors on the actual walls once they are prepared for painting. Mark Cubberley Painting has been contracted to do the work. Work begins Monday, February 29th and should be completed by March 12th. Coffee fellowship on March 6th will take place in the hallway and other activities that usually take place in the Campbell Room will be re-located for that two week period.

Room darkening shades will be added, new window treatments will be coming at a future date, as well as consideration of new carpeting, some new furniture and perhaps a reconfiguration of the kitchen area. The goal is to have a fresh space, usable for many purposes. Keep your eyes open! A new look will soon be at hand!



Reservations for Palms and Easter Flowers

Complete the form below and submit it with your donation to the church office. Any dollar amount may be contributed toward Palms or Lilies for the chancel. Individual potted spring flowers are also available at \$8 per 6' inch pot.



I (we) will contribute \$_____ for Chancel Palms on Palm Sunday

Name(s) _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

I (we) will contribute \$_____ for Chancel Lilies on Easter Sunday

Name(s) _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Please reserve: #_____ Easter lily #_____ Tulip @ \$8 each

Name(s) _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____



