



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

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PEACE, JUSTICE, AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS OCTOBER WORSHIP AND STUDY

At this past summer's General Assembly in Columbus a number of resolutions on issues of peace and justice were brought before the gathered representatives from Disciples congregations all across the country. The themes from several of these resolutions will form the basis of our worship this month as we wrestle with what God requires of us (Micah 6:8).

October 4 *End Racism Sunday (and World Communion Sunday)*



In late August we received a letter from Disciples General Minister and President Sharon Watkins, which began, "Few of us will ever forget the horror of the murder of nine church members in Bible study - in church... Leaders in the African Methodist Episcopal Church are determined to re-write the significance of this heinous act, and make it the moment that the church leads the United States into a genuine commitment to end racism - not just the direct, individual racism that causes one person to pick up a gun, but the broad systemic racism that nurtures such a motivation in the first place."

Dr. Watkins went on to encourage Disciples congregations to join with the AME church in a Confession, Repentance and Commitment to End Racism" Sunday. Combined with our Reconciliation Offering and the worldwide celebration of communion this will be another step on our journey towards wholeness.

October 11 *"No Easy Peace"*

With few "signs of hope for peace" visible in our world today, two resolutions urging peaceful solutions to world problems were adopted in Columbus. The difficulty of finding peace in our troubled world will be the focus of our worship.

October 18 *"Holding Fast to Those with No Hope"*

In the ancient world mental illness was attributed to "demons."
Today's society understands this issue very differently but the stigma remains.
How do we see those who are suffering and how can we be agents of healing.

October 25 *"On Any Given Day"*

Revelation 3:15-22

Rev. Kris Eggert, retired pastor of Disciples Christian Church in Cleveland Heights will be our guest preacher while her husband, David, will lead our adult study on the topic of Gun Violence. Kris and David founded God Before Guns, a non-profit here in NE Ohio that "seeks to curb gun violence and the proliferation of ever deadlier weapons in our communities."

You can find the GA Resolutions at <http://ga.disciples.org/business/#resolutions-tab>.

Resolutions included are: 10/4 – 1518 & 1539, 10/11 – 1522 & 1540, 10/18 – 1523, 10/25 – 1521.

Along The Path . . .



Here we go again! Heights Christian Church is back in full swing. We're back in the sanctuary for worship with the chancel choir, gospel choir, and band practicing again and new folks stepping up to help as liturgists and deacons. Second hour adult studies are off and running and we just completed a wonderful month of worship and study focused on creation care. Our new organizational structure is being tested as some committees are meeting once again and other committee tasks are being handled by team leaders and other volunteers. The Ties That Bind Community Choir is back in rehearsal and the new TimeBank is building membership. Other groups that use our building are back in full swing. We expanded last month's Reaching Heights to try and make sure we were communicating everything that you needed to know and will continue to do our best to keep you informed.

All of this activity is only possible because you are active and involved in the life of the church and in our mission activities. To function well the church needs lots of willing hands and hearts and I thank you for being willing to serve. All of this activity is also hard work, but we don't follow Christ because it's easy, we follow Christ because it's important work we do and because Christ called us to be servants and to change the world.

We have much work yet to do, but together, with God's help, we will get it done. Amen?

...from your Prayer Ministry

Ahhh, beautiful autumn! Many days with blue skies, wonderful temperatures, and dazzling leaves ... The brilliant reds, then oranges and golden yellows ! ... then, brown. Any student of botany will tell you that those brilliant colors have always been present in the leaves but were hidden by the deep green of chlorophyll. As the leaf ages and amount of daily light diminishes and temperatures cool, the chlorophyll breaks down and allows the brilliant colors to emerge before the leaf finally turns brown and falls to the ground. It seems like one kind of analogy for our spiritual lives. As we mature spiritually and grow to realize that our basic human nature causes us to be pretty self-centered but with the grace of God, we begin to see what really matters and see ourselves more truthfully. Our prayer becomes a prayer of humility because we realize we can do nothing without the help of God. What brings about a real transformation in us is recognizing and admitting that we are helpless without the gift of God's love. Buddhists call this "Enlightenment". The mystic, Julian of Norwich wrote: "The place which God takes in our soul he will never vacate ... it is the greatest delight for him to dwell there ... the soul that contemplates this is made like the one who is contemplated." Or, as the apostle Paul wrote: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20). The more we open our hearts to recognize our own emptiness, the more our spirits begin to glow with the genuine goodness and truth of being one with God. Autumn leaves give us a tiny glimmer of what that beauty might be like.

... 'til next time, we'll keep you in our prayers

BECAUSE YOU CARE

Illness—Surgery—Hospitalization

Robert Hassler	Allen Crowley	Jesse Hall	Shirley Reading	C.D./Lois Clark
Henry Sharpley	Liz Perdue	Alma G. Jones	Nancy Wilson	Scott Lemmon
Joe Feudi	Dorothy Mathis	Samarra States	Patty Monroe	Sidney Mallory, Jr.
Cas Castleberry	Janelle Eccleston	Lisa Peabody	Paul/Shirley Hummel	
Joe/Barbara Tolley				



It's Apple Picking Time, and HCC families are invited to join us on Sunday, October 4th immediately following first hour. We will make a stop for lunch then venture to Eddy's Fruit Farm on Caves Rd. in Chesterland where we will pick from a wide variety of apple trees.

All are welcome to join in this annual event! Please let the church office know if you plan to attend; we can carpool from the church as needed.

Let's hear it for Misha Carthon and the Dunns!

Claire, Thomas, Avery and Billy—all Regional Champs in Track, packed their shoes off to Virginia Beach in August, as National qualifiers in The Junior Olympics, where *Claire's* Relay Team of four was second in the nation in the 100 meter run!! *Billy* was holding up the Shaker Raiders (until he fractured his leg) with a touch-down against Kennedy, at their second game—55 to 0!



Misha Carthon became a member of the *Singing Angels Choir*. She practices every Saturday and will be singing in concerts across the Greater Cleveland area.

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!

WELCOME TO THE HCC FAMILY

Michele Moreland joined as an associate member of HCC on September 13. Ms. Moreland is also a member of Bethany Christian Church and a 2014 graduate of Ashland Theological Seminary. She is bringing her considerable skills and gifts to HCC as she seeks ordination through our region's Commission on Ministry. At the September board meeting, the Trustees voted to have Ms. Moreland serve as an assistant minister working with Pastor Roger to complete her training. Since this is an unpaid position we are extremely grateful to Minister Moreland for her willingness to share her gifts with HCC. Welcome!!



MODERATOR'S MUSING

As we move into autumn, we who participate regularly in the life of the institutional church know that soon it will be time for our annual stewardship campaign. Val MacMillan and I will be organizing the campaign under the leadership of the Administration Ministry Team led by Carl Cormany. It will be an important focus for our life together in the coming months. Let us know how you would like to help!

I was fortunate to attend a wonderful workshop at this summer's General Assembly about stewardship. It served to remind me that stewardship is not about fund-raising! God intends for us to be stewards of far more than just financial resources. We are being reminded in September by our Creation Care Committee that we are stewards of this amazing earth that God has provided for us. In coming months we will recall that we are also stewards of our own health and well-being as we are part of God's creation plan. Finally, we will recall that we are the stewards of God's word, the Good News of the Gospel, and will find ways in our missions to act upon that knowledge.

God provides what is ultimately necessary for the living of our lives. We are encouraged to examine stewardship as discipleship. Stewardship is more than money; it is a lifestyle based on a relationship with Jesus Christ. It is about partnering with God through the mission and ministry of the local congregation, HCC for us, to change the world in which we live. Let us pray that it is so!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM



Family Promise has new opportunities on a monthly basis. These can range from babysitting during training sessions for the parents to meal preparation for families. If you would like to volunteer for this program or would like more information, contact Andrena Jones-Sharp at 216-848-0108 or peristroik@aol.com

Drink Local, Drink Tap (who led our Second Hour on 9/20) is doing a Beach Cleanup at Perkins Beach, Edgewater Park, on Saturday, October 24, from 10am – 12pm. More info at <http://drinklocaldrinktap.org/activism/volunteer-at-a-beach-cleanup/>

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	<i>Rev. Roger D. Osgood</i>
Assistant Minister	<i>Min. Michele Moreland</i>
Minister of Outreach	<i>Rev. Joan Brown Campbell</i>
Director of Music	<i>Dale Hukill</i>
Director of Gospel Music	<i>Willie J. Wright, Jr.</i>
Office Administrator	<i>Kese Webb</i>
Facilities Coordinator	<i>Mike Faust</i>
Childcare	<i>Rosie Scott</i>

OFFICERS

Moderator	<i>Jane Troha</i>
Vice Moderator	<i>Valencia McMillan</i>
Secretary	<i>Grace Loudenstein</i>
Treasurer	<i>Neil Chase</i>
Assistant Treasurers	<i>Mike Singerman</i> <i>Jim Donald</i>

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UPCOMING GREEN CHALICE EVENTS:



Saturday, October 10: Join us for a tour of the Vineyard and Biocellar of Chateau Hough. Chateau Hough is located at E. 66th and Hough and is a great example of community revitalization through urban farming. Gather at the church by 12:15 to carpool. \$10 per person which goes to support the vineyard project.

Sunday, October 25th (afternoon/time TBD): Come to Heights Christian Church and learn the ins and outs of composting from Cuyahoga County Master Gardener Barb McGinty. If you or a gardener you know have been wondering how to start composting your food scraps, leaves, grass and garden waste at home, this informative workshop is for you!

Also ...

Recycling Day

WHEN: Saturday, November 7th

TIME: 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Circular Drive behind the HCC Church

Accepting all consumer electronics i.e. desktop and laptop computers, drives, circuit boards wire, printers, monitors, notebooks, cell phones, fax and copy machines, game systems, CD players, tapes players, digital cameras, phone systems, stereo systems and calculators. If it has a power cord, or runs on batteries, it's recyclable.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Dear Friends and Members of the HCC Community, Your expressions of care and encouragement during these past weeks have lifted my spirits and given my heart much joy. Thank you so much! I look forward to returning to church soon.

Blessings, Rosalind Powell

Many thanks for the cards, phone calls, meals, and prayers. We are truly a caring congregation.

Jan Everett

HCC'S Annual **100 MILE POTLUCK** Held on Sunday, September 27th



It was a great event with great food.

Thanks to all that participated and to the Creation Care team for making it happen.