



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 23, NO. 1

July 27, 2011

GIVING GARDEN STARTS

Our gardens have started producing in a big way. We have already made three deliveries of fresh produce to our neighbors at Fairhill Senior Center and New Life Community. Green beans, radishes, onions, zucchini, swiss chard and mustard greens have all gone to provide fresh, healthy meals. And more is on the way! If you'd like to help pick or deliver call the church office or sign up on Sunday.



BAKERS NEEDED



Last year the zucchini bread that several of you baked was a big hit with folks at New Life and Fairhill. We were once again surprised by how fast the zucchini goes from small to HUGE. We have several zukes that are too big for anything but bread. If you'd be willing to take one and make a couple loaves of zucchini bread stop by the office or pick one up on Sunday. We can guarantee that it will be much appreciated!

WORSHIP IN AUGUST

As we finish our time of worshipping in the Campbell Room we will be doing some experimentation in worship by changing the seating arrangements and using different forms of prayer, etc. It should be a rich and rewarding time that you won't want to miss!



FAMILY PROMISE OF GREATER CLEVELAND

Family Walk and Funfest

IHN & New Life Community have combined their efforts in assisting homeless families and are now called *Family Promise of Greater Cleveland*, helping more families than ever.



Saturday, August 20th will be the second Family Walk and Funfest event at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. There will be raffle prizes, a scavenger hunt, music, and tons of fun as they raise money to support the parents and children served by Family Promise of Greater Cleveland.

We here at Heights Christian would like to form a team for the walk. To form a team the cost is \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 3-11, and \$50 max for a family. People who do not want to walk can just contribute to our team by giving checks in any amount to us to take to the event. There is a flyer on the bulletin board in the hallway or contact Joan Fronck. Hope we can get a team together. Parking is free.

Along The Path . . .



Debbie and I had a wonderful week at the General Assembly in Nashville, our thanks to all of you for sending us. There were many highlights: great workshops, great speakers, lots of music, and even some fun.

One of my favorites was the message brought by Brian McLaren, a noted writer and thinker, at the Monday night worship service. His message centered on the stories of Jesus from Luke 10 and so he suggested that we needed to be a “Luke 10 church.”

By the time you read this it might be too late for you to watch his sermon on line (it’s available online until July 27th), so here are his main points, briefly.

He suggested that we needed to be six things. The first is that we need to be future oriented and not overly tied to the past. The second: that we need to let go of bureaucracy and red tape so that we can be “simple, flexible, and vulnerable.” We also should be a church that “proclaims the peaceable Kingdom of God” (I think we’re already pretty good at that) and we need to be joyful, rejoicing in every small breakthrough.

Finally he said that we should be a compassionate church (another thing we’re good at) and must be devoted disciples of Christ – not devoted disciples of Christianity, or our programs or traditions – but devoted disciples of the person of Jesus Christ.

Seems like a pretty good list to work on! Amen?

. . . from your Prayer Ministry

Remember the Carpenter’s old song: *What the world needs now, is love, sweet love, that’s the only thing that there’s just too little of...*



Our world, national and local news tell us those lyrics still ring true. Remember when you were taught as a child that “prayer is talking to God”? The implication was that the God was “out there”. But Ghandi says that “prayer is the core of life; all that matters is that prayer puts us in communion with the divine. Martin Luther adds, “The fewer the words, the better the prayer”.

So, prayer places me in the presence of God, the God within me. When we become aware of being in the loving presence of God, we bring into that presence our connection with all of those for whom we pray. We literally “touch them” within God, and we deepen our own connection with that person or group of people. Joan Chittester tells us that when we pray in this disciplined way, when we ask for this loving union with God and those for whom we pray, we can count on it happening! It may take a long time but it will happen. We become separated from the hatred, anger and jealousy in our own hearts and we become love. Our prayer becomes a healing force within us and within those for whom we pray.

We will continue there next month; stay tuned! Until then,

. . . We’ll keep you in our prayers

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CORNER . . . THANK YOU!

A note from Andrena about VBS: Let not our hearts be troubled

Thoughts the day after. What does it feel like? A little sad; an ongoing question of what happened; did we/I miss something in the planning; should we have started sooner ... etc? Vacation Bible School (VBS) ended earlier than planned due to lack of attendance.



The upbeat more cheerful side: Reflection of the eager volunteering by those who often had to rush home from work to participate; those who cheerfully engaged in preparing for their parts in a script; and not to mention those who worked for months preparing Vacation Bible School.

Loads of unending thanks go to all of our volunteers. **A special thanks** go to Donita Singerman, Lynda and Lloyd Ackerman, Roger Osgood, Joan Fronck and Kесе Webb the forerunners of our VBS planning.

So to “Br Ready for God”, one of the secret ingredients from our VBS program, my sense is that our team’s faith in God will allow us to feel disappointment about not being able to provide VBS **in the style** we have for the past seven years, **But** we are looking forward to follow God’s instruction for next year. We are ready to: **“Wait on the Lord, be strong, let our hearts take courage, and wait on the Lord”**.

Thanks to all our Volunteers: Bernadette/Joe LaGuardia; Nancy Newman, Nancy Hayward, Sylvia Farley, Kathie McWilliams, Jim Donald, Steve Cheatham, Debbie Osgood, Bobbi Phelps, Jan Everett, Grace Loudenstein, Val McMillian, Shirley Reading, Susan Buddenbaum, Linda Durham, Annette, Bonnie and Cara Sutherland.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. **Worship Service**
11:00 a.m. **Coffee Fellowship**

(Nursery & Preschool care provided)

STAFF

Minister *Rev. Roger D. Osgood*
Director of Music *Dale Hukill*
Office Manager *Kese Webb*
Facilities Coordinator *Mike Faust*
Childcare *Rosie Scott*

OFFICERS

Moderator *Lynda Ackerman*
Vice Moderator *Mike Singerman*
Secretary *Grace Loudenstein*
Treasurer *Neil Chase*
Assistant Treasurers *Jim Donald*
Shirley Reading

TELEPHONE: 216.561.4800
FAX: 216.561.4809

EMAILS:

heightschristian@sbcglobal.net
www.heightschristianchurch.org
roger.hcc@sbcglobal.net
kese.hcc@sbcglobal.net


Shalom! Salaam! Peace!

Tuesday August 2 at Siegal College in Beachwood there are two wonderful programs being presented as part of a larger conference on education and peace. The first program begins at 5:00 pm and features Connie Schultz and Kevin O'Brien from the Plain Dealer as part of a panel addressing the topic "Beginning at the Beginning: How Kids, Communities and Families Can Give Peace a Chance." This is free and open to the public.

The second program, called "Finding Our Common Language through Story" features storytellers from Muslim, Christian, and Jewish traditions. This program begins at 7:30 and costs just \$10. Or get preferred seating at both events with dinner for \$36.

More information and reservations at www.siegalcollege.edu phone (216)464-4050.

SAVE THE DATE
Treasures Holiday Boutique
Saturday, October 22—10am-5pm

 *the cards, the notes, the prayers we felt God's spirit in your actions.*
Thank you to Rev. Roger and the many members of HCC who have lifted our families up in prayer.

Colleen, Rick, Elena, Emma, and the Brady extended family

BECAUSE YOU CARE

Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization

JC Faust Andrena Sharp Clare Rosegger James Faust
Betty Klecka Scott Lemmon Eugene Blackwell Leslie Wanner
Radia Longworth Dorothy Mathis Candace Hetterle

CHANCEL FLOWERS



The remaining dates for 2011 are listed and available to anyone who would like to provide flowers for a worship service in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$45. Fill out the form and place in the offering plate.

___ Aug 28 ___ Oct 30 ___ Nov 6 ___ Nov 13 ___ Nov 20

Name _____

Memory/honor of _____