



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 22, NO. 8

February 24, 2011

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

In Worship - Called by God

Wednesday, March 9	Ash Wednesday Service Light Dinner at 6:30, Worship at 7:30
Sunday, March 13	From Temptation to Trust (Matthew 4:1-11)
Sunday, March 20	From Darkness to Birth (John 3:1-17)
Sunday, March 27	From Dead Ends to Living Water (John 4:5-42)
Sunday, April 3	From Blindness to Light (John 9:1-41)
Sunday, April 10	From Death to New Life (John 11:1-45)
Sunday, April 17	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 21	Maundy Thursday
Sunday, April 24	Easter



In Study - Growing toward God

Sundays, March 13-April 17 at 11:15

Second hour will be an exciting six-week combined study for Adult Forum and Bible Study. Joe LaGuardia will lead us in "A New Kind Of Christianity," a challenge for us to think in new ways about our faith. We will meet together in the Chapel 2nd hour.

The best way to get the most out of our Lenten series is to read the book or the session's summary before each Sunday's session. Joe has written summaries of the text for each session and posted them online at: www.joessummary.blogspot.com (a link will also be on the church website). Be sure to click on the Introduction and Question 1 to read the first summary. Hard copies of these summaries will be available for those who want them. The book can be purchased from Amazon.com for \$10.19.

Tuesdays at 7:30 am (beginning March 15th)

At Panera's (Van Aken and Farnsleigh) - Study with Pastor Roger based on the William Willimon book "Why Jesus?" Come anytime between 7:30 and 9:00, get some breakfast, and join the discussion.

Lenten devotional books, "Fellowship of Prayer," written by Holly McKissick, will provide a daily time of quiet reflection and prayer. Pick yours up in the Campbell Room or at the sanctuary entrances.

In Service - Working for God

IHN week - March 20-26 Sign up in the Campbell Room or call Joan Fronck

Other service opportunities will be e-mailed and placed in the weekly bulletin

Along The Path...



A month ago it would have been hard to imagine that the possibility for hope would be coming from North Africa and the Middle East. The events in Tunisia and Egypt have set in motion the opportunity for real change in a region that has seen more than its share of violence and difficulty. The uncertainty and crackdowns in Libya and other nations is a reminder that those in power will not go easily and much still hangs in the balance. But just like when the Berlin Wall came down, the world has changed for the better.

Often we get so caught up in the troubles of our lives and the world around us that we fail to appreciate the rays of hope that are also constantly before us. We get cynical or feel like we are powerless to really make a change in our life or in our community. We can forget that God is on the side of hope and peace and justice and that our efforts for others bring us in line with God's spirit at work in the world.

I am confident that God is rejoicing in the possibilities for peace and justice for our brothers and sisters of all faiths in North Africa and the Middle East just as God is mourning with all those who have lost loved ones in the conflicts. Let us keep them in prayer and remain hopeful as we continue our work for peace and justice here and around the world.

Roger

IN OUR PRAYERS

What happens when you're asked to pray for someone in special need? Do you try to persuade God to do something for that person? Is this person's need news to God? What if you forget to pray? Will God ignore that person and their need? What do members of the Prayer Ministry do when they pray for the various committees/ministries they've promised to include in their prayers? Should we "badger" God enough so that God will do what we ask?

Thomas Keating, a Trappist monk and founder of a program of "Contemplative Outreach" says that there's no right or wrong way to pray. However, you can be sure that God already knows of the people you hold in your heart. He already knows what they need so your prayer doesn't have to be long, detailed or directive. It can be quite simple: "Dear God, please let so-and-so know how close you are to her. Comfort her with your presence; let her know your strength is with her; help her to know You and your great love for her." Keating goes on to instruct us in the importance of prayer for deepening our personal relationship with God even as we offer prayers of petition. The love we have for God

holds within it the love and compassion we have for one another. Know that in your loving prayer, God will recognize the many needs you wish to bring to Him.

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

A PRAYER A WEEK

Heights Christian Church has the reputation of being a prayerful congregation – our special studies on prayer, our prayer wall and our active prayer team are all examples of how prayer is a central part of our worshiping life.

To aid you in developing and enhancing your own personal prayer life, we will be featuring a "Prayer of the Week" each Sunday in the morning bulletin, starting March 6th until June 5th. Some prayers will be very short, others longer, some general and some with a specific purpose or theme. These prayers will also be posted on the church website (heightschristianchurch.org).

We hope that you will enjoy reading the new prayer and that it blesses you each week. If you have a favorite prayer that you would like to share with the congregation, please give a copy of it to Pastor Roger so it can be included.





GOD'S TIME

Begin or end your day with quiet reflection and some biblical inspiration. Try our little devotional magazine, Our Daily Bread.

It is available to everyone in baskets on the Narthex table and the large Campbell Room table.

A perfect companion to Lent!

IHN WILL BE BACK

Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week is coming again to Heights Christian, March 20-26. Yes, it's been a month since the last host week, but we do not host again until December.

There will be a sign-up board in the Campbell Room or you can see/call Joan Fronck or Andrena Jones Sharp. We need your help, please!



The Worship Committee is looking for volunteers who would be willing to pick up chancel flowers for Sunday's from Gali's during the months of March, April and May. Please contact Donita Singerman or Bernadette LaGuardia if you are interested.

BECAUSE YOU CARE

Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization

Jim Donald	Jesse Hall
Georgia Bibb	Paul Hummel
James Faust	Bob McWilliams
Betty Klecka	Eugene Blackwell
Scott Lemmon	Leslie Wanner
Radia Longworth	Dorothy Mathis

Serving in the Armed Forces

Ilya Petrenko



Shirley and I want to express our sincere thanks to all of our friends. Everyone has been so thoughtful in sending cards and greetings. They are appreciated and again--Thank you, one and all.

Paul Hummel

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CORNER



... to all of you who continue to contribute to the Heifer fun project sponsored by our 2nd-5th graders. We have now passed the halfway mark to our goal of \$100. We have ideas of what to give to (ie for baby chicks; a cow etc.). Do you have a suggestion? Please send your suggestions to us by contacting Andrena via email: peristroik@aol.com or by phone at: 216.650.4688.

In addition, we thank you for the Souper Bowl funds collected. The \$275.00 along with canned goods will be donated to the Shaker Heights Hunger Center.

Also ...

Our tentative activity for the month of March is a sleep-over for children grades 3rd-5th on March 18th. We are inviting guests of our HCC children along with children from Franklin Circle and Fifth Christian churches.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

For the first three months of this year, CWF have been studying and discussing Unbinding Your Soul, a study guide that encourages us to tell our stories of our faith journey.

On March 23rd we will discuss how we connect the dots from the church to the community. Come join us for a delicious luncheon at 12:00 noon and then our spirited storytelling and discussion on these important topics.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO:

Spring Mission Trip



It's been over 5 years since Hurricane Katrina ripped through the Gulf region. While a great amount of progress has been made, there is still a lot more work to be done. This work will allow more and more people to return home.

A region wide mission trip is being planned for March 26th to April 2nd. Since there are some schools that will be on Spring Break that week, it is being planned as an intergenerational mission trip.

As of this writing, the details are still being worked out, so if you have folks who are interested in going on the Spring Mission Trip, please contact the trip coordinator, Rev. John Longard for more information. His contact information is: johnlongard@hotmail.com or cell; 513.300.4477 and church; 513.863.2200.



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POSTAGE PAID
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Please deliver before February 1 to:

REACHING HEIGHTS (USPS 002-788) is published monthly by Heights Christian Church, 17300 Van Aken Boulevard, Shaker Heights, OH 44120-3498. Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, OH. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Reaching Heights, 17300 Van Aken Boulevard, Shaker Heights, OH 44120-3498

THE GIANT GARAGE SALE



The date has been set for our annual GIANT Garage Sale—Saturday, April 9th from 9-4 p.m. and we are now taking reservations for tables @ \$25.00 each. It is a wonderful way to do your spring house cleaning and recycle those treasures you are not using. You can make money and the church does, too. It's a win /win situation. We need everyone's help to make this a huge success. Tell your friends to call the church office for a table at 561-4800. And at Set-Up on Friday night from 2:00—9:00 p.m. we all have a great time buying each other's treasures. Questions ? Call Kathie McWilliams or Andrena Sharp.

If you would like to be a part of the sale, please fill out slip below and return it to the church office.

Name _____

Phone/cell _____ Email _____

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|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rent a table | <input type="checkbox"/> Country Kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> Bake | <input type="checkbox"/> Price | <input type="checkbox"/> Sell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donate to Tiffany Tables | <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Van/Pick up | <input type="checkbox"/> Price/Sell | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elegant Flea | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up tables | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean up after sale | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Court | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Tables | <input type="checkbox"/> Price/Sell | | |