



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 23, NO. 4

October 31, 2011

2012 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Our annual Stewardship drive began October 9, 2011. Your pledges of time, talent, and treasure will be celebrated on November 13, 2011.

During the last few Sundays in our service you heard from both members & friends of Heights Christian Church, as to 'how' HCC has changed, supported, and personally helped and improved their lives.

This happens because of your commitment that makes our many ministries possible. We have God's blessing. Your willingness to live generously by sharing all that God has blessed you with ensures that our work will continue. Thank you!



NOVEMBER WORSHIP

November 6



Living Generously: **Celebrating the Saints**

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

A day to remember and celebrate the saints of the church. Each year in worship we remember those members of Heights Christian Church who have died over the past year, as well as family members.

November 13



Living Generously: **Celebrating Our Gifts**

Matthew 25:14-30

We "enter into the joy of our Master" as we dedicate our pledges of time, talent, and treasure.

November 17



Taize service (Thursday at 7 p.m.) Join us for a quiet and calming Taize-style worship service. End your busy day with candlelight, meditative music, prayer, and scripture reading. This service will give you time to catch your breath and relax your mind.

November 20



Living Generously: **Celebrating God's Blessings**

Luke 17:11-19

Come and worship as we celebrate God's many gifts and dedicate our pledges to the ministries of the church.

Shaker Heights Community Thanksgiving Service—4:00 p.m.

Set aside this time to worship and welcome our neighbors as H-C-C- hosts this years service.

November 27

First Sunday of Advent

We begin the Advent season with our traditional Hanging of the Greens Service as we prepare in hope for the birth of a King.



Along The Path . . .



I wonder sometimes if I get too stuck on “place.”

The places we live, work, eat, shop, go to church, can give us comfort and a sense of security, but they also sometimes get us stuck, stuck in the place we are instead of the place God wants us to go.

But sometimes “place” also gives us the roots that strengthen us for the journey and give us direction for the future. Abraham traveled to Canaan and put down roots so deep that they called out to Moses and the people of Israel after hundreds of year, and still draws the Jewish people after centuries of wandering.

So where is God calling you to travel or to put down roots? Maybe it’s a spiritual journey, a journey of transformation. Maybe the roots you’ve put down at HCC will allow you to serve in transformational ways, changing the community around you. The key is being open; open to the God’s Spirit in whatever “place” you are.

... from your Prayer Ministry Team



In past months, we’ve spoken of different types of prayer. Even though God is always present within us, we need to work at keeping ourselves alert to that abiding presence. We become distracted and forget so easily! It helps to have little ways, “gimmicks” if you’d like, to help us stay focused even as we do our work. I know someone who has a blank tiny pink post-it attached to the base of the phone on her desk. Every time she picks up the receiver, she sees that paper and remembers that the upcoming conversation offers her a chance to speak as though her words were being directed to God. Another such reminder is called “Praying the Pause”. It’s an old idea ...remember how we were taught to “count to 10”, “take a deep breath” etc. before responding to someone who has just awakened our most brittle selves? This is another version of that only this is geared toward aligning ourselves with our ever-present God. Instead of erupting in anger, we’re encouraged to take a breath, perhaps smile, all the while thinking: “God, help me know the best way to handle this situation. Give me some words. Keep me calm and in control of my speech” etc. In an amazing way, we can think all of those thoughts plus a few more in a second or two, but in that time, we give ourselves the chance to re-connect with God, turning our minds, hearts, and words over to a healing, forgiving God. Thus, we can change the situation from one of anger to one of calm and respect, all because we have brought it to God. How many other “tricks” can you think of that will help you keep the Presence of God alive in your work day? We’d love to hear some --- drop a note in the offering plate on Sunday or send a quick thought to us through Kese. Until next month,

... We’ll keep you in our prayers



BECAUSE YOU CARE Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization



Eugene Blackwell	Candace Hetterle	Betty Klecka	Dorothy Mathis	Clare Rosegger
Dewey Hodge, Sr.	Radia Longworth	Michael McFadden	Michael Steward	James Faust
Sandy Jones	Scott Lemmon	Colleen McKinney	Leslie Wanner	Mary Demmy

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CORNER



Calling all bakers, “wanna be” bakers and others. Join us for our annual **Thanksgiving Pie Baking** event on November 19th. We will bake pies, breads, and cakes from orders taken from our church members and friends. These are apples from our apple picking event on October 2nd. The more hands we have the faster the process. Lend us your hands for this fundraiser. Orders will be ready for pick up Sunday, November 20th. **For more information call Scott , Lloyd or Andrena.**

PEACE AND JUSTICE TASK FORCE



This group has begun their work to develop programs, conferences and action steps for our congregation. Much excitement is in the air as we research the possibilities for our congregation and it's outreach to the larger community and world.

Have you noticed the beautiful mums planted in the Peace Garden, it is in memory of Bob McWilliams. We hope it will encourage folks to stop and meditate on Peace and Justice concerns.

Thanks to Debbie Osgood, a master gardener, that planned where they should go and the work group that helped plant them.

Val McMillan and Nancy Hayward represented us at a Multifaith Open House on Oct.23 gaining much information on faiths in our community and possibilities for interaction. More good things to follow.

THE ELEGANT FLEA



Thrift Shop is looking for **almost new** items for the holiday season. Jewelry, brick-a-brack gift items, and purses are always good sellers. With the winter months coming up, warm coats and boots will also be useful. If everyone donated a couple of things....our store would be ready for Christmas. Please encourage your friends to shop there on Thursday from 10-1:00 and Sat. from 10-4:00. **Volunteers are always needed.**

REACHING OUT TO THOSE IN NEED



Heights Christian Church has a steady flow of people in the neighborhood calling and coming by in need of food. With the generosity of the membership, we have the opportunity to fill a void in our community by supplementing the structured systems that are already in place to help meet these needs, i.e. Shaker Hunger Center. Below you will find a list of non-perishable items that you can purchase and drop off at church to help feed a hungry family.

Our goal is to be able to provide a day or two of meals for a family to help get them through until they can get into the hunger center, not to replace the hunger center. You are being asked to pick up an extra meal or two on your next trip to the grocery store out of the following items **ONLY.**

Breakfast

Cereal (hot and/or cold)
Granola bars, Canned Fruit

Lunch

Crackers
Jelly & Peanut Butter
Rice, Soups, Canned Fruit

Dinner

Tuna Helper & Canned tuna
Hamburger Helper or
Pasta and Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Vegetables

The perishable items necessary will be purchased by the Outreach Committee and kept refrigerated or frozen such as 1# packs of hamburger, chicken and fruit juices.

Cash donations are certainly welcome and will be used to help purchase the perishable items.

Christian Women's Fellowship



The participants will continue their study on "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong. Jan Everett and Sylvia Farley will be our leaders. The November/December combined meeting on Dec. 7th at 12:00 noon will be our Christmas Potluck. We have some of the best chefs, so join us for great food, study and fellowship. You'll be glad you did!

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 *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*
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**HCC CHILDREN/YOUTH
FUND RAISER
APPLE TREAT SALE**

The Children and Youth Ministry are currently fund raising for future projects. Orders will ready for pick-up on Sunday, November 20th after worship service. Please fill out this form and return to the church office.

APPLE TREATS

Name _____

Phone _____

Apple Bread \$5 # _____
Nuts _____ No Nuts _____
Apple Cake \$6 # _____
Apple Pie \$8 # _____
Baked _____ Unbaked _____



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**FUN
FILLED
"RAINY"
DAY**

**APPLE
PICKING**