



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 23, NO. 3

September 30, 2011



A Time to Celebrate

Pastor Roger D. Osgood

Five Years of Dedicated Service at Heights Christian Church

Can you imagine where all the time has gone?
It has been five years since **Pastor Roger** came to us.
He is a man of God, a teacher, a musician, a gardener,
A basketball player, and most of all, a friend to us all!

Join us Sunday morning, October 2, 2011 as we honor
Pastor Roger Osgood on his Fifth Anniversary!

Also on October 2nd

World Communion Sunday

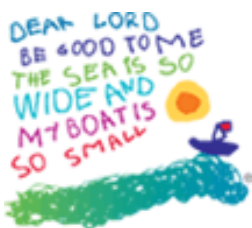
We join with our brothers and sisters in churches all across the world to celebrate communion this Sunday. It is an opportunity to celebrate our unity with Christians everywhere. We will also be taking our Reconciliation Offering to support the purpose and vision of reconciling the wounds caused by racism and the systems that perpetuate it.

October 9 **Planting Seeds of Hope: Living Generously** **Isaiah 25:1-9**
Annual Stewardship campaign kick-off

October 16 **Planting Seeds of Hope: Building a Legacy** **Acts 20:32-35**
God has entrusted to us time, talent, and treasure—all the elements of building a legacy within our ministries.

October 23 **Planting Seeds of Hope: "Justice Shall You Pursue"**
Deuteronomy 16:20 **Children's Sabbath**
Sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, the *National Observance of Children's Sabbaths* Celebration is a way for faith communities to celebrate children as sacred gifts of the Divine, and provides the opportunity for houses of worship to renew and live out their moral responsibility to care, protect and advocate for all children.

October 30 **Planting Seeds of Hope: The Greatest Commandments**
Matthew 22:34-40 **Family Fifth Sunday**



OCTOBER IS COFFEE MONTH!
As the days get cooler come warm up
in worship with fair trade coffee
available in the narthex before the service



Along The Path . . .



Remember the Simon and Garfunkel hit “It’s All Happening at the Zoo”? Well it’s all happening at HCC! Look through the newsletter and you will see all kinds of great activities and events going on. And that’s just for October! Come November we’ll be hosting the new youth coffeehouse and the Shaker Heights Community Thanksgiving Service.

Lots of great opportunities of things to do and ways to serve and none of it happens without the involvement of the whole community. We have been gifted with an abundance of good things so come share your gifts of time and talent and be a part of all our community has to offer.

From YOUR PRAYER MINISTRY



There are so many wonderful forms of prayer, you never need to feel “stuck” or wonder if your prayer was “right”. We’ve been talking for a few months about wordless prayer: the prayer of creating a space and attitude of quiet and then, just being in the presence of God and being attentive to whatever comes to us.

But there are many times when we just want to “talk” with God. Jesse Hall sent around a lovely piece on how we should ask for the needs in our hearts (“Ask the Father anything in my name...”)

but we need to recognize that we’re not out to “change God’s mind” or “tell” God what to do. We can always be sure that God was aware of the need even before we were; God’s hands are on every situation even though we can’t see how and may not recognize an answer to our prayer.

There’s the “walking meditation” , or the prayer form of Taize, in which repetition of a simple musical phrase allows us to be “carried into prayer”. By trying many different forms of prayer, we give the Spirit the opportunity to breathe through us in new ways. Let us know of other kinds of prayer that have worked for you and which you’d like to share with others. (Send thoughts to Kese or Pastor Roger and they’ll forward them to us.)

Next month, another idea, “Praying the Pause”. Until then, you can be sure

.....**We’ll keep you in our prayers**

BECAUSE YOU CARE

Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Sandy Jones</i> | <i>Joan & Jeff Fronck</i> |
| <i>Clare Rosegger</i> | <i>James Faust</i> |
| <i>Betty Klecka</i> | <i>Scott Lemmon</i> |
| <i>Eugene Blackwell</i> | <i>Leslie Wanner</i> |
| <i>Radia Longworth</i> | <i>Dorothy Mathis</i> |
| <i>Candace Hetterle</i> | <i>Rita Brady</i> |
| <i>Colleen McKinney</i> | <i>Dewey Hodge, Sr.</i> |
| <i>Michael Steward</i> | <i>Michael Mc Fadden</i> |

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 6, 2011



The church has traditionally celebrated the lives of Christians who have passed from this life to the next on the Sunday closest to November 1st. This year on November 6th, during the 10 a.m. worship, we will remember with thanksgiving the life of HCC members who have died in the last year.

In addition, we will extend to you the opportunity to remember any in our family who have passed away since last fall.

Please call the church office with your information as soon as possible so that the name of your loved one can be included.



Remember your favorite teacher from school? You know, the one who not only taught you all about reading, writing and arithmetic but also taught you something about the rest of life. Recently, Connee Choi shared her excitement with me about the lesson she taught on the Book of Ruth. She was excited about the discussion she and the students had about the story and how it applied to problems in our world today, migration in search of food.

Let us give thanks to HCC's teachers this year—Linda Durham, Connee Choi, Nancy Carpenter, Andrena Sharp, Donita Singerman, Kimberly Taylor, Lloyd Ackerman, Annette Sutherland, Bill Dunn Susan Buddenbaum, Scott Phelps and Rosie Scott who will share their stories of life and faith with our children.

ANNUAL FAMILY APPLE PICKING



This family activity is scheduled for Sunday, October 2nd following worship at 12:30 p.m. Come join us for an afternoon of fun usually starting with a stop at a favorite fast food restaurant and then on to apple picking, eating, and maybe some pie and cider purchasing. Pick for yourself and orders for other church members and for our annual pie baking in November.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

- At the Board meeting on September 13, the Trustees approved the formation of a Shalom Ministry for Peace and Justice. Under the leadership of Kathie McWilliams, this Ministry, firmly rooted in our history as a Shalom congregation, will now begin to develop an action plan to address the issues in our community and beyond. Watch for new programs to be announced!
- Under the leadership of Pastor Osgood and Karen McKeehan, a Coffee House for sixth – eighth graders will be hosted by four area Shaker churches, in collaboration with the Shaker Youth Center. Plymouth, Christ Episcopal, First Unitarian, and HCC will take turns hosting the event. HCC will host on Nov. 4. It is exciting to see one of last year's BOLD IDEAS come to life to benefit the area youth.
- In May, the Board authorized Pastor Roger to place a bid on the vacant property on Daleford Road across from the church. A bid of \$1000 has been recently sent to the city. It is planned that the property can be used as a community garden.
- Pastor Osgood announced that he will be taking a sabbatical this coming summer. The Minister's contract recognizes the importance of a sabbatical, and makes provisions for one after the first three years of service, and then for one after each following five year period. In Pastor's five years of ministry with us, he has deferred taking his sabbatical. He has applied for a grant for a sabbatical this summer. This is an opportunity to study, to reflect, to renew, and to have the gift of time.

Lynda Ackerman, Moderator

GARDEN WORK DAY

Saturday, October 15th



The Giving Garden has been giving all summer but soon it will be time to put it to bed and let it rest. Come out at 9:00 a.m. for a couple of hours of bed cleanup and possibly a few other tasks around the church grounds.

CWF's FALL TRIP

Wednesday, October 26th

We're going to Burton, Ohio to enjoy nature's fall colors. Tour the Century Village, lunch at Dutch Country Restaurant, visit some of the quaint shops in the area. We will meet at the church at 10am to car pool and plan to return by 4pm. Please contact Kathie McWilliams for more details.

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*
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SHAKER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY FALL YARD CLEANUP SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2011

We will rake your yard for free!!
Sponsored by Serving Shaker:
Faith in Action (Local Churches)
and the Boy Scouts in Shaker
Heights



We are offering to rake the lawns of Shaker Heights residents who are unable to rake them. You can sign up your house for this free yard raking now. After you sign up, volunteers will come to your home on **Saturday, October 29th** and rake your lawn, you do not need to be home that day.

The only requirement is that you live in Shaker Heights. We would love to have your house as one of the houses that we visit.

Signing up is easy

Please call or email **Andrea McNeil**
from the City of Shaker Heights
Community Life Department
Senior Adult Office 216.491.1351 or
(andrea.mcneil@shakeronline.com)

We will need to know . . .
your name, address, phone number,
and email address (if you have one).
Sign up by October 24th.



YOUTH COFFEEHOUSE BEGINS THIS MONTH

Friday, October 7th—6 to 8:30 p.m.

This first coffeehouse for **6th-8th graders** will take place at Plymouth Church

The Cooperative Nursery School and Heights Christian Church are hosting the second annual

Green Halloween Costume Swap

Saturday, October 8th, 2011

12:00pm-4:00pm

17300 Van Aken Blvd, Shaker Heights



Trade in your gently used children's Halloween costumes for "new" ones at no charge!

If you don't have a costume to swap, come and browse anyway.

Costumes are available for purchase for just \$5

Free kids' Halloween activities will be provided.

Please use entrance to Cooperative Nursery School at rear of the church building on Winslow Rd.

Additional parking is available at shopping center across the street.

All costumes are checked for cleanliness and completeness.