



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 22, NO. 2

AUGUST 30, 2010

SEPTEMBER 12TH—KICK-OFF SUNDAY

A new church year is upon us with new ideas and new energy. We'll kick off the new year in worship, blending the old with the new, celebrating and installing new leadership, and dedicating our new chancel chairs. Classes for children begin again during worship with a new curriculum.

Adult study also gets started with Bible Study and Spirituality, led by Joe LaGuardia and a new series of Adult Forums. This Sunday we'll watch "A Movement for Wholeness" and get an overview of this fall's forums.

Come be a part of the spirit that is moving at Heights Christian Church.



ADULT EDUCATION OFFERS TWO CLASSES

Bible Study and Spirituality led by Joe LaGuardia will be based on the readings from the Common Lectionary. Each week will be new, emphasizing how biblical readings enliven and inspire our own spiritual lives. Materials from well known authors such as Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Brian McLaren and Richard Rohr will also be included to inspire discussion.

Adult Forum, with the theme "Vision for the 21st Century, Informing Connecting, Empowering," will include Christian perspectives on issues of the day. This fall we will discuss reconciliation/connecting among all people including immigrants, Muslims, and multiethnic groups. Also once a month there will be a special feature on "Journeys in Christian Faith" where members of our congregation will share how their journeys of faith developed and the meaning this has had for their lives. Adult Forum will meet in the Chapel.

In addition, the Adult Education Committee is looking at forming other small groups that would meet during the week. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Campbell Room starting September 12th.

A NEW WORSHIP AND PRAYER OPPORTUNITY

"How can we continue praying and experiencing the support of the prayerful community beyond our time of Sunday Worship?" is a question you may have sometimes asked yourself. The answer is [here!](#) The Worship ministry is offering an evening Taize Prayer Service, on the 3rd Thursday of each month. The service will be held in our chapel.

The setting is calm, warmed by the use of many candles. The other two distinguishing marks of the prayer of Taize are **musical repetition** of simple melodies set to core biblical texts, and **silence**. The prayer moves along according to a perceived rhythm through song, psalm, and reading, leading up to a prolonged silence which then culminates in intercessory prayer and more song.

Why so much repetition and silence? The idea is that you become able to repeat the chants without much thinking and the music leads you to deep prayer, which the silence allows you to expand. You're not bombarded with words as many often feel in traditional worship services.

More information will be forthcoming but you might want to mark your calendars for the 3rd Thursday of each month to remind you of an extraordinary opportunity for a very special and different form of prayer and worship.

Along The Path . . .



I am EXCITED! This past Saturday (8/28) many of you gathered in the Campbell Room for a morning planning meeting. After a prayer and some instructions we divided into five groups that talked about new initiatives in specific program areas and developed action plans to see that those initiatives became reality. Some great ideas came out of that work and some of the actions are already underway.

Keep an eye out for further information about what is planned (there wasn't enough time to get it in this Reaching Heights) so that you can decide how you want to support the new work that has begun.

See you Sunday!

... IN OUR PRAYERS

The great news is that each of last year's Prayer Team members will continue in their roles into 2011. Watch for more details in the next Reaching Heights. For the moment, let's reflect on what this team does.



The Prayer Team consists of 16 members, all of whom are dedicated to daily prayer for specific needs of our church or of specific individuals. Members choose which of the committees (or ministries) they'd like to support. Every aspect of Church life is undergirded by prayers of a Team member. We offer the possibility of individuals requesting prayers for a specific person or situation. These are written on cards, placed in the offering plate and then are posted on the "Prayer Request Boards" on each side of the back of the sanctuary. We also solicit prayer requests on our web site as well as Twitter. Confidential requests can be placed on the offering plate as well. These are then passed among members of the Prayer Team for personal prayer. We have a "Prayer Chain" for requests of a more enduring nature (e.g., someone with cancer or a chronic challenge.) When a new request reaches us, that intention is spread by phone to members of that portion of the Team and daily prayers are offered for that purpose.

If you would be interested in devoting some amount of time each day to prayer for a specific Church purpose, please let the Office know. We can always use more members! We have few meetings but find creative ways to stay in touch and support one another in this important ministry.

Until next time, you can be sure you are in our prayers.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Whether you knit or not, please join us for craft & conversation at the Prayer Shawl Ministry meetings. We create shawls for gifts to people going through life-changing experiences, as a symbol of our caring, support, and hope.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 12th-7pm at the church. Contact Annette for more info atslaw1@sbcglobal.net.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FLOWER PICK-UP

We all love having flowers at the table on Sunday but costs are increasing so the Worship Ministry is suggesting a way for keeping the cost down. The delivery charge from Gali's (on Chagrin at Belvoir) is \$15. We have begun taking turns picking up flowers ourselves on Friday afternoon or Saturday. If you'd like to join us in this effort, please let Donita or Bernadette know and we'll give you details.

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN/YOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A Recognition Farewell!



Heights Christian has been blessed for over two years to have Shawndra Maxey as our Director of Children and Youth Education Ministries. Shawndra brought with her enthusiasm, energy, and creative skills which she applied in maintaining and developing programming for our children. Shawndra's last day at Height Christian is on September 19th. We want to thank her for all that she has done for Heights Christian and to wish her well in her future endeavors.

Volunteers Needed!

One of the activities that Shawndra developed and the C/YEC would like to continue is coverage during the 2nd Hour for the children. This will occur every Sunday with some exceptions. The C/YEC will have planned activities already designed for volunteers and available in the room. Volunteers will be welcomed to be creative and implement their own activities. Some of the activities will be fun games related to the Bible and others will just be fun. Parents will be comforted in knowing that their child is having fun, being supervised, and learning. We can do this, but only with volunteers joining the CY/EC to take a turn. There is a sign up sheet in the Campbell Room. Or, you may call the church office leaving your name/number and you will be contracted. Always keep our children's well being in your prayers.

Annual Family Apple Picking



This family activity is scheduled for September 26th following worship @ 11:30. 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. Watch for order forms in the Sunday bulletins coming soon.

EYEGASSES NEEDED FOR HAITI



Grace Loudenstein has a friend who is going back to Haiti in November to do an eyeglass workshop. They're looking for used eyeglasses to take with them to match with people who need glasses. Please contact Grace, if you would like to help this worthy cause.



CWF'S FALL KICK-OFF

HCC's Bridge Circle will meet Tuesday, September 7th—1p.m. at Martha Cubberley's house.

The Book Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 15th—1p.m. at Jan Everett's home. We will discuss the book "This Time Together" by Carol Burnett. Dessert will be served.

CWF's "Kick-Off" Luncheon for the year 2010-2011 will be Wednesday, September 22nd—12 noon in the Campbell Room. This year's theme is "Tell It! Sharing our faith with others as our original Disciples did."

We will be using materials from "Unbinding Our Soul" to enrich the Luncheon Discussions. In October we will take a trip to the newly renovated Art Museum to view the section on "Early Christianity".

We encourage you to bring a friend to our ecumenical group of women. All are welcomed. Please RSVP by calling 921-9210 or the church office at: 561-4800.

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

To all who find Our Daily Bread devotional their daily inspiration and to those who would like to discover "why"? Please help yourself to the September, October, November edition, available in baskets on the Narthex and Campbell Room tables.

BECAUSE YOU CARE Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization

Betty Klecka	Kitty Cardwell
Georgia Bibb	Eugene Blackwell
James Faust	Mary Krumlauf
Brady Macosko	Dorothy Mathis
Bob McWilliams	Ilya Petrenko



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PERIODICALS
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Sunflowers planted by the children of HCC