



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 29, NO. 1

July, 2017

July Worship and Elder Care

- July 2** *Ina Hart*, preaching
Elders: *Joan Fronck, Nancy Hayward*
- July 9** *Michele Moreland*, preaching
Elders: *Joan Fronck, Nancy Hayward*
- July 16** *Kate Gillooly*, preaching
Elders: *Joe LaGuardia, Bernadette LaGuardia*
- July 23** *Kris Eggert*, preaching
Elders: *Val McMillan, Michele Moreland*
- July 30** *Bob Kloos*, preaching



We will celebrate a Family Fifth Sunday with special guest, Bob Kloos (as in too “close” for comfort!), Founder and Artistic Director of Beacon Street Performing Arts in Ministry. Bob has a long track record of making people of all ages laugh, think, care, and consider how best to love God’s promise in the world. He is often booked for confirmation retreats, school assemblies, and intergenerational gatherings of all kids. He brings a peace-making love for God and creation into full life through song, puppets, stories, and prayer. We are grateful Bob will be leading worship and preaching!

Theatre at It’s BEST!—Friday, July 7th



Please join HCC for a night at the theatre - the Hathaway Brown Theatre Institute, that is! We will go together to see *Children of Eden*. Based on the story of Genesis, the age-old conflict of parents and children takes the stage in this epic, heartfelt Stephen Schwartz musical.

We have a limited number of complimentary tickets from director Bebe Katz, who held a few rehearsals at HCC when she needed a space. We are delighted to see the product of all that hard work, and to experience the stories from Genesis told in a new way. Please let Kate Gillooly know if you would like tickets.

Sign, Sealed, and Soon Delivered!



We are happy to announce that a letter of understanding has been signed between HCC and the City of Shaker Heights for a teen drop-in center to be housed in Fellowship Hall beginning late August and running during the school year. This after-school program will be geared to kids who do not have anywhere else to be. The city will pay a lease fee to HCC for use of the building, and will hire staff to run the program. HCC will provide a hospitable space, perhaps some volunteers, and eventually have the opportunity to lead some programming. HCC was suggested because of our reputation for excellent and relevant youth programming, including our monthly Open Mic sessions. Thanks to Jane Troha, Val McMillan, Pastor Roger Osgood, and Kate Gillooly for working to make this a reality. Stay tuned for details regarding the Grand Opening on August 31.

Moderator's Musings



Summer at HCC means we have our services in the Campbell Room, loosen our dress code a little, and take a short break from meetings. But don't be fooled, there's still lots of activities of renewal, building improvements, planning, and congregational services to continue, especially during Pastor Roger's sabbatical.

The sun inspires us to reflect, develop new ideas, improve our missions, and continue our faith journey.

I'm both humbled and excited to serve you as moderator for the next two years. Jane has done an outstanding job as moderator and mentor to me. I welcome my new partner Scott Phelps as Vice Moderator. It's also a comfort to know that there are so many wise past moderators in our congregation. HCC is truly a church of extraordinary followers.

As you enjoy the summer months, don't forget to stop and enjoy God's sweet symphony and dance of the birds, the sun, the flowers, and trees. Allow the sun's energy to soak in and rejuvenate. Enjoy your summer full of cookouts, vacations, good friends and beautiful sunsets.

Valencia

...from your prayer ministry

These last few days of crystal clear weather ... a momentary release from the gripping heat of a few days ago, allows our eyes to see the pure green of trees against the very blue sky. We stand, gazing upward and wonder. We speak of something being wonderful /i.e..full of wonder.

The Oxford dictionary describes the meaning of "wonder" through several full pages given to this single word! Young lovers, hold hands silently as they ponder the wonder of their new love; parents hold their newborn and find themselves speechless as they surrender in wonder of this new being. The psalmist exclaims in wonder when he looks at the heavens with the "sky jewelry of the moon and stars" in their exquisite setting, "what is man that you are mindful of him?" (translation, The Message bible)



William Brown in his book *Sacred Sense*: "Wonder is at root, relational because it is all about encounter. Wonder draws us in. We sense in wonder a new connection within ourselves to something beyond ourselves, whether it is WOW! or an Ahhh!"

Allow yourselves to experiment with the idea of wonder; as you look around in this next month, surrender yourself to go wondering! We'll continue more on this subject next month. If you would like to share a thought that came to you in your "wondering", jot it down and drop it in the office or place in the collection plate.

...until next time, keep WONDERING!

BECAUSE YOU CARE

Illness-Surgery-Hospitalization

Grace Loudenstein	Joan Campbell	Jim Donald	Liz Perdue
Ray Everett	Elizabeth Newman	C.D./Lois Clark	Shirley Reading
Lisa Peabody	Mary Rogers	Paul Campbell	Joe Feudi
Patty Monroe	Alma G. Jones	Henry Sharpley	"Cas" Castleberry
Paul/Shirley Hummel	Nancy Wilson	Peggy Yeager	Joe/Barbara Tolley
Sidney Mallory, Jr.	Merle Passell	Natalie Eichar	Kate Backe

Death

JoAnn Brown, mother of Ratt Ford

Treasurer's Count

Thank each of you for the contributions you make to Heights Christian. You are the life-blood of our missions.

A couple of items that you should know or think about:

- In July we will prepare a Year-to-date statement for your review. Please let us know if you find anything amiss. I recently found an un-deposited check thanks to a member letting me know it had not been cashed.
- Do you use the bill pay feature of your bank account? If you do you can set up Heights Christian Church as a repeat payee and they will mail us a check on the schedule you pick. (We are not large enough to receive electronic transfers). This is an easy way to handle your giving and can also cover those vacation pledges you were not in town to give.
- Envelopes cost money. We reuse as many Pledge and Hunger envelopes as possible. You can make your envelope reusable by not sealing it (just tuck in the flap) and not writing on the envelope. We understand that this may not work in all situations. Whatever you are comfortable with.
- Writing notes in your check comments field helps to insure we get the proceeds into the right account. Is this check for a pledge or a special offering? Sometime I have to call you or make an educated guess.
- If you have been on our new website and clicked on the "Contact Us" button, you may have seen the word 'Donate'. Yes, we can now receive electronic credit card donations. But we are charged 2.5% of the contributed amount. So we encourage you NOT to use this method for your regular donations. It is meant for others, like our moved away children, to conveniently remember the church. Or a visitor who makes a decision to give.

Hope these hints were useful. Please drop me a note at singermanm@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Your fiscal servant for Christ,
Mike Singerman

Kate's Cogitations

Hospitality is both a ministry to others and a spiritual practice for ourselves. Hospitality means so much more than opening the door, it means making space in our lives for the lives and experiences of others. We have many opportunities each day to offer hospitality. We signal whether we are willing to listen to people's stories, host them in our homes and hearts, prepare space for them to meet, learn, and grow. HCC has such opportunities as well. Every time someone visits our new web site, calls our office, walks up to our doors, attends worship, or participates in a group or event here, we have a choice.



We can smile and welcome them in and make sure they have what they need, or not. We can view these visitors and renters as outsiders or as

friends and neighbors. When we open the church doors, let us also open our hearts to the people we welcome in. We all may be changed by the encounter!

Mid-Summer Celebration in the Gardens

All are welcome to join us
Sunday, July 16 — 11:15 am
in our Community Gardens and Labyrinth
(Daleford Road across from the church building)

This is a wonderful opportunity for
community gardeners and church members to
get to know each other and enjoy the beauty
of both the gardens and the labyrinth

Free and open to the public

Bring a friend!

For more information contact the church office:
216.561.4800 or Kate Gillooly at katehcc@sbcglobal.net



