



# Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 29, NO. 2

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## Welcome Back, Pastor Roger!

We are delighted to welcome Roger back from his sabbatical. During the past three months, he has had a chance to reflect, read, rest and spend time with his family. A trip with his wife, Debbie, to Italy, including a bicycling portion, was a highlight of his time away. Roger is now back to work, preparing worship, visiting with people, and dreaming up big plans for our life together here at Heights Christian Church and in the community. It's an exciting time at HCC!

## Same Space—New Face



You may have noticed that our thrift store, the Elegant Flea, has not been opened for several weeks. This is because--*hooray*--the store is being painted and renovated!! Look for a grand reopening in September with new hours, new merchandise, new volunteers AND a new name and new director!! The Elegant Flea is now the **Heights Christian Church Thrift Shop**.

Liz Perdue has decided to take a break from directing the shop and Nancy Newman has agreed to be the new director. We're looking for those new volunteers and that new merchandise. Contact Nancy or the church office if you're interested in volunteering to work in the thrift shop for a few hours each month. And take a look through your closets and drawers for any clothing you no longer want or need or household goods that you'd like to clear out. The thrift store takes any clothing donations as long as they are in good condition and clean. Household goods also must be in good condition and clean. Drop off locations for donations will be announced as soon as painting is completed--look in your email and the church bulletin for notice of this.



And please remember that all proceeds from the thrift shop go to further the mission of Heights Christian Church.

## Ben Malkevitch Accepts New Post at Lakewood Congregational Church



With sadness we announce the resignation of our Director of Music Ministries, Ben Malkevitch. Ben has accepted a position at Lakewood Congregational Church effective August 21<sup>st</sup>, so his last Sunday at HCC will be August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ben writes: *"It's important that you and everyone else at Heights Christian know that this has not been an easy choice for me to make. The support, loyalty, and love which I have received from HCC's choir, staff, and the congregation as a whole have been remarkable and moved me again and again. The community of faith, learning, listening, understanding, and striving to change the world that is Heights Christian is a remarkable one. It deeply enriches so many lives, including my own, and it is one I will be leaving reluctantly."*

We all wish Ben much happiness and success at his new position and express our sincere thanks for the opportunity to know and work with him. His gifts of music and ministry have been appreciated greatly. A Music Search Committee is being formed and will immediately begin its work to employ his successor.



## ...from your Prayer Ministry

Although you won't be reading this until August, I want to reflect on what those in attendance on July 23rd, heard in the gospel and sermon. The Gospel was the story of the farmer who planted wheat and then realized that an enemy had planted weeds over his seed. We heard a powerful sermon from Rev. Kris Eggert as she elaborated on the farmer's direction: "let them grow together" and we'll separate them at harvest time. Val McMillan, our Presiding Elder for the day included much of the same spirit as Kris. Jane Troha, echoed the same concept in her prayer. When this sort of synchrony occurs, it feels like the Holy Spirit has passed over us, silently but with profound effect drawing all things together. "You do not have to root out the one to allow the other to grow." The core message here was "Let them grow together."

I read another approach to this theme in Building on the Word, a blog written by Rev. George Smiga, Father George focused on the farmer. At the time of Jesus, farms were quite small. The farmer would have known his neighbors and knew well which might have been his "enemy" who would have been mean enough to sow weeds on top of his neighbor's wheat. Even though the farmer might have had a strong urge to retaliate, he didn't. He "turned the other cheek". Despite the nastiness of the one who sowed the weeds, there was a harvest and the farmer was able to gather wheat into his barn.

This parable presents us with a counter-cultural, non-violent approach to life. It makes the point that non-violence is not irresponsible or weak. Absorbing an attack is not a lesser way nor a cowardly way but Christ's way. When we refuse to join with those who use their power and authority to coerce others, we are not settling for second best. We are aligning ourselves with the weak, the preyed upon. We are showing that we are in fact, disciples of the Prince of Peace.

*...until next time, let us pray that our actions will reflect the meaning of this parable*

### **BECAUSE YOU CARE** **Illness—Surgery—Hospitalization**

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

### **Births**

July 23 **Laurel Eve** (5lbs-7oz) and **Halle Gianna** (4lbs-14oz)  
Cheryl (Blackwell) & Karl Gordman—parents

July 24 **Braden Lee** (6lb-4oz) Beth (Fronck) & Brad McNerney—parents

### **Deaths**

July 3 *Joseph Tolley*, Debbie Osgood's father  
July 5 *Carol Ann Brown*, Michele Moreland's cousin



**"We can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks and ever thanks."**

**-William Shakespeare**

*My family and I are so grateful for the outpouring of love and support from the dear members of Heights Christian Church on the death of my father, Joseph Tolley. To those of you who sent cards and notes...what comfort! To those of you who provided or delivered food...what help! To those of you who attended the service or visitation...how much we appreciated you being there! To those of you who held us in loving thoughts and prayers...we felt uplifted! Through all the different ways you reached out, our congregation demonstrated, once again, the power of love and relationship. My dad will be missed, but your caring eases the pain. In gratitude, Debbie Osgood.*

## Let the Sun Shine On! HCC Has Gone Solar!

If you drove past the church last Monday, July 10, you would have seen a crane lifting solar panels up onto the flat roof area at the back of the church. Seventy-five solar panels will soon be generating electricity. By the end of the week the crew from Third Sun Solar, Athens Ohio, had the panels installed and connected. Church computers will be able to monitor the electrical output. On Friday the installation passed inspection by a Shaker Heights City inspector.

Over a year and a half ago Pastor Roger and the Capital Reserve Advisory Committee (CRAC) began to think about using solar panels to generate electricity. As a Green Chalice congregation, solar panels provide us a way to use less fossil fuel, and to have an alternate way to walk more gently upon the earth as we all help to care for God's creation.

The panels would save 56% of the cost of the church's electric bill. The installed panels would represent savings to the church's annual budget, which will carry over for years. After much discussion and research, it was decided to take a proposal to the Board of Trustees in January 2017. Following approval by the Board, the final plans implemented. The last step now is to have a new electric meter installed and then the solar panels will be fully operational.

Thanks to Pastor Osgood, Lynda Ackerman and the CRAC team, Jane Troha and our office staff for their many hours of planning to make this project a success. Special thanks to Jim Nicks, Chairperson of the Property Committee, for overseeing the installation.

Heights Christian Church has taken a major step in being a good steward of the earth and caring for our environment.



*Valencia*

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## Coming this Fall - new curriculum for our Sunday School!



This Fall we will offer one class during worship for **children in Kindergarten through Grade 4**. This will be led by a fine team of dedicated volunteers, who plan their time with the children to be informative and fun. We will spend the month of September observing Creation Care, along with the Green Chalice team. In October we will launch our new curriculum called **Shine**. Developed by Bethren Press and MennoMedia, Shine's goal is to help children follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Based on Bible stories, each lesson helps children see how they are part of the bigger Story of God's love, which Shine calls the "Shalom Arc." As a Shalom congregation, it is as if this curriculum was written just for us! I believe teachers and children alike will enjoy getting to know it. Many thanks to Connee Choi, our Education Ministry Team leader, for coordinating and supporting our teachers.

**Grades 5-12** will be invited to Youth Group activities taking place during Second Hour and sometimes in the evenings. This program will be shaped by the needs and interests of the participants and will include games, discussion, drama, a progressive dinner, field trips and planning for a mission trip next summer. These events will be open to any youth in grades 5-12 and HCC members are encouraged to bring friends. During worship, youth will be encouraged to take on leadership roles with the diaconate, help with children's messages, serve as liturgists, and share their musical and dramatic gifts. We welcome young leadership in our worship and full participation in church activities.

**Also ...**

### Back-Pack Blessing

Mark your calendars for August 27th when children and youth will remain in worship. Designed in the style of a Family Fifth Sunday, this fourth Sunday of the month gives us the chance to try new things, worship God and have fun together. Please bring your Backpacks and briefcases to church that morning! We will have a Backpack Blessing as part of the service, and offer prayers for all who are beginning a new year of school (whether as student or teacher or both)! If you want to help with the service, please contact Kate Gillooly.



### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m.      **Worship Service**  
11:00 a.m.      **Coffee Fellowship**  
(Nursery & Preschool care provided)

### STAFF

Minister	<i>Rev. Roger D. Osgood</i>
Assistant Minister	<i>Min. Michele Moreland</i>
Minister of Outreach	<i>Rev. Joan Brown Campbell</i>
Director of Music	<i>Ben Malkevitch</i>
Director of Congregational Development	<i>Kate Gillooly</i>
Office Administrator	<i>Kese Webb</i>
Facilities Coordinator	<i>Mike Faust</i>
Childcare	<i>Rosie Scott</i>

### OFFICERS

Moderator	<i>Valencia McMillan</i>
Vice Moderator	<i>Scott Phelps</i>
Secretary	<i>Grace Loudenstein</i>
Treasurer	<i>Mike Singerman</i>
Assistant Treasurer	<i>Neil Chase</i>

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## It's Official and Happening Soon!



The Get-Away is the name of the new youth drop-in center which will open here at HCC on September 1. Housed in Fellowship Hall and staffed by city recreation department employees, this after-

school program will be open to all Shaker senior high youth from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. It will provide a safe and fun place to hang out, play games with friends, work on homework, learn new skills, and build community. HCC is proud to provide a home to this much needed program. This is an amazing opportunity for HCC to partner with other groups and organizations to meet the needs of our community. Stay tuned for various ways members can support the Get-Away through donations and volunteer opportunities. And get ready to be gracious hosts to the youth of Shaker!



## Mid-Summer Celebration In the Gardens