



February 2016

**Interim Pastor**  
Rev. Kathy Riley

**Session**

***Class of 2016***

Jeff Buckhout  
Jim Burdick  
Walt Cottongim

***Class of 2017***

Dan Alexander  
Meaghan Mullin  
Stacey Ross

***Class of 2018***

Shannon Murphy  
Tim Reed

**Deacon Board**

***Class of 2016***

Karen Greenhow  
Doug Thompson

***Class of 2017***

Sheryl Eichelberger  
Sarah Cottongim

***Class of 2018***

Becky Burdick  
Terry David

***Clarion Editor***

Terry David  
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Crescent Springs  
Presbyterian Church



Christmas is over, the decorations and trees are gone, and we're already planning for Lent. I'd be ready for spring to come soon if it wasn't currently snowing at the rate of one inch an hour, reminding me that we're two full months away from the first day of spring. So this is a time of waiting, of holding off on expecting too much too soon. Still, spring will come, with glorious flowers and sunshine and the return of newborn colts and baby cows in the fields.

This season of waiting and planning and expectation is an image for this time here at CSPC. We all know the Pastor Nominating Committee is hard at work, meeting every Wednesday, reviewing materials from pastor candidates, talking with them, and checking their references. We are getting ready for the day when the new pastor is chosen, while still living in the present and working to learn and grow in our faith and expanding our mission and outreach ministries.

As part of this preparation time, I have begun to keep a list of things I want to accomplish before the new minister arrives. Those include working with the session to get our congregational Manual of Operations updated. This helps everyone who volunteers on a committee to know how things are done and what our policies and procedures are. Session and I are working to develop a Child Protection policy and a revised Sexual Misconduct policy, as required by the Book of Order. I'll work with the Personnel committee to have an evaluation process ready for the new pastor's semi-annual and annual performance review. That process will include input from committees, session, and an invitation to the congregation to give feedback on how things are going.

It is crucial in the life of a congregation to have open channels of communication between pastor, session, and all members, especially in the first year of a new ministry. Your "Invitation to Communication" in which members can send a written concern or question to session for their consideration and response is a good system for general concerns. There will be additional ways to communicate with and about your new minister, which I'll describe soon. It is so important for all members to be supportive of the new minister, teaching him about you and your life here at CSPC-while remaining open to new ideas and ways of doing things that she may bring to you. Open communication, mutual respect and love will go a long way to smoothing the inevitable bumps in the road when pastor and congregation are getting to know each other. I have faith that you will engage in this work with patience, hope and grace.

So let it snow, let winter run its course, and let us dream, plan and get ready for God's glorious future!

Grace and peace,  
**Kathy**

## The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, begins our Lenten season. Soup Suppers will start at 5:30 each Wednesday through March 16, with a short Lenten Service from 6:30 until 7:00 p.m. Please plan on joining us for this meaningful, mid-week meal and message. We will have a Maundy Thursday service on March 24 at 7 PM.

## Sign up, Enroll, Enlist – Commit!!

As you read through The Clarion, I hope you will be struck with the amount of involvement that we participate in here at "The Little Church on the Hill". There are many opportunities for you to be involved in local, national, and global projects. There is a Sign-Up table in the narthex that has lots of information on how you can help.

Unfortunately, this humble, little table is often overlooked. Have you ever organized an event and been worried that no one would attend because no one called to R.S.V.P.? Have you ever been in charge of organizing food but didn't know if there would be 5 or 50 people attending, or if seven pots of chili would magically appear when you were only expecting one?

Please take a moment to check the Sign-Up table as a courtesy to those who are taking their time to organize these great opportunities for fellowship and service.

Terry David

## Neighborhood Community Involvement

Did you know that there is a large Chin Community just up the road from us in the Crescent Ridge Apartment Complex? Because of the current problems in Myanmar (formerly Burma), many Chins have migrated to other parts of the world. Due to missionary efforts, many Chins are Christians and most are Protestants. Did you know that our church has been used to teach an English-as-a-Second-Language class for almost 2 years?! They meet on most Thursday at 7 p.m. and are taught by a couple from the Hebron Lutheran Church.

## Local Community Involvement

The Mission Committee is beginning a new opportunity to serve with The Cornerstone Project. Starting this January we will provide a portion of the meal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Cornerstone provides meals to those in need almost twice a week.

At Cornerstone meals are just as much about relationships as they are about food. We open our doors and serve any who come, but the primary purpose for our meals is strengthening our community. Something special happens when people gather round a table. People talk, listen, share and care. Our meals are a cooperative effort. Many believers from a variety of churches all work together to bless the community through our fellowship meals."

We will be working with other Presbyterian Churches and using a grant which pays for all of the food expenses. The Mission Committee will prepare and serve in January so we can work out the details as we expand to offer the serving opportunity to the congregation. And don't forget we will continue to collect items for Food for Thought throughout the remainder of the school year. Our next assembly will be on January 31<sup>st</sup> following the service. There will be a signup sheet starting this month to maximize our volunteers and potentially give those that haven't been able to fit in our little room the opportunity to volunteer.

Thank you for your support of the Mission Committee. If you have any questions about any of our opportunities, please contact Heather Alexander ([859-663-6607](tel:859-663-6607)) or any member of the Mission Committee.

## Deacon News

The next Deacon event will be a Community Chili Supper to be held on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. We will work with the Planning for Growth and Evangelism Team to make this a supper to share with our neighbors. The Flames will pass out flyers in our community. We hope you can join us for this fun event!

## Global Community Involvement

How can you be involved in global mission? Our presbytery supports the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and they are gathering items to make personal hygiene kits to send to those in need. Each church in the Presbytery is being asked to contribute a specific item for the kits and our church has been asked to donate washcloths. We will be collecting them until Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> to take to the presbytery meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

The P.D.A. group responds to national and international needs due to weather disasters, political unrest and social issues such as gun violence. Please contribute to this worthy cause and feel free to read more about the P.D.A. at [www.pda.pcusa.org](http://www.pda.pcusa.org).

## New Concert Series in Cincinnati



CSPC Music Director Sam Martin has founded a non-profit organization devoted to bringing the greater Cincinnati area a new, robust, and exciting concert series. The Cincinnati Song Initiative will feature local singers and pianists, as well as out-of-towners, who will help bring exciting projects to life throughout CSI's yearly season. Projects will range in scope and subject matter, such as concerts featuring all female composers, music from a particular country, the complete songs of a single composer, and much more. The possibilities are endless, and you are warmly welcome to join CSI for its inaugural season this coming fall! For more information, visit [cincinnati-song-initiative.org](http://cincinnati-song-initiative.org) or find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/cincinnati-song-initiative](https://facebook.com/cincinnati-song-initiative). If you have any questions, feel free to speak with Sam at church or email him at [samuel.martin@icloud.com](mailto:samuel.martin@icloud.com)

## Flames Youth Group

This active group of 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders has lots planned for 2016! Service projects will include collecting donations on Super Bowl Sunday for their continuing support of Hands Against Hunger, and packing food for H.A.H. in March. The Flames will sponsor the Young at Heart Luncheon for members of our church on Valentine's Day, which is held after church in the Gathering Room and is always happily anticipated by those of us who are 55 or older!

The Flames meet twice a month for service and fellowship programs. On January 31<sup>st</sup> they plan to go to Perfect North Ski Slopes for an afternoon of tubing, and have a bowling party planned for the end of February. Watch for information to join the Flames on March 18<sup>th</sup> to help pack food for Hands Against Hunger.

Thank you for all your support!  
Erin

## Happy Travelers

The Happy Travelers Club is looking forward to a good year. For the next 3 months we will be going to lunch at The President's Inn in Burlington (January 28), The Green Derby in Newport (February 25), and Barleycorn's in Highland Heights (March 24). We continue to send cards to our homebound members and a donation of 50 cents will be taken up at our January meeting to cover the price of stamps. Remember - we meet on the fourth Thursday of most months and start at 10:30 a.m. this year. We will call everyone if we have to cancel due to snow. See you there. We have lots of fun and good conversations.

## P.N.C. Update

We continue to meet on a weekly basis. We have currently reviewed more than one hundred Personal Information Forms (PIF) that have been matched with CSPC. We review each PIF and decide which candidates would be a good fit for our Church. We have held two Skype interviews with candidates for initial contacts. We continue to go through the review process and ask for your prayers for our team as we seek our next pastor.

Peace,  
Tim

## Bound by Books – Adult Book Club

Bound by Books is a book club that has been meeting on the fourth Tuesday for 15 years! It was started by Michele Hogan, who still organizes the group, and is made up of past and present members of our church and friends. Most months they meet at church at 7 p.m. and are open for new members. Here are a few of the books they will be discussing:

February – The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

March – The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

April – Serena by Ron Rash

May – Orphan # 8 by Kim van Alkemade

“Check in” with Nancy Reed for more information.

## Collecting Children’s Books

Starting February 14th the Mission Committee will support the River Ridge Resource Center by hosting a book drive for Read Across America day on Dr. Seuss’s birthday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Schools throughout the country celebrate in different ways to support literacy. Along with other activities, River Ridge has a book trade-in program where kids can bring in old books and trade them in for new. Chapter books are in high demand so we are asking for donations of chapter books for all ages but especially those that might interest 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Thank you for your support!

## Session Highlights

December 2015

- The Manual of Operations update is nearly completed
- A Child Protection Policy and a Sexual Misconduct policy were presented for a first read. Comments are being solicited and the documents will be reviewed at the January session meeting.
- Committees have been asked to send an annual report for congregational meeting in January, to be held on January 31 after worship
- Crystal Harden was elected as Clerk of Session for 2016.
- Dan Alexander was elected as Treasurer for 2016.
- Cleaning of membership rolls was discussed with a list drawn up of members who have not attended in recent months to be contacted
- The 2016 budget was presented, reviewed and approved.
- Dates for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper were approved for 2016
- The following special offerings were approved: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost offering and Souper Bowl
- Request from a Crescent Springs Alcohol Anonymous group to use the building on Friday nights starting in January was approved

## Financial Update

	December Budget	December Actual	2015 YTD Budget	2015 YTD Actual
Income	\$12,862	\$13,627	\$156,756	\$158,751
Expense	\$17,459	\$17,459	\$160,470	\$151,362
Difference	(\$4,597)	(\$3,832)	(\$3,714)	\$7,389

## February Calendar

Wednesdays – 7:00 – P.N.C. Meeting

Fridays – 7:00 A.A. Meeting

Saturdays – 8:00 a.m. – Men’s Fellowship

February 4 – 7:30 Deacon Meeting

February 5 – 12 noon Tabitha Guild

February 7 – “Souper” Bowl Sunday, deadline for donating wash cloths for the P.D.A.

February 9 – 6:30 Mardi Gras for Homeless Children event

February 10 – 5:30 Soup Supper, 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service

February 11 – 5:30 Worship Committee, 6:30 C.E. Committee, 7:00 Mission Committee

February 14 – 11:00 Young at Heart Luncheon, Start of Children’s Book Collection

February 17 – 5:30 Soup Supper, 6:30 Lenten Service

February 19 – 12 noon Tabitha Guild

February 23 – February 16 – 7:00 Session Meeting; 7:00 Bound by Books (Boys in the Boat)

February 24 – 5:30 Soup Supper, 6:30 Lenten Service

February 25 – 10:30 Happy Travelers

February 28 – 3:00 Flames Youth Group meeting and bowling event