



September 2016

**Pastor**

Rev. Carol Ferguson

**Session**

***Class of 2017***

Meaghan Mullin  
Jim Burdick  
Stacey Ross

***Class of 2018***

Shannon Murphy  
Tim Reed  
Jeff Buckhout

***Class of 2019***

Stephanie Boyd  
Sarah Cottongim  
Amy Rigney

***Clerk of Session***

Crystal Hardin

**Committee Chairs**

***Stewardship/Finance***

Dan Alexander

***Worship***

Kim Newton

***Christian Education***

Erin Murphy

***Mission***

Heather Alexander

***Building and Grounds***

Walt Cottongim

***Congregational Care***

Becky Burdick

***Personnel***

Meaghan Mullin

***Growth and Evangelism***

Jim Burdick

***Clarion Editor***

Terry David  
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Crescent Springs  
Presbyterian Church



**Who Is My Neighbor? An Invitation to Conversations on Race and Faith**

Perhaps the most famous parable in our Bible is the parable of the Good Samaritan. It begins with a lawyer questioning Jesus:

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And Jesus said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29-25)

It’s a question that still reverberates today: Who is our neighbor?

Christians in this country have a long and complicated history of answering that question when it comes to cross-racial relationships. In the past two years, we have seen vividly that that history is far from over, as stories about racial injustice and violence fill our news cycle. What we see can leave us confused, angry, scared, exhausted, or conflicted. Despite my seminary education, I often confess that I feel ill-equipped to enter conversations about these events. However, I also recognize that most dangerous—and devastating—response white Christians can have to racial inequality is silence.

To that end, I invite you to a series of conversations on race and faith during the month of September, every Wednesday from 7-8PM. On September 7, we’ll talk about where we’ve been, sharing our experiences and understanding from our own personal histories. On September 14, we’ll talk about where we are, discussing what we hear in the news and in our lives. On September 21, we’ll talk about the resources our faith provides for us, looking at scripture, faith initiatives, and the newly approved Confession of Belhar, part of our Book of Confessions. On September 28, we’ll ask where we can go from here, looking back over our conversations and discerning where God might lead us next. You are welcome to any or all of these conversations—the more voices in the room, the better!

Even if you cannot make it on Wednesday evenings, I hope you will hold this country and all its people in your prayers as we strive for liberty and justice for all, and this church as we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Peace,

Carol

## Mission

Back to School means Food for Thought!

Once again CSPC will support the River Ridge Resource Center by providing weekend meals to children who are food insecure. We are in need of **individual sized 8 oz. meal entrees, cereal or cereal bars, shelf-stable milk, 100% fruit juice, 6-count cracker packs** and fun treats like fruit snacks. We are also in need of large brown paper grocery bags for packing.

**Our first pack will be on Sunday, September 4th following the service.**

Heather Alexander



## Sunday School is for Everyone!

Sunday School Kickoff is September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.! We will have Adult Sunday School led by Craig Mullin. We will be studying the PCUSA Engage Curriculum. Middle school youth will be studying Reform - Ancestors, and elementary youth will be continuing with Grace and Gratitude. We still need teachers to be part of the important ministry of youth Sunday School. If you feel called to teach, please let a CE committee member know.

Erin Murphy

## Men's Softball



The men's softball season came to an end on Monday, Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, when we lost a close battle to the Lakeside Christian team 7 – 6.

We have been playing in the Kenton County sponsored church softball league for the past 16 season. Every year is enjoyable as this is a fun opportunity to participate with other churches in the area in good fellowship and competition over the great game of softball. This was one of our most enjoyable seasons. We had numerous current and past members of CSPC play with us this year. In total we had a total of 16 men join us at some time during the season. We finish the

regular season at 6 wins and 3 defeats to tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. For me the best part of the men's softball team is the chance to play a game that I still love, but more importantly is the opportunity to watch a great group of young men represent our church in such a positive manner and have fun with other guys in the league. Past and present members of CSPC who played this year are:

Ian Boyd, JD Boyd, Jeff Buckhout, Scott Buckhout, Chris Cottongim, Shawn Handlon, Scott Mozea, Shannon Murphy, Charlie Perine, Tim Reed, Tom Ross.

We are all looking forward to 2017 and another season.

Peace,  
Tim



## Fantasy Football League Forming

Fantasy Football season is right around the corner; we just need to know who wants to participate. As in the past, to keep us honest and invested, it will cost \$20 to participate. Just like previous years, at the end of the season, the winner gets to designate where the prize money will be directed at church (I've got my eye on some new softball uniforms to show off my muscles).

We will once again be using Yahoo to manage the league and scoring will just be straight scoring. At this time, I just need your email address if you intend to play, my email is s\_mozea@yahoo.com.



## Save the Dates for Fun and Fellowship

The Congregational Care Committee will sponsor a community chili supper on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> in conjunction with Trunk or Treat, which Sarah Cottongim is organizing. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to our church! The Adult Christmas Party has been scheduled for Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. More details will follow in the bulletin and the November Clarion.

## Happy Travelers are Changing Plans

The Happy Travelers Club have elected to postpone our trip to La Comedia until October. The date to be determined if we can get a total of 20 people to go. As of today, we do not have enough people to get the group price which is \$38. We need to work 30 days out. Reservations must be made 30 days before the performance with payment. I will make a date of October 20th to go La Comedia, therefore, I will need all reservations and money by **September 20**. This will give us a month to get the number of people we need to get the group discount price. Without the discount, the event is very expensive and we will not be able to attend, so please sign up in the narthex as soon as possible

This month the Happy Travelers are having lunch at Jewell's on Main in Warsaw. We invite everyone to join us. We just have fun!

Betty Eichelberger

## Flames Youth Group



The Flames are looking forward to an exciting year! We will be visiting Kidz Klub at Cornerstone Ministries again on September 4th, and will have our Kick Off Party for all members, including our incoming 5th graders on September 18th. We have many fun activities planned for this year, and can't wait to get started!

Erin Murphy

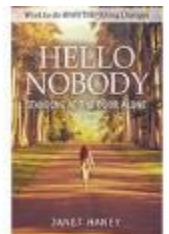
## How are We Doing?

Did you know that Doug Thompson and Jim Burdick keep the weekly attendance at church? Here is an overview of how attendance has been over the last four years. They also keep notes that explain why attendance might be high like Easter or Mother's Day or if there was snow and ice on Sundays with lower than normal attendance. This is great information for us to work with, but it is also required for our annual report that is sent to Louisville. Are you surprised that the numbers are fairly consistent? You can do something about that! Why not share your love of CSpC with your friends and neighbors?!

	2013	2014	2015	2016
January	45	63	51	53
February	67	59	63	60
March	85	65	54	65
April	72	66	66	56
May	71	61	65	65
June	68	58	60	60
July	74	57	59	68
August	75	51	57	70
<b>Yearly Average</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>62</b>

## Author! Author!

One of our past members has just been published! The Haney family attended CSpC in the late eighties and early nineties. Over the last twenty years, Janet Haney has faced unimaginable trials. She has documented how her faith is bringing her through these trying times in the book Hello Nobody which is available through Amazon in paperback format or as a free download to your Kindle. I recommend this book; it is very inspirational and might even be a good book for a Bible study on how to deal with life when everything changes and will never be the same again. I will gladly share my copy.



Terry David

## Getting to Know Carol – Part 2

### Places you have lived

I was born in Ellicott City, MD, but we moved “back home” to Salem when I was four, so I don’t remember Maryland very well (although I’ve often been teased about my “northern accent”—you’ll have to judge for yourself!). I attended Sweet Briar College in central Virginia, seminary in Richmond VA, and held two internships in North Carolina—one as an intern minister in Henderson, and one as a hospital chaplain in Raleigh. I also spent a summer abroad living in Oxford, England, which may not count but I am more than willing to claim!

### Place you have visited

I’ve been very lucky to be able to travel a fair amount, both within the US and internationally. I come from “museum people” so my family tended to head to urban centers for vacation. I’ve been to lots of cities up and down the East Coast (and a few further west), though I’ve still got lots more to see! I’ve also had the opportunity to travel to England, Scotland, Ireland, Greece, Turkey, Israel/Palestine, France, Switzerland, Austria, and Hungary. Currently on the top of my bucket list: Italy, Australia, and Canada!

### Favorite High School memory

My favorite high school memory is definitely playing the Mother Abbess in our production of *The Sound of Music*. I hadn’t done any theater at the school and was shocked to be cast, but the whole experience was wonderful. I had been a pretty quiet kid in high school, so this was definitely my time to shine! To this day, Psalm 121 is one of my favorite passages of scripture, partly because the Mother Abbess quotes it at the end of the play: “I lift up my eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.”

### Favorite College experience

This is a lot harder to pick—I loved my time in college and have so many great memories! What I loved about my time at Sweet Briar in general, though, is the community made sure each of its members knew how much they mattered. Sometimes that happened in silly ways—lots of personalized gifts and monogrammed cups and big/little sister programs. But more often we just took the time to get to know each other, to listen to each other’s stories and ideas, to find ways to raise up each other’s gifts. In some ways, it’s actually my college experience that touched off in me my love for the community-sized church—churches where each person is known, loved, and lifted up.

### Do you like sports? (favorite sport to participate in, favorite one to watch)

Does ballet count? I’m terrible at sports, both clumsy and easily distracted. I did have one brief shining moment of glory in high school as the second-place winner of the Chinese Ping Pong tournament. Other than that, I’m happy to stick to the sidelines, preferably at a baseball game.

### Favorite type of TV show

I’m a bit out of the loop on TV shows right now, but I tend to like things that are off the wall—*Pushing Daisies*, *Psych*, *Doctor Who*, *Parks and Rec*. The last thing I binge watched was *Galavant*, a bizarre little musical comedy that ran on ABC a few years back, on the recommendation of my brother. And for sheer beauty, I’ll always recommend *Call the Midwife*—just make sure you have your tissues handy!

### Favorite season of the year

Fall. My birthday’s in October, so that probably influences me a little, but I love watching the trees change colors. I’m always very taken by the idea that there is so much flamboyant beauty in the world, just hiding behind green sameness for most of the year. I’m also a big fan of Advent and Christmas, and fall is the season that nudges us towards those!

## Bound by Books

Our adult book club discussion group is made up of men and women, church members past and present, and community members. Most months they meet at church at 7 p.m. and are open to new members. Here is a list of the books they will be discussing this fall:

September 27 – [Go Set a Watchman](#) by Harper Lee

October 25 – [The Life We Bury](#) by Allen Eskens

November 29 – [All the Land We Cannot See](#) by Anthony Doerr

## Annual Church Picnic



The Annual Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Crescent Springs Community Park (at the corner of Buttermilk and Collins). We will begin right after our church service, so feel free to wear your “picnic clothes” to church. The Congregational Care Committee will provide drinks, ice, paper, plastic products, condiments, and charcoal for the grills. You should bring your meat or entree and If your last name starts with A – M, please bring a sharable side dish; N – Z bring a dessert. Feel free to bring outdoor games or sporting equipment. **DON’T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR CSPC TEE SHIRT!!**

## The Scavenger Hunt was a Success!



On Friday August 5th, CSPC held its first "Greater Cincinnati Scavenger Hunt". The purpose of the hunt was to share some of our favorite spots in the area with Carol. We had a great turn out for the inaugural hunt with 10 adults and 8 kids participating: The Reeds, Burdicks, Mullins, Mozeas, Sheryl Eichelberger, and of course Carol. We used Facebook messaging to share pics as the various clues were found. We started at 6:30 with the first pictures coming in at about 6:31! Although the scoring was difficult to tabulate, most agreed the team of Tim, Sheryl, Carol and Ashlynn won, remembering and photographing the sign for Pleasure Isle. Other areas we visited were the riverfront, Newport Peace Bell, Skyline, Wal-Mart, and Reality Tuesday Coffee Shop. We ended the evening with snacks back at church. Hopefully you can join us next year!!

Thanks,  
Scott

## Committee Chairs and Meeting Dates

CSPC Committees are always looking for more people to help. If you are interested in becoming more involved, call one of the following committee chairpersons to volunteer:

Building and Grounds – Walt Cottongim – meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.  
 Christian Education – Erin Murphy – meets on the second Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.  
 Congregational Care – Becky Burdick – meets the first Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
 Mission – Heather Alexander – meets on the first Thursday at 5:30 p.m.  
 Planning for Growth and Evangelism – Jim Burdick – meets on the second Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
 Session – This is an elected position – meets on the second Mondays at 7:00 p.m.  
 Worship – Kim Newton – meets on the first Thursday at 5:30 p.m.  
 Finance – Dan Alexander – meets when needed  
 Personnel – Meaghan Mullin – meets when needed

Committees occasionally change their meeting dates due to conflicts, so please check with the chairperson if you are volunteering.

## Building and Grounds Update

We are in the process of raising funds to update/improve the basement area of the church. To date we have raised \$3,500 dollars of our \$10,000 goal. We have begun our initial phase of improvements. The basement has been painted both the ceiling and the walls. We have also installed new lighting to improve this area. The next step is to look at options for the flooring. Once we have this completed we will once again have useable are for our church programs as well as area that can be used by the community. Please stay tuned for updates on our progress.

Listed below please see the various projects that have been completed to improve the church facilities and allow for us to have space to provide for our activities here at CSPC

Basement Water Issue corrected	Kitchenette Painted	Gathering Room Painted and Decorated
New Lights & Ceiling repaired Basement	Meeting Room updated/Painted	Men's Bathroom painted / updated
Basement Wall Painted	Pastor's study new carpet	Pastors Bathroom painted / updated
Removal of Dead tree in Parking lot	Church office painted/carpet	New Door Bell
Hot water issue resolved	Hallway Painted Outside/office	AC Repair sanctuary

Although the initial campaign to raise funds for the basement remodel is scheduled to be over at the end of August, you can still donate through the collection plate. Be sure to put "Basement Remodel" in the memo line.

## September Calendar of Events

Fridays – 7:00 A.A. Meeting

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

September 1 – Worship Committee 5:30 p.m.; C.E. Committee 6:30; Congregational Care Committee 7:00 p.m.

September 2 – Tabitha Guild noon – 2:00 p.m.

September 4 – Pack Food for Thought bags 11:00 a.m.; Flames Meeting

September 6 - Cornerstone

September 7 – Who is My Neighbor Discussion 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

September 8 – Mission Committee 7:30 p.m.

September 11 – Sunday starts for the 2016/17 school year 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.

September 12 – Session 7:00 p.m.

September 14 – Planning for Growth and Evangelism 6:30 p.m.; Who is My Neighbor discussion 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

September 15 – B. and G. Committee 7:00 p.m.

September 16 – Tabitha Guild noon – 2:00 p.m.

September 18 – Church Picnic 11:00 a.m.; Flames Meeting

September 21 – Who is My Neighbor discussion 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

September 22 – Happy Travelers going to Jewell's on Main 10:30 a.m.

September 27 – Bound by Books ([Go Set a Watchman](#))

September 28 – Who is My Neighbor discussion 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.