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# The Clarion

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2004

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## CRESCENT SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### Mike's Meanderings

There's a story about a farmer—a not-too-bright farmer!—who was planning a dinner party. He wanted to make sure he'd have plenty of milk to serve his guests, so he refrained from milking his cow for 10 days. He figured she'd give 10 times the normal amount of milk when he finally milked her on the morning of the party. To his dismay, he learned a bitter lesson. Not only did the cow not yield 10 times the usual quantity of milk, but in the long interim without milking she had actually dried up and had practically no milk to give.

One doesn't have to look very hard to find a stewardship parable in that story. God blesses us with gifts for using, not for hoarding. When we choose not to use our gifts, we lose them. If we don't work a muscle, it weakens. When we don't use our vote, we forfeit our voice in public policy. If we don't practice a musical instrument, we grow rusty and eventually forget how to play.

Jesus told a story about servants entrusted with their Master's resources. Those who put the gifts to work for the Master's benefit won his praise and received even greater gifts, but the servant who hid his gift in the ground lost everything and had to face the Master's disappointment.

As we enter the stewardship season in our church, I hope you'll give serious thought to the gifts you've received from God and how you can offer those back to God's service. We

can let our gifts dry up or we can put them to work for God. As Jesus was fond of saying: "Those who have ears to hear, let them hear!"

Peace!

*Mike*

### Sunday School Update

Sunday School is off to a burning success. What began as a smoldering during the summer has erupted into a full flame. As many as 91 people - with an average of more than 84 - have participated in our weekly studies. Classes are offered for all ages, and you are invited. Why don't you help fan the flame? See you this week!

--Theresa Olson  
Christian Education

### MISSION UPDATE

In August, the Mission Committee (12 members in all) met to organize our efforts for the next several months. Upcoming projects include: food drive for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, Welcome House Heart for Homeless Auction, IHN Host nights (Oct. 13 and Dec. 22), and Christmas gift drive.

Since June, we have helped 11 families with food, rent, utility bills and gasoline.

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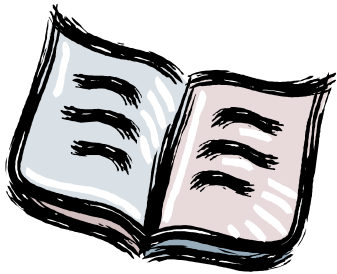
We also provided school supplies, a supply of new underwear, and a gently used crib to the River Ridge Family Resource Center. In addition, we assembled and sent large care packages to two loved ones serving overseas (hopefully in time for Christmas).

Thanks to all who helped out with our August IHN Night: Candy & Jerry Hinners, Doug Thompson, Gieny VanAnrooy, Evalyn Hoskins, Phil & Rae King, Donna Rigney, Sandi Gaines, Jean Walters, Karen & Joel Ginn, and Stephanie & J.D. Boyd.

### **Mission Funds disbursed June through September:**

IHN (collection plate)	\$305.76
One Great Hour (collection plate)	\$50.00
Shared Mission Support	\$2,400.00
Undesignated Mission	\$712.40
PCUSA Mission	\$750.00
Welcome House	\$700.00

***“In every community, there is work to be done.  
In every nation, there are wounds to heal.  
In every heart, there is the power to do it.”***  
--Marianne Williamson



### **Bound by Books**

Bound By Books is reading “Atlas Shrugged” by Ayn Rand, our most challenging book yet. We’re using two meetings (September and October) to discuss Atlas due to its length, nearly 1,200 pages. This best seller for more than three decades should prompt a very lively and philosophical discussion. In November we will be discussing “The Day The World Came To Town, 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland.” We meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at church.

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At our November meeting we will be choosing our books for 2005 so please join us with some suggestions. Many of the books we read come to us as book kits from the local libraries, which makes it very convenient for everyone to have a book without having to purchase it. For questions contact Michele Hogan  
--Sandi Gaines

### **Fellowship News**

The last Sunday of September found CSPC adults and kids enjoying a sundae of a different sort. The ice cream social was held in the Fellowship Hall and ice cream lovers were able to make their own creations. The basic ingredients were provided and the final products were limited only by imagination and the size of the container. Attendees were encouraged to eat as much as possible.

This led to the consumption of cones, shakes, floats, and banana splits. Dessert before dinner was a nice way to end the summer. Pictures from the ice cream social can be found on the CSPC website.

Upcoming Fellowship events will include Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner on Nov. 13, a quilting demonstration for those wishing to learn quilting basics and a football camp for dummies. Watch your calendar for these events.

In coordination with the Worship Committee, we will hold a Christmas tree decorating party on Saturday, Nov. 27 in the evening. Pizza and refreshments will be provided. Youth are encouraged to attend!



## Superpastor

If you've heard talk around the church about Daredevil's discernment, Wonder Woman's wisdom or Batman's sense of justice, then you know what all the buzz is about--Mike Brewer is now a published author!! Yes, Mike's well-kept secret is officially out, and his new book is officially in---hot off the press!!! Mike's newly released spiritual growth book, **Who Needs A Superhero? Finding Virtue, Vice and What's Holy in the Comics** made its debut on Amazon.com on Oct. 2.

H. Michael Brewer, the author, whom we know as our pastor "Mike," has been an avid book reader and storyteller all his life. He has had an ongoing passion for writing as long as he can remember. We have been blessed with some of his best writings in the form of sermons for the past 25 years at CSPC!! Mike is quick to name Cec Murphey, a now retired Presbyterian minister and friend, as having inspired him to pursue Christian writing as a serious endeavor. For several years, Mike made trips to Louisville once a month to meet with the writing class taught by The Rev. Murphey in which he learned a great deal on the craft of writing as well as making many new professional contacts. Mike claims this writing class and mentoring by The Rev. Murphey was a very valuable experience to him by helping to develop and enhance his writing career.

In addition to his insatiable appetite for writing, author H. Michael Brewer (we are still allowed to call him just "Mike"), has been a collector of comic books for the past 40 years---his library sports a collection of approximately 10,000 comic books as well as vintage paperbacks, CDs, autographed photos, original artwork, and other rare collectible items.

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So now we can see how Mike has evolved over the years outside of his life as our pastor. We have actually witnessed some of his Superhero stories in a few of his sermons!! In the Introduction of "Who Needs A Superhero?" Mike lets us know he reads comics because he, along with most of us, admires heroes. Heroes are at the heart of television programs, movies and best-sellers. We look for heroes because we live "in a scary world and hero stories express our longing for safety and security."

In his book, Mike tells the stories of different comic book Superheroes, that are (of course) make-believe, but lets us know that these stories take a spiritual turn. Mike states, "The spiritual hunger for heroes is woven in the fabric of the human creature. Our Maker built us with a persistent longing for a rescuer who will save us from injustice and suffering. We dream of a champion who will lift us and lead us home. In our bleakest moments, we pray for someone to save us from ourselves."

Mike does a terrific job of telling the Superheroes' stories, but gives us the spiritual aspect as well. He makes some insightful (and sometimes ironic) connections between the fictional Superhero stories and the messages of the Scriptures. We all know and appreciate the love and conviction behind Mike's words at the pulpit, now we get to see his passion for Superhero stories and Scripture as they relate and connect in this very well written and enjoyable work.

An interesting tidbit -- some of the book's illustrations contain original artwork of

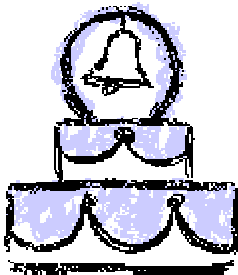
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Kirk Burdick, a former CSPC member and friend of Mike's, who is now living in Savannah, Ga.

"Who Needs A Superhero?" can be purchased on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). You can call one of the local bookstores to specially order, or you may call Kathy at the church office to place an order with Amazon.com.

Mike has another book which will be released at the beginning of next year. He has also written and published Bible studies, Sunday School curriculums and devotionals. He is also in the process of signing a contract with a publishing company to write a third book!!! We are very proud of you, Mike!!!

--Billie Grant



### Wedding Photos

The Deacons are again collecting wedding photos from any couple who was married in CSPC. Submit a 4 X 6 photo with names and date. When there are enough photos collected, they will be combined in a larger picture.

### Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Committee has made some recent changes around the church. One change is organizing so everything has its place and items will be easier to find when you need them.

If you are looking for something, here are some hints:

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WE HAVE A NEW KITCHEN behind the gathering room. If you are having an event in the gathering room, you need not run downstairs for anything. We have a refrigerator, microwave, toaster and sink to help you out. Please feel free to put your items in the refrigerator, but please mark with your name and the date so we can keep it cleaned out. All paper products and utensils are in the kitchen cabinets.

WE HAVE A HISTORIAN ROOM downstairs in the first room on the left. If you have any items or information you would like to drop off to help Billie Grant and Janet Stadtmiller regarding the history of our church, just take it downstairs and place it on the desk.

NEW UNISEX RESTROOM. We no longer have a women's and men's restroom downstairs. There is now a new unisex restroom in place of the old women's room.

FIRST AID KIT: We now have a first aid kit in the cabinet in the 1st grade Sunday School room.

CLEANING SUPPLIES and a small vacuum cleaner are located in the Narthex closet and a regular large vacuum is in the sanctuary behind the left door. There is also a vacuum cleaner downstairs.

We still have projects left to do. Anyone who wants to help please contact Donna Clark. There is still painting, cleaning, organizing, electric work and light bulb changing to be done.

P.S. The next time you see John Miller and family, please take a moment to thank them for doing such a good job

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organizing helpers and keeping our grounds beautiful this summer.

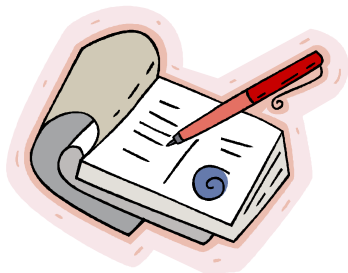
--Donna Clark  
Building & Grounds



### Church Improvements

Thanks to Donna Clark for all the painting, work on the new unisex restroom downstairs, including the new floor, and to John Miller for the new floor in the senior high Sunday School room. We are enjoying the fruits of your hard labor – great job!!!

Thanks to Billie Grant for her endless energy with help in the office, etc.



### CALENDAR

*Men's Prayer Group Meeting every Saturday at 8 a.m.*

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*AA meets every Monday at 8:15 p.m.*

#### OCTOBER

- Oct 23 - Coffee House 7:00 p.m.
- Oct 24 - Gold Sparks 12:00
- Oct 24 - Flames 6:30
- Oct 26 - Bound by Books 7:00
- Oct 27 - Bells 6:30/Choir 7:30
- Oct 29 - Lunch Bunch 12:00
- Oct 31 - Gold Sparks 12:00
- Oct 31 - Firesiders Trick or Treat for Unicef

#### NOVEMBER

- Nov 1 - Piecemakers 7:00
- Nov 3 - Bells 6:30/Choir 7:30
- Nov 7 - Flames 6:30
- Nov 7 - Firesiders 6:30
- Nov 8 - Mary Esther Circle 12:30
- Nov 10 - Bells 6:30/Choir 7:30
- Nov 11 - Lectio Divina 7:00
- Nov 11 - Session 7:00
- Nov 11 - Deacons 7:30
- Nov 13 - Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
- Nov 14 - Gold Sparks 12:00
- Nov 15 - Christian Education 7:00
- Nov 17 - Bells 6:30/Choir 7:30
- Nov 21 - Gold Sparks 12:00
- Nov 21 - Flames 6:30
- Nov 21 - Firesiders 6:30
- Nov 23 - Bound by Books 7:00
- Nov 24 - Bells 6:30/Choir 7:30
- Nov 27 - Youth Decorate for Advent
- Nov 28 - Gold Sparks 12:00