
The Clarion

FEBRUARY 2005

CRESCENT SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Mike's Meanderings

Do you like riddles? Here's a good one:
Often talked of, never seen,
Ever coming, never been,
Daily looked for, never here,
Still approaching, coming near.
Thousands for its visit wait,
But alas for their fate,
Though they expect me to
appear,

They will never find me here.
Okay, it's not a very hard riddle. You probably figured it out right away. It's funny how much time we spend worrying and fretting about something that never really gets here. All we have is today, and Jesus taught us that there is quite enough to deal with today without adding tomorrow to our agenda.

Jesus wasn't condemning common sense preparations for the future. It really does make sense to buy a snow shovel and a bag of salt *before* the snow arrives. Setting up a college fund or a retirement plan is simple prudence. Servicing your brakes before they fail is not only smart, it could also be a life-saver.

No, Jesus wasn't discouraging common sense; he was warning us of the heavy cost of worry. Worry never lightens tomorrow's load, it only burdens us today with fears that may never come to pass. In fact, most of things we worry about never do actually happen, or if they do they are rarely as terrible as we imagined. Worry has the power to rob today of all joy, and frankly worry may also diminish the number of tomorrows we can count on because worry is a killer.

This is the day the Lord has made. Let's make the most of it and trust God to handle tomorrow. In the riddle of life, the answer is "faith." Or as the psalmist puts it: "Do not fret—it leads only to evil."

Mike

New Years Resolutions 2005

Don't be a lukewarm Christian - if you are, now resolve to attend church 52 Sundays a year.

Do be generous with your time and talents

- there are many committees who need your help to meet the needs of our congregation. Volunteer yourself - you will be received with open arms!! Can you sing or even just enjoy singing?? The voice choir needs fresh and enthusiastic voices. Be a part of this group who enjoys fellowship just as much as singing. No auditions required!

Give YOUR tenth to the church and its work - Resolve to do all in your power to arrive at an acceptable spirit to give your gifts to the Lord and to help in time as well.

Enroll the kids in Sunday School - What a wonderful experience for the kids to learn God's message. We are blessed with the best of teachers who make learning fun. As the children grow and learn together spiritually, they form lasting friendships as well.

Help make your community a better place to live - Be neighborly. Get involved with the P.T.A. Volunteer your time for community projects. Invite your neighbor to church. God calls us to serve in our community and in our every day lives as well as our church.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!!



Grocery Store Reward Program (formerly known as the Gift Certificate Program) Update

CSPC has been involved in various grocery store gift

certificate/reward programs since March 1998. By shopping at Kroger, Remke and Meijer, we are able to earn money for the church. Currently, the proceeds from these purchases benefit the Building Fund.

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Since 1998, we have earned \$11,343.96! The programs do not cost you, the shopper, anything. If you don't currently participate in one of these programs and you shop at one of these stores, please see Bev Glenn about getting started.

--Ginny Clark

The **Young at Heart Luncheon**, sponsored by the Fireside Senior High Youth Group, will be Sunday, February 13 following the 11:00 service. All adults (21 and above) in the congregation are welcome to attend. There is a sign up sheet posted in the narthex. Please join us for lunch and let the Firesiders show their appreciation for your love and support throughout the year.

CSPC Youth Group News

Both the **Flames and Firesiders** youth groups have had a busy and fruitful season which started last September.

The Flames have been discussing environmental issues and have built a compost bin to study the decomposition process. They will eventually utilize its contents in a church landscaping project in the spring. They also provided Christmas baskets to the shut-ins in December. All middle school students are invited to join for fun, learning and fellowship. (Jenny Paulin, Mike and Billie Grant)

The Firesiders participated in "Trick or Treat" for Unicef and raised \$180.00 for this organization. They also sent cards to the shut-ins at Christmas. They will be hosting the "Young at Heart" luncheon to be held at the church February 13. All high school students are encouraged to join this lively group. (Bethany Brewer and Kevin Ball).

JUDGEMENT DAY: Referees Alan Vicory and Tim Reed Call The Shots!!

From 9 till 5 they are dressed in business attire, but when the evening whistle blows, Alan and Tim transform into the Men in Black (and white) stripes!!



Alan Vicory's interest in becoming a referee was first sparked while playing junior high school football. He was inspired by a particular referee who eventually became Alan's role model. Now in his early 50's, Alan has enjoyed officiating high school football in Ohio for the past twenty-five years. He receives much satisfaction in officiating a good game, and his goal is to call each play as accurately and consistently as possible. Alan admits it is difficult to call a "perfect" game, but still strives to achieve perfection to the best of his ability. Although he appreciates positive feedback from coaches and players, he knows he has called a good game when he walks off the field literally unnoticed and knowing inside he has done the best job possible.

Alan's "day job" is Executive Director and Chief Engineer at ORSANCO, a company that controls and abates water pollution in the Ohio River states and he frequently travels abroad to assist other countries in water quality improvements. He and his company coordinate the yearly "River Sweep", a volunteer riverbank clean-up effort that spans the entire length of the Ohio River.

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Alan plays an active role in CSPC church life in many ways such as youth mentor, chairman of the Finance Committee, and liturgist. Alan has recently "dusted off" his old drum set and has blessed us with his musical talents at the 8:30 a.m. services. As an active environmentalist, Alan will be guest lecturing the church youth group on environmental issues this spring and will be organizing a CSPC team to assist with River Sweep 2005.



Tim Reed has refereed youth basketball in Northern Kentucky for fourteen years. As the quintessential sports enthusiast, Tim loves teaching and motivating young athletes as much as he enjoys officiating. Tim feels that is important to help the young players understand why a certain call was made when he "blows the whistle" on them. He has had much pleasure in seeing a number of young players mature into superb athletes over the years. Tim's constant interaction with the youth inspires him to continue officiating every year.

Tim is a Systems Analyst for I.B.M. and provides technical support for computer systems. As a former employee of Cincinnati Bell, Tim has worked for I.B.M. for the past five years.

Tim is an exceptional role model to our own youth and adults here at CSPC. He is an ordained Elder as well as co-chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, and serves on the Growth Committee. It is always a pleasure to watch Tim as coach of the CSPC Men's softball team as he leads and inspires his team to victory on and off the field!!

-----Editor



Lectio Divina:

If you've seen the words "lectio divina" and wondered what they meant, you may want to come to a lectio small group experience. Lectio divina is Holy reading, a way of reading and meditating on scripture. Karen Ginn leads the group by choosing a scripture passage and reading in aloud 2-3 times. Each person listens and quietly waits (10-15 minutes) to see what the passage may be saying to him or her. After our quiet time we share our thoughts and questions about the reading and our personal meditations.

The group will meet on Wed. Feb 9, 7:30-8:30 pm and Wed. Mar 9, 7:30-8:30 pm in the basement. Lent would be a great time to try this wonderful way of allowing scripture to speak to you. If you have questions call Karen Ginn or Sandi Gaines.



Bound by Books has made their reading selections for 2005. Please feel free to join us for our discussion any or every month this year. We meet in the boardroom on

the 4th Tuesday night of each month from 7-8 pm. For questions contact Michele Hogan.

Jan 25--The Human Stain, Philip Roth
 Feb 22-- A Girl Named Zippy, Haven Kimmel
 Mar 22-- Bel Canto, Ann Patchett
 Apr 26--A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith
 May 24-- House of Sand and Fog, Andre Dubus III
 Jun 28-- The Shadow of the Wind, Carlos Ruiz Zafon
 July 26--Prodigal Summer, Barbara Kingsolver
 Aug 23--To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
 Sept 27--Under the Banner of Heaven, Jon Krakauer
 Oct 25--My Sister's Keeper, Jodi Picoult
 Nov 26--The Five People You Meet in Heaven, Mitch Albom
 Dec 27--To Be Decided

Welcome House of Northern

Kentucky, Inc. is grateful to be active within a dedicated coalition of churches that is committed to helping those less fortunate through so many meaningful ways during the year. Through every gesture you make, (contributions, itemized drives, volunteering, or individual attendance at events) you all do indeed make a difference in the lives of adults and children who experience homelessness. This terrific support is cherished throughout our agency. Best wishes for a blessed Holiday Season and our deepest gratitude for the prayers and support of our ministry.



MISSION YEAR-END UPDATE

Thanks to the congregation for your generous donation of food items and gifts for our Christmas distribution to needy families. We provided food baskets to 38 families and Christmas gifts to 10 families. Thanks to all who helped with the assembly and distribution.

Also, thanks to those of you who helped with the IHN Christmas gift wrap booth at Florence Mall! The program raised \$11,600 with 1,687 volunteer hours were logged!

Our December 22nd IHN Night was cancelled due to the winter storm. The families stayed at the Wildwood Inn until the roads were passable. Thanks to all who volunteered. Although our December night was cancelled we can use your help on our **next IHN night on March 2nd.**

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During 2004 IHN helped 48 families, providing 14,364 meals, 92 hotel nights, and 4,778 sheltered units at host churches. (Wow!)

Mission Funds disbursed in 2004:

Covington Community Center	\$ 250.00
River Ridge Family Resource Center	\$ 300.00
Northern Kentucky Interfaith	\$ 150.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 150.00
PCUSA Mission Project	\$1,500.00
Per Capita Assessment	\$3,164.00
Shared Mission Support (GA)	\$7,200.00
Theological Seminary	\$ 300.00
Undesignated Mission	\$4,149.26
United Ministries	\$ 100.00
Weekday School of Religion	\$ 200.00
Welcome House	\$1,400.00
Total MISSION	18,863.26

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

-- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

One great hour of sharing

For more than fifty years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in supporting One Great Hour of

Sharing (OGHS), responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need. The refugee and the stranger have found food and safe shelter; those stunned by the aftermath of disasters have found relief and help rebuilding; and communities seeking to take control of their future have found partners in development.

OGHS gifts are divided among three programs as follows:

- ❖ 36% Presbyterian Hunger Program for ministries working to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes, responding with compassion and justice to poor and hungry people in local communities, in the nation, and

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throughout the world, as well as ministries addressing homelessness and affordable housing.

- ❖ 32% Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for disaster response and ministries with refugees.
- ❖ 32% Self-Development of People for partnerships with groups of people who are oppressed by poverty or social systems, who want to take charge of their own lives, have organized to do something about their own condition, and have decided what they need to do to produce long-term benefits for themselves.

We will be providing more information on OGHS in the coming weeks. The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given over the last half century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came that all might have life more abundantly.

(Excerpts from the PCUSA Website).

--Mission Committee

Special Thanks to Dawn Miller with her brilliant work on the CSPC website. Click on <http://www.cspchurch.net> and you will discover what our church is all about !! The website also contains upcoming events and reminders, as well as weekly sermons in text form by Pastor Mike.



Our December Graduates

Bethany Brewer graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in Music Education at Northern Kentucky University. She was

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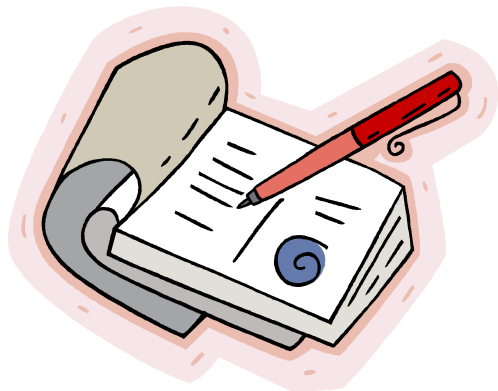
an active vocalist in the NKU Chamber Choir and Jazz Choir. Bethany is currently teaching on a temporary assignment at the Notre Dame Academy in Park Hills as she pursues a master's degree in Education at NKU.

When asked if she had any advice for students pursuing a successful college career, Bethany replied, "Find what you love to do, and then you will wake up happy every morning knowing that you are doing what God has intended for you."

Adam Reed graduated with a bachelor's degree in History with a minor in Political Science at Northern Kentucky University. He is currently working at Fidelity Investments and keeping his options open to a career where he can incorporate his education. Adam gives much credit to his parents for his success in college and claims they encouraged him to always do better. He is also thankful for the help of his fiancée Amanda, who helped him edit those last-minute papers.

Looking for a Babysitter?

Grace Thoeny, age 11 and a half, has completed the Red Cross babysitting course and is now available for babysitting children ages 16 months and older. Call her if you need her!



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

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

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Feb 3 - Deacons 7:30
Feb 6 - Flames 6:30
Feb 6 - Firesiders 4:30
Feb 7 - Piecemaker's 7:00
Feb 9 - Soup Supper 6:00/Service 7:00
Feb 9 - Choir 7:30
Feb 9 - Lectio Divina 7:30
Feb 13 - Gold Sparks 12:00
Feb 13 - Young at Heart Luncheon 12:00
Feb 14 - Mary Esther Circle 12:30
Feb 14 - Session 7:00
Feb 16 - Choir 7:30
Feb 19 - Soup Supper 6:00/Service 7:00
Feb 20 - Gold Sparks 12:00
Feb 20 - Flames 6:30
Feb 20 - Firesiders 6:30
Feb 22 - Bound by Books 7:00
Feb 23 - Soup Supper 6:00/Service 7:00
Feb 23 - Choir 7:30
Feb 25 - Lunch Bunch 12:00
Feb 27 - Gold Sparks 12:00
Feb 28 - Christian Education 7:00