

The Clarion

710 Western Reserve Rd. Crescent
Springs, KY 41017

Late Summer 2005 Edition

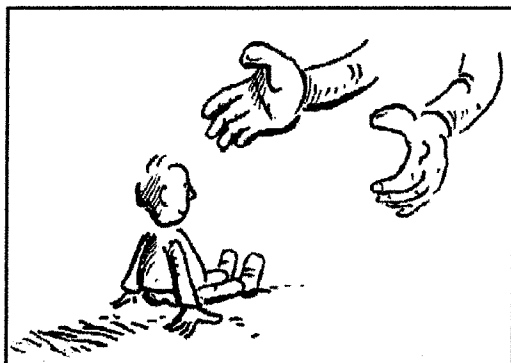
Visit Our Website at:
www.cspchurch.net

(859)341-9347

Billie L. Grant, Editor
Kathy Vicory and
Joan Gillman,
Production
The Congregation, Reporters

Mike's Meanderings

During my morning devotions today I read from Mark 5. That chapter tells how Jesus encountered a man possessed by many demons and made up his mind to free the man from his tormentors. The demons beg Jesus not to cast them into the void, but to allow them to enter a nearby herd of pigs. Jesus freed the man from demonic possession, but he also granted the request of the demons.



As I pondered the story, I was struck by the fact that Jesus had pity on the demons. He showed mercy to those creatures from hell who had set themselves against God's will and done so much harm to an innocent man. What amazing love! Even the worst of the worst are not beyond the compassion of Jesus.

The story encourages me. Perhaps the most persistent problem in Christian faith is accepting God's love. We know our own flaws so well. We can readily catalogue all the shortcomings, failures, mistakes, sins, and cruelties we

carry on our conscience. We say that God loves us, but we often have difficulty believing that doctrine. We cannot experience God's love because we wrestle with our own unworthiness. How could God love a loser like me? How could God forgive someone who has done the petty, hurtful things I've done?

But the story of the Gerasene demoniac teaches us that the mercy and love of Jesus extends even to creatures of hell. I might be bad, but I'm not that bad! If Jesus can pity the demons, then surely Christ's love is great enough to embrace me. And if Jesus believes you and I are worth loving, who are we to argue?

Peace!

—Mike

Deacon Board In Search of Nursery Manager

The Deacons are seeking a nursery manager for October '05-Sept. '06.

A big thank you to Kim Newton who has been responsible for overseeing the nursery over the past year by making sure that sitters are available for Sunday Worship and other special services at CSPC.

The Deacons are currently seeking to replace Kim for the next year. This job is an important part of our

ministry and provides parents of young children a bit of a break during Sunday worship to listen to God's word with the knowledge that their children are in good hands while they worship. We currently have two sitters who regularly work the nursery.

If you are interested in taking on this important role in our church please contact Patricia McGregor

pmcgregor@fuse.net for further information.

-Patricia McGregor

Mission Update

Women's Crisis Center Luncheon

Our "Christmas in July" Gift Gathering Luncheon for Women's Crisis Center took place in the downstairs Fellowship Hall on Sunday July 31st. We had about 25 in attendance and collected a large quantity (estimated value of ~\$1,400) of household and personal items for donation to the Crisis Center! Thanks to all who were involved in this successful event!

IHN

Thanks to all who helped with our last IHN Night on July 20th!

Mark your calendars for our next IHN Night on September 28th!

Mission Wall

The Mission Committee, at the wonderful suggestion of Pastor Brewer, will use the rear wall of the sanctuary to display photos, plaques, etc. that highlight CSPC's mission work. If you have any items that we could place on our

Mission Wall or would like to help with the artistic aspects of the display please contact Dawn Miller or Stephanie Boyd.

RR FRC Book Collection

In September we will be collecting gently used or new children's books for the Family Resource Center at River Ridge. Debbie Burch, director of the FRC, plans to construct a book reading area for the kids who visit the FRC. More info to come.

-Dawn Miller

Sci-Fi Summer To Conclude Saturday, Sept. 10

Earthlings of all ages are invited to bid farewell to summer '05 and visiting aliens at the Sci-Fi Drive-In on Saturday, September 10th.

Dinner and activities will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the basement multi-use space, followed by the showing of "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" at 7:00 pm. Reserve your "parking space" on the sign up sheet in the gathering room.

-Lynne Baker



Joyful Noises: CSPC Music Ensembles Invite You To Join!

Come Christians, Join To Sing (Or Ring) If you love music, there is a spot waiting for you in the Adult Choir and/or Handbell Choir. Music Director Becky Morrison and CSPC choir members invite anyone who loves to sing or has a desire to express praise and joy to God through music. No auditions are required; a previous musical background is beneficial but not necessary.

Choir member Jo Frances Purdom explains that Becky Morrison works very well with volunteers and “keeps things simple and fun.” She adds that by joining the choir, “one will discover a sense of service that will be rewarding to the soul.” Singing in the choir has helped Jo Frances develop warm friendships with other members of the group and feels a strong sense of camaraderie.

Linda Roberts claims that singing in the choir has put her back in a “second childhood” as she sang in her church choir as a child. She has enjoyed singing with the group for the past few years and is simply “happy to have music back in my life for so long.”

Janet Stadtmiller feels very blessed that God has given her lots of gifts and one of them is the ability to sing His praises. Singing in the choir was something she wanted to do since she was a little girl. She is very thankful for the help provided at an early age by Ruth Schweitzer and Alice Thirs, who taught her how to “hear” the notes as well as sing.

Music Director Becky Morrison’s involvement in the church music programs has been a way for her to actively participate in worship services and develop strong and lasting relationships. Becky adds that the members of the choirs at CSPC are her extended family. “We worship together, share joys and sorrows together, and have a good time together.” She feels she is truly blessed to be a part of this “great group of people.”

If you would like to enhance your worship and become a part of a group that you can grow with spiritually, please contact Becky Morrison or any choir member and you will be received with open arms!!

Page 3 The Clarion



The CSPC Voice Choir welcomes you to join and sing God’s praises with them at the 11:00 service. New members wanted!!



The CSPC Handbell Choir recently attended a hands-on seminar at DePauw University. The group is hopeful to recruit new members and everyone is welcome.

Joyful Noises: Continued

Our God Is An Awesome God!! If you know and can sing this contemporary praise hymn, chances are you were led by the 8:30 a.m. praise band on a Sunday morning.

Several years ago, the decision was made to have two distinct worship services: a more “contemporary” style at the 8:30 a.m. service and a “traditional”-based service at the 11:00 a.m. This decision influenced the style of music to be played at both services.



The ages of the praise band range from 14-56. The band has a love for all types of music and performs at church fellowship events as “Purple Monkey and the Grace Notes.”

At this time, Steve Clark was asked to play the guitar and lead the congregation in contemporary praise music as an adjunct to hymns with piano accompaniment in the 8:30 service. As a newcomer to CSPC, Steve admits he was reluctant to take on this role with his “Southern Baptist-style” of guitar playing and singing. The red book songs were unfamiliar to him and difficult to learn. However, this intrigued Steve to learn new styles of praise music and challenged his playing technique. Steve worked diligently in learning red book songs as well as modifying other songs in his repertoire to suit the tastes of the Pastor and congregation.



Matt Ginn plays both rhythm and bass guitars. His versatility provides an important element to the musical balance of the band.

Steve was soon joined by talented vocalist Sarah Reed. Together they performed duets and led the congregation in praise hymns. Steve’s vision was to add more musicians, and recruiting was a bit difficult in the earlier stages. Steve tapped the church’s youth and began giving guitar lessons. His efforts soon paid off with Alexander Van Melle and Matt Ginn joining in on Sunday mornings. He continues to teach these talented young men and has become a mentor and friend to them as well.

Steve’s recruiting efforts have continued and the praise band is still growing. He has welcomed Alan and Kathy Vicory, Mark Boyd, and Billie Grant to the ensemble and hopes to add more vocalists in the near future. Steve emphasizes the importance of regular practices and commitment. The band members are dedicated and have a real love of praise music, especially as a group. Diversity and new ideas are always welcome and so are new members!!

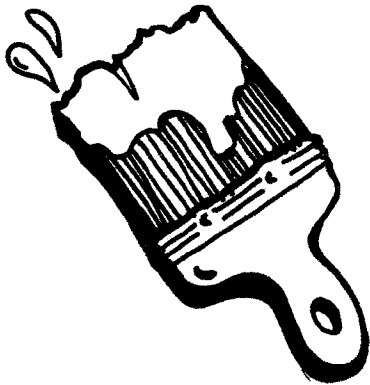
A Note Of Thanks From The Parr Family

Wordie III and I would like to thank our wonderful church family for concern, kind thoughts, beautiful cards, and especially prayers for Wordie, Sr. during these past sad months. The gorgeous flowers at the memorial service and delicious "after" buffet meant so much to our family.

Your kind expressions of sympathy will always be remembered with thanks.



-Eloise Parr



Church Work Day: Saturday, Sept. 10, 10:00 a.m.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is hosting a work day at the church for both inside and outside work and completion of renovations to the Manse to get it ready to rent. Volunteers are needed!! If you are able to help, please bring a paint brush, a roller or rake, that would be a great help!! No skills are required!!

-Tim Reed

Bible 101: An Invitation To Join Adult Sunday School

The Pastor's Bible 101 Sunday School Class will pick up where we left off when we adjourned for the summer, concluding the story of David, King of Israel and Judah. David is a fascinating figure, a man whose eventful life abounded with both amazing victories and staggering failures. He also stands at a pivotal point in Jewish history, as the loosely organized tribes of Israel struggle to become a true nation.

New students are always welcome in our class, and you can join us at any time. Here is our projected study schedule for the fall:

Unit One: THE LAST DAYS OF DAVID

Sept 11: *Grief, Mercy, and Rebellion* - 2 Samuel 19-20

Sept 18: *The Forbidden Census* - 2 Samuel 21, 23:8-39, 24

Sept 25: *The Death of David* - 2 Samuel 22, 23:1-7, 1 Kings 1, 2:1-12

Unit Two: THE REIGN OF SOLOMON

Oct 2: *Vengeance, Consolidation, and Wisdom* - 1 Kings 2:13-46, 3

Oct 9: *Solomon the Magnificent* - 1 Kings 4-7

Oct 16: *The Temple* - 1 Kings 8

Oct 23: *A Warning for the Future* - 1 Kings 9

Oct 30: *Great Glory and Great Sin* - 1 Kings 10-11

Unit Three: THE GREAT DIVIDE

Nov 6: *The North Secedes from the Union* - 1 Kings 12-14:1-20

Nov 13: *From Bad to Worse* - 1 Kings 14:21-31, 15, 16:1-28

Nov 20: *Ahab, Jezebel and Elijah* - 1 Kings 16:29-34, 17-19

Nov 27: *The End of Ahab* - 1 Kings 20-22

-Mike Brewer

50th Wedding Anniversary Photos Wanted

Janet Stadtmiller is seeking photographs of CSPC couples who have reached their 50th wedding anniversary. All anniversary photos obtained will be added together in a framed display in the Narthex. If you have not been contacted by Janet, please call her.

Thank You From Chris Boyd

Chris Boyd and family would like to thank all members of the congregation who have expressed well wishes, prayers and encouragement to him as he is leaving for Iraq. Anyone is welcome to pick up a candle in the Gathering Room as we remember Chris in our thoughts and prayers.

Neighbour in Need:

A local single mother is expecting her fifth child in the next few weeks. Due to pregnancy complications she is on bed rest and is unable to work. She needs baby furniture, clothing, bedding, blankets, and other baby items. If you have any items that you can donate or if you would like to help with the purchase of diapers, bottles, wipes, etc. please contact **Dawn Miller**.

Prayers For Hurricane Victims and Families

Editor's note: *The devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina has made a profound impact on all of us. Doug Thompson has a similar story to tell and recently shared it with the Prayer Partners. Thank you, Doug, for sharing your experience and prayer requests with your church family.*

Prayer Partners-

Outside the rain from what was hurricane Katrina falls, and I can't help but think they are like tears...

In 1970, I was with our Senior High youth group on a mission trip. We chose to help those families whose homes were damaged by the hurricane Camille in '69.

I worked the very area that was devastated yesterday. We based our group in Biloxi, Mississippi, and through the guidance of a local Baptist Church, gave our assistance in helping a mostly elderly and uninsured neighborhood. Houses lifted off their foundations or twisted by the wind. We actually demolished homes by hand with crowbars and sledge hammers, and used the wood over again, to repair the ones we could. The debris fields left by the hurricane became perfect homes for massive colonies of fire ants, which further made lives difficult. It was very hot, dangerous and exhausting work. I only remember the work now. I can not recall that we ever had any recreational activities at the end of the day. I remember coming back to the church to shower, eat, and deep, deep sleep.

This will still be the story. Of those who survived, many of them will not have been able to insure their homes, who will be elderly or living by a shoestring budget. And repairs will be so large, and so costly, they may not be able to do anything.

We were witnesses to a force stronger than the hurricane. We were a group of kids from up North working in an impoverished area of the South. The beginning of the week very few congregation members met with us, thinking we were just do-gooders or hippies. But, the pastor had worked with us and he put out a call on our last day and the congregation showed up, laden with platters and pots of the most incredible food: Gumbos, jambalayas, southern-fried chicken that the Colonel could not equal. After our shared meal we joined them in the sanctuary for the most spirited gospel music I ever saw and heard. Notice that I said "spirited" for surely in that shared meal and in lifted hands and voices, we praised God and all barriers of class, race, and denomination fell away.

Prayers for the dead, for their friends and family. But, many prayers for those who will fall under the radar, the poor and uninsured, the sick and elderly, folks who will be missed even by the groups like FEMA and the Red Cross.

Peace,
Doug Thompson

Page 6 The Clarion

Please visit the Presbyterian
Disaster Assistance website:
<http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/hurricanekatrina-index.htm>

Fellowship Update

The month of July was a busy month for the Fellowship Committee. We co-sponsored two events with the Church Growth and Mission committees.

The "Fun in the Son" musical extravaganza was held at the Fort Mitchell Park on July 2nd. Food, beverages, and an evening of musical entertainment were provided for this event. Our own "Purple Monkey and the Grace Notes" played along with the contemporary Christian rock band, "Last Day".

The second activity was entitled "Christmas in July" to support the Women's Crisis Center. Approximately \$1400 worth of needed items were donated at this event. Refreshments, sandwiches, and desserts were provided along with a brief presentation by a guest speaker.

The Church Picnic normally held in August was postponed until September 3 due to the very warm humid temperatures. More details on this event will be included in the next edition of **The Clarion**.
-Kim Martin

DISCIPLESHIP by Gig Henderson

Our discipleship is in need of an overhaul :

- if we are more upset by someone having a cocktail than by someone else having nothing to eat.
- if more of our friends and co-workers know whether or not we smoke, than whether or not we proclaim Christ.
- when a ninety-minute worship service seems too long, but a come-from-behind victory in extra innings, four-hour baseball game is cherished.
- when we are more comfortable displaying a bumper sticker showing our loyalty to a political candidate than one professing our faith that we "Trust Jesus" and urge others to do the same.
- when thirty dollars for a dinner-for-two seems reasonable, but the same amount in the collection plate is deemed to be excessive.
- when, just after buying a \$1 lottery ticket, we put a few paltry coins in the Salvation Army kettle... if anything at all.
- if we're more likely to pass on a bit of gossip than to pass on our devotion to Christ to an un-churched neighbor.

Become A Reporter For The Clarion

The Clarion is currently seeking enthusiastic church members to submit articles involving all facets of CSPC church life. Our committee heads submit articles on a regular basis, but we welcome contributions from anyone in the congregation. We have many events and gatherings our readers would love to know about!! New ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Be a part of **The Clarion** newsletter team and discover a fun and fulfilling way to offer your creative talents by spreading the news at CSPC!!

**-Billie Grant,
Clarion Editor**

