



Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church

The Clarion

Mike's Meanderings

The green days are coming to an end, not just the green days of summer, but the green Sundays of "ordinary time" on the church calendar. I like "ordinary Sundays." Most of life is comprised of ordinary, daily routines.

But I also cherish the seasons and special days that begin to arrive in the fall. Of course, every day is equally holy, but these church seasons remind us of God's unfolding work among us.

World Communion and Reformation Sunday encourage us to give thanks for the Holy Spirit at work in the church. The church year ends with the Sunday of Christ the King, assuring us that our Lord reigns from heaven and someday all of creation will acknowledge his sovereign rule.

Then the church year begins anew with Advent, marking both Israel's long wait for the Messiah and our continuing vigil for his return. The tender drama of Christmas is the promise of God's saving presence born in our world and born anew in our lives.

As much as the seasons of sun and climate, these church seasons serve as recurring landmarks for me, giving clarity and guidance in my journey of faith.

I hope you'll be participating with us in these next few months, joining your prayers, your songs, and your voice with the rest of our family. In the upcoming days, I hope you'll find rich meaning and ongoing reminders of the gracious God who sees us through every season of life.

Peace!

- - Mike

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H. Michael Brewer, Pastor

Fall 2006 Edition

Visit Our Website at:
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παντοτε χαριτες

New Practice Times For Music Programs

Adult Choir: Sundays 10:00
a.m. in choir room

Gold Sparks (for all youth
of the church): Wednesdays
6:00-6:30 p.m. in choir room

Handbell Choir: Wednesdays
6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Everyone Welcome!



**Special Reformation
Edition**

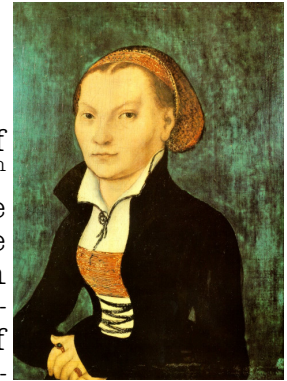
*Don't miss
Reformation Sunday,
October 29th.*

*Meet a few of the
Protestant Reformers
who laid the ground-
work of our church
and enjoy a special of-
fering of music at both
worship services.*

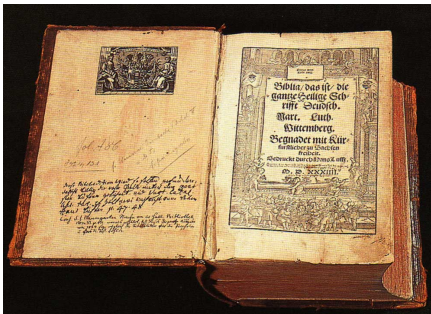
A Letter From Katy Luther

Dear CSPC Church Family,

Greetings to you from 16th century Germany from the wife of Martin Luther. What an exciting month for us! On October 29th we will be celebrating Reformation Sunday! I am sure you have heard of the “95 Theses” that were posted on the doors of Castle Church at Wittenberg that occurred on October 31, 1517. Even Martin Luther himself did not realize what a commotion his beliefs would create! Luther did not intend to spark any kind of revolution, but his beliefs took Europe by storm and the Protestant Reformation spread like wildfire.



Interestingly enough, I was only eighteen at the time. Please let me tell you a little about myself. I had been raised in a convent since the age of three and eventually took my vows as a nun. However, word of Martin Luther's biblical teachings were heard at the convent. Eleven other nuns as well as myself became intrigued with the principles Luther taught. We were thirsty to learn more about the Bible, but it was difficult to do because we could only read it in Latin text. We wanted to hear more, so we escaped the convent in a fish barrel wagon and fled to Wittenberg!



Martin Luther was a hero in Germany at this point but he was also in hot water with the church. A fake kidnapping took place and Martin hid undercover as “Squire George” in Wartburg Castle, overlooking the city of Eisenach. Martin hid for a year, and in this time he translated the New Testament into German so it could be read and understood by everyone in Germany, including the poor. With the help of the newly developed printing press, Martin's German translation of the Bible became widely available; 5000 copies were released in two months time and more were produced for many years to come.

“This Bible is for the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.”—*John Wycliffe (1330-1384), English reformer*

(In an argument with a scholar) “If God spares my life, ere many years I will cause a boy who drives a plough to know more of the Scriptures than you do.” —*William Tyndale (1492-1536), Father of the English Bible*

We have Martin Luther to thank for translating the Bible into German. There are others who paved the way in spreading the word of God in other translations such as John Wycliffe and William Tyndale. These important heroes of the Protestant Reformation have interesting stories to tell and paid a huge price for us to have access to God's word. We can thank them by reading the Bible on a regular basis and incorporating the Good News in our everyday lives.

We can also learn more about the Bible on Sunday mornings at CSPC. Pastor Mike offers a dynamic Sunday School class “Bible 101” beginning at 9:40 a.m. every Sunday. Also, if you haven't noticed, our pews in the Sanctuary are overflowing with copies of the Bible. The next time the Scripture is read by the liturgist or Gig Henderson, please follow along, you will be amazed how much you can absorb by reading while listening. How fortunate we are to have ready access to many versions of the Bible in the 21st century.

“Unless I am convinced by the testimonies of the Holy Scriptures or evident reason ... I am bound by the Scriptures that I have adduced, and my conscience has been taken captive by the Word of God; and I am neither able nor willing to recant, since it is neither safe nor right to act against conscience. God help me. Amen.” —*Martin Luther, at the Diet of Worms*

Happy Reformation!

Katharina von Bora

Session States CSPC Goals for 2006

by Troy Bitter

I have a friend named Colleen who participates in several marathons per year. She's able to complete this 26.2 miles in sub-5 hours. For me, I'll ride a bike or drive a car to go that distance. For Colleen, it's been a journey. She didn't start doing marathons. She started doing 5k walks. Since she could do that, she challenged herself at a 10K. Colleen continued her journey with improving her times, extending the distance, and choosing harder cities and courses.

Colleen set goals for herself. Through the years, she has met those goals and set new ones. Through the journey, she did not just meet goals – she personally grew. CSPC can learn from Colleen. We can challenge ourselves to exceed our own expectations and grow.

Session held a planning retreat early this year. At the retreat, Session discussed, prayed, meditated, and prayed some more to set the 2006 CSPC goals:

- **Increase membership by 50 members.**
- **Maintain attendee engagement at 75% or higher.** Engagement is defined as involved in a church activity. These can range from highly visible (i.e. choir, greeter, etc) or less visible activity (i.e. providing food for funerals, sending get well cards, etc).

These might seem lofty goals, but we wanted to challenge ourselves. This is our first year at formally setting goals. As we continue the process, we'll better understand the spectrum of attainable to are-you-out-of-your-mind.

Session alone cannot attain these goals. The church needs all parts of the body. We've engaged church leaders to be not just aware of CSPC's goals, but also to participate. CSPC ministries and committees are doing activity to support this. Have you noticed improved signage in front of the church? Have you noticed better signage within the building directing people (especially visitors) to restrooms, nursery, sanctuary, office, and more. Share your thanks with the Church Growth committee. They are supporting 2006 goals by increasing awareness of CSPC through physical changes (i.e. signage) and increasing visitor friendliness.

Even more so, CSPC invites you to contribute to meeting these goals. People cannot attend (and definitely not join) unless they know CSPC is here. Share the story. Tell them about the fun events ... interesting programs ... fulfillment from being at CSPC. If you enjoy a restaurant, you probably tell your friends and suggest that they visit it too. Why can't we do that for church? If you enjoy it, share it with others. If someone personally invites you, would you be more inclined to go? I would. I almost forgot ... a whole bunch of research agrees that personal invitations get a better response rate than mass marketing.



Engagement: Eloise Parr, Linda Roberts, Patty Otten, and Doris Moss spend a weekday morning serving the church on the newsletter production team.

For the second goal, we're focusing on attendee "engagement." We all share the worship experience together. Session wants CSPC to share more. Share our talents. Share our time. Share in the fun. In any family, there are things-to-do and things-to-enjoy (and sometimes they are the same thing). We want the congregation to participate in them all, whether it's being a greeter, helping at the church work day, or helping to plan the yearly Easter Egg hunt. It's a way to meet more people and enjoy ourselves more.

Moreover, Session asks for your prayers. Prayerful contemplation helped identify these goals. Prayers and God's good grace will help us strive to meet them.

Prayer Partners: A Unique Ministry at CSPC *by Janet Stadtmiller*



Do you talk to God? Prayer is a way to reach out to God, to share your yearnings, your deepest wishes, your concerns and pleas for forgiveness. Prayer is a way to care for one another. There have been studies that have proven that people who know others are praying for them have quicker recoveries and less pain. Prayer really works both for those who pray and for those who are in our prayers. Jesus said, "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." And prayer can relieve us of the worry over things we cannot control.

Do you want to build or expand your prayer life? Do you have email? CSPC has a unique ministry that may be just right for you. "Prayer Partners," is sponsored by the Deacons and open to anyone. Prayers are gathered by a team of people as they are shared in worship on Sunday at each service of CSPC and joined with a piece of scripture or different type of prayer for focus. Email is then sent to all members of the group. During the week as prayer concerns arise group members can send email to the host so that concerns can be shared daily so that those in need can be enveloped in prayer.

About 70 individuals are currently members of this group. Just think about that! If you know someone who needs prayers, and you bring them to Prayer Partners, you can tell the person that 70 people are raising them in prayer. Even if there is discomfort in sharing the concern that needs prayer, God knows our concerns. Raising prayer for a friend who is having troubles or sickness or worries is sufficient. Prayer Partners can help you become more regular in your personal prayers. Print the email and take it with you as you go through your day. Some people pray in a special place. Some pray on their knees. How do you pray?

Are you interested? Just send an email to jrstadt@fuse.net expressing your desire to belong to this important ministry at our church.

Lectio Devina *by Karen Ginn and Rae King*

Lectio Devina is an ancient spiritual discipline which is literally "praying the Scriptures." For people who enjoy words and reading this is a deep contemplation of the Canon text by listening, and praying in silence for an extended time. The Lectio group at this church began with a few people who wanted to commit to a regular schedule of practicing this discipline together. We meet in a quiet area of the church building for an hour or less on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We welcome any who want to join us.



"For me, praying to God is often easier than listening to God. By hearing God's word in the scripture, I find it easier to hear God's message to me." -**Carol**

"Lectio Divina seems to open the scriptures in a very personal way. Through quiet meditation upon an old Bible verse or story, God can reveal new insights, challenges and inspirations." -**Sandi**

"Each person tries to focus on a word or phrase from the passage that is read. It is interesting to see what caught each person's attention. Sometimes most people see the same thing, but other times the passage says different things to each person. If you have a hectic schedule, it is nice to get away from it all and take the quiet time to focus on scripture." -**Linda**

"Come sit down with us, relax, listen to God's word and just contemplate... in silence. Then share your thoughts with one another in a quiet relaxed setting. Lectio is a nice quiet break from our fast paced noisy lives, a way of listening for God together." -**Rae**

A Welcome to the Murphy Family

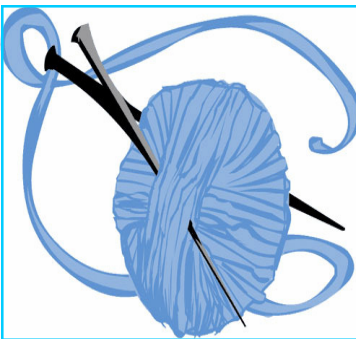
Meet the Murphy's, one of our newest church families at CSPC! Shannon, Erin, and Aidan Murphy are very excited as they are also expecting a baby girl any day now. Shannon is a mechanical engineer at G.E. Aircraft and Erin works part-time as a nurse at St. Elizabeth South on a busy orthopedic floor. Aidan is 2 1/2 years old and attends pre-school.



The Murphy's live in Villa Hills and discovered CSPC by driving past a sign on Buttermilk Pike. Once they started attending, they felt "very welcome with open arms and hearts" by our church family at CSPC. The Murphy family prefers the early 8:30 service as it gives them a chance to spend more family time together later in the day. Shannon likes to spend free time on home improvement projects; Erin enjoys reading and crafts. Aidan is extremely excited in becoming a big brother.

Calling all "Fiber" Artists

by Stephanie Redman



LUNCH AND NEEDLEWORK - KNIT, CROCHET, HOOK RUGS? Join us as we get together occasionally to share our knitting and other needlework projects over lunch. Watch the weekly bulletin for time and date. This is a very casual get together usually on a Tuesday, 11-1pm in the Gathering Room at CSPC. No fees, deadlines or critiques. Just a lot of fun fellowship and awesome projects to share. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please email Lynne Baker at lynne.b@insightbb.com; Stephanie Thoeny at sredman@moderndi.com or Ruth Schweitzer at ruthal@zoomtown.com.

Worship Committee News

by Janet Stadtmiller

- Join us in church on October 29th to see those who helped make us Presbyterians! Meet them in person. Hear about what they did to kick-start the Reformation!
- In order to accommodate our monthly bell choir ringing and to provide some slick seating in the Gathering Room, the last pew on the side where the choir sits will be moved into the gathering room!
- Like to sing but don't want another weekly night out commitment? Beginning October 8th, the 11 a.m. adult choir will be holding choir practice on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Also watch for special one time singing opportunities such as the traditional Christmas Eve service.
- Do you have musical gifts you would like to share in worship? Are you interested in playing an instrument or singing in worship? Contact Becky Morrison.
- Have a favorite hymn? Have it ready when Pastor Mike asks during the worship service.
- Also, we are always seeking your ideas and comments to help us make our worship pleasing to God. Please contact Janet at jrstadt@fuse.net.

Mentoring Program Offers Opportunity To Make a Difference

Doug Thompson and John met once a week last year at Holmes Junior/Senior High School, often over games of “Scrabble” or “Life.” They talked about school and plans for the future. They tackled homework together. Sometimes they just talked about what had happened that day.



By the end of the year, teachers began noticing a change in John. The eighth-grader was more confident, came to school more often and had better behavior in class. Doug is modest in discussing his role in John’s improvement. “He worked hard and deserves all the credit for his success,” Doug said.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati thinks otherwise. The organization recognized Doug this summer, awarding him the “School-Based Big Brother of the Year Award.”

Thompson decided to become a mentor after seeing the devastating news coming out of Louisiana and Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. Throughout the nation people donated clothing, food and money to the Katrina victims, but Doug became inspired to make a difference in his own community. “I want everyone to know that no little bit of time is unimportant to help others,” he said. “Too many people think they don’t have time or have too many problems to help. They get overwhelmed with the number of problems in the world and don’t think they can make a difference. They may not see the difference, but it is there.”

Doug’s life motto is paraphrased from Abraham Lincoln’s Inaugural address, “We should appeal to the better angels.” John and Doug will continue meeting this year at Holmes through the Bulldog Connection Mentoring Program. His goal this year is to continue to encourage John to do good work. “I hope that he will continue to strive to keep up his grades and to show good behavior,” said Doug.

The Covington Independent Public School District is looking for volunteers like Doug to serve as mentors in Covington schools. The high school has a school-based program that allows volunteers to meet with eighth- and ninth-grade students during the day. Two Rivers Middle School has a community-based mentoring program that provides an avenue for mentors to spend time with students outside the school day.

Doug has high expectations for John. “I hope he continues to follow some of the plans that he’s making for himself now - that he achieves some of his dreams,” Doug said. “I also hope that he understands that he needs the skills now to learn for life later on.”

Your Chance To Mentor *by Crystal Harden*



Do you have time to give? Are you looking for a place where you can make a significant impact? Spending time with a child is an effective and fun way to make a difference in the life of a child. At least 80 percent of the students at Two Rivers Middle School come from homes with low incomes. Many of the students live in households with only a single parent. Others live with grandparents or extended relatives because of unstable home situations.

The children need adults in their lives who can serve as role models and friends. The Across Ages mentoring program is looking for volunteers, who are 50 and older, who can become mentors to students. Our program is similar to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Volunteers in our program spend an average of two hours a week with a sixth- or seventh-grade student. The program offers tremendous freedom on how you and your mentee will spend your time. In addition, we provide free tickets to some cultural venues and performances throughout the year. Please contact Crystal Harden at crystal.harden@covington.kyschools.us.

WHY DO PRESBYTERIANS DO THAT



Why do we baptize infants? *by Steve Clark*

It has been estimated that 58 percent of the members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) did not grow up in the denomination. This diverse mix in our church creates questions that we need to answer clearly and concisely. One such question is why do we baptize infants? Sometimes we have clear direction, other times the issue is not specifically addressed. For example the Bible does not say, "Do" or "Do not" baptize infants. So what do we believe?

Infant baptism is all about God's grace! The baptism of a baby signals that God acts on our behalf even before we are able to respond. Through faith, grace is certainly free to us, in the sense that it is not earned or merited. But it was not free to God. Its price was the life of God's only Son, Jesus. And on the human level, it costs us our own lives, which now belong unconditionally to God. Baptism acknowledges our intention to live as God's people. **When an infant or child is baptized the church commits itself to nurture the child in faith.** When adults are baptized they make a public profession of faith. We know our relationship with God depends primarily on what God has done and only secondarily on what we may or may not do. As Presbyterians practice it, baptism is a powerful sacramental enactment of this truth. And because God's gracious call precedes and evokes the human response of faith, it is normal for Christian parents who are active church members to present their children for baptism as infants or very young children.

Practically speaking, the point is that Christ has stood in our place, fulfilling all the divine conditions for our salvation, wholeness and future hope. **Nothing we do or fail to do can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38).**

Prepare Affair 2006

by Dawn Miller

People Working Cooperatively (PWC) will host Prepare Affair 2006 on **Saturday, November 11th**. This is a family event designed to help the elderly and low income families make repairs on their homes. During Prepare Affair, volunteers help the families prepare their homes for winter by raking leaves, cleaning gutters, installing carbon monoxide detectors, installing storm windows, etc. CSPC is organizing a group from church to take part in the event. If you would like to participate, please complete the registration form located in the Narthex. There is also an optional \$6 donation for an event t-shirt. If you will not be participating but would like to help you can sponsor one of our participants with a \$6 donation. **Please give your registration form/money to Dawn Miller or place it in an envelope and into the box in the Narthex by Sunday, October 22.**



CSPC To Participate in Emergency Cold Shelter Project



CSPC will participate in a community service project this winter at the Northern Kentucky Emergency Cold Shelter in Covington. The Mission Committee is organizing dates with the shelter to help provide meals and offer donations of supplies to the guests seeking a warm place to sleep overnight to avoid freezing temperatures during the winter. Please place your donated

items in the Narthex. Thank you from the Mission Committee!!

Items Needed:

- Gently used sleeping bags
- Clothing
- Socks, socks, socks!!
- Mittens
- Caps
- New underclothing
- Toiletries

CLARION CLASSIFIEDS

October Birthdays

October 1- Howard Orth, Anne Daugherty
 October 2- Wordie Parr III
 October 3- Zach Peters
 October 7- K.C. Stadtmiller
 October 9- Laura Beth Thrasher
 October 13- Mary Maegly, Michael Hicks
 October 16- Candace Hanners
 October 17- Dan Alexander
 October 20- Franklin Greenhow
 October 23- Verdia Peeno, Steve Thrasher, Sarah Handlon
 October 25- Sam Bitter, Bill Wynn
 October 27- Mona Scott
 October 28- Paul Eubank, Donna Rigney
 October 29- Bryan Hicks

November Birthdays

November 3- Heulyn Bishop, Billie Grant
 November 4- Bev Glenn
 November 5- Scott Buckhout
 November 8- Wayne Buckhout, Grace Thompson
 November 9- Paul Edgett
 November 10- Martin Luther
 November 12- Pat Gaines
 November 13- Danna Edgett
 November 15- Tony Milner
 November 18- Howard Earl Eubank
 November 20- Kim Phelps, Keith Buckhout
 November 22- Jo Frances Purdom
 November 24- Stacey Daly
 November 25- Rita Voskuhl
 November 28- Gieny van Anrooy

Thank you to **Ernie Elliot, John and Dawn Miller** for their hard work in the Sunday School rooms down in the basement. The rooms are now more environmentally friendly and look wonderful!

BELIZE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Looking for a few good men and women for the upcoming Belize Medical Mission project January 31st to February 9th. Work on a medical team or with medical educators on nutrition or adult and child health promotion topics. We need your talents and skills. If you would like to participate or support this years project, please call **Mark Boyd**. Make a difference!

BABYSITTER

Grace Thoeny, certified by the American Red Cross, is available to babysit if needed. Grace is great with kids and highly recommended by the newsletter editor. Contact Grace.

Thank you to **Gig Henderson** for reading Scripture all these years. It is a pleasure to hear Gig read on Sunday mornings at the 11:00 service. We missed you when you were under the weather. Welcome back, Gig!

YOUR AD HERE

Free advertising in The Clarion Classifieds! Sell your stuff! Ask for help! Offer your thanks to your church family members! Please submit your ad by e-mailing the church office at cspc@cspchurch.net or placing in the Deacon mailbox in the church office.

Reporters and Photographers Wanted: Join **The Clarion** newsletter team as a fun and exciting way to serve our church. If you like to write stories or articles, or take digital pictures of church events, please e-mail the church office at cspc@cspchurch.net or contact **Billie Grant** or **Kathy Vicory**. All ages welcome!

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Northern Kentucky is looking for a part-time Administrative Assistant to help coordinate volunteers and the daily operations at the Day Center in Newport. Also: Volunteers wanted at the Day Center in Newport: (1) Receptionists - scheduled daily, (2) Day Center Van Drivers - on call, (3) Box Truck Drivers & Movers - on call, (4) Maintenance Personnel - on call. E-mail Director at david@nkyihn.org.

"We ought not to dwell upon the vices of men, but rather contemplate in them the image of God, which by his excellence and dignity can and should move us to love them and forget all their vices which might turn us therefrom." — **John Calvin** (1509-1564), French-born Reformation theologian

"Faith alone justifies and fulfills the law; and this because faith brings us the spirit gained by the merits of Christ. The spirit, in turn, gives us the happiness and freedom at which the law aims; and this shows that good works really proceed from faith." — **Martin Luther**

"He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and happy life." — **William Law** (1686-1761), Clergyman and writer

"The strong hands of God twisted the crown of thorns into a crown of glory; and in such hands we are safe." — **Charles Williams** (1899-1945), English poet and novelist

"Our confidence in Christ does not make us lazy, negligent, or careless, but on the contrary it awakens us, urges us on, and makes us active in living righteous lives and doing good. There is no self-confidence to compare with this." — **Ulrich Zwingli** (1484-1531), Founder of Swiss Protestantism

"When you have read the Bible you will know that it is the word of God, because you will have found it the key to your own happiness, your own duty." — **Woodrow Wilson** (1856-1924), President of the United States

"Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God." — **William Carey** (1761-1834), Baptist Missionary