



CRESCENT SPRINGS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CRESCENT SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Clarion

Between the Times

March 2010

God says, “Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him.” (Deuteronomy 30:20 NRSV). God’s greatest desire has always been we his people should live in this way, loving, obeying, and holding fast to God. Yet, from our earliest beginnings, people have been unwilling to give God his greatest desire. If this sounds odd, it’s supposed to. It makes no logical sense for people to choose destruction over life, but that’s exactly what we do on a regular basis.

The obvious conclusion? People are very dangerous creatures; and we are most dangerous to ourselves. We make illogical choices that run against the desires and purposes of God. Yet we continue to do so.

What does God do about it? Interestingly, God keeps on giving us choices. Consider Mark 10:17ff. There, we find the famous story about the man (tradition calls him “the rich young ruler,” though the text says neither that he was young nor a ruler) who came to Jesus asking what he should do to receive eternal life. And, Jesus said, “Why do you call me good? Only God is good. Not only that, but you know already what the requirements are for right living. Do what you know, and you will have what you want.” The man missed the point, claiming that he had been keeping the rules all his life, but was still lacking something.

Then, Jesus did a full stop, and focused his gaze upon this creature who was bent on self-destruction. And, St. Mark says, “He loved him.” Jesus came into our world to rescue sinners, bring us Good News, and save us from ourselves, and we regularly miss the point. But, Jesus stops in his tracks, and loves us nonetheless.

Out of his love, Jesus said to the man, “You’re right. There’s something you’re missing, and I’ll tell you what it is. You came asking, and I’ll answer. You’re too much in love with your wealth and the material comforts of living. You need to get rid of all that and follow where I lead you.” We remember too well the rest of the story. The man was unhappy to hear the answer. It was exactly what he did not want to hear. It was also exactly the truth. Then he had to make a choice, and he chose to walk away from the Lord of Life to follow after his desire, for what he thought was comfortable living.

So, how does the story end? Actually, we don’t know. Jesus did not chase after the man. He allowed him his choice, and the consequences of it. What did the man ultimately do? Did he go on his way – running head-long for destruction? Did he perhaps, like the Prodigal Son, realize at some point the foolishness of his choice and come back to Jesus? We do not know. We are simply left with the picture of this sorrowful person, walking away from Christ – and Christ standing still in his tracks, allowing him to do as he chose.

As we continue our journey through the Season of Lent, we understand that it comes to a joyous end at Easter. That’s the time when God’s urging that we should choose life is joined with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which makes it possible. Everybody will hear the proclamation. But, God never takes our choices away from us. We can still choose destruction, if that seems more satisfying to us. God’s Good News is always freely offered, and we get to spend the rest of Lent thinking about the choices opened up for us ...
Between the times . . . –FHS II

“Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him.”

— Deuteronomy 30:20 NRSV

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www.cspreby.com

Financial Update

The Balance Sheet and Operating Statement for February 2010 is posted on the bulletin board across from the church office. YTD as of February 28, 2010. If you have any questions contact Karen Peters or a member of the Finance Committee.

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$37,300.04	\$36,286.00
Expenses	35,885.44	37,378.00
Difference	\$ 1,414.60	

Investing in the Church

Do you have a CD coming due next month or funds in a bank account that is earning very little interest? Consider investing in a PCUSA Note or their Adjustable Rate Ready Access Term Notes. The current rate for a 6 month Term Note is 1.24%. Not only will earn as much or more interest than other short term alternatives, you will help to further lower the interest CSPC pays on its mortgage. To date 20 members have deposited \$108,000. As soon as another \$32,000 is deposited we will qualify for another 14% decrease in our interest rate! If you have any questions please see a member of the Finance Committee.

Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC continues to meet regularly and to make progress as CSPC seeks an installed pastor. The Church Information Form (CIF) has been approved by Presbytery. At this stage, our CIF is matched with Pastor Nominating Forms (PIFs) filed by pastors seeking a call.

To date, our PNC has received over 60 PIFs through the matching system. The committee has also received about 6 PIFs outside the matching system, from pastors who have heard about our congregation and sent us their information.

Please continue to pray for the members of the PNC as they go about their work.

Spring Fling 2010

The second annual Spring Fling Arts and Crafts Exhibition will be Sunday May 23 through Friday May 28 at CSPC. Mark your calendars.

Last year was the first Spring Fling and it was a success! It brought members of the community into our church building, showcased our congregation and provided a way to introduce ourselves.

Jurors to judge the entries have committed to help. Soon we will be soliciting entries from artists in the region and publicizing the event.

If you would like to assist with this year's event, please contact Stephanie Redman Thoeny at 331-7724 or email her sredman@modernd-i.com.

Lenten Devotions

The CE committee has prepared a series of short daily Lenten devotions for our members to use at home throughout the week. Copies are available in the Narthex each Sunday for the coming week. The devotions include scripture from the daily Lectionary, prayers, questions for meditation and family crafts.

Also, throughout Lent, CSPC meets as a church family for a simple soup supper at 5:30, followed by a brief meditation service at 6:30. All are welcome. Please sign up to bring soup or bread.

Live from Crescent Springs, It's Friday Night Live!

CSPC's new fellowship program, Friday Night Live, kicked off March 5 at 7 PM. FNL is an intergenerational fellowship opportunity for our members and our community.

Enjoy coffee concoctions, games and conversation in the Gathering Room. The young (or young at heart) can hang out downstairs to play games or hang out and younger children will have movies and play opportunities.

If you'd like to be a "shepherd" for one of the activity areas, please contact Jen Neal (727-1424) or Sarah Cottongim (363-8575.) Shepherds will help set up each activity area and recruit helpers for subsequent weeks.

CSPC received a Mariner's Grant which provides the funds for this outreach program. Plan on attending FNL to start your weekend—and bring a friend or neighbor.

Eat at Max and Erma's and Support CLASP

The Children of Ludlow After School Program (CLASP) is hosting a fund raiser March 16 at Max and Erma's in Crestview Hills. Twenty percent of all sales throughout the day go to CLASP, if you present a coupon with your check. The coupons are free, but you need to obtain one in advance. See Jerry Hinners or Ernie Elliot for a coupon.

CLASP is a program supported by the CSPC mission committee. Friends and neighbors are invited to participate, as well.

Notes from the 9 March Session Meeting

- Accepted Mike and Eileen Dunavan as members by letter of transfer.
- Completed Session 5 of the Transformation Discernment project.
- Voted to renew Rev Starr's contract effective 15 April for another year.
- Voted to hold a Congregational meeting on 28 March 2010 for the purpose of electing elders, deacons and nominating committee members.
- Set 4 May for a joint meeting with the Deacons.
- Noted that CSPC's continued support of IHN is in jeopardy without more volunteers/support from the Congregation.

CSPC Now Has Two Calendars

CSPC now has two calendars to help all of us keep up with activities in our congregation.

The first is the familiar paper calendar hanging outside the church office. Add information about meetings or other events there (no need to duplicate on the calendar inside the church office). This calendar is a handy reference for committees who meet throughout the week, and for members when they are at church each Sunday.

We also have a calendar online on our website, www.cspsby.com. Look at the bottom left side of the home page for Calendar of Events. Group chairs can enter information into this calendar directly OR send info to Terry David at terrydavid05@gmail.com, or 859-360-0108. Terry will enter the information for you.

Members and visitors can check the online calendar anytime, from anywhere, and it's used to prepare bulletin announcements. The online calendar also allows us to link complete information about your event, so send Terry any details you'd like others to know.

Calendar

Wednesdays	Lenten Soup Supper and Worship, 5:30
Fridays	Friday Night Live, 7:00
Saturdays	Men's Prayer Fellowship, 8:00
March 13	Coffee House, 7 PM
March 16	CLASP Fund Raiser
March 19	Chicks with Sticks, noon
March 23	Bound by Books, 7 PM