



CRESCENT SPRINGS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Editor: Carol Buckhout

Floyd H. Starr
Interim Pastor

Members of the Session

Class of 2010

Jerry Hinners
Scott Mozea
Tim Reed

Class of 2011

Dan Alexander
Jim Burdick
Ernie Elliot
Brad Neal
Janet Stadtmiller, Stated Clerk

Class of 2012

Mark Boyd
Karen Ginn
Terry David
Sarah Cottongim

Members of Board of Deacons

Moderator

Kim Newton, 341-2096
Millie Lockert
Heather Alexander
Nancy Reed
Jeff Williams
Candace Hinners
Erin Murphy
Billie Grant
Joe Stephenson

Committee and Contacts

Building and Grounds

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Fellowship

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Personnel

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CRESCENT SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Clarion

Between the Times

May 2010

We do not always have to be successful; but we do have to try...

I've discovered a second editorial in The Enquirer that was worth reading. This time it came from Krista Ramsey in the April 30th edition. I guess it caught my attention because it was about a mission effort of an area church – Christ Temple Baptist in Evanston. What's unique there is that 40% of its male members and its pastor have criminal records. That's their primary mission, and Ms. Ramsey's editorial is headlined, The best route out of prison is employment.

It's not a catchy phrase. It's not a call for money, though I'm certain it's not without some financial need. It's not an advertisement for their congregation. It's just a very plain and practical statement of reality and intention. People who are coming out of prison face a huge obstacle. They're criminals, and society doesn't really give them credit for doing their time. "Once a criminal, always a criminal," and most people believe that it's a bad idea to hire such a person. It's all the worse in our current economy when jobs are at a premium. Given these attitudes, it's easy to see why some ex-convicts re-offend and go right back to jail. What would the situation look like if some element of the society – perhaps the Christian element of the society – made a determined effort to help newly released prisoners find and maintain employment? I seem to remember that Jesus said something about prison ministry.

Ah, but those people don't have any motivation, and all they want to do is live off the land. No matter what, they'll end up back in jail, and all your effort will be wasted! I'm the wrong person upon whom to place that argument. I'm not trying to start a philosophical discussion. I'm talking about ministry that I know first hand. Been there, done that – and actually miss not having been directly involved for a few years. As I was finishing Ms Ramsey's article, and planning my own, the phone rang. (It really did!) It was a voice from way back

– the father of a young man I encountered in a juvenile facility 15 years ago. I went the distance with that one. I took him into my home. And, as much as I would like to talk about what a success that young man turned out to be, the fact is that he has spent most of those 15 years locked up somewhere. I'm looking at his prison record as I write. He's in again, and it doesn't look like there's a single lockup in Kansas where he hasn't been a guest. I hate it. But, his family has kept in touch periodically all this time, and that has been good. We may set out with one mission in mind and finish up with a related accomplishment instead. I always remember the words a wise Elder once spoke: We do not always have to be successful; but we do have to try.

On the other hand, I can tell some success stories. There's a young man who came along about 15 years ago who is now a dispatcher in a Kansas sheriff's department. He's doing really well, and I get a call about every six weeks or so. There's no way to know what will come from any given effort. But, it's required that somebody be willing to try.

Ms Ramsey said, "Creating paths to employment for former offenders – in public and private venues – is some of the smartest crime prevention we can do." That rings true to me. I wonder if Christ Temple Baptist needs some folks to partner with them. I know! Presbyterians hate the idea of getting our hands dirty, and what if some of those convicts would actually show up in our sanctuary some Sunday morning?! I'd be tickled to death.

Maybe there's a seed in all this that could possibly grow into something. Maybe there's not. But, at this moment BETWEEN THE TIMES, I felt the need to try!

~ FHS

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Update from the PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee has continued to make progress in the month of April. We have now reviewed Pastor Information Forms (PIFs) from 95 individuals. We have also completed initial telephone interviews with a number these candidates who have the most potential for being a good match for CSPC. The committee is now in the process of listening to sermons provided by these candidates and contacting their references. As we complete these activities, we will begin to narrow the search and conduct follow-up interviews with our top candidates. Once the committee has a final candidate to recommend and we have the Presbytery Committee on Ministry's approval, Session will call a congregational meeting to present the candidate, and the congregation will vote on extending a call to the pastor. Stay tuned as we move forward!

Financial Update

The Balance Sheet and Operating Statement for April 2010 are posted on the bulletin board across from the church office. YTD as of April 30, 2010. If you have any questions contact Karen Peters or a member of the Finance Committee.

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$70,683.63	\$72,472.00
Expenses	65,126.53	71,977.00
Difference	4,019.67	

Transformation Discernment Study

Session at CSPC has continued to participate in the Transformation Discernment Study. The most recent lesson was entitled "The World is Changing." Elders were asked to visit the library, department store, or market and compare them with the way they were when we were 12 years old. The world IS changing and a church that does not change is a church in peril. It was acknowledged that change can be uncomfortable especially if you are venturing into the unknown and we compared this journey to what the Israelites must have felt when they left Israel and were in the wilderness for 40 years (Exodus 16). Although the people moaned and complained to God about the "good" life back in Israel, He did not take them back to that place, but saw them through to a new and better life.

Volunteering at Church

Do you listen to the announcements before the worship services start? Read the bulletin announcements, the Clarion or emails from church? Check the Volunteer Table? We have many opportunities for people to become more involved in our church and our community. Do you ever wish you had helped with a project, but were never called and asked? In most instances there are weeks of announcements, fliers, posters and articles asking for volunteers.

While a personal invitation is a nice touch, it sometimes isn't possible with people's busy schedules. Please don't be shy!! Call the person announcing an upcoming event. If you just want more information before you volunteer, call and ask. You can always say "no".

CSPC's Second Annual Spring Fling Opening Reception & Exhibition!

Plan to attend the Opening Reception on Sunday, May 23, 6-9 pm. As with last year, we expect to have many new visitors stopping by CSPC for the reception and week-long exhibit. If you'd like to provide a dessert, hors d'oeuvres or drinks, please contact Crystal Harden. If you'd like to work any of the gallery hours, please contact Terry David. New to the event this year will be music, coordinated by Becky Morrison and Matt Ginn.

Our goal with this event is to raise awareness of CSPC in our local and Presbyterian community.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars—CSPC's Vacation Bible School will be July 12-16. The week will take its theme from five child-friendly Bible stories. The week's format will be the twelve tribes of Israel, featuring tribal leaders, story time, drama, crafts, and more. Call Karen Ginn or Terry David to volunteer.

Attention CSPC Bikers

If you enjoy cycling, CSPC has a new fellowship opportunity for you. Here is the plan a few weeks in advance for those wanting to join. Weather permitting we will be meeting on Sundays at 12:30.

- Sunday 5/9 - Revisiting our first trip - Looping past the Library and back in Turfway (about 8 miles)
- Sunday 5/16 - Trip around Crescent Springs (About 3.5 miles)

If anyone has questions or suggestions, please contact Scott Mozea at s_mozea@yahoo.com or 859-750-5948.

Virtus Training — for those who work with Children and Youth

Two CSPC members have completed Virtus Training, four more are scheduled and another has committed to taking the training. Virtus is a training program for volunteers who work with children and youth. It teaches best practices for adults to help keep children and youth safe from abuse as they participate in church-sponsored programs and activities. If you haven't participated in Virtus Training and wish to work with CSPC youth, contact Terry David for more information about the training and schedule.

Batter Up—It's Softball Season

The Men's Softball Season starts in just over a week with our first game scheduled for Monday, May 3rd, time and location to be announced. - Come out and enjoy the fellowship, support our team and enjoy the spring weather!

Please contact Tim Reed if you have any questions or would like to participate on the team. Players should be males, 15 years or older.

Advent Devotions

While we're still in the Easter season, it may seem early to think about Advent, but the CE committee is making plans to produce a booklet of advent devotions. The booklet will be for members to use as a guide for daily Bible study and prayer during the Advent season. Each devotion will include a verse from Scripture, a story or thought to consider along with the verse, and an ending prayer. Contact a member of the CE committee to help with the project.

Notes from the March Session Meeting

At its stated meeting in April, CSPC's Session:

- Reminded committees to post meeting information on the calendar or notify Terry David, so that she can post the date into the online calendar;
- Received a call for volunteers for Spring Fling (see separate article);
- Received a request for members to serve on the Worship Committee;
- Received a report from the Church Growth committee that results from the congregational survey are in—results will be shared soon in the Clarion;
- Scheduled a meeting with the Deacons in May; and
- Scheduled a training event May 8 to welcome the elders in the Class of 2013.

Calendar

May 20	CE Committee 7PM
May 21	Chicks W/ Sticks Noon
May 22	Spring fling Set up
May 23	Spring Fling Opening Reception, 6-9 pm
May 23-28	Spring Fling Exhibition
May 25	Bound by Books
May 26	IHN at St. Agnes 5PM
May 28	Lunch Bunch Noon
May 29	Spring Fling wrap up/take down