



CRESCENT SPRINGS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reverend Randy Schafer

Members of Session

Class of 2011

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

Class of 2012

Mark Boyd
Sarah Cottongim
Terry David
Karen Ginn

Class of 2013

Crystal Harden
Patricia McGregor
Craig Mullins
Martha Ann Thrasher

Members of Board of Deacons

Class of 2011

Nancy Reed
Joe Stephenson
Jeff Williams

Class of 2012

Billie Grant
Candice Hinners
Erin Murphy

Class of 2013

Troy Bitter
Norma Lutz
Carol Points

Committees and Contacts

Building and Grounds Jim Burdick

Christian Education Karen Ginn,
Terry David

Fellowship Crystal Hardin,
Patricia MGregor, Jim Burdick

Finance Mark Boyd, Ernie Elliott,
Dan Alexander

Church Growth Sarah Cottongim,
Dan Alexander, Craig Mullin

Mission Sarah Cottongim, Brad
Neal

Personnel Ernie Elliott, Mark
Boyd, Karen Ginn

Worship Martha Ann Thrasher,
Crystal Thompson



CRESCENT SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Clarion

September 2010

Carol Buckhout, Editor

As many of you know, I still own a home in Macomb, Illinois and am in the process of getting it ready to sell. The real estate person I am working with says that in this market people are either looking for a steal or properties that are in move in condition. Thus, I am commuting to Macomb getting my former home “move in” ready. When I asked the realtor what “move in” condition meant we walked through the home and she pointed out how much furniture we had accumulated, some of the clutter, family pictures and other stuff that I had become accustomed to. This was home to me and over time I suppose I had become used to a cluttered work bench, shelves with curios and knick knacks and stuff that held very little value yet had some how not been thrown out. The word pack rat comes to mind. It wasn’t until I started boxing all the stuff that reality set in. I had a lot of stuff that held no real meaning or value in my life yet I was not in the habit of cleaning it out and either passing the stuff on to others who could use it or simply getting rid of it. Yep, slowly over time I have become a pack rat, collecting stuff for that “just in case” day.

I am reminded of this Bible passage:

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.” “Which ones?” the man inquired.

Jesus replied, “Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.” “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?” Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

When the young man heard this, he went away sad because he had great wealth.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Peter answered him, “We

have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?” Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

— Matthew 19:16-30 NIV

In this passage I wonder if I am the young man asking the question or a disciple. Is Jesus calling me to let go of stuff and follow his leading? Or am I holding on too tight to stuff that is meaningless rather than holding tight to the One who gives life meaning? The disciples who followed Christ were perplexed because they equated material wealth with God’s blessing. The man who asked Jesus for guidance had all the stuff but lacked a relationship. The disciples had the relationship and lacked the stuff. In the long run (eternal time scale) does having too much stuff hinder our walk with Christ?

Perhaps my problem is not so much greed as it is a lack of discipline. When I had the space at our old home I would use the excuse, “I might be able to use this someday,” and rationalize by thinking I am a good steward by keeping a 1980 vintage computer and screen, or back issues to “Better Homes and Gardens”, or the fondue sets. I may use this stuff or maybe/probably not. Now that I am faced with boxing and moving this stuff I am having second thoughts. I appreciate the saying “You can’t take it with you” more and more these days. I am slowly learning that it does matter what I hold on to and what I toss. Those clothes that I have not worn in ten years will be better put to use elsewhere. My contracting tools may have to find another home. So, my trouble maker’s questions this month are; What ideas or items are you hanging on to that are better thrown out? What owns you?

The apostle Paul said,

“Test everything. Hold onto the good.”

— 1 Thessalonians 5:21

I think it is time for a yard sale.

Randy

710 Western Reserve Road • Crescent Springs, KY 41017 • 859-341-9347

www.cspresby.com

What's with CSPC's Family Information Sheets?

Recently, our congregation was asked to complete family information sheets to gather current information about each of our members.

This information will be entered into a database that is part of the Church Windows software program; the questions on the information sheets were based on that database.

Once all of our information is put into this program, it will only take a couple of clicks to format and print a current phone directory, or gather information for committees, such as

- who is eligible for a confirmation class,
- how many young married couples/seniors/Kindergarteners/etc. are in our congregation, or
- how many people live within our zip code, etc.

Right now when a committee needs this kind of information, they sit down and discuss who may or may not be in their target group based on an outdated directory – not a very efficient use of time. Our most recent directory does not include several families who have been attending for several years – a completed database will eliminate the possibility of missing families.

So, it will be helpful for each family to complete the information sheet. To date 29 families have filled out their sheets – less than 25% of our congregation! The Church Windows program is a wonderful tool, but we need your information.

If you're worried about privacy, only a couple of people at church have access to the Church Window program, and not all of them have access to every part of the program. It is a software program and is not an on-line database. So security should not be an issue. It is simply a tool that will hold and simplify all of our congregational information.

And if you don't know some of the requested dates, such as your baptism or confirmation, please fill in as much as you can. If you're a member of CSPC, we probably already have this information on hand.

A new directory will be published in a couple of months as we move through this time of transition.

If you didn't receive a Family Information Sheet, contact the church office, so that one can be sent to you.

Still have questions? Please call Terry David (360-0108).

The Caring Bridge

The Caring Bridge is an internet-based communication tool to help family and friends when a loved one is experiencing a serious health event. A caregiver can post daily updates (and much more!) which can be accessed by those who want to stay in touch and support the family. There are also applications within the program for posting pictures, sending notes of encouragement, etc. The site is: www.caringbridge.org. It is a free tool that walks you through all the steps to set up a website for keeping your friends and family updated during a serious health event.

CLASP Fund Raiser

If you eat at Max and Erma's on Tuesday, September 14, 20% of your purchases will be donated to CLASP (Children of Ludlow After School Program). You need to give your server the "CLASP ticket" to have your purchase credited to the fund raiser. Pick one up in the Narthex. Contact Jerry Hinners (491-7676) or Ernie Elliot (331-2941) if you have questions. Both Jerry and Ernie serve on CLASP's Board.

Sunday School is Off to a Great Start

CSPC's Sunday School year began September 12. Classes start at 8:30 and end at 9:20 so that we can all be ready for worship at 9:30.

Christian education is for everyone and CSPC offers a class for all age groups.

Classes for children and youth include Pre-School, Elementary (grades K-4), Middle School (grades 5-8) and High School (9-12.) There are three adult classes: a study of Second Corinthians led by Heather Alexander; Religion in the 21st Century: the effect of science and technology, led by Steve Thrasher; and a study of Presbyterianism, examining the teachings, traditions and governance, with a group of leaders.

CSPC Financial Update

The Balance Sheet and Operating Statement for August 2010 are posted on the bulletin board across from the church office, YTD as of August 31, 2010. If you have any questions contact Karen Peters or a member of the Finance Committee.

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$144,832.81	\$144,844.00
Expenses	139,460.37	142,119.00
Difference	5,372.44	

Notes from the August Session Meeting

At its stated meeting in August, the CSPC Session reported:

- Worship services will continue to be at 9:30 a.m. through the end of this year when we will reevaluate the need for a change with Reverend Schafer.
- Sunday School, which begins September 12th will be from 8:30 until 9:20. This will allow a few minutes between church and Sunday School to "take care of business" and be ready for worship.
- The Fellowship Committee has organized an outing to a Freedom Baseball Game (8/29) and the church Picnic (9/12).
- The Personnel Committee is working on a job description for our new Pastor.
- By a majority vote, the Christian and American flags will be moved into the sanctuary.
- The Worship Committee is working with the session to make the offering collection run smoother. You can help by passing the collection plate all the way down your pew when it is offered to you.

Calendar

Sept. 14	Presbytery Meeting—Westwood CLASP Fundraiser at Max and Erma's
Sept. 16	Christian Education meeting
Sept. 17	Chicks with Sticks, 12 to 2
Set. 21	Session meeting
Sept. 24	Lunch Bunch
Sept. 26	Adopt-a-Highway Church-wide Mission project
Sept. 27	Mission Committee meeting
Sept.28	Bound by Books (South of Broad by Pat Conroy)
Weekly:	
Saturday	Men's Fellowship , 8 AM
Sunday	Cycling group, 12:30
Wednesday	Bell Choir Practice, 6:30 PM Choir Practice, 7:30 PM
Looking Ahead	
Oct. 6	CSPC's next night to serve IHN