



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



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The Clarion

January 2011

Carol Buckhout, Editor

Every year about this time, I perform a ritual that gives me peace of mind. I change the batteries in our smoke detectors. Soon I will search the apartment, count detectors and make my yearly pilgrimage to buy 9v batteries. I have performed this ritual for a number of years. I read about servicing smoke detectors in an article written by a firefighter who recommended changing the batteries all at the same time once a year and suggested doing it at New Years. It gives me peace of mind knowing our smoke detectors have been checked and have new batteries. I won't worry about them for another year.

Come to think of it, this is the way some folks may treat Jesus. We unpack him at Christmas time, put him in his spot in the family nativity scene, then when the season is over, back into the box he goes, and we don't think about him till next year. We enjoyed a great Christmas Eve service; nonetheless, I am convinced this seasonal celebration - or seasonal unpacking and repackaging of Christ happens in some of our "church" families. I meet folks on Christmas Eve and won't see them again until Easter or perhaps next year....maybe. I guess most of us are creatures of habit. We do the Jesus thing at Christmas, dust him off for Easter, and then put Jesus away for another year. Oh sure, we may pull him out in an emergency or if we are particularly unsure about a situation, but for the most part he'll stay tucked away in the attic until next year, kind of like a rainy day savior.

This was not God's plan for His people when he came to earth 2000 years ago nor is it His plan for us today. When God left heaven and became a man, our Lord showed the world that He is real, that God wants a relationship with us, and is willing to go the distance to make sure we know we are loved. I don't think Jesus did all this so we can have Jesus celebrations a couple of times

a year and then stow Christ in a box for emergency use only. This was never God's plan.

Now that I am a bit older and have a glimpse of the grave, I think about God more. I sometime ponder the life I am leading, asking, "Is this the life God wants me to live?" If I truly believe what Scripture tells me- that Jesus died for me and wants to have a relationship that will last forever—perhaps, just maybe, I should be concerned with how he shapes my life each day. Then again, that's some pretty serious thinking. The easier way is to tuck Jesus away in the attic for another year and try to keep so busy I don't think about him too much. Time has also taught me that the easiest route is not always best.

Friends, here is the challenge. Take some time early this year, perhaps while you are changing your smoke detector batteries to think about the parts of your life that aren't going so well, those parts that need refreshing. Ask yourself, "Have I allowed God to shape the decisions, and behaviors

surrounding the less stellar aspects of my life?" Then decide, "Do I want to keep living this life the same way, or am I ready for a change?" Maybe you will decide to put the issue back in the box and deal with it later, possibly waiting until an emergency arises. Then again, this may be the year you and God will make changes. Scripture tells us that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. (Philippians 4:13) So my challenge is: Be Bold! Be proactive! Allow God to guide your steps while you make the changes you know you need to make. I also want you to know that you can always give me a call: (309) 255-0713. I can help change batteries and also talk about life change. I am here to help.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Randy

*I can do all things through him
who strengthens me.*

— Philippians 4:13

Installation of Randy Schafer

CSPC reached a milestone on Sunday, January 9! Rev. Randy Schafer was installed during services which were attended by members of CSPC and the Cincinnati Presbytery.

About Per Capita Assessments

The per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system are shared by everyone through the per capita.

The first mention of the per capita apportionment dates to 1743 in a letter to ministers. Some congregations opt to pay the per capita in a lump sum as part of their annual budget. Increasingly, congregations are asking their members to make a donation toward this part of the budget to free congregational monies for other uses and connect as individuals to the larger church.

The assessment includes funds for the local Presbytery, Synod (layer of church government above the Presbytery) and the General Assembly (national level of the denomination.) The assessment varies across the country; Presbyteries begin with the General Assembly per capita (\$6.50 for 2011) and then add their administrative and other costs. The Cincinnati Presbytery's per capita is at the middle of the national range that varied in 2010 from \$6.15 to \$58.43.

If you'd like to donate toward the CSPC per capita (\$27.19), add the amount to your offering and note "per capita" on the memo line of the check or on the offering envelope. For more information, contact a member of the finance committee.

CSPC Support Cold Shelter

The Emergency Cold Shelter of Northern Kentucky is located at 634 Scott St. in Covington. It provides a safe, warm place for those over 18 who have no other way to get out of winter weather. It also offers a bagged dinner, toiletries, facilities to launder clothing, and showers.

CSPC supports the shelter one night a month, bringing the dinners, and other needed supplies such as underwear, socks and outerwear. Billie Grant is coordinating the CSPC efforts. Contact her at 331-5977 or billiegrantrn@cs.com to get involved.

To learn more about the Cold Shelter, visit <http://nkcoldshelter.blogspot.com>.

CE is now TLC

At its last meeting, the Session approved changing the name of Christian Education to The Learning Committee. The group plans Sunday School classes for all ages, Vacation Bible School, and other events that allow members to grow in their faith through learning.

Sunday School meets from 8:30 to 9:20. You can join a class at any time. There is a pre-school class for children ages 2 through 4, an elementary class for children in kindergarten through fourth grade, middle school class, high school class and three adult classes—Bible study of the Book Daniel, Religion in the 21st century and a topical study led by Randy Schafer. The nursery is available for those under two years old.

Daily Devotions

If you enjoyed the Advent devotions "Following the Star" the devotional guide continues in its regular format after Epiphany. Prepared by Passport, Inc, d365.org is made possible by three denominational partners—the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the PCUSA and Youth Ministries of the Episcopal Church. During Lent, d365.org will offer a series called "Journey to the Cross." Go the website, www.d365.org for more information or to sign up for daily e-mail reminders. For another personal Bible Study throughout the year, visit www.pcusa.org to sign up for the daily lectionary, which also comes via e-mail.

2011 Stewardship Update

As of 2 January CSPC has received pledges of \$119,772 for general operations and \$39,777 for the capital fund. The total of this year's

pledges is approximately \$5,000 less than the 2010 pledge total and over \$30,000 less than your Finance Committee and Session has budgeted to do the Lord's work through CSPC in 2011. Session has chosen to review the situation in April and make any necessary course corrections. If you have not made a pledge and wish to do so you may at any time. In the mean time we trust that everyone, whether they have pledged or not, will prayerfully consider how they can best help CSPC accomplish God's purpose for our church.

CSPC Financial Update

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

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$217,019.88	\$217,206.00
Expenses	\$201,284.60	\$210,270.00
Difference	\$15,735.28	

Session Notes

At its stated meeting December 13, CSPC's Session:

- Approved the minutes of 11/8/10 session meeting as read
- Approved an Omnibus Motion - to transfer the membership of Lynne Austin Baker to Lakeside Church; to approve the use of CSPC sanctuary, narthex, classroom and gathering room on Friday 10/7/2011 & Saturday 10/8/2011 for Stacey Daly's rehearsal and wedding; to officially designate Elmira Scott CSPC Emeritus Organist; to ask the congregation to consider donating toward the 2011 membership per-capita assessment of \$27.19 using bulletin and newsletters to explain this assessment
- to work on module 2 of the Transformation Discernment process beginning in June 2011, involving Session members and other leaders of the church;
- to return the \$398 remainder of the Mariner's grant to the Mariner's office
- to defer hiring a secretary for CSPC until the end of March when the budget will be revisited
- to approve Karen Peters as CSPC Treasurer and Janet Stadtmiller as Clerk of Session for 2011
- to approve use of CSPC fellowship hall by the Kentucky Refugee Ministries, for a term of 1 year, to hold English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
- to authorize up to \$4000 from the general fund to support the Kentucky Refugee Ministries at CSPC
- Building & Grounds Committee will be looking at the heating/cooling of fellowship hall to ensure it is usable
- to change the name of the Christian Education Committee to the "The Learning Committee (TLC)"
- to nominate Karen Ginn as commissioner to Presbytery meetings for 2011
- to approve the Reverend Schafer's vacation for 1/31 - 2/6
- to change date of the next to session meeting from 1/10 to 1/11
- to install a personal hearing device system in the sanctuary at a cost not to exceed \$800

Calendar

1/10	Mission Committee, 7 PM
1/11	Session Meeting, 7 PM
1/20	Learning Committee, 7 PM
1/21	Chicks with Sticks, noon
1/26	CSPC night at the Cold Shelter
1/26	Wednesday Night Live, 5:30 PM
1/27	Fellowship Committee, 7 PM
2/3	Worship Committee, 7 PM

Each Wednesday, 6:30	Bell Choir Practice (resumes 1/12)
Each Wednesday, 7:40	Choir Practice (resumes 1/12)
Each Thursday, 10 AM	Women's Prayer Group
Each Saturday, 8 AM	Men's Fellowship
Each Sunday, 6:30 PM	Firesiders