



CRESCENT SPRINGS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reverend Randy Schafer



March 2011

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Ernie Elliott
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Terry David
Karen Ginn

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Committees and Contacts

Building and Grounds Jim Burdick

The Learning Committee Karen Ginn, Terry David

Fellowship Crystal Harden, 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 Harden

Spring is in the air, or, at least, we hope so. This winter has been long and cold. I have often reminded myself that this is not Arizona as I shoveled snow, or left the house without gloves and hat. When life becomes challenging, we often look back at the past and think of better times. It is easy to forget 120-degree desert summers of Casa Grande. Likewise, the Old Testament often records the people of Israel looking back to their captivity in Egypt with longing. It is almost as if they forgot the suffering they endured as slaves, and conjure up memories of abundant life in the midst of slavery. In my heart, I don't long for Arizona; I simply long for this season to change. Too much of even a good thing is still too much. So, we look forward. The good news is we have something good to which to look forward. This season of the year points toward renewal. As the air warms, the snow melts, the plants begin waking up, and we see the renewal of life.

I think it is no accident that the church calendar is reflected in the seasons of the year. We celebrate the birth of Jesus just after the longest day of winter is past. He came to the earth in a dark time, and just as the light of the sun lengthens each day after the winter solstice, the birth of Christ began to shine

light into the dark places in the hearts and lives of people. This happens still; Jesus is our hope. Jesus said that the truth will set us free and showed us that He is the Truth. Jesus is the Light of the world. When in the midst of dark times, we can still have the hope that God is with us and works through us. As spring jumps into full swing, Lent, then Easter can remind us of a time of renewal, a reminder of life yet to be lived. The passion of Christ's life, death and resurrection is played out in the seasons. Spring gives us hope in the future as winter ends, just as Christ gives us eternal hope in times of sorrow. My prayer is that the promises of Christ bring joy to you as you reflect on the ending of winter and the beginning of spring. As the season warms up and the earth awakens from her sleep, I hope you see the glory of God in the renewal of nature. Let us not live in memories past - real or imagined - let us look to the future and explore God's plans for our lives.

In Christ,
Randy

Wednesday Night Live in Review

I realize that many folks were not able to make it to the five-session Wednesday Night Live dinners and discussions. Both the food and discussions were excellent. There were folks who partook of only one or both parts, and some or all of the evenings... but the bottom line was a chance to spend an hour or two in fellowship with our church family outside of Sunday worship. Another series will be offered after our Lenten Soup Suppers, so if you can make it, do give it a try.

I would also like to suggest one other thing: consider getting and reading a copy of Outflow by Sjogren and Ping, the book that was the basis of the WNL discussions. It is a very easy read, consisting of 25 three-four page readings grouped into five areas that build on each other with plenty of real life, interesting vignettes. But more importantly, it helps you walk through a very logical and practical thought process about living a practical "Christ-like" life as a part of your daily routines.

The book is based on the simple proposition that God loves us and that we should love one another. Further, just as God has shown his love for us, there are many ways we can show our love to others. As we show our love, it can -and will-change the attitudes of the folks we come in contact with everyday. A couple of things struck me:

- 1. There are actions we already take that have a real impact (both positive and negative), but we never think about the impact, or the idea that it might just be God's will that we are carrying out.*
- 2. In the same vein, I have started reading, listening and seeing things as if they might be God talking to me. (As I shared with our group, reading Cornerstone with the idea that God might be talking to me, gave me a very different perspective on a number of the articles.)*
- 3. We go to God in prayer, but we do not always give God the opportunity to come to us with an answer, or to use us to accomplish his will because we are not looking for a communication from God at the time.*

I highly recommend getting a copy (it is less than \$10 including shipping). I'd loan you mine, but I am rereading it!

by Ernie Elliot



Financial Update

The Balance Sheet and Operating Statement for February 2011 are posted on the bulletin board across from the church office, year to date as of February 28, 2011. If you have any questions contact Karen Peters or a member of the Finance Committee.

| | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Income | \$39,583.34 | \$35,834.00 |
| Expenses | \$36,487.63 | \$44,899.00 |
| Difference | \$3,095.71 | |

CSPC Personnel Policies

The CSPC Session approved a revised version of the congregation’s personnel policies at its February meeting. This document outlines the rights and responsibilities both of church staff, and of the congregation as an employer. It provides guidelines and information about policy, as well as procedures, compensation, benefits and related issues.

Copies of the complete policies are available in the church office for any member to review. If you have questions, contact a member of the Session.

Women’s Prayer Group

Come join women of the church for prayer and fellowship Thursday mornings at 10:00. This group “relaunched” beginning March 3 with a new format that includes coffee, muffins, and a brief devotional based on the book *The Power of a Praying Woman* by Stormie Omartian. Copies of the book are available from Billie Grant (331-5977). For more information, contact Billie or Terry David (360-0108).

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is beginning the process of identifying individuals to serve as our next class of Elders and Deacons. If you would like to serve, or submit the name of someone you believe would be a good candidate, please contact Brad Neal (727-1424).

Fundraisers to Support Local Missions

The annual Mardi Gras for Homeless Children celebration will be at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington March 8. The event benefits local charities that serve the homeless, including Welcome House, one of CSPC’s supported missions. See Kathy Vicory (331-2620) for tickets.

Eat at Max and Erma’s March 22 and a portion of your check will be donated to Children of Ludlow After School Program (CLASP). Contact Ernie Elliot (331-2941) or Jerry Hinnens (491-7676) for the coupon you need to bring with you. The fund raiser applies to meals purchased at the Crestview Hills location anytime throughout the day, and is good for either dining in, or carry out orders.

Lenten Worship and Soup Suppers

During the season of Lent, CSPS will continue its tradition of meeting each Wednesday to share a simple meal of soup and bread, and then worship together. The worship and soup suppers will begin Ash Wednesday, March 9 and continue each Wednesday until Holy Week.



We will gather for soup at 5:30 in the lower level and then begin our worship at 6:30 in the sanctuary.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room. If you’re willing to prepare soup or bread for one of the soup suppers, please sign up for that date, so the committee can plan the meal.

Session Notes

At its stated meeting, February 14, the CSPC Session:

- approved Elizabeth (Betty) L. Wegesser Eichelberger and her daughter Sheryl Ann Eichelberger to unite with Crescent Springs Presbyterian upon their reaffirmation of faith
- approved Rev. Schafer’s request for vacation March 7 – March 13th, 2011
- approved Nancy Reed to use CSPC facilities on January 30th for a shower
- approved and recommended Ted & Patricia McGregor participate in a PCUSA mission
- approved the senior high youth group lead all aspects of worship on 2/6/2011, except Holy Communion, to coincide with their “souper bowl” mission collection
- approved having a collection basket available after church on 1/23/2011 for those who feel so called to make a donation to Jodi Greenlee’s mission in the Philippines via Kid’s International Ministries
- approved the CSPC Personnel Policy as revised (copy available)
- approved to hold a worship service on Good Friday 4/22/11 at 7PM
- approved the use of the gathering room and possibly classrooms by Brad & Jen Neal on Sunday 2/27 from 3-6PM for a birthday party
- approved the Johnson/Schnitzler wedding– to approve the use of the sanctuary Friday 9/2/2011 from 5-7PM and the sanctuary, gathering room and classrooms for the wedding Saturday 9/3/2011 from 11AM to 7:30PM
- approved up to \$1,000, above already approved funds, for the purpose of applying tinting to the sanctuary windows
- authorized the advertising and participation of CSPC in the upcoming Mardi Gras event supported by Welcome House
- approved the 2010 annual reports.

Calendar

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|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| March 9 | Ash Wednesday | 5:30 | Soup Supper |
| | | 6:30 | Worship |
| | | 5:00 | CSPC Hosts IHN at St. Agnes |
| March 13 | Daylight Savings Time begins | | (set your clock so you arrive at church on time!) |
| March 14 | 12:30 | Mary Esther Circle | |
| | 7:00 | Session Meeting | |
| March 16 | 5:30 | Lenten Soup Supper and worship | |
| March 17 | 7 PM | The Learning Committee | |
| March 19 | | Coffee House | |
| March 22 | 7 PM | Bound by Books, The Good Daughters | |
| March 23 | | CSPC—dinner at Cold Shelter | |
| March 24 | 7 PM | Fellowship Committee | |
| March 25 | noon | Lunch Bunch | |
| March 25 | 5PM | Winter Jam Tour-Firesiders | |
| Each Wednesday, | | 5:30 | Lenten Soup Supper (through April 13) |
| | | 6:30 | Bell Choir Practice |
| | | 7:40 | Choir Practice |
| Each Thursday, | 10 AM | | Women’s Prayer Group |
| Each Saturday, | 8 AM | | Men’s Fellowship |