



October 2014

Interim Pastor

Rev. Kathy Riley

Session***Class of 2015***Debbie Daly
Kim Newton
Joe Stephenson***Class of 2016***Jeff Buckhout
Jim Burdick
Walt Cottongim***Class of 2017***Dan Alexander
Meaghan Mullin**Deacon Board*****Class of 2015***Wayne Buckhout
Elizabeth Mozea
Mercy Ofosuhenne***Class of 2016***Karen Greenhow
Stacey Ross
Doug Thompson***Class of 2017***Sheryl Eichelberger
Sarah Cottongim***Wayne Buckhout
Clarion Editor*****Find us on Facebook!****Working Together: Five Tasks of Interim Ministry**

I have been here at CSPC for one month, and I would like to thank everyone who has helped welcome me and my family to the congregation. I have settled into the office and am learning as many names as I can - thank goodness for the pictorial directory and my years of training in memory research!

Since you have gone nearly eight months without a pastor, I am finding a number of things in the congregation I need to catch up on, especially pastoral care visits and home communion. I am also working to meet with members of the church individually, beginning with elders, deacons, and anyone who asks to get together with me. I will be attending as many committee meetings as I can while I am here at CSPC, and I appreciate the flexibility of members in re-arranging the meeting dates as needed.

Through all of this, I am interested in learning about the history of the congregation, and the experiences you have had in the years you have been part of CSPC. I want to hear about the aspects of church life that you value and cherish, and the things that have worked well. Of course, I also need to hear about the difficulties of the last few years.

As I mentioned in my first sermon, we all will be working together through the five tasks of interim ministry. These tasks are generally accepted by interim training programs and by experienced interim ministers as essential areas of focus for any congregation that is going through the transition from an installed pastor through the process of calling a new minister.

The tasks are: Coming to terms with history, discovering a new identity as God's people, allowing changes in leadership, renewing denominational linkages, and committing to new directions in ministry. These tasks generally go in that order, but it's not necessarily a linear, checklist process. Each task builds on and contributes to the others, and we'll move in and out of them a bit as we go through this interim time together.

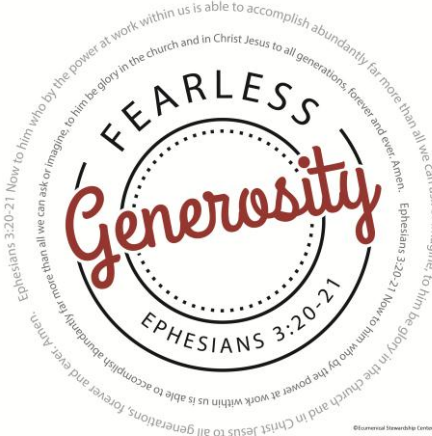
There may be a sense of urgency about getting started on the search for the new minister, but we will all need to be patient and accept the fact that this process will take time before the congregation is ready for that. The changes CSPC has experienced in the past few years are substantial. We will need to look together at the current numbers and composition of members, the financial status of the congregation, and the committee and administrative structures that have been in place for some time, in order to build a realistic plan for the life and ministries of CSPC going forward.

I will be working with session to begin planning some gatherings to address the first step, coming to terms with history. The process will involve both large and small-group meetings, and we will work to schedule some of these gathering before Advent arrives. At that point, I will invite us all to focus on that wondrous season of preparation in worship, study, and in our fellowship time together.

Please let me know if you would like to meet with me and we will set up a time. If there is someone in the church who you think could use a visit or a call from me, please tell me. I have a list I have been compiling with the help of deacons and others in the church, but I always want to hear about anyone who might need a visit or even a note from me.

Grace and peace,
Kathy

fearless living
fearless service
fearless sowing
fearless giving



On Sunday, Oct. 11, we began a four-week stewardship emphasis centered on the theme of "Fearless Generosity."

Throughout October, we will learn how to become more faithful stewards as we explore what it means to practice fearless living, fearless service, fearless sowing, and fearless giving. On Sunday, Nov. 2, we will come together to present our commitments of giving in support of the ministry and mission to which we are called as the Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church.

If you are unable to attend worship on Nov. 2 but still wish to make a commitment, you can mail a pledge card to the church office, or contact me directly (idanalex@fuse.net).

Our targets for pledged giving are \$105,000 for the general fund and \$15,000 for the capital campaign, which represent a slight overall increase versus last year. Based on recent income and expense trends and projections for next year, we expect to deliver a balanced, sustainable budget for Session's approval. Any pledges to the capital campaign above and beyond the base mortgage payment amount will be applied directly to the mortgage principle to enable an earlier payoff.

As we strive to practice fearless generosity, we can remember Paul's blessing to the church in Ephesus (Ephesians 3:20-21). Using us as willing vessels, God through the Holy Spirit – the power at work within us – is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine. May Paul's prayer for the church at Ephesus be our prayer as we begin this exciting time of transition and growth within our congregation. Time during which we will explore how God is calling us to be fearless givers and fearless stewards – as individuals and as a community of faith.

In Christian fellowship,
Dan Alexander, Finance Committee Chairman

Lorraine Property Sold; Western Reserve House Listed for Sale

CSPC's property on Lorraine Court, including the house where Gig and Marjorie Henderson used to live and adjacent lots, has tentatively been sold to our neighbors, St. Joseph Parish, for \$130,000. It's understood they will use it as the priest's house. The sale should be completed by the end of October. About \$9,000 of the proceeds will be used to repair our now-vacant manse, and the remainder used to pay down CSPC's mortgage debt. Paul Clark, who has rented our Western Reserve property (former Eubank home) next door for several years, intends move into manse when the work is completed. The Western Reserve property is currently listed for sale at \$134,900 via Ed Letsinger (Russ and Marlene's son) of Coldwell Banker West Shell, who was also our agent for the Lorraine sale. Proceeds from the sale of the Western Reserve house also will be applied to our mortgage balance.

Flames are On Fire!



Since starting up last month, the Flames youth group has been busy, cleaning out a Sunday School room for future use, making origami flowers and delivering them to Madonna Manor, and making decorated lollipops as ghosts for Ronald McDonald House. A farm visit is set for Oct. 19. Next meetings are Nov. 2 and 16 at 3 PM.

Happy Travelers Hitting the Road Again

The Happy Travelers have had a great summer. They took the train ride in Lebanon, Ohio, and had lunch at the Golden Lamb, visited the Dinsmore Home, Elk Creek Winery, and the School House Restaurant in Milford. This month, Oct. 23, they are going to LaComedia to see "He Keeps Me Singing," featuring the singing Hatfield Family. They will tickle funny bones and touch hearts with great old gospel songs. We will meet at church at 9:15 AM and leave promptly at 9:30. We do not have a meeting that day. Our November and December meetings and lunches will be on the third Thursday of the month, due to the holidays. Colonial Cottage, Montgomery Boathouse, Greyhound Grill, and Tousey House are on our list for future lunches. Spring Grove Cemetery tram tour will be in May, when all the spring flowers are in bloom, with no walking. I want to look into some one-day bus tours, so bring your ideas to our Nov. 20 meeting. Everyone is welcome to join us at our meetings, lunches and outings. Except for the next two months, we meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10am. Come join the fun!

Mark Your Calendars, Chili Cooks!

The fellowship committee will host the annual chili cook off on Sunday, Nov. 2. Will Elizabeth Mozea get to keep the trophy, or will your chili win this year? Look for signups in the narthex to enter your favorite recipe. We will meet in the gathering room at 5 PM. If you don't want to enter, sign up to come and bring a dessert to share. Fall is the perfect time to share your favorite apple or pumpkin recipes with your family and friends. Please feel free to invite others to this event.

Collections Begin For Holiday Baskets.

Collections of canned goods, cereal, soups, pasta, sauce, etc. have already begun for holiday baskets that CSPC assembles each year for distribution to needy families in our area. Look for those sales at the grocery stores and use your coupons to get the best deals for our baskets. We will hand out baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Betty Eichelberger is in contact with Debbie at River Ridge Elementary for the names of families for the baskets. If there is anyone in our church family in need, we would like to provide them with a basket as well. We will be asking the congregation to purchase turkeys for our Thanksgiving baskets here in the next couple of weeks. Also if you are not a shopper, we will take donations to do the shopping for you.

Christmas Pageant Date Set

Christmas season will be here before we know it. Sunday, Dec. 15 we will have our children's pageant and pot luck dinner. Anyone who would like to help with the planning of either of these, please contact Elizabeth Mozea. There will be signups for the children who would like to participate in the narthex soon.

Can you hear us now?

Are you getting regular news and updates from CSPC? If not, please email the church office (csPRESBY@gmail.com) requesting that you be added to the distribution list. Make sure you are not missing out on the Clarion newsletter, weather-related updates, reminders of upcoming events, and other important communications!

Financial Update

	September Budgeted	September Actual	YTD Budgeted	YTD Actual	YTD Difference
Income	\$13,210	\$ 13,630	\$ 119,890	\$ 122,769	\$ 2,879
Expense	\$15,429	\$ 11,655	\$ 140,076	\$ 111,150	(\$ 28,926)
Difference	(\$2,219)	\$ 1,975	(\$20,186)	\$ 11,619	

Session Notes

Stated Session Meeting - July 14, 2014

Moderator: Rev. Chuck Myser

Guests: Jeff Buckhout

Moderator's Time/Docket Building

Rev. Myser asked session members to discuss the differences in two paintings of "The Last Supper," how the session should relate to each other and what would be important principles in working together. Elders said respect, trust, humility, openness, keeping God first, and compassionate honesty.

Examination of Jeff Buckhout to fulfill a vacancy in the 2016 Class of Elders

Rev. Myser asked Jeff to talk about his early memories of CSPC. Jeff said he has felt the church is a place for opportunities to serve, even for children. Jeff has been involved in other churches, but has been drawn back to CSPC. He said CSPC does a good job of working as a family and caring about each other, but needs to not only deal with problems, but also show a positive view. He thinks he can bring some energy and different perspectives based on his experiences elsewhere. Tentative date for ordination is Aug. 3.

Approved Motion: To approve the ordination and installation of Jeff Buckhout for the vacant seat for the Class of 2016.

Clerk's Report

Communications:

Letter from the Presbytery of Cincinnati about recent General Assembly action, including action on same-sex marriage. Rev. Myser discussed the GA's actions allowing PCUSA pastors to officiate at same-sex marriage ceremonies in states that have approved them, and a proposed amendment to the Book of Order that would change the definition of marriage from being between a "man and a woman" to "two people, traditionally a man and a woman." Concerns expressed about the impact on the PCUSA denomination, including view that GA should not have allowed pastors to make such decisions individually. Session discussed setting a time for congregation to discuss the issue, possibly an "Invitation to Conversation."

Letter from Merilyn Reinhardt recommending better signage for the driveway and possibly painting "in" and "out" arrows on the pavement. She also said a visitor suggested providing signage with hours of service in front of the church. Session said arrows going down the driveway should be touched up. It discussed signs for the front regarding hours. Session agreed that Building and Grounds and Deacons, who have discussed signage, should work together to determine the best signage for the front of the building. Building and Grounds will work on designating traffic flow for the driveway. Jim Burdick said he would reply to Merilyn.

Duty Roster: Dan Alexander and Jeff Buckhout were designated as elders on duty for August.

Christian Education Committee

Written report submitted

Interim Pastoral Committee

Kim Newton said the church has information from searching for candidates on two different websites, but does not have a large pool of candidates. She said the committee is interested in a particular candidate who was recommended by a member of the Committee On Ministry. The candidate has experience and fits what the committee is looking for.

Personnel Committee

No report.

Building and Grounds Committee

Jim Burdick asked Crystal Harden to send a letter of thanks and a \$50 gift certificate to Rob Smith, who did some repairs to the Lorraine Court house for free. The committee also arranged for other work on the house, which should be finished soon. Session discussed whether the house should be listed (and at what price) or kept available for potential use by an interim pastor. Consensus not list the Lorraine Court house yet. Consensus to proceed with discussions with Paul Clark, the tenant in the former Eubank home facing Western Reserve, about whether he wants to buy that property. Discussion of issues with manse tenant, following a broken water heater that led to inspection of house condition. Tim Reed discussed the poor conditions and her plans. Despite tenant being behind on rent, Session had allowed her to stay in the house until her daughter graduated from high school, which happened this year. Recommendation to move forward with eviction notice, based on house condition.

Approved Motion: To send a letter of thanks and a \$50 gift certificate to Rob Smith for conducting repairs at the Lorraine Court house for free.

Approved Motion: To enter into discussions with renter Paul Clark about purchasing the house at 704 Western Reserve Road. If he isn't interested or doesn't have a counter offer, approval to list the house at \$145,000 with Realtor Ed Letsinger.

Approved Motion: To table the listing for the house at Lorraine Court for a month to allow the interim committee to use it as a negotiating item for an interim pastor.

Approved Motion: To begin the process of the eviction of the renter and have Tim Reed and Jim Burdick take a letter about a notice of termination of the lease Sept. 1. If she is not out by then, begin the process for eviction.

Finance Committee

Financial statements were distributed prior to the meeting.

Nominating Committee

Approved Motion: To approve Rev. Myser continuing as session moderator.

Worship Committee

Request from Esther Kang, worship facilitator, to allow Seth and Lena Dossa to use the extra keyboard at church. Debbie Daly said she would ask for permission from Billie Grant, who owns it.

Nomination

Kim Newton said she will send a letter/card of thank you to Carol Buckhout for her help training new officers.

Deacons

Written reports distributed.

Stated Session Meeting - Aug. 11, 2014

Moderator: Rev. Chuck Myser

Moderator's Time/Docket Building

Rev. Myser read from Luke 6 and handed out copies of the 5-Finger Prayer. Session members discussed their days, as well as concerns and joys. Rev. Myser included these joys and concerns in prayer.

Approved Motion: To approve docket as written

Clerk's Report

Clerk Crystal Harden presented the following:

- Statement from Presbytery on Per Capita giving
- Building Use form from Sarah Cottongim for use of Gathering Room on Sept. 13, 11AM -5 PM.
- Letter from Kentucky Council of Churches about annual assembly at Lakeside Presbyterian, Oct. 24-25. Registration and fee info on the council's website.
- Thank-you note from Tina Klare.

Clerk will put together a new duty roster for session members for 2014-15.

Informed Session of need for new Session representatives for Worship, Personnel, and Christian Education committees.

Interim Pastor Committee

Jim Burdick reported that committee has reached agreement with an interim candidate from Lexington, Ky., after meeting with her and listening to her preach in neutral pulpit. Cincinnati Presbytery's Committee On Ministry will meet with her and review the agreement. If COM approves, Session would review; if approved she would start Sept. 14. Proposed agreement is for 30 hours a week, including Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Crescent Springs, Fridays from her home in Lexington, and here on Saturday night for Sunday services.

Personnel Committee

Nursery staff is one person short. Worship Facilitator Esther Kang no longer available on Wednesdays for praise band practice due to new job. She wants to stay under different hours. Session will monitor her ability to do the job in fewer hours, especially during busy church times.

Building and Grounds Committee

Manse tenant paid August rent and is seeking third-party assistance to buy property. Walt Cottongim, Tim Reed and Jim Burdick met with her to discuss vacating the property. Repairs continuing on Lorraine Court house to offer it for sale. Western Reserve property also for sale. Current tenant in Western Reserve not interested in purchasing it, but might be interested in moving to the manse. Walt will pursue quote for removing bats from the sanctuary. Vicorys paying for sanctuary sound system improvements. Problems with office copier discussed. Jim checking service contract and options for replacement.

Finance Committee

Financial statements distributed prior to the meeting. Will conduct stewardship campaign, probably in October.

Worship Committee

Written report.

Christian Education

Written report.

Approved Motion: Collect donations at the Sunday School kick-off breakfast to be used to support the Children's Ministry.

Deacons

Written report. Deacons working on a new directory. Seeking records compiled earlier in church database software.

Called Session Meeting - Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2014

Moderator: Rev. Chuck Myser

Guests: Tim Reed

Interim Pastor Update

Tim Reed discussed details of the proposed covenant with Rev. Kathy Riley as interim pastor: 30-hour week, spending Sundays and some weekdays in Northern Kentucky, working from home Fridays. Also, a 50% offset for self-employment taxes, and no mileage reimbursement for commuting from Lexington. Session offered the Lorraine Court property as temporary housing until sold. Betty and Walt Cottongim also offering an apartment in their house.

Rev. Riley will use study leave to continue her commitments to organizations such as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Ordination Exams. She has had 4 or 5 interim positions, most recently in Missouri. All references were positive.

Approved Motion: To change wording in the proposed covenant to eliminate reference to the personnel committee and to correct spelling.

Approved Motion: To approve the covenant with Rev. Kathy Riley as Interim Pastor.

New Fundraiser

Approved Motion: To allow publicity in the church bulletin of a Fantasy Football fundraiser that would benefit church activities.

Rental Property

Approved Motion: To set a minimum acceptable price for the 704 Western Reserve property and to ask the Building and Grounds Committee to serve as a negotiating agent for session.

Copier

Session agreed to research the cost of a new copier or upgrading existing copier.

Calendar

Oct. 19 – Flames Youth Group Meeting 3 PM
 Oct. 20 – Fundraiser for CLASP – Max & Erma's, 11 AM to 9 PM
 Oct. 21 – Session Meeting 7 PM
 Oct. 22 – IGN and Men's and Children's Bible Study, 6 PM
 Oct. 23 – Happy Travelers trip to La Comedia 9:15 AM
 Oct. 29 – Women's Bible Study, 7 PM
 Nov. 2 – Worship/Commitment Sunday, 10 AM
 Flames, 3 PM
 Chili Cook-Off, 5 PM
 Nov. 5 – IGN and Men's and Children's Bible Study, 6 PM
 Nov. 6 – Deacons Meeting, 7:30 PM
 Nov. 8 – Tabitha Guild, Noon