



November 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 Ofosuhen

##### ***Class of 2016***

Karen Greenhow  
Stacey Ross  
Doug Thompson

##### ***Class of 2017***

Sheryl Eichelberger  
Sarah Cottongim

***Wayne Buckhout***  
***Clarion Editor***

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### **Pastor's Column**

## **Next Steps: Celebrate CSPC Past, Then Look Ahead**

As I end my second month here at CSPC, I am happy to say that your warm welcome continues with invitations to lunch or dinner, and the readiness of church members to meet with me to help me understand how the various aspects of the church function, to tell me about the church history, and to share their own experiences here at CSPC. I feel blessed to be serving here as the Interim pastor. I have enjoyed this beginning time, and look forward to the coming months as we enter into the work of the interim process.

On Sunday, November 23, we will have a potluck brunch to gather and celebrate the history of CSPC. We'll follow up with small cottage meetings to explore together the events and changes of the past few years in the life of the congregation. This will begin our work on the interim tasks and our congregational self-study, also called a Mission study, which involves looking at the past, present and future of CSPC. We will also consider what kind of pastoral leadership is best for the congregation, and we will identify areas of development and growth.

Here's how things will work: I have told session that I expect our process to continue into the early spring, to give us the time we need to meet in small and large groups, and for all members to participate in surveys and fill out questionnaires as we complete the mission study. Then, the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) will review our study results. They must approve before the congregation can elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). We will be assigned a liaison from the COM soon, and work with that person all the way through the process so the COM will know what we are doing and we will know what they expect.

When the time comes, congregation members will be able to suggest names for the PNC to the congregation's Nominating Committee, and members can volunteer to be considered. Once the PNC is elected, its members will write the Ministry Information Form (MIF). This document tells ministers all about CSPC and what the congregation is looking for in their next pastor. The COM will approve the MIF before it goes online in a national PCUSA database. All ministers who are actively searching for a congregation create a Personal Information Form (PIF) that goes into the same database. This database is used to match ministers and churches based on a set of characteristics that are listed on each MIF and PIF (extra stars to those who can keep all these acronyms straight!).

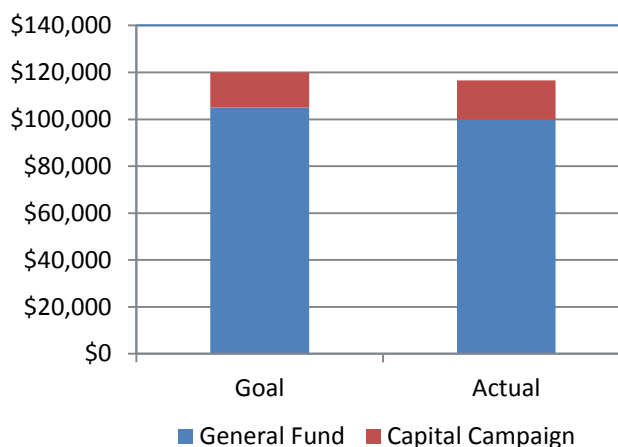
Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church is the fifth church I have served as an interim pastor, and I have great respect for the benefits of the steps we will take to prepare the congregation to call your next minister. Please let me know if you have questions. I will work with the Session to keep information flowing to all of you so everyone is up to date on where we are in the Interim process. As we go about this important work, I am always mindful that my role as pastor means that all the other aspects of ministry – worship, Christian education and fellowship, pastoral care and nurture of members, and attention to finances and building needs – all require my careful attention, as well as the efforts of CSPC members. I am confident that together, trusting in the guidance of God, who is with us in all things, we will come to the end of our time together with a new minister on the way who will serve with you in faithfulness and with great enthusiasm.

Grace and Peace,

Kathy

## Stewardship Campaign Results – 2015 Budget Outlook

Thank you to everyone who has made a financial commitment to CSPC during our recently concluded stewardship campaign! We are happy to report very strong results for the campaign, as pledges to date have come in at 97 percent of our campaign goal, with a sizable proportion of the congregation increasing their pledge versus last year. This level of continued “Fearless Generosity” on the part of our congregation, along with updates to other sources of income and expenses, will allow the Finance Committee to present a balanced budget to Session for approval for the second time in three years. A balanced budget assumes the sale of the Lorraine Court and Western Reserve rental properties by the end of year. The Committee plans to make adjustments in January if needed. We hope to build on this sustainable foundation to continue our progress in reducing our mortgage debt while further strengthening the ministries of the church, through faithful stewardship and “fearless” service.



## Nov. 23 – Celebrating the History of CSPC

Working together through the five tasks of our interim time begins with the first: “Celebrating our history and understanding our past,” with a potluck brunch following worship on Sunday, Nov. 23. This event will focus on the celebration of CSPC’s history as we share stories, create a CSPC timeline, and reflect together on some questions about life here at the church. Plan to attend, and bring a dish to share if you are able!

## Can you balance a checkbook, and do you seek to serve?

The Finance Committee is seeking a volunteer to serve as treasurer beginning in 2015. The next couple of months will be a great opportunity to “shadow” our current treasurer Karen Peters. The main responsibilities of the treasurer include paying bills, balancing the checkbook, creating monthly reports in Church Windows, and signing vouchers. The treasurer is supported by the Finance Committee, our payroll clerk, and our financial secretary. To learn more, please contact Karen or Dan Alexander.

## Christmas Pageant and Potluck – Dec. 14

CSPC’s smash holiday event, the spectacular Children’s Christmas Pageant and potluck, will be Sunday, Dec. 14. There are sign ups in gathering room for anyone interested in participating or helping in anyway. Any questions, please contact Elizabeth Mozea at [elizmoz531@yahoo.com](mailto:elizmoz531@yahoo.com).

## Adult Christmas dinner – Dec. 5

The annual adult Christmas dinner is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 5. If you are interested in attending, please sign up in the gathering room so the Fellowship Committee has a good count. It is always a nice evening with great fellowship during the Advent season. The location and cost is still to be determined.

## Holiday Baskets Filling Up, But More is Needed

Sheryl Eichelberger says more items are needed for **Thanksgiving** baskets, such as mashed potatoes, yams and stuffing. Turkeys and other items are due Nov. 23. **Christmas** baskets still need canned fruit, soup, stews, chicken dumplings, tuna or chicken. Also pop tarts, oatmeal, vegetables. You can also participate through your offering, designated for the holiday boxes.

## Farewell, Esther – and Thanks!

Rev. Riley reports that Esther Rose has decided she needs to cut back on her working hours. In her letter to the congregation (below), she has decided it is best if she ends her time with us at CSPC. Her last Sunday will be Dec. 7. She is working far more than a 40-hour week with her job at Cincinnati Country Day School, her private lessons and as our music director. This was a difficult decision for Esther, as she loves the congregation and her ministry with us. She is looking for someone to help us out during Advent and Christmas Eve, and she will help the Personnel Committee as we advertise for her replacement.

"I am very sorry to lose Esther, as I know everyone in the congregation will be, too," Rev. Riley said. "Along with all of you, I am very grateful to her for all she has done for CSPC. She is incredibly talented and dedicated, and I will personally miss working with her. If you have questions, please let me know. We will all be working with the praise band to ensure as smooth a transition as possible."

*To the congregation of Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church,*

*It is with a heavy heart that I must tell you that I will be leaving CSPC. I have loved my time with CSPC and been blessed by all of you!*

*With my new job at Cincinnati Country Day School and my private studio at full capacity, I have only had two days off since our wedding on Sept. 12. Working so much has really worn me down physically and affected my health. My heart condition has been acting up a lot recently and after meeting with my doctor and discussing it with my husband, we decided that I have to cut back my work hours. While I thought I could make it to the end of the school year working 60 hours a week, my health has proved me wrong.*

*I have worked with many pastors, and have rarely met a pastor like Kathy Riley. I would not be able to leave CSPC if I didn't feel 100 percent safe and secure that CSPC has an incredible leader. Our weekly meetings have helped me grow as a Christian, and given me renewed strength to help lead CSPC in worship. It's been an honor and a privilege to work alongside her and know that CSPC will flourish and grow under her guidance. I am sad to leave so soon after she has joined CSPC, but am grateful for the time that we have had together.*

*I will especially miss working with the incredible musicians who comprise the band. You are all fantastic musicians and have made my job so easy. Thank you for so many moments of joyously praising God. I know that you will continue to lead the church in worship with your amazing talent and skill.*

*I am so sad to leave the congregation. This last year has been amazing and I've fallen in love with all of you! My last day with you will be Dec. 7. I hope I'll be able to come back once in a while and sub for you! Thank you so much for all of your love and friendships. God bless!*

*With love in Christ,  
Esther Rose*

## Other News:

- **The River Ridge Family Resource Center** needs pants for girls, sizes 5-6, 6X, 7-8, stretch waist if possible. For more information about mission needs, see Betty Eichelberger.
- **Congratulations to Tom Ross** who was this years' winner at the Chili Cook-off on Nov. 2. We had a wonderful turn out for the Fellowship event. I'd like to thank everyone who helped out and brought entries for the contest.

## Financial Update

	October Budgeted	October Actual	YTD Budgeted	YTD Actual
<b>Income</b>	\$13,210	\$ 12,392	\$ 133,100	\$ 135,161
<b>Expense</b>	\$18,629	\$ 12,879	\$ 158,705	\$ 124,029
<b>Difference</b>	-\$5,419	-\$487	-\$25,605	\$ 11,132

## Calendar

Nov. 15 – Deacon/Session meeting 11 AM  
 Flames Youth Group Meeting 3 PM  
 Nov. 19 – Worship Committee 5:30 PM  
 Nov. 20 – Happy Travelers, 10 AM  
 CE Committee, 7 PM  
 Nov. 21 – Tabitha Guild, Noon  
 Nov. 23 – Celebrate CSPC History brunch, 11 AM  
 Nov. 29 – Hanging of the Greens, decorating for Advent 9 AM  
 Dec. 5 – Tabitha Guild, Noon  
 Adult Christmas Dinner  
 Dec. 14 – Christmas pageant and potluck  
 Dec. 18 – Happy Travelers, 10 AM

## Session Notes

### Stated Session Meeting

**Sept. 23, 2014**

**Moderator:** Rev. Kathy Riley

Rev. Kathy Riley opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m., with worship and prayer.

#### Moderator's Time/Docket Building

Rev. Riley read from Psalm 139. The Psalm illustrates God knows us and our church – the gifts, the riches, the conflict and the pain. Rev. Riley will explore these during her work with the church.

Approved Motion: To approve docket as written

Rev. Kathy Riley asked session members to discuss their backgrounds and church service. Rev. Riley discussed her background because only a few session members had seen her Personal Information Form. She is a clinical psychologist and attended the Lexington Theological Seminary. She has served five churches as an interim or designated pastor. She said the interim position is a calling for her. The primary purpose of an interim is to serve as pastor and to prepare a church for the next minister.

Rev. Riley's tasks will be:

- Coming to terms with the church history.
- Discovering a new congregational identity.
- Looking at leadership and ways to grow new leaders.
- Renewing linkages with the Cincinnati Presbytery.
- Committing to a new direction and a new minister.

Rev. Riley discussed how she will go about these tasks and said the average time for an interim ministry is 18 months. She discussed the importance of following the Book of Order, the Presbytery's Manual of Operations and the congregation's bylaws and Manual of Operations. She will order a copy of the 2013-2015 Book of Order for elders who do not have that edition. The book will be particularly relevant as the Pastor Nominating Committee begins its work, she said. Rev. Riley stressed the need for ongoing, clear communication at all levels of congregational life. She asked elders give her feedback often and to encourage the congregation to come to her directly with feedback and concerns. She expects to attend as many committee meetings as possible and will attend Presbytery meetings. She will not vote in those meetings, as she is retaining her membership in the Presbytery of Transylvania. With her 30-hour contract, she expects to be at church Wednesdays and Thursdays, and on Sundays. In other matters, Rev. Riley said she has some free office furniture that she can move to CSPC.

Approved Motion: To approve using money designated for moving expenses to hire movers to bring the office furniture to CSPC.

Rev. Riley discussed the music ministry at CSPC and requested a review of the worship facilitator's contract to reflect the current functions and to designate the pastor as the person to whom the worship facilitator is responsible. Session

agreed. Rev. Riley will meet with the Personnel Committee. She asked the committee to review the nursery staff. She said an adult needs to be in the nursery with the children. She will review the current CSPC Manual of Operations to see if it has a complete policy on preventing and dealing with sexual misconduct. Rev. Riley also discussed the Presbytery committees that she is serving with. She is on the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Ordination Exams. The committee gets together one week a year, and twice a year she has to work on exams at the computer. She also participates in Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The committee work will be part of her work with the church. Rev. Riley requested permission to be away from the church October 29-30 for a deployment to Louisville, MS, where a tornado struck in spring 2014.

Approved Motion: To allow Rev. Kathy Riley to be away from the church Oct. 29-30 as part of her Presbyterian Disaster Assistance service.

#### Clerk's Report

Clerk went over the following communications:

- Statement from Presbytery on Per Capita giving
- Building use form for use of Gathering Room Sept. 13, 11 AM-5 PM
- Letter from Kentucky Council of Churches about annual assembly at Lakeside Presbyterian Church Oct. 24-25. There's registration an online registration and fee.

After a request for a new roster of duty, the clerk agreed to put together a new 2014-15 roster. The clerk also made session aware of the need for new committee assignments, especially worship, personnel and Christian Education. A sheet to sign up for committees was circulated.

#### Building and Grounds Committee

The committee provided an update on the rental properties:

704 Western Reserve: There have been 1,300 views of the property online, but no one has gone through it physically. Committee member said he believes the price is too high. He is recommending that the price be reduced to \$134,900. Session members said the property's landscape needs work to improve the curb. The Building and Grounds Committee expects to set a day to do yard work on the property. Committee will talk to the realtor about the price change for the listing.

Approved Motion: To reduce the listing price of 704 Western Reserve to \$134,900.

Lorraine Court: The renovations are complete, other than installing glass blocks in the basement. Committee recommends listing the house at \$140,000-\$150,000.

Approved Motion: To list the price for Lorraine Court at \$140,000.

In other matters, the chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee said the church needs a portable headset for the sanctuary. We have had a \$1,000 donation to make sure the sound board is in good shape and to purchase a new headset. One quote is for \$1,150 from the man who typically does work on the sound system.

#### Finance Committee

Financial statements and committee notes were distributed prior to the meeting. The chairman of the committee, said budget trends are positive. The committee expects to conduct the stewardship campaign, with the theme of "Fearless Generosity". The Finance Committee expects a balanced budget this year. The committee will fold in the capital campaign with the stewardship campaign.

Approved Motion: To release \$400 in rental deposit for Lorraine Court back to general fund.

Approved Motion: Modify designation of Fireside fundraising balance to reflect youth programming.

#### Worship Committee

Written report submitted. Rev. Riley wants to know who is serving communion ahead of time. She wants sign-ups for elders/volunteers.

#### Christian Education

Written report submitted.

#### Deacons

Written reports submitted. Deacon liaison reminded session that a joint meeting with Deacons needs to be set. Rev. Riley said she expects to start visiting shut-ins.

Approved Motion: To approve the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of Aug. 11 and Aug. 27, 2014.

#### Secretary Items

Secretary discussed issues with the copier. We have a contract on a copier, similar to a lease on a car. The standard time is 5 years. If we stay with the same company and lease a new copier, it will be \$5.38 more a month, for \$130.58 monthly. Another machine with a different company would be \$150 a month or more. We can get a free trial for a new copier.

Approved Motion: To get a free trial on a new copier with the same company

#### Closing Worship

Devotional was offered. Rev. Kathy Riley closed with the meeting prayer at 10 p.m.

#### **Called Session Meeting**

**Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2014**

**Moderator:** Rev. Kathy Riley

The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing authorization of up to \$10,000 for needed repairs to the manse and up to \$10,000 for repairs to Western Reserve house.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Kathy Riley at 6:30 PM.

The Building and Grounds Committee would like to have authority to spend up to \$10,000 for work on the manse. The house is not empty yet. Committee members will want to get in the house by Sunday to assess what needs to be done. Rev. Riley asked if there is enough cash reserves to cover the repairs. It was reported that there is \$18,000 in undesignated funds. The church could let the Building and Grounds budget go negative as long as money from the Lorraine Court property will replenish it. The Lorraine Court property will require a title search, but otherwise the sale is on target.

Approved Motion: To authorize up to \$10,000 for repairs on the manse.

The meeting ended 6:55 p.m.