



December 2015

Interim Pastor
Rev. Kathy Riley

Session

Class of 2016

Jeff Buckhout
Jim Burdick
Walt Cottongim

Class of 2017

Dan Alexander
Meaghan Mullin
Stacey Ross

Class of 2018

Shannon Murphy
Tim Reed

Deacon Board

Class of 2016

Karen Greenhow
Doug Thompson

Class of 2017

Sheryl Eichelberger
Sarah Cottongim

Class of 2018

Becky Burdick
Terry David

Clarion Editor

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Crescent Springs
Presbyterian Church



I am no good at coming up with titles. When I wrote scientific journal articles in my career as a researcher in Alzheimer's Disease, I relied on my co-authors to write the titles. When I entered the ministry, I struggled to come up with a sermon title every week. Then, somewhere in the middle of serving as interim pastor in my second congregation, I realized that nowhere in the Bible does it say 'Thou shalt have a title for your sermons!' I haven't written a sermon title since! It's just not one of my strengths.

Knowing what we are good at, and where we are less skilled, is important. The Planning for Growth and Evangelism group has talked about the need for church members to know their strengths and to seek out ministries that play to those strengths. It may soon be time to do some self-assessment to see if people feel their gifts are being used to their fullest advantage. CSPC is small in numbers, but huge in spirit, commitment, and willingness to serve. The key is to continually ask if our work is what God would have us do.

Session and the Planning group agree that it is important for the congregation to turn our attention outward in nearly all that we do. The session, deacons and each committee will be asked to consider how to invite others to join CSPC in worship, spiritual growth, and mission. For example, the Chili cook-off could involve invitations handed out in the neighborhood around the church. Those who plan Vacation Bible School may find new ways to invite even more children who are not members to join us. The women's retreat might be opened up to co-workers and neighbors and members of our exercise classes.

All members of CSPC will be asked to consider how they can be part of this invitational focus. It is clear that CSPC is a place where people feel God's love, and God is calling the congregation to bring others to join in all that we do. Knowing our natural gifts and abilities is helpful. But God does not call us to remain fixed in what is familiar and comfortable. God asks us to take risks and try new things, boldly and with faith and confidence that what we need will be provided. That means the Holy Spirit will help us find our voice when it comes to asking friends and neighbors to join us in a mission project, or to come to Christmas Eve service or a fellowship event.

I know CSPC is a welcoming congregation. But we have to take that a step further and be an intentionally inviting congregation, in all that we do. We need to be constantly aware of opportunities to share what is going on here with others, and to find ways to tell the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ, as we experience it here. This would be a good place to come up with a name for the inviting, welcoming, reaching-out work before us. But, you know me and titles! Whatever we call this, it will mean stretching our hearts and minds and efforts upward to point always toward God, Christ and Spirit – and outward to those who are looking for a church family in which they can worship, learn and love and serve God. This is God's call to us.

Kathy

Christmas Eve Services

Our services will be held at 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Communion will be served at the 11:00 p.m. service. We will have special music and a harpist at both services. Please join us and help spread the word to friends, family and colleagues that all are welcome to worship with us on this holy night.

Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's group at Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church has been meeting for over ten years. The group has experienced many changes during this time. We started out as a prayer group for the men in our church to have a venue to share prayer time and fellowship. Our initial group had planned discussions around topics affecting the church and even shared a study about prayer and how to pray both privately and publicly. The men have provided service to the church in many various forms from leading the original rehab on the Western Reserve property, moving of members from apartments to new residences, and overseeing general cleanup activities at church. While the tradition of the annual Women's Breakfast has not taken place the last few years, there was a time when the Men's group held a Women's Breakfast the Saturday before Mother's Day and enjoyed cooking for many of the ladies of the church.

I would like to reach out and invite to all men at CSPC to come join us on Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m. for a fellowship time. The meetings are structured such that everyone is welcomed to join us with no requirement to be present every week.

The group has enjoyed this weekly time that allows for the men of the church to come together to talk about issues and concerns that affect us both from a CSPC perspective as well as from a more personal aspect.

We would love for all to come whenever you like and check us out. Currently we meet for one hour at 8:00 a.m. each Saturday with the last ten minutes devoted to shared prayer concerns and then close with a corporate prayer. Please feel free to contact Jim Burdick, Walt Cottongim or Tim Reed with any questions or ideas about the Men's Fellowship Group.

Peace,
Tim Reed

Closet Cleaning?

As you change your clothes over to winter wear, don't forget to bring your gently-used, no-longer needed clothes in for our Lifeline ministry. There is a container in the Gathering Room for your donations.

Helping Others



People Working Cooperatively sponsored a leaf raking event called Prepare Affair on Saturday, November 14th. Scott Mozea coordinated our involvement and his group was made up of co-workers from his office, the whole Mullin family, along with Ross, Corrine, Madeline, and Ashlynne.

It was a beautiful November day and we were assigned locations in Corinth and Dry Ridge. Leaves were raked and gutters cleaned. With all those hands helping, we made short work of the leaves and were quickly on the road again leaving behind extremely grateful residents. It was their warm regards and blessings that kept us going all morning.

The kids seemed to enjoy the event immensely, and working together made it fun for all. Hopefully you can join us for the 41st one next year.

Thanks,
Scott Mozea

Searching for a Pastor in the PCUSA



The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been hard at work, meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings. They have received more than 60 Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from potential candidates for the position of installed pastor here at CSPC. Here is how those PIF's were received: The Ministry Information Form (MIF), which everyone at CSPC has had a chance to see, was listed on the PCUSA site called "Church Leadership Connection (CLC)". There is a process that will match ministers' PIFs with congregations' MIFs, based on a set of criteria. First, they must match on desired geographical area, the type of position that is being offered, the level of experience required, and minimum

salary requirements. In our case, CSPC is open to brand new candidates with no experience in ministry, as well as ministers with any number of years in the ministry. We are looking for an installed solo pastor, and of course, candidates must have included Kentucky in their desired geographical area.

After matches are made on this basis, matches are made based on the "leadership competencies." Each congregation and each pastor checks 10 of these characteristics that the pastors say they have and congregations say they want. Typically, 5 of these 10 items have to match in order for a PNC to receive the names of the candidates.

Once the matches are made, the PNC requests the list. Twenty-five PIFs are forwarded to the PNC at a time, and the PNC can request new sets of matches every 3-4 days.

A final way for a PNC to receive a PIF is for the pastor to look at the MIFs on the website and do a self-referral. They might do this if they don't formally match because of salary, but are willing to look at a slightly lower salary than they put on their PIF.

The PNC can continue to request new matches at any time, as new PIFs are coming into the system all the time. However, at some point the PNC stops looking at new candidates in order to focus their time on the promising candidates they have identified. Our PNC will continue to give us monthly updates in worship and in the Clarion.

Tabitha Guild

If you want to know how the knitting and crocheting group here at church got their name, read the story in The Book of Acts at the end of Chapter 9. Depending on your version and translation, you can read about Tabitha/Dorcas and how she was involved in her community. Nine of us gathered in November to continue our current projects of making scarves for the Cold Shelter and we even had a donation of new gloves and hats to add to our growing collection. We have been asked if we would like to make hats for women who have lost their hair from chemo treatments. We are excited to try new patterns for knitted or crocheted hats and will donate our hats to the Oncology Hematology Care Center in Edgewood.



Terry David

Mission Committee Update

Thank you to everyone who has helped support the River Ridge Resource Center through our Food for Thought Bags and Thanksgiving Baskets. This Thanksgiving we will feed 12 River Ridge families, James Barnett, and have the resources to feed 3 more should we receive last-minute calls. The mission committee is looking forward to our upcoming Christmas basket food drive.

Heather Alexander

Fellowship Event for December

The Deacons have organized an Adult Christmas Party to be held on December 5th. Amy Rigney has secured the Orleans South Clubhouse at 2590 St. Charles Circle in Union, KY. The facility is handicap accessible. We will gather at 5:30 for socializing (BYOB if you want); and a catered dinner will be served at 6:30. Reservations are \$15 per person reservation fee due to Becky Burdick by 11/29.

Flames Youth Group

On November 1st, the Flames started making shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child. This international project involves stuffing shoeboxes with small gifts, personal care items and school supplies for children in countries like Africa and South America.

See Erin Murphy if you would like to donate to this project. Postage is very expensive; so you can make a cash donation through the collection plate at church with "Flames Youth Group – Operation Christmas Child" in the memo line.

The Flames participated in team building games on Sunday, November 15th, learning how to work together while having fun and also made birthday cards for the residence of Madonna Manor. Our next meeting will be Sunday, December 13th at 3 pm.

Erin Murphy and Meaghan Mullin sponsor the Flames Youth Group



Session Update

Session update:

- Session set the times for the Christmas Eve services at 7 PM and 11 PM.
- The decision was made to move ahead with the water mitigation and waterproofing work in the basement.
- A system is being developed to make decisions and convey information in the event of severe winter weather on Sunday mornings. A system of emails, texts, phone calls and notifications on television stations will be in place for the coming winter months.
- The website has been updated and a new platform will be purchased and implemented.
- Session authorized the Building and Grounds committee to purchase a new refrigerator and freezer for the church building.

Questions, Answers and Conversation about Marriage in the PC(USA)

We have been having conversations in session, deacons, Bible study and Sunday School about the recent changes in the Book of Order and the Supreme Court decision about same-gender marriage. We also have completed a seven-week study of issues concerning sexual behavior and the Bible. The Book of Order gives each session the freedom to make decisions about same-gender marriage, just as sessions are able to determine how they will deal with sexual orientation and ordination of elders and deacons. On Sunday, December 6, right after worship, we will gather for a question and answer period and time of conversation about these issues for all who would like to participate. We will begin our discussion with a commitment to some guidelines for discussing sensitive issues, based on a PC(USA) document that has already been discussed in Sunday school and Bible Study. This document is on the table in the narthex at church. Please join us on December 6th.

Happy Travelers

The Happy Travelers have had a great year. We visited Spring Grove Cemetery in May. Many flowers and shrubs were in bloom. Our tour was educational with information about the celebrities and Cincinnati families buried there. This summer we enjoyed a cruise on the B and B Riverboat and also traveled to General Butler State Park for a wonderful lunch which included 3 meats several sides, for a price of \$9.01, which included our drink and dessert! After this generous lunch, we stopped at Bon Worth for a little shopping before heading home.

Our meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at church and are usually followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Everyone is welcome! You don't have to be a senior to have lunch with this bunch. Join us for our Christmas lunch on December 17 (see me for details).

God bless you and pray for those children who are homeless or go to bed hungry every night,
Betty Eichelberger

Financial Update

The Finance Committee is pleased to report on the conclusion of another very successful stewardship campaign. To date, we have received general fund and capital campaign pledges totaling \$130,882.

Campaign	Goal	Actual	Difference
General Fund	\$105,000	\$112,062	+\$7,062
Capital	\$25,000	\$19,420	-\$5,580
Total	\$130,000	\$130,882	+\$822



The total pledges are 1% above our campaign goal, and 6% above last year's total pledges. Combined with other sources of income, the continued strong support from the congregation will enable the finance committee to submit a balanced budget for Session's approval for the second year in a row, and for the third time in the past four years. Although we have a continuing need to be good stewards of our collective resources, committees do have funds available to support their work, and Session is contemplating increased investment in important ministries that had experienced budget cuts in past years, such as local mission support. This is only possible due to everyone's ongoing generosity and financial stewardship – thank you!

Although Commitment Sunday was November 1st, If you would still like to make a pledge, please place your card in either the offering plate or in the treasurer's mailbox in the church office. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with a member of the Finance Committee: Dan Alexander, Sheryl Eichelberger, Jeff Buckhout, Sarah Cottongim, Karen Peters, Karen Greenhow, Jim Burdick, or the Rev Kathy Riley.

	November Budget	November Actual	2015 YTD Budget	2015 YTD Actual
Income	\$12,854 .00	\$9,137.69	\$131,040.00	\$133,353.60
Expense	\$12,216.00	\$11,044.89	\$124,264.00	\$121,735.07
Difference	\$638.00	(\$1,907.20)	\$6,776.00	\$11,618.53

December Calendar

Wednesdays – 6:30 – Christmas Pageant Practice; 7:00 – P.N.C. Meeting

Saturdays – 8:00 a.m. – Men's Fellowship

December 3 – Worship Committee Meeting at 5:30; Deacons at 7:30

December 4 - Tabitha Guild noon until 2:00

December 5 - Adult Christmas Party (Fellowship hour at 5:30; dinner at 6:30)

December 6 – “Questions, Answers and Conversation About Marriage in the PCUSA” 11 a.m. (after worship)

December 10 - Mission Committee Meeting at 6:30; Planning, Growth and Evangelism Meeting at 7:00

December 13 – Flame Youth Group 3:00

December 15 – Session Meeting 7:00

December 17 – Happy Travelers 10:00 a.m.

December 18 – Tabitha Guild noon until 2:00

December 20 – Soup, salad and bread supper 5:30 and Christmas Pageant

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.