

Chr2nicles

Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
1400 Highland Pike, Covington, KY 41011

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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More of the Same

So what is there to say about the ten good Christians from Idaho who traveled to Haiti to rescue orphans and presumably bring them to the States to heal all their diseases and raise them among the rich and privileged? Perhaps one day they might want to return to their homeland to help bring it up to contemporary standards.

One could only hope.

What is it about us Americans that we can make the broad assumptions that these well intentioned Christian people did? The world is not our Free Store

where we can wander up and down the aisles choosing which good deeds we might do without considering the consequences. Neither is it our menu from which we could choose one from column A and two from column B.

The history of most North American Christian missions is replete with a sense of superiority at the institutional level, and with much gritting of teeth and faithful living at the face to face level. And yet even those who broke from the bondage of institutional mission failed to get it all right. I still remember tales of Tlingit Indians in southeast-

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We collected
\$881 for
Haiti.
Thank you!

Continued from page 1

ern Alaska telling of the destruction of their “history books” (what we call “totem poles”) because the missionaries believed they were idols. Similar stories were told of the missionaries who washed the mouths of Indian children with soap who persisted in using their own language and not speaking English (to the end that the Tlingit language has nearly disappeared).

Maybe the best word to use in the context of mission is *exchange*. Maybe before we engage in any type of mission we should ask what, besides a sense of righteousness and superiority can we get out of this? What do the people we are trying to serve have to give us? And this does not mean that we are trading \$24.00 worth of beads and trinkets for the island of Manhattan. It may be that those we are called to serve have nothing of a material nature to give us back, but

that does not mean they have nothing to give us.

Just ask any of the people who have traveled to Nicaragua over the past ten years.

Note: the next delegation from our church (Bill Lindsay and I) as well as the Madisonville Christian Church will be headed south on March 4. Money has already been set aside in the 2010 budget for this trip but you have always been generous in supplementing the budgeted amount with a special offering, for which I thank you in advance. But I believe that I need to do a better job sharing with you what I get in return for your giving! And you should demand it. Somehow it must be more than a slide show or a sermon.

I'll be working on it while Bill and I are gone

ST. FRANCIS FUND REPORT FROM KELLY MONTANA

I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your support of the St. Francis Fund in 2009. The year's donations totaled \$476.44, which helped relieve my financial burden in caring for God's creatures. Your donations helped both wild and abandoned domestic animals, such as birds, deer, cats, dogs, and rabbits, and helped pay veterinary bills to fix broken wings, perform spays & neuters, paid for gas to transport fawns to wildlife rehab center, and bought animal food, so know that many animals' suffering was relieved by your help.

Please remember to support the St. Francis Fund in 2010, and may God bless all of you for your support of my calling.

Kelly Montana

IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS



Henry Wallace, KC Clarke, The Kreicker Family, Pete Beckett, Linda Bowen, Phyllis Houp, David Weitzel, Mark Brant and Erika Berry. Please remember our nursing home residents and shut ins: Ruth Comisar, and Evelyn Wallace.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Deborah Grover	3rd	Dorothy Thomsen	14th
Caitlin Beach	5th	Kimberly Suer	14th
Ethan Van Alstine	8th	Kevin Kreicker	22nd
Andrea Wise	9th	Nita Kleier	28th
Cindy Wise	9th		

Happy Birthday!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Courtney Brown	4th	Eric Dupps	21st
Jo Shade	5th	Jack Kleier	24th
Martha Bennett	10th	David Weitzel	25th
Jessica Van Alstine	16th	Amanda Wise	28th
John Mehl	17th	Robert Carlin	29th

FROM OUR TREASURER

2009	GENERAL		MISSION		
	Dec.	Y.T.D.	Dec.	Y.T.D.	Deacons
Beg. Balance	15,860	25,969	1,826	211	—
Income	10,979	107,000	770	6,502	1,361
Expenses	<u>8,044</u>	<u>114,174</u>	<u>2,033</u>	<u>6,711</u>	<u>800</u>
End Balance	18,795	18,795	563	2	561

MISSION AT WORK

BY: JACK KLEIER

Jesus told his followers that the poor would be with us always. Elsewhere in Scripture he reminds us to feed His sheep. As I have written new letter articles over the past few years I am reminded of these calls from Jesus. Our ministry in the Church should indeed be one of compassion. I have written about One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking Offering, Joy Offering and many other offerings describing the need of God's People throughout the world. This congregation has always responded well. The latest natural disaster in Haiti is no different. As I write this we are still responding with our gifts and it appears that the response has been very good.

This month we begin the annual One Great Hour of Sharing campaign. Our gifts to OGHS will help the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Group respond quickly with aid in the case of a natural disaster. It's like that first fire truck on the scene when your house is on fire. The quicker they arrive the better chance there is to limit damage. Please support OGHS again this year. You will be able to learn more about it through Bulletin inserts and we will promote it through the minute for outreach.

When our team met in January, we set out plans for an Evangelism campaign for this year. We are setting a goal of a net increase in membership of four for 2010. Evangelism is not something that Presbyterians are very comfortable talking about. The old argument quickly is made that we shouldn't be interested in numbers. But you see, just as Christ told us about the poor and our care for them, He also reminds us of those that have wandered from the faith or have never estab-

lished a faith and these also need to be fed. We have a number of people who have strayed. They should be a concern for us just the same as the poor for they are truly poor in spirit. As we look around our world, it becomes very apparent that the Church needs to be more in the world sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, than ever. Part of feeding His sheep is bringing them in for spiritual food. If you would like to join in this effort contact the pastor or me.

We will continue efforts throughout the year to provide care packages for our service personnel. There will be a list of items needed posted on the message center. We encourage you to participate as you can and our committee will package items when we get enough and ship them where needed.

As we proceed through the year, we will be sponsoring some clean up days. Since we do not have janitorial service these days are very important to help keep our campus clean and in good repair. Please watch the bulletin for the next day in March. We can make these days good days for fellowship and work to serve as we are able. They will also help us get to know one another and keep our campus fit.

We are always looking for ideas and would welcome any that you might have. What would you like for us to do? What kind of programs would you like to see offered? Let us know. If they don't fit under our umbrella, we will pass them on to the appropriate one.

FILM CAPSULES

BY: ED McNULTY

Avatar

Rated PG-13. Isaiah 42:18; Psalm 37:14
James Cameron's expensive ten-year gamble to immerse us in the alien beauty of another planet has paid off handsomely, both for himself and for us viewers who love a good story in which are embedded social justice issues. It is a century in the future, when a large mainlining corporation, no doubt related to one of those currently stripping away the mountaintops in West Virginia, has established a large base on Pandora, a satellite of a planet in a distant star system. Its objective is to acquire a rare and vital metal with the ironic name of unobtainium, but it has come up against two obstacles. Humans cannot breathe the atmosphere, and the ten-foot tall blue-skinned natives, called Na'Vi, have been provoked to hostility—and their most sacred object, a huge tree, sits right over the mother load of unobtainium. Thus has been created using DNA from humans and Na'Vi bodies called avatars. By developing a process for injecting the minds of humans into them it is hoped humans can communicate better with the Na'Vi. If this does not work, the head of the security force stands ready to remove the Na'Vi by force from the coveted site. Our paraplegic hero Jake loves being able to walk again through his avatar, and when he lives with the Na'Vi develops a deep respect for them, as well as a love for the Pocahontas-like daughter of the chief. Thus like Lt. John Dunbar in *Dances With Wolves*, Jake turns against his own to fight with the Na'Vi. The film's 3-D effect joins with the plot to give us a new perspective on the old colonialism that swept aside native populations on our planet, the spirit of which is not dead, judging by the feelings of many Americans concerning the American Way of Life versus the Muslim world.

The Princess and the Frog

Rated G. Philippians 2:3-4
An absolutely delightful music-filled twist on the old fairy tale, this version is set in WW 1 era New Orleans and surrounding swamps, with the main characters being an African American daughter of a seamstress, a father away at war, and a foreign prince visiting the city. Our humble heroine shares her father's dream of opening a café. How she meets the prince, cursed by a sorcerer, and in a twist of the plot becomes a frog herself, sharing a series of adventures with a horn-playing alligator and other creatures, is fun to watch. There is plenty of underlying moral instruction, such as what you want is not always what you need; hard work is required to bring about a dream; and real love results in making great sacrifices—all illustrated in beautiful flat, hand-drawn art that proves that one does not need all of the lavish CGI effects to make a compelling movie that appeals to children and adults.

The Road

Rated R. Jeremiah 12:4
This dark post-apocalyptic film is less of a Mad Max-like thriller than it is a visual meditation on the fallen nature of humanity and the struggle to retain one's human dignity amidst dehumanizing circumstances. Known to us only as The Man and the Boy, a father and his young son leave their home in what seems to be the N.E. of the US to seek a warmer climate where they can find food. Cities and the land lie in ruins because of some undescribed catastrophe that has reduced humans to competing bands of savages, many of them resorting to cannibalism to stay alive. Twice The Man and the Boy

FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED

barely escape from such a band. The father tells his son they must “carry the fire,” and later when the boy asks if they are still “the good guys,” the father assures him that they still are (even though he has had to kill to protect the boy). Discussion of God, a memorable scene in the ruins of a church, and a bittersweet ending leaves us with a ray of hope that, in the words of the 4th Gospel, “The light shines in the darkness...”

Up in the Air

Rated PG-13. Ecclesiastes 4:9-11; Luke 15:17a

Audiences are probably drawn to this film by the appealing George Clooney who plays a cad enjoying his uncommitted life of flying around the country collecting bonus miles while he fires employees on behalf of his clients. However, if viewers listen closely to the Graham Nash song that plays over the end credits, “Be Yourself,” they will leave the theater with a little more insight into how the most popular of one of the parables told in Luke’s gospel still resonates in the life of a self-centered man who “comes to himself” in a moment of epiphany. This moment comes at his niece’s wedding when he gives advice that he has not been following himself. A development in the trysts with his girlfriend sharply deviates from the usual arc of such films, so that the concluding sequence lifts this far above most other films of the genre.

It’s Complicated

Rated R. Maybe it is, but the simple fact is that this film is another Hollywood justifica-

BY: ED McNULTY

tion for adultery. Oh it is highly enjoyable, thanks to the great talent of Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, and Steve Martin, but the makers still skillfully are seducing audiences to accept something once deemed repugnant. Streep’s character falls in love again with her remarried ex-husband when both are far from home attending the graduation of one of their sons. There are some good family moments, notably when Streep’s grown children express their hurt resulting years ago from the divorce, but this largely formulaic film—there is the usual circle of female friends who too readily justify our heroine’s affair—will be difficult, I hope, for people of faith to accept its major premise that a little adultery is good for the soul when committed by Beautiful People.

Nine

Rated PG-13. Romans 8:5-6.

This version of the hit Broadway musical should be of interest to fans of the great Italian filmmaker Federico Fellini because it is inspired by his own semi-autobiographical film *8 ½*. Both deal with a philandering filmmaker struggling to come up with the concept of a new film. His is a desperate struggle because his last films have all been failures, and his backers have set a meeting at which he convinces them that his concept for his new project will succeed, or else. A series of the women in his life come and go with their songs describing their relationships. Although the music is not memorable, the film is thanks to a talented cast that even includes Sophia Loren as the troubled director’s mother.

**Max &
Erma's**

Presents

C.L.A.S.P.

Children of Ludlow
After School Program
Fundraiser!

Tuesday, March 16th

20% of your sales will benefit
C.L.A.S.P. - Children of Ludlow
After School Program.

Flyer distribution on Max & Erma's property is prohibited and will result in the forfeiture of your organization's entire donation.

C.L.A.S.P.
Children of Ludlow
After School Program

Present this ticket to your server and

20% of your sales will benefit
C.L.A.S.P. - Children of Ludlow
After School Program.

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Visit maxandermas.com
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Proceed donation does not include
gift certificate sales.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES

NOTE: In the interest of making Session minutes easier to read through and the interest of conserving paper, the following highlights are given. If you would like to read the complete minutes, please contact the Clerk of Session.

A quorum was present. The regular meeting of the Session of Community of Faith Presbyterian Church was called to order on December 10, 2009. The Rev. Donald H. Smith, Jr. Rev. Smith opened the meeting with prayer

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated on Sunday, December 6, 2009, at the morning worship service. The Rev. Donald H. Smith, Jr. and Dr. Ed McNulty presided. A memorial service was held for Robert Clarke on November 19, at 7:00 P.M. in the sanctuary of COF. Rev. Smith presided.

Over the past month, this clerk has taken the following actions on behalf of the Session:

- Conveyed to Al Jaeger, Chair of the Deacons, the Session's request that the Deacons pay down the amount of money in their account by making contributions to organizations in need such as C.L.A.S.P.
- Sent a letter of transfer for Elizabeth A. Bernard to Lakeside Presbyterian Church.

- Met with the Roll Review Committee.

Provided for the treasurer the value of five stocks listed with BNY Mellon and held in the name of the First Presbyterian Church of Ludlow, KY.

ACTION: On the recommendation of the clerk, the Session took the following actions:

- Transferred Jenni Miller-Francis from the active roll of COF to St. John's Westminster Union Church.
- Removed Robert P. Clarke from the Active Roll and entered his name in the Deceased Roll.

Removed Pricilla L. Cook from the Active Roll and entered her name in the Deceased Roll. Pricilla died on Saturday, July 25, 2009. A memorial service was held at Linemann's Funeral Home in Erlanger, KY. Interment was at Floral Hills Memorial Park, Taylor Mill, KY.

The clerk recommended to the Session and Rev. Smith a booklet entitled "Retirement: Coming Ready or Not" which gives best practices for pastors and their spouses, sessions and congregations, succeeding pastors, and presbytery entities to follow when a pastor retires. The booklet is available on the Presbytery web site, www.presbyteryofcincinnati.org, under the COM File Cabinet. Paper copies will be provided for those Session members who do not have the Internet.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter was re-

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES, CONTINUED

ceived informing the Session of the decision of the Hills of Kentucky Dulcimers to discontinue meeting at COF. Also, a letter was received from Nita Kleier expressing her concern that money contributed by members specifically for mission work was not being used for mission causes. An investigation of the problem revealed that the contributed money actually had not been spent, but had been accumulating in the mission account in the church's treasury awaiting the designation of its use for mission work by the Session. Any money that had been contributed and designated for special mission causes, such as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, had already been forwarded to those causes. Designation of unspent mission money was handled in action under New Business.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Smith reported on the ministry he had conducted in the name of COF over the preceding month.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: President Pete Beckett reported that the board had not met.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Gary Willis explained his financial report. The entire per capita owed by COF for 2009 has been paid to the Presbytery of Cincinnati.

C.L.A.S.P.: Elder Bill Lindsay reported. Donations to the program are lagging; however, the program is functioning. Elder Jack Kleier and Miguel Carlin visited C.L.A.S.P. to have the children write

Christmas cards to send to the troops. A grant from Lakeside Presbyterian and the work of a Lakeside member experienced in furnace repair has helped to get the furnace working at C.L.A.S.P. The program hopes to have lower heating bills during the coming winter. On December 17 at 4:00 P.M., the children will present a program of Christmas music.

UMBRELLA REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION: A report from the Nominating Committee, chaired by Elder Marilyn Gordon, offered the following candidates for officers for the Class of 2012: Elders – Roger Bell, Harry Eagan, Jo Shade (also candidate for Trustee); Deacons – K.C. Clarke, Faye Massey, Howard Story. **ACTION:** A motion to call a congregational meeting on Dec. 20 following the morning worship for the purpose of electing officers for the Class of 2012 was approved. **ACTION:** Without objection, a motion to hold officers' training on Saturday, January 16, 2010, from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. was approved. **ACTION:** The Session voted in the affirmative to hold the Annual Congregational Meeting following worship on January 31; also to ordain and install elected officers on January 31.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Dr. Ed McNulty proposed to use a ten minute power point program based on Ann Weems, "Kneeling in Bethlehem," along with a brief homily on Christmas Eve. Members of the Session expressed the desire to have a more traditional service on Christmas Eve. By consensus, the Session agreed to

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES, CONTINUED

ask Dr. McNulty to use his power point during the Sunday morning service that he will be conducting while Rev. Smith is on vacation on December 27.

MISSION: Elders Jack Kleier and Bill Lindsay reported that the Stewardship campaign is well underway. They are hoping that everyone who pledged last year will pledge again this year. During the Minute for Outreach on December 13, Elder Lindsay will remind the congregation to return their pledge cards if they have not already done so.

Miguel Carlin and Elder Kleier have mailed 128 Christmas cards to be distributed to men and women serving in the military. Pvt. James Berry of Third Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati is a special focus of the project. There is still time for members of the congregation to contribute cards. Also, Miguel has been in contact with a program to provide items for the troops. Information will be forthcoming on this endeavor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rev. Smith indicated that he is waiting to hear from Clear Wave Communications on their interest in putting an antenna where the flagpole is located. Elder Bill Lindsay suggested that Rev. Smith give the company a call to determine their level of interest.

Presbytery Commissioner's Report: Rev. Smith, Dr. McNulty and Clerk Rebecca Lindsay attended the meeting of the Presbytery of Cincinnati on Tuesday, De-

ember 8. Two women candidates were examined for their readiness to be ordained. Both were approved.

Roll Review: The Roll Review Committee, consisting of Elders Becky Lindsay, Eileen Hastings and Inky Hall, and Treasurer Gary Willis, met on Thursday, December 3 at 11:00 A.M. in the boardroom at the church. The committee presented the Session with a list of congregational members who have not been active in attendance, service or contributions and asked the Session to make contact with these members during the coming year to invite them to return to active membership in the church.

NEW BUSINESS

ACTION: Elder Bill Lindsay presented the following motion: "I move that all mission donations received without a specific designated purpose (such as OGHS, Peacemaking, Disaster Relief, or specific to a cause) during the calendar year 2009 and the upcoming budget year of 2010, and thereafter, unless modified by the session, be allocated, first to budgeted mission items, then with any residual being divided equally and sent to COF's three mission causes of C.L.A.S.P., Presbytery and Nicaragua." The motion was approved, and the treasurer was instructed to divide the money in the mission account equally between C.L.A.S.P., Presbytery, and our mission in Nicaragua.

ACTION: A second motion presented by Elder Bill Lindsay stated: "That all mission money (including the Deacons' Fund) will be placed in a separate account to be

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES, CONTINUED

used only for mission purposes, and that those monies over and above the periodic budgeted amounts be sent to C.L.A.S.P. and the Presbytery at least quarterly, and to Nicaragua with the mission team.” Since we already have a mission account in the budget and since the Deacons’ Fund is kept as a separate account, Bill Lindsay withdrew his motion.

The letter from the Hills of Kentucky Dulcimers was read and discussed. The two reasons that the dulcimer group gave for leaving COF were the cold conditions in the fellowship hall during winter and the declining conditions in housekeeping in the lower level where they met.

ACTION: Rev. Smith received permission to hold the Offender Release (Citizens Circle) meeting in the Social Hall on either January 12 or January 21 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

ACTION: Dawn Farwick received permission to use the parlor, upstairs kitchen and room next to the parlor on Sunday, December 20, from 5:00 P.M.

to 9:00 P.M. for her annual cookie exchange.

CLOSING

Joys and Concerns: Prayers of thanksgiving or concern were lifted for the following: Mark and Linda Bowen; Linda Lavelle; Johanna Willis’s mother, Mrs. Boxman; Michael Kanode; Mark Brant; the boy from Rising Sun who killed his brother; Erika Berry; Pete Beckett; Eileen Hastings; Jim Diegidio; the Copenhagen Conference; and our men and women serving in military service.

Rev. Smith closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

The next stated meeting of the Session of Community of Faith Presbyterian Church will be held at the church on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

Rebecca S. Lindsay,

Clerk of Session

Marilyn Gordon has a new e-mail address.

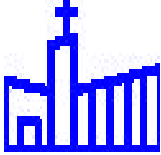
msgordon@insightbb.com

Please change in your directory.



You can now receive the newsletter via e-mail! Please send us your e-mail address. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.





Community of Faith
Presbyterian Church
1400 Highland Pike
Covington, KY 41011

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Bible Study 11:00am	February 3, 10, 24
Trustees 6:30pm	February 11
Session 7:00pm	February 11
Valentine's Day Pot Luck Luncheon	February 14
Ash Wednesday	February 17
1st Sunday in Lent	February 21
Wednesday Bible Study 11:00am	March 3, 17, 24, 30
Nicaragua Mission Trip	March 4—14
Daylight Saving Time Begins	March 14
Trustees 6:30pm	March 18
Session 7:00pm	March 18
Making Palm Crosses (Saturday)	March 27
Palm Sunday	March 28
Maundy Thursday	April 1
Good Friday	April 2
Easter Sunday	April 4
Trustees 6:30pm	April 8
Session 7:00pm	April 8

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