

CHRONICLES

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1400 HIGHLAND PIKE, COVINGTON, KY 41011
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Aramean Problem

A former mentor and friend, Bob, now a long time in heaven, used to tell me about a sermon he kept in his wallet. He kept it there in case he was ever asked to preach as they say, at the drop of a hat, or the opening of his wallet!

I know what that's like. While this is admittedly an exaggeration, it seems as though every time I walk into a worship service in Nicaragua, I have to open my wallet. Not that it does me any good since I don't carry a sermon around like Bob used to.

But I don't have to. A few months ago during a Sunday School lesson, I found

the perfect preaching text. It is in II Kings 6:8-23.

The kingdom of Israel was surrounded by similar sized states, each of which had similar customs but different religions. They were like school children at recess formed up into small cliques and larger gangs each of which tried to demonstrate supremacy over its neighbors. But the truth was that these petty states were wedged between the real powers of the day: Egypt on the west and Assyria to the east.

The super powers didn't much care what the petty states did to one another; in fact they probably en-

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couraged conflict, rightly believing that when the time came for one or the other of the powers to gobble up the pint-sized states, they would be weaker for having been in constant conflict with their neighbors.

There was a country called Aram, which is essentially modern day Syria who went to war against Israel. At the time, Aram was superior in size and strength to Israel and was pretty well doing what they wanted beyond their southwestern borders. But one thing they had not counted on was the prophet Elisha who was called upon to turn the tide in favor of the weaker Israelites.

Elisha prevailed upon God to help. Immediately the Aramean army was blinded and, after being guided by Elisha into the city of Samaria, were herded into the city center and surrounded inside the walls by the Israelite army, armed with bows and arrows and spears. Then Elisha prevailed upon the Lord to restore the sight of the Arameans.

I can only imagine how the Arameans felt when their sight

was restored. My imagination tells me it was not a happy feeling.

The king of Israel had only a single question to ask Elisha. He said, "Father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them? (He asked the question twice which suggests to me that he had a real strong desire to rid himself of the "Aramean Problem" forever!) But Elisha said no, and actually scolded the king. Elisha said, "Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink; and let them go to their master."

Well given the usual Old Testament approach to "wars and rumors of war", this sounds pretty different. But the consequence was shocking-- in a good way. The Bible says, "So the king prepared for them a great feast and after they ate and drank, he sent them on their way and they went to their master. And the Arameans no longer came raiding into the land of Israel." (II Kings 6:23)

The nice thing about this passage is that there is no need to write a sermon; it preaches itself.

Don

IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS

Pete Beckett, Mark Brant, Donna Kreicker, Linda Bowen, KC Clarke, Phyllis Houp, Lynda Jaeger, Charlotte Owen, Marge McDermott, and Inky Hall.

Please remember our nursing home residents and shut ins: Ruth Comisar and Evelyn Wallace.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Teri Brown	1st	Gary Willis	17th
Irma Bales	2nd	Pam Miller	22nd
Sharon Carlin	3rd	Kelly Montana	24th
Lauren Bales	5th	Christopher Hamilton	27th
Sharon Heck	11th	Carol Schomaker	27th
Carter Nowak	11th	Marguerite Spears	27th
Jacob Bennett	12th	Mark Janeway	30th
Becky Lindsay	14th		

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Deborah Grover	3rd	Kimberly Suer	14th
Caitlin Beach	5th	Kevin Kreicker	22nd
Andrea Wise	9th	Nita Kleier	28th
Cindy Wise	12th		
Dorothy Thomson	14th		

FROM OUR TREASURER

GENERAL			MISSION			
2010	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Year - To - Date</u>		
				<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Desig.</u>	<u>Other</u>
Beg. Balance	688	18,217	-661	561	547	32
Income	12,262	102,355	858	1,107	4,526	2,167
Expense	<u>8,642</u>	<u>116,265</u>	<u>555</u>	<u>1,364</u>	<u>4,512</u>	<u>3,423</u>
End Balance	4,308	4,308	-358	305	561	-1,224

MISSION AT WORK

One of the problems facing most charitable organizations today is the economic set back that our nation is facing. Many generous families that have supported these organizations in the past, now find themselves in need of help instead of being able to offer help through their donations.

During the Christmas Season, our Congregation was called upon again to offer help to a number of organizations that we have supported in the past. Although times, overall are tough, we again responded in a very generous fashion. Gifts were bought for the Ludlow Giving Tree, The Pike Street Clinic and Buckhorn Children's Center. Canned goods were brought for Be-Con. Through your generosity, Christmas was made a little nicer for many people through these Organizations. We are helping to further God's Kingdom through our giving. On behalf of the Mission Umbrella, I say a great big THANK YOU.

For those of you who do not know, we have another ministry being conducted out of the lower level of the Christian Education wing. As the Ludlow Building is being cleaned and prepared for sale, it was necessary for a bicycle shop to be re-located. That operation was re-located to the lower level and is up and running. Since moving to COF in October, 10 bicycles were refurbished and sent to Brighton Center for their Christmas toy sale.

BY: JACK KLEIER

Needy children were able to take part in the toy sale, and buy gifts for siblings. They are able to buy toys for 5 cents to 25 cents. Many of these toys are used and have been cleaned and repaired for this sale. There are many toys donated that are brand new. And of course the refurbished bicycles are always a big hit at the sale. These bicycles look almost new after they are washed and repaired for the sale. By charging a small amount, a child can maintain his or her dignity and proudly buy gifts for their families for Christmas. By providing space for this ministry, you also have taken part in making Christmas a little brighter for these families. In addition, three bicycles and a tricycle were donated to a needy family that the Edgewood Fire Department adopted for Christmas.

Christ calls us to remember people in need. You have responded to that call. You have been a part of His ministry. Christ told us that the poor will be with us always. Having heard His call we know that we will be asked to answer often through the New Year. May we keep the spirit of Christmas alive through out this coming year by responding to His call whenever the opportunity is ours.

We wish you a Happy and Prosperous 2011. May you continue in Mission through out the year.

FILM CAPSULES

BY: ED McNULTY

The King's Speech

Rated R. (*Rating due to the therapist's having his patient use extreme profanity to break down his inhibitions*)
Exodus 4:10-12 ;1 John 4:17-18

You do not have to be an Anglophile to enjoy director Tom Hooper's story of an Englishman overcoming his speech handicap with the aid of a loving wife and an unorthodox speech therapist. Colin Firth, Helen Bonham Carter, and Geoffrey Rush are superb as, respectively, Prince Albert (the Duke of York), his wife Elizabeth, and speech therapist Lionel Logue. Normally the story of a stammerer overcoming such a handicap would be just a personal one, but this one takes on historical significance because the stammerer, against his wishes, became King George VI when his older brother Edward renounced the throne in order to marry a three times divorcee. The times were grim, not only because of the worldwide Depression, but because it was becoming more evident with each passing day that the nation would be engulfed in a war against Hitler's Germany. Thus the nation needed a calm leader with a commanding voice that would instill hope and confidence in their future. Historical drama, infused richly with personal details, does not get any better than this film, well deserving of all the Oscar talk surrounding it.

The Fighter

Rated R. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27;
Ephesians 4:22-24.

Like most boxing films, this one, based on the lives of two half-brothers who were fighters, is more interested in character development, as well as family and relationships than in what transpires in the ring. The film is like a biblical tale in that the theme of fall and redemption is central. This might make it seem similar to *Rocky*, but it is far more complicated in that the two fighters are managed by their mother, and one of them has to decide whether to stay under her inept management or launch out on his own. The rise of the two fighters toward understanding and reconciliation makes for a powerful film worthy of setting beside *Rocky* and *Raging Bull*.

True Grit

Rated PG-13. Psalm 23

Though most remakes are a disaster (remember the terrible *The Day the Earth Stood Still?* Probably better if you don't.), this film by the Coen Brothers is well worth seeing. Those who have read the novel say that their film is not really a remake of the John Wayne film so much as a revisitation of the novel. Jeff Bridges is delightful as Rooster Cogburn, the U.S. Marshall who is not above bending the law

FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED

to corral a bad guy. He receives able support from Matt Damon as Texas Ranger LaBoeuf and Hailee Steinfeld as Mattie Ross, the teenaged girl bent on extracting vengeance on the man who killed her father. In this version the new Mattie turns out to be like the original, just as tough as a horseshoe nail, but is more the center character of the story. As we might expect of a Coen film, the texture is dark, with lots of violence, but also great adventure and humor. And even a touch of faith—listen to what tune runs throughout the film.

Country Strong

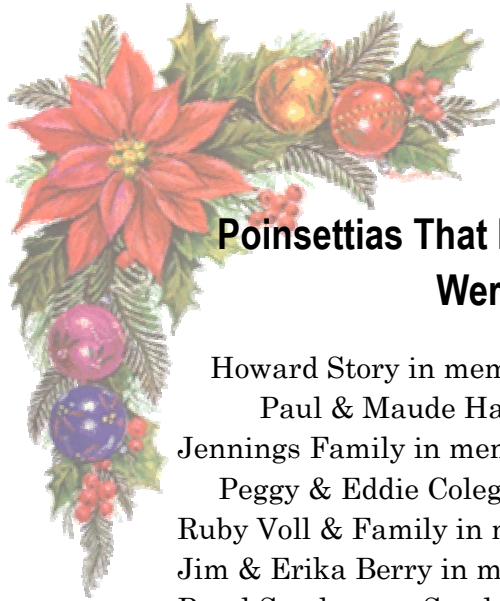
Rated PG-13. Romans 6:21-21.

Set in Texas where Country-Western music is as popular as it is in Nashville, this music-filled melodrama suffers from a muddled script that reveals little of the motivation of its characters. Kelly Canter (Gwyneth Paltrow) has been in an alcohol rehab center after falling off a stage and losing the child she was carrying in her womb. There she has become enamored with orderly Beau Hutton (Garrett Hedlund), who also writes and sings. Kelly's husband/manager James (Tim McGraw), sensing a rival in Beau, yanks his wife out of the center too early, though he agrees to Kelly's request that Beau come along as her "protector." Matters are com-

BY: ED McNULTY

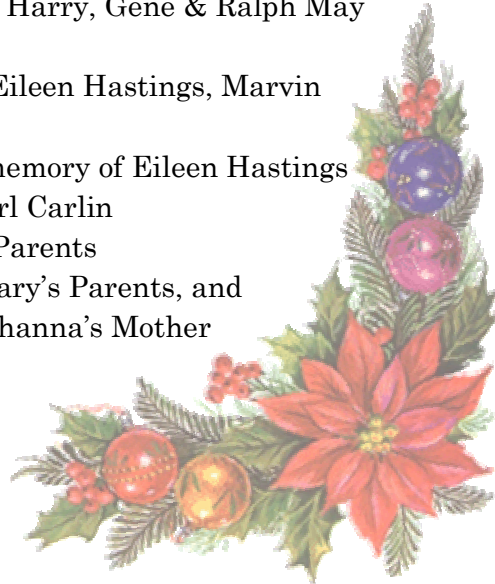
plicated by the inclusion of young singer Chiles Stanton (Leighton Meester) as an opening act for Kelly, to whom Beau also is attracted. Despite the plot, which might have been better had it treated Kelly as a survivor rather than a victim, the film is enjoyable because of the tuneful songs that are well delivered by three of the principals and the artful cinema photography of the concerts. (What an irony that the actual C-W singer Tim McGraw is relegated to a non-singing role!) If only the entire film could have been as insightful as the scene in which Kelly visits a hospital ward of dying children and sings to a boy a song she is making up on the spot!

Film Capsules is the Rev. Dr. Ed McNulty's synopses of current films plus suggested scripture readings with similar themes. Ed, an honorably retired member of the Presbytery of Cincinnati shares his work at the request of those who attended the Ministers Retreat held in October 2008. Fuller descriptions and discussion questions are available by subscription at www.visualparables.net.



**Poinsettias That Decorated Our Sanctuary For Christmas
Were Donated By.....**

Howard Story in memory of Sue Story, Harvey & Elsie Story,
Paul & Maude Hanlon
Jennings Family in memory of Harold & Violet Krimpelman,
Peggy & Eddie Colegate and Ed & Ruth Jennings
Ruby Voll & Family in memory of Robert Voll
Jim & Erika Berry in memory of their Mothers and Fathers
Pearl Sandmann, Sandy, Anthony & Alicia Beach in memory of
Palmer Sandmann, Nell and Roy Sandmann and David Beach
Ron & Sharon Carlin in memory of their Parents
Harry Eagan in memory of Ruth & Frank Eagan
Jo Shade in memory of Robert Shade
Marg Meyer in memory of Edith Waite
Art Brophy in memory of Robert Brophy
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dupps in memory of Harry, Gene & Ralph May
and Tom Dupps
Derek & Jennifer Beach in memory of Eileen Hastings, Marvin
Beach and Grandparents
Matt Hastings and Floyd Hastings in memory of Eileen Hastings
Miguel Carlin in memory of Ruth & Earl Carlin
Al & Lynda Jaeger in memory of their Parents
Gary & Johanna Willis in memory of Gary's Parents, and
Johanna's Father and in honor of Johanna's Mother



COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE SESSION

November 11, 2010

A quorum was present.

OPENING: The regular meeting of the Session of Community of Faith Presbyterian Church was called to order in the church parlor on November 11, 2010, at 7:02 P.M. by the moderator, The Rev. Donald H. Smith, Jr. Rev. Smith opened the meeting with prayer. Elder Jack Kleier was elected Clerk Pro Tem.

DOCKET: The docket was approved as presented.

MINUTES: The minutes for the regular Session meeting held on October 28, 2010, were approved as presented.

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT:

Communion: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated on Sunday, November 7, 2010, at the morning worship service. The Rev. Donald H. Smith, Jr. presided.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Smith presented a written report of his activities on behalf of the church since the last Session meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Gary Willis presented a written report of the financial activity of the church over the past month. The treasurer's report will be filed.

C.L.A.S.P.: Attendance was reported to be down to 15 – 20 children per day.

BUDGET: The budget for 2010 was presented. \$2,400 was added for Ludlow property expenses. A motion to adopt the budget was passed.

UMBRELLA REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION & PROPERTY:

Ludlow property: An e-mail was shared that indicated that the stained glass windows are not of great value and if they were to be sold individually that COF require the buyer to remove the windows.

The cornerstone box in the front wall needs to be moved to the COF property. The bell needs to have someone give a cost estimate on its worth and what it would cost to move it.

Calvary Chin Church: The Calvary Chin Church has requested using the church two additional times a month, on a Wednesday night for the women and a Saturday for the youth. Each group would meet twice a month. Elder Joanna Bailey moved that we grant permission for the time being, then call a special meeting of the Session for Sunday, November 21 at 10:00 A.M. for the purpose of making a final decision.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

ACTION: Congregational Care Umbrella presented the following schedule of events:

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES, CONTINUED

November 14 – Stewardship Sunday with a covered dish lunch.

December 4 – Hanging of the Greens

December 19 - Christmas Program and Tea

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 P.M.

MISSION: Rev. Smith, Administrative Assistant Patricia Kleier, and Evangelism Chair Jack Kleier will meet on a Wednesday to get the Evangelism campaign underway.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Nominating Committee needs to meet. Rev. Smith will check the makeup of the committee and get them to meet.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION: A motion to allow the Lud-

low Church building to be open for the Ludlow Christmas Walk was defeated.

Presbytery Meeting: At the meeting of the Presbytery of Cincinnati held on November 9 at Lakeside Presbyterian, General Presbyter Jim DiEgidio's contract was renewed.

CLOSING:

Rev. Smith closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

The next regular meeting of the Session of Community of Faith Presbyterian Church will be held Thursday, December 9, 2010, at 7:00 P.M. at the church.

Rebecca S. Lindsay,
Clerk of Session

A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER, GARY WILLIS

I apologize for not making some things clear to everyone who has offering boxes for 2011. Each of you has a box containing envelopes with a particular number and dates associated with a particular year other than 2011.

1. There is no need to correct the dates on the envelopes.
2. No two boxes have the same number. I know who has what number. It doesn't matter what number you had in 2010.

Another reminder: One check may be used for multiple purposes as long as you let me know the breakdown on the check or in a note. Such as: \$7.50 flowers, \$5.00 communion, \$20.00 offering.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

SPECIAL SESSION MEETING

November 21, 2010

A special meeting of the Session of the Community of Faith Presbyterian Church, called by the Rev. Donald H. Smith, Jr., pastor of COF, was held in the conference room beginning at 10:05 A.M. on Sunday, November 21, 2010. Rev. Smith opened the meeting with prayer and served as moderator.

A quorum was present including: Elders Joanna Bailey, Harry Eagan, Jack Kleier, Jo Shade, Roger Bell and the moderator.

The purpose of the meeting, which was called by Session action in its regular meeting on November 11, 2010, was to act upon a request from the Calvary Chin Church.

ACTION: A motion to allow the Calvary Chin Church to use the building twice a month on Saturday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. was approved with the following amendments:

- Calvary Chin Church will pay the added cost of utilities at \$62.50 per use in December 2010. Elder Roger Bell will investigate the additional cost of utilities before Session meets in two months.
- Calvary Chin Church will have access to the parlor, fellowship hall and sanctuary.

Calvary Chin Church will be required to clean the areas that they use. COF Session will evaluate in two months the use and condition of the building.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn passed, and the meeting concluded with a prayer by the moderator at 10:30 A.M.

Jack Kleier

Clerk pro-tem

The next regular meeting of Session will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 9, 2010, at the church.



Please keep the family and friends of Eileen Hastings in your prayers. Eileen's life and new life were celebrated in a memorial service on January 8.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

SPECIAL SESSION MEETING

December 5, 2010

Present: Elders Roger Bell, Joanna Bailey, Jack Kleier, and Harry Eagan

Others present: The Rev. Donald H. Smith, Moderator; Gary Willis, Treasurer; and Rebecca S. Lindsay, Clerk of Session.

QUORUM(4+Moderator): A quorum was present.

PURPOSE: This special meeting was called by Elder Roger Bell and Rev. Smith for the purpose of gaining access to funds to meet our existing financial obligations.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:10 A.M. Rev. Smith opened with prayer.

Treasurer Gary Willis reported that he needed several thousand dollars to

covered the expenses of the month of December.

ACTION: A motion to liquidate all stock holdings belonging to Community of Faith Presbyterian Church was made. After discussion of the motion, it was moved to postpone the question until the regular Session meeting that will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2010. The motion to postpone was adopted.

Rev. Smith closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 A.M.

Rebecca S. Lindsay
Clerk of Session

The next regular meeting of Session will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 9, 2010, at the church.

WE COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD OF.....

Erica Dupps, daughter of Eric Dupps and granddaughter of Bill and Kittie Dupps, recently graduated from the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture in the School of Human Environmental Sciences. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management and Tourism.



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

DECEMBER EVENTS

Choir 7:00pm	January 5, 12, 19 & 26 February 2, 9, 16 & 23
Annual Reports Due	January 20
Called Meeting of the Congregation	January 23
Annual Congregational Meeting (12:00 noon)	February 6
Presbytery Meeting @ Grace Community (5:00pm)	February 8

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