

# Chronicles

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### The Rest of the Story

A couple of months ago, the Cincinnati Enquirer published a couple of stories about the Seventh Presbyterian Church and why it closed. There were interviews with officials of that church and bafflingly few from officials of the Presbytery of Cincinnati. This is remarkable in light of the fact that the church claimed that the Presbytery had closed them.

It's true that Seventh closed. It is true that the Presbytery voted to affirm the action of the congregation. I mean it's awfully hard to force a church to stay open *after they have voted-- in a duly called meeting of the congregation-- to close the church.*

I admit it. It seemed like the Presbytery was seriously on their case; but rightly so, I say. We are not congregationalists and when a church begins to move loudly in the direction of that particular tradition, it is the

responsibility of the Presbytery to say, "Stop!"

Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) sent a virtual legion of people, one at a time, to meet with the session of Seventh Church. Everyone of them were rebuffed-- politely, and sometimes not so politely as Seventh sought to do what they wished to do. And I admit it, they had a great plan! They recognized that they were (literally) a dying congregation with an abundance of financial resources. They had skilled leaders, some of whom had held senior positions in various of the larger corporations in greater Cincinnati. They intended to call a pastor who would start a new church development in the building and on the grounds of the church. They intended to use the fiscal resources of the church to help that ministry happen.

Seventh saw that as a way of

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maintaining their ministry to a vastly changed neighborhood than the one they had come from between a quarter and a half century ago.

It's a wonderful idea-- ask the folks on COM, they'll agree. The trouble is, the process took a long time. And in fact they had a gifted and experienced interim pastor and were more than satisfied with him.

Perhaps they believed they knew better what was good for their church than a "bunch of outsiders" from the Presbytery, some of whom had spent their careers in smaller churches and did not share the benefit of the corporate backgrounds of Seventh's leadership, even though Seventh was itself a very small church, but with a lot of endowment.

So for three years anyway, there was a tension between the Presbytery's COM and the church. The tension finally broke over their call of a minister. True to their corporate backgrounds, the Pastor Nominating Committee chose to employ an executive placement service, commonly known as a headhunter, to find them the pastor they believed God wanted them to have.

Well you have to understand that a Presbyterian church can't just say, "This is our boy (or girl)." The church may call a particular individual, but the Presbytery approves (or disapproves) the call. Seventh Church kicked the beehive once again when they chose to hire the headhunter and went outside the normal process, but they might have gotten

away with that, except that the investigation that COM does to vet any prospective pastor who wishes "to labor within the bounds" of our presbytery and found that he had misrepresented enough facts on his resume that when the Presbytery voted to approve the call of Seventh Church, the final tally was 2-1 (96-48) against approving the call of the church.

I voted among the 96.

The cautionary moral of this tale is that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a connec-tional church. This means that the presby-tery functions as the bishop, the synod is a "higher up" bishop, and the General Assem-bly is highest of all. Ask your Roman Catho-lic friends what happens when a parish church crosses the bishop.

It ain't pretty; then again, neither was this.

It isn't over either, the assets of the church must be distributed legally, Seventh Church did everything they could do legally to prevent the Presbytery of Cincinnati from getting our (I say "our" because *we* are the pres-bytery, along with roughly 21,000 other Pres-byterians living in greater Cincinnati.) hands on the church's fiscal resources. That's be-cause, "one of the basic principles of our Form of Government is that all property is held in trust for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)".

Stay tuned.

DON

**IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS**



Pete Beckett, Mark Brant, Donna Kreicker, Mark & Linda Bowen, Eileen Hastings, KC Clarke, Derek Beach and Phyllis Houp. Please remember our nursing home residents and shut ins: Ruth Comisar, and Evelyn Wallace.



**July Birthdays**

- |                          |             |                        |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Janet Roy</b>         | <b>4th</b>  |                        |             |
| <b>Lynda Jaeger</b>      | <b>5th</b>  |                        |             |
| <b>Fredrick Reinhart</b> | <b>6th</b>  |                        |             |
| <b>Shirley Weigel</b>    | <b>6th</b>  |                        |             |
| <b>Linda Lanter</b>      | <b>7th</b>  |                        |             |
| <b>Pete Beckett</b>      | <b>12th</b> |                        |             |
|                          |             | <b>Bud McDermott</b>   | <b>15th</b> |
|                          |             | <b>Betty Murphy</b>    | <b>20th</b> |
|                          |             | <b>Austin Whitaker</b> | <b>20th</b> |
|                          |             | <b>Adam Wise</b>       | <b>27th</b> |
|                          |             | <b>Harry Eagan</b>     | <b>28th</b> |
|                          |             | <b>Faye Massey</b>     | <b>28th</b> |

**FROM OUR TREASURER**

	2010	<u>May</u>	<u>Yr-To-Date</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Other</u>
Beg. Balance		<u>8,679</u>	<u>18,217</u>	653	561	577	2
Income		7,604	39,475	552	387	3,176	800
Expense		<u>6,797</u>	<u>48,207</u>	<u>686</u>	<u>924</u>	<u>3,122</u>	<u>939</u>
End Balance		9,485	9,485	519	24	631	-136

## MISSION AT WORK

All the years I served as Stated Clerk of the Synod, I always looked forward to the meeting of the General Assembly of our Church. This meeting, which was held every year at that time, was considered part of my continuing education. Here was the Church in action, deciding the direction of the Presbyterian Church for the coming year, hearing reports from all the agencies of the Church, deciding what changes to make to our Book of Order, and adopting a budget that was realistic enough to get everything done decently and in order. Since then the Church has gone to the General Assembly meeting every other year. This, of course, is to be better stewards of our gifts by reducing costs of an annual meeting. The General Assembly will be meeting in Minneapolis, MN July 3 to July 10. Each Presbytery will have elected Commissioners to represent them. Based on their size, an equal number of Elders and Clergy will be sent. Part of the System our Denomination follows is to have a balanced governing body of representatives made up of an equal number of Elders and Clergy. Our representatives come from our local churches. They will represent us in the decisions to be made at the General Assembly. They will not be told how to vote on any issue. They will have much material to study, will hear many presentations on the floor and through prayer and study cast their vote on the issues as they feel that God has led them. This is an interesting process and through the marvel of modern communications you can now watch the events of the General Assembly at [www.pc-biz/org](http://www.pc-biz/org) or you can follow events online at [www.pcusa.org/ga219](http://www.pcusa.org/ga219). Part of you per capita goes to pay the expenses of the General Assembly delegates travel, lodging and food. Why not take a look

## BY: JACK KLEIER

at how we govern ourselves as Presbyterians?

Too often, when we don't agree with the decisions of the Church we refer to the people who make decisions at the Presbytery level, or the Synod level or the National level as "they". What we overlook is that our representatives to these governing bodies come from our Congregations and may in fact sit next to you in Worship on Sunday morning. With that in mind, please keep the Delegates to the 219<sup>th</sup>. General Assembly in your prayers. While we may not always agree with the decisions that they make, we should always be thankful for their hard work and dedication to the Church.

On another subject, we participate in the Fair Trade Coffee/Equal Exchange program. In the Kiosk in the lobby are a few products that are offered as part of this program. When you buy these products you are helping small farmers in Third World Countries get a fair price for their products and therefore provide a better life for their families. They have a large selection of coffee, tea and chocolate products, from many countries. We cannot stock all the items that they offer, but we certainly can order whatever products you might want. An order is placed by the third Sunday of each month. It is generally available by the first of the month. Please let me know which items you would like to order, and I will take it from there. I will try to have a list of items available and the cost at the Kiosk. There will also be order forms and a stack of envelopes for your use in ordering. This is a way to get quality products and help witness to Christ's Kingdom at the same time.

## FILM CAPSULES

BY: ED McNULTY

### *The Karate Kid*

Rated PG

This is that rare occasion when the remake of a film is better than the original. The new film sticks closely to the plotline of the original, with the emphasis being on the relationship between an old wise man and a young boy, but the scene of action shifts from Southern California to China. (Yes, I know that Karate is Japanese that should have resulted in the film being called *The Kung Fu Kid*.) When the widowed mother of 12 year-old Dre is transferred to China, the boy becomes unhappy not only due to the uprooting and having to adapt to strange customs and language, but also because of a bully and his cronies who take it as their mission to make life miserable for him. Enter building custodian Mr. Han (aptly played by Jackie Chan), who tutors the boy. Not just in the physical aspects of Kung Fu, but in its Taoist underpinnings of harmony, honor, and respect of others. Shot in China, including atop the Great Wall, the film treats us to many scenes of exquisite color. The ending is far more believable this time around. Parents should be warned that the action scenes include a lot of brutal hitting and body slams.

### *Mother and Child*

Rated R

This is a heart-rending story of three women: Karen (Annette Bening), a forlorn physical therapist caring for her aging mother and haunted by her past: she had been forced by her mother when she was a pregnant teenager to give up her infant daughter. Elizabeth (Naomi Watts) is an ambitious young lawyer, fiercely independent and reluctant to enter into any commitment, even with her

widower boss (Samuel Jackson) who would like to marry her. She also is haunted by her past, often wondering about the mother who had given her up for adoption at her birth. Lucy (Kerry Washington) is a young African American wife unable to conceive a child and thus eager to adopt the one being offered by the pregnant and single Ray. The latter, however, is very choosy, insisting on interviewing prospective parents laying down specific conditions. This is a film that refuses to follow the usual formulas, so expect some surprises along the way, making this one of the best films that I have seen this year. (At the Esquire)

### *Please Give*

Rated R

The wonderful Catherine Keener plays Kate, a wife and mother whose perhaps over-sensitive conscience has led to a guilt complex that towers as high as the Manhattan high rises where she lives. She cannot pass a homeless person without handing out five or twenty dollar bills, much to the disgust of her bratty teenaged daughter Abby (Sarah Steele), upset with her mother because she will not spend \$200 on the jeans she covets. With husband Alex (Oliver Platt) Kate runs a very upscale vintage furniture/home accessories store. Part of her guilt stems from the fact that they buy their items at estate sales: in one scene Kate conjures up in her mind the image of the woman who had died in the chair she is now selling. Kate and Alex have optioned to buy the apartment currently occupied by the crotchety old Andra, whose two grown granddaughters look in

## FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED

on virtually every day. This is an interesting, amusing character study, marred only by a subplot of adultery that does not make much sense. (At the Esquire)

### *The Secret in Their Eyes*

(El secreto de sus ojos) Spanish with English subtitles

Rated R

This year's Oscar winner for "Best Foreign Film" is a riveting mixture of mystery and romance genres. Set during the years of the Peron regime in Argentina during the 1970s, the film begins 25 years later when Benjamin and Irene meet for the first time since working together in the past. He had served under her as a criminal investigator when she was an assistant to a political hack judge. Against orders, he had investigated the brutal rape-murder of a young schoolteacher, inconveniently proving that the two foreign workers accused of the crime could not have done it. The film is pervaded with a sense of sadness and of unresolved issues—of the solution to the crime and also of the relationship between the two principals, both separated by the culture due to their difference in class and wealth, education, and job status. The director gives us plenty of time to become involved in the lives and the troubled times of all concerned—not only of the almost-lovers, but also of the victim's grieving husband and the alcoholic assistant to Benjamin. Showing at the Esquire Theater, this is the best of the films currently showing in our area. (At the Esquire)

## BY: ED McNULTY

### *Shrek Forever*

Rated PG

Maybe, as the critics say, the film is not as good as its predecessor, but it is still provides a wonderful opportunity for family viewing—and plenty of life lessons too. Like three of the friends in the far less satisfying *Sex in the City 2*, our green hero is having a parental mid-life crisis, which is worsened when he signs a contract with the evil Rumpelstiltskin that lands him in an alternate universe where Shrek is single again (as he had momentarily wished). However no one knows him now, and Rumpelstiltskin is the evil ruler, with Fiona leading a revolt of ogres against him. Shrek has just 24 hours before he ceases to exist, and his former wife is so repelled by him that she resists his attempts to kiss, the one thing that will save him. Good fun with the caution that we should be careful of what we wish for, as well as a revelation concerning true love.

### *City Island*

Rated PG-13.

Andy Garcia plays the Walter Mitty-like Vince Rizzo in this whimsical story unfolding on an island across from Manhattan that resembles a New England fishing village. By day he works as a prison guard but one night a week, when his wife and grown children think he is at a poker game he attends an acting class. His dream, so secret that he has never told even his wife Joyce, is to become an actor. Encouraged by his acting partner Molly, he goes to a casting call for a Martin Scorsese film. He

## FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED

harbors still another secret: scanning the records of newly arrived prisoners, he discovers that one of them is a son that he sired many years earlier when he was 19 and going with his first love. How all these secrets unravel is both funny and poignant, with an ending that is almost operatic as all the characters confront each other in the street outside the Rizzio house. Turns out that his college-age daughter, his teen-aged son, and wife Joyce also have secrets. Be prepared for some coarse language, but the film is so delightful that this is a small price to pay. (At the Mariemont)

### *Sex & the City 2*

Rated R.

This is one of those bad films, in terms of the superficial and even wrong-headed values of its creators and characters that nonetheless could lead to a great discussion for young adults. It follows the affairs of four women two years after the first film—there is a gay wedding, a series of problems that reveal that three of the friends are not living “happily ever after” in their marriages, and a ridiculous sequence involving a trip to the Middle East where the four engage in their own version of the Clash of Civilizations. And of all things, these representatives of about everything that the Women’s Movement fought against, sing a karaoke version of Helen Redding’s “I Am Woman,” which,

## BY: ED McNULTY

when one gets over the shock of their choosing this song, almost becomes inspiring. Subscribers to my visualparables.net will find a more detailed review with ten questions for exploring the values and issues raised by the film. Others can contact me directly for a copy.

### *Splice*

Rated R

This is another of those sci-fi cautionary tales that follow in the wake of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Two hotshot geneticists are upset when they engineer a pair of critters that look like the Pillsbury Doughboy without any limbs or head and their superiors order them to stop experimenting and get down to the business of making something practical from their discovery. Instead they secretly mix some of their DNA with that of other animals to create a being that grows rapidly, looks half-human, and develops cognitive abilities. You can guess that something will go awry with their plans, this old story like most other tales of the “beware of messing with creation” following the arc of Genesis 3. Yes, even to the point of it being the woman who leads her lover by the nose into the mess. If you go, be forewarned that there is a very graphic inter-species sex scene (at which the preview audience laughed)—years ago this film would have been X-rated.



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### CITIZEN'S CIRCLES

It's June already and the people who attended the two hour training session in January hosted by our church and led by some people from across the river are probably wondering what is going on? Are we going to have Citizens' Circles or not?

A Citizens' Circle is composed of a small group of people who will mentor a recently released female inmate from the state corrections system. The hope is that with guidance and acceptance the partnership between the circle and the ex-offender will keep her from

re-offending and being sent back to prison or jail.

For several months a mixed disciplinary group has been meeting to improve the procedure. My hope that our church could serve as a particular circle, may not be possible (the jury's still out on that one!) but we are also hoping that we can place those who have already expressed interest on one or more of the circles that will be formed.

DON



Everybody, your cards and calls were really nice.  
I am home and just so glad to be home! Thank you!  
Inky Hall

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY COMMUNITY OF FAITH!

Community of Faith Church is celebrating its 10th Anniversary together in ministry by holding a Pot Luck Picnic after church on **July 18th, 2010**. At the picnic we would like to showcase a slide show of or activities throughout the years. If you have any pictures that you

would like to share, please contact Miguel Carlin at (859) 537-7623 or miguelcarlin@msn.com and he will be glad to scan your pictures and return them to you. Pictures need to be in to Miguel no later than July 5, 2010

Dawn and Dan Farwick have a new address.  
1901 Bridle Path, Independence, KY. Their phone number is (859) 356-1711.  
Please make this correction in your directory.

## COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES

The Session meeting scheduled for May 13, 2010 was not held for lack of a quorum.

### CLASP TO RELOCATE?

Probably.

After over ten years at the Ludlow campus, negotiations are underway with the First Baptist Church of Ludlow to relocate CLASP to that church. There are still some "jots and tittles" (for all you King James fans) to be dealt with but it looks like when CLASP reopens on August 12, for the 2010-11 school year, the kids will be gathered at First Baptist Church.

And this is a good deal, both for us and for them. For us the encumbrance of every day maintenance will be removed, crippling energy bills will cease to exist and since the Baptists use their facilities for some sort of ministry nearly every day and the temperature drops no lower than 60 degrees in the winter, we'll only have to pay for the difference.

The Baptists have the opportunity to do a tremendously good deed for the community. We have explained to them that CLASP is for all kids, not just Presbyterians or Baptists, and that we do absolutely no proselytizing. Parents and care givers can not help but be impressed with the facilities offered by FBC as well as the charm with which they have been offered.

The sessions of three Presbyterian churches, (Lakeside, Crescent Springs and us) have to do some fine tuning, as does CLASP and the folks at FBC, but all in all it looks like everybody is going to win on this one-- most importantly, the children!

DON



Please keep the family and friends of Edith Waite in your prayers.  
Edith died on June 4th, 2010.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Choir is taking off the months of July and August.

Independence Day Observed (Office Closed)	July 5
Session 7:00pm	July 8
Birthday Pot Luck Picnic (after worship)	July 18

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