

NOVEMBER 2009

Chronicles

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1400 HIGHLAND PIKE, COVINGTON, KY 41011
WWW.COFNKY.ORG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

True Confessions

The other day somebody who belongs to another church told me that the pastor's "busiest time of year" must be upon me. And I thought about things like a stewardship campaign and Thanksgiving and the run up to Christmas and I nodded and sort of agreed with him, that yes, it is a busy time. But since I've been at this church, the laypeople do so much of the work that I was used to doing in the church I'd served before that there is no busier time than any other time.

If there is no time that demands any less of us than any other, then it follows

that there is no *busiest* time, but all times are equally busy.

Churches in the USA have developed certain traditions and I believe that they are related to the public school year. In some churches, program activities (Sunday school, choir, Bible studies, for example) take the summer off. This gives the people who administer and teach and sing and study some time off, so time for recreation, and even some time to think about what to do next year which will begin when the kids go back to school. Maybe that's what was going through the head of the person who was tell-

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ing me about my busiest time of year.

But ministry is kaleidoscopic and I do best when I don't assume anything. For example, when I graduated from seminary, I thought that I was a well trained counselor. I had even read Dr. Wayne Oates' book *The Christian Pastor* (as well as having taken one or two courses he taught), had a unit of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) under my belt, and even read some other books about it. Sadly it took me several years to be free of the idea that I had particular skills in this area. Finally I figured out that I was a better listener than a counselor. Then, after never having done so in over thirty years of ministry, I find myself visiting jails on Thursday af-

ternoons. After several years of moving away from exegetical preparation of sermons, I have discovered how self-serving that is, and how important it is to pay more attention not just to the text, but to as much information about the text as I can digest as I prepare. This enables me to proclaim what the text says to me, not what I think it ought to say.

The list goes on and the kaleidoscope turns.

Meanwhile there is always work that needs to be done and every day in the fields of the Lord is a busy day. For you and for me.

YOU HAVE THE POWER, YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL

Each one of us has the potential to save a life or fifty-eight. Thousands of Americans are in need of vital organs and tissue. You have the potential to save up to eight lives as an organ donor and another fifty as a tissue donor. People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. Donation should not delay or change funeral arrangements and an open casket funeral is possible. There is no cost to the donor's family or estate.

Can't really think about all of that, well think about this, it is possible to donate life to others as a living kidney or partial liver, lung, intestine or pancreas donor. You have the power to change someone's world. Say "Yes" and let your family know your decision. For more information or to register your decision visit www.donatelifeky.org.

IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS



Henry Wallace, Robert & KC Clarke, The Kreicker Family, Pete Beckett. Please remember our nursing home residents and shut ins: Ruth Comisar, and Evelyn Wallace.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Cliff Brown 4th
 Tracy Nowak 4th
 Howard Story 5th
 Jean Jennings 8th
 Regan Bales 10th
 Sandy Beach 10th
 Fred Reinhart 11th



Paula Reinhart 11th
 Don Smith 16th
 Emille Walden 20th
 Carol Alverson 21st
 Christian Bales 23rd
 Jimmy Beckett 26th
 Eileen Hastings 29th

Please note in your directory

Kelly Montana, 3603 Glenn Avenue, Latonia, KY 41015
 Phone: 859 291-1141 e-mail wabbitwoman@insightbb.com

Ed McNulty has a new e-mail address EMcNulty@insightbb.com

FROM OUR TREASURER

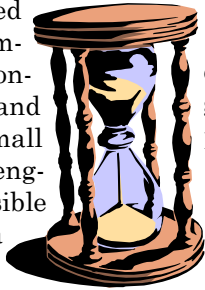
GARY WILLIS

<u>2009</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Yr-to-Date</u>
Beginning Balance	18,433	26,180
Income	6,292	82,205
Expense	<u>9,065</u>	<u>92,725</u>
Ending Balance	15,660	15,660

MISSION AT WORK

BY: JACK KLEIER

Last month in this column we talked about the upcoming Stewardship campaign. We issued a challenge to the congregation for the coming year, 2010 and how much we might get done. As a small congregation, we do have some challenging times ahead. They are not impossible for us but they indeed do offer us a number of challenges.



As I was thinking about what to put in this column for November, I read a number of thank you letters from the National Church for our giving to the four major offerings we take up each year. It came to me that I have not shared these thank you's with the congregation so here they are.

The Christmas Joy Offering for 2008. A Thank you for our gift of \$116.69. Half of that offering goes to retired Church workers and half to students at racial ethnic schools.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, a thank you for our gift of \$1,037.20. So often when we hear of natural disasters we think that it would be nice if we could make a difference in the lives of those affected. Through OGHOS, we do. We allow the Church to be able to respond quickly to the need through our gifts once a year to this Offering. Since there seems to have been an abundance of natural disasters in the past several years this fund is all the more important for us to support generously with our gifts.

A thank you was received for our gifts of \$105.00 for US Hurricane Response and for \$105.00 for USA Disaster Response. These were special offerings taken in June.

We also took up an Offering for Pentecost and sent \$292.80 to them.

Along with these offerings there is a food barrel in the narthex for Be Concerned. They sent a thank you for the gifts of cleaning supplies and hygiene products.

Jesus reminded us that the poor would be with us always. That is true of the needy and sometimes the needy are people like you and I who suffer devastating loss due to natural disasters. The Church tries to answer Christ's call to help through its sharing of Time, Talents and material things. Many will join work groups to help in time of need, but for the rest of us who for one reason or another cannot do that there is still the opportunity to make a contribution to help share the costs of these operations and we answer God's calls through our giving. The Mission Umbrella Group thank each of you who take part.

Presbyterian World Missions support personnel in more than 50 countries around the world. These folk depend on the local churches giving to Mission through Presbytery, Synod, and G.A. We presently do not have an amount budgeted for this. In the past we have given as much as \$6,000.00 As churches have given less and less to these Missions the Church has been forced to bring people back home and cut the number of personnel they can support. For this reason our mission giving to church causes is very important. This is something to keep in mind as we fill out our pledge cards this year.

On this subject COF hosted The Rev. Dr Douglas Orbaker who is working in the mission field in Nicaragua. Doug is delegation coordinator with CEPAD, The Council of Evangelical Churches of Nicaragua. He

MISSION AT WORK CONTINUED

develops programs for mission teams that go to Nicaragua to learn from and work with Nicaraguans, often acting as host, translator, counselor, and cultural interpreter to the teams.

Doug was a minister at the New Richmond church in this presbytery and a member of the staff of the Synod of the Covenant previously. He has been in

FILM CAPSULES

Pirate Radio

Rated R

Hard to believe that the homeland of the Beatles and The Rolling Stones once banned rock music from the airwaves. But until the latter part of the Sixties that was the case, except for a 45 minute segment on the BBC. Thus enterprising entrepreneurs stepped into the breach by operating illegal radio stations from ships that stood just outside Great Britain's territorial waters. *The Ship That Rocked* (the film was renamed for US distribution) tells in a farcical style the story of eight rebellious music loving DJs who broke the law and agreed to live aboard the ship. Their story is told through the eyes of a young man whose mother, worried because he has been expelled from school for smoking weed, has been sent to her friend who owns the "pirate radio" ship. The British government does everything it can to shut the operation down. An audience of 25 million rock devotees hope and pray that they will not succeed. The film is fun to watch but, from a Christian standpoint seriously flawed, with scenes of its lecherous crew engaging in



Nicaragua since 2004.

I hope this has caught you up on what is happening with your gifts to the various mission projects that we are involved in. We will continue to work hard to heed Christ's call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked. And bring the Good News to all people.

BY: JACK KLEIER

BY: ED McNULTY

sex with the "birds" who are brought out on a periodic basis, and especially by making the young hero's loss of virginity something to be celebrated and shared via radio with millions of approving listeners. Be forewarned also that there is a scene, admittedly funny, in which a DJ (wonderfully played by Philip Seymour Hoffman) manages to get around the ship owner's order not to use bad language over the air.

T. Invention of Lying

Rated PG-13

Imagine a world in which everyone tells the truth--sort of a world in which humankind has not suffered a total fall from grace. Several amusing scenes show this, such as when people really tell each other what they think of the other. Our hero's first date with the heroine is unpromising in that she tells him that he is too short and fat for her to love because his genes would provide a less than satisfactory sperm source for children. Then by chance he tells what he considers a lie and is believed. He is with his dying mother (the name of the nursing home, which in our world might be called "Happy Haven," is

FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED

"A Sad Place Where Homeless Old People Come to Die"). To comfort her he tells her that there is an afterlife where they will one day be reunited. People clamor to hear more about this, and our hero reluctantly complies by declaring that there is a Man Up There, thus launching something akin to a religious movement. The film's premise that religion is possible only by lying about reality might make you bristle, but the film is genuinely funny and offers a great opportunity for church groups to explore truth and its consequences, the nature of faith, and the age old attempt to explain the goodness of God and the existence of evil.

The Informant

Rated R

Although played for its comedic elements, this film is based on a real life whistle blower at Archer Daniels Midland, among the top fifty of US corporations. He aspires to become the CEO of his company by informing on his superiors' long time practice of price fixing with international firms. He agrees to become an FBI informant, wearing a wire to record business meetings. At first Stephen Soderbergh's film seems like another version of *The Insider*, a film based on an executive's revelation of the tobacco industry's deceptions, but the latter half of *The Informant* is far more complicated. As the months and years pass by, the FBI try to make sense of the conflicting stories that their spy tells them, and eventually discover that he has had an agenda that he has kept hidden from them. Brad Pitt is delightful as Mark Whitacre, the executive, who eventually due to his nefarious machinations, served a longer prison sentence than any of the crooked

BY: ED McNULTY

executives whom he brought down. The psalmists, decrying "the wicked" who become ensnared in their own traps, would have enjoyed this film, though, as we see at the end, there is more than just a moral lapse to the story.

Bright Star

Rated PG

Poet John Keats could be the poster boy representing the popular cliché of the starving, short-lived artist (he died at the age of 25). Jane Campion brings the story of star struck lovers beautifully to life in a film that deserves to reach an audience beyond the art house circuit. Keats lives with his friend and fellow poet Mr. Brown, the latter becoming jealous when Keats and the daughter of their landlord Fanny Brawne fall in love. However, as Fanny's rather liberal-minded mother observes, the poet has "no living and no income," thus making marriage impossible. Although the poet's first volume has been published, few have bought it, even though its first poem begins with the immortal line "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." Both adhering to the strict moral code of the early 19th century, they are unable to consummate their love, making one believe that the lines from his "Ode to a Grecian Urn" grew out of their bitter-sweet experience:

Bold Lover, never, never canst thou
kiss,
Though winning near the goal -- yet,
do not grieve;
She cannot fade, though thou hast
not thy bliss,
For ever wilt thou love, and she be
fair!

FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED

More Than a Game

Rated PG

Kristopher Belma's well-edited documentary follows the incredible 9-year journey of five Ohio basketball players known as "The Fab Five," among whom is the future NBA superstar LeBron James. Coached in Akron, Ohio by the father of one of four boys who have played basketball together from the sixth grade, they are joined in high school by transplanted Chicagoan James LeBron, the five playing so well together that they lead their team to a national championship. The director has assembled interviews, newsreel footage, home videos and photographs into a seamless film that should appeal not just to basketball fans but to anyone interested in the small and improbable winning out over great odds.

I have yet to catch *Where the Wild Things Are*, but friends (and reviewers) have reassured me that filmmaker Spike Jonze has not spoiled the ultra-short Maurice Sendak original story, unlike those who spoiled *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* with their bloated adaptation.

BY: ED McNULTY

Note: Ed McNulty will be leading a workshop exploring religious values in film at a national conference called "Navigate" at the Florence United Methodist Church next month (Nov. 10-12). For information go to www.outfittingtonavigate.com

His workshop is: **Navigating Between Theater and Scripture: Finding God at the Movies:**

The goal is to show that a significant number of films now playing at the local theater or awaiting take-out at your DVD store are more than just entertainment. Participants will find help in discovering biblical/theological themes in feature films, so that the theater and video store will become resources for teaching and preaching the gospel.



Brighten someone's day with a card or note. If you have been missing a friend who hasn't been in church for a while, or if you were glad to see someone, let them know. Cards are available in the narthex to help you be the light in someone's day. The church will see that the cards get to the post office.

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 September 10, 2009. The Rev. Donald H. Smith, Jr. Rev. Smith opened the meeting with prayer.

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT:
Communion: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated on Sunday, September 6, 2009, at the morning worship service. The Rev. Donald H. Smith, Jr. presided. The wedding of Thla Hwin and Shwe Em, both members of the Calvary Chin Baptist Church, was conducted on Sunday, August 23, 2009, in the sanctuary of Community of Faith. Calvary Chin pastor, Hrang Kap, presided.

On recommendation of this clerk, the Session voted in the affirmative to remove the names of Madge and Warren Moore, Jr., and the name of Mae Kramer from the Active Roll and to place these three names on the Roll of Deceased Members.

The clerk reported that she gave to Janis Adams, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, the correct information on the salary and other compensation paid to Rev. Smith for the year 2009. Janis will include these corrected figures in the September 2009 minutes of the Presbytery.

The clerk also reported that Rev. Smith, Treasurer Gary Willis and she are attempting once again to supply the Board of Pensions with information about changes in Rev. Smith's salary and service. Although the pastor, the treasurer and she are certain that the forms were mailed to the BOP headquarters in May, BOP personnel report that they have not received the forms.

Elder Marilyn Gordon, who is a member of the COF Board of Trustees, has had the address of the Ludlow Church changed from 425 Oak Street to 1400 Highland Avenue. The clerk will have the address changed on the BNY web site where stock still held in the Ludlow Church's name is accessed.

CORRESPONDENCE: The church received two pieces of correspondence during the past month: (1) a letter from Princeton Theological Seminary requesting that COF contribute to the seminary's annual fund, and (2) a letter from the Board of Pensions reminding the clerk to send the annual infor-

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES, CONTINUED

mation on Rev. Smith's salary and service.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Smith presented a written report of his ministry on behalf of the church this past month. He reported that the computer in his study is suffering from viruses and other problems. The repairman whom he consulted recommended that we buy a new computer. After some discussion, Session members reached a consensus that the pastor should look for a new computer with help from members of the Administration Umbrella.

People Advocating Recovery would like to borrow the tent, chairs and tables for their fifth recovery event to be held in Goebel Park on Saturday, September 19, 2009, from noon until 3:00 P.M. The borrowed items will be returned by 4:30 P.M. that day. **ACTION:** Approval was given to People Advocating Recovery to borrow the tent, tables and chairs.

Calvary Chin Church: Johanna Willis came before Session to express her concerns and the concerns of others on the difficulty of keeping the sanctuary and other parts of the church building clean with the children of the Calvary Chin Church taking food into the sanctuary and with them roaming the building during their church's worship service. Specific issues included candy

wrappers, chewed gum, and carving in the pews; ants and roaches attracted to spilled food and drink; unsupervised children all over the building doing dangerous things while the Calvary Chin worship is going on; boundary issues with the children who assume that anything is theirs to play with. **ACTION:** Rev. Smith will put together a summary of the discussed issues and talk to Pastor Thomas.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The board has not met; therefore there was no report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Gary Willis supplied the Session with written reports of the church's financial activity for the past month. The estimated income and expenses for the coming month appeared to look okay. Members of the Session discussed the need for a simplified Treasurer's report. The matter was given over to the Administrative Umbrella to make this request of the treasurer.

C.L.A.S.P.: Elder Bill Lindsay reported that C.L.A.S.P. is getting under way for the school year. The board is still looking into the possibility of relocating to the Ludlow School, but nothing will happen this semester. Elder Lindsay and C.L.A.S.P. Director Mel Corbett have been meeting with School Superintendent Curtis Hall, one of the school board members and the princi-

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES, CONTINUED

pal of the elementary school. Some financial help has been coming in. The game room has been painted; new, donated carpet has been installed; and maintenance has been done on the furnace.

UMBRELLA REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION: Elder Marilyn Gordon reported that the members of the umbrella will be looking at copiers and a new computer for the minister.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Elder Joanna Bailey reported that the Ice Cream Social took in \$1,129 gross. This amount does not include the contribution from the City of Fort Wright, and Jean Jennings has not yet been reimbursed for her costs. There is still some vanilla and strawberry ice cream left.

The Eggplant Feast will be held at Bill and Becky Lindsay's home on Saturday, September 19 beginning at 5:00 P.M. We should remind people of the event and ask that they bring a salad, vegetable dish or dessert.

The Fall Festival is scheduled for Sunday, October 11, following the morning worship service. The lunch menu will be a Chili Cook-off. Joanna Bailey, Anji Hurt and Inky Hall will be in charge to relieve Jean Jennings who has carried a lot of the fellowship work recently.

It was reported that the Watermark Church that meets at Dixie Heights High School had recently worked with the small congregation at St. Paul's Church, UCC, in Ft. Wright to clean St. Paul's facility. It was not known if the Watermark Church did this as a mission project or as a fundraiser.

Joanna expressed a need to have a worship planning team again. **ACTION:** A motion to schedule a power point presentation entitled "The Tabernacle" on Sunday, October 4th was approved. The power point was developed by the children and youth in Sunday School.

MISSION: Elder Jack Kleier reported that the Mission Umbrella has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 17, at 7:00 P.M. **ACTION:** Jack moved that we conduct a stewardship campaign in October and November. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved. Jack asked for theme suggestions. **ACTION:** Jack then moved that the Mission Committee organize a fall clean up day. The motion was seconded, discussed and approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Elder William Lindsay reported as commissioner to Presbytery, that the presbytery in its meeting of September 8, made good use of consent agenda. Forty-four items of routine business were covered in a short period of time.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES, CONTINUED

In a difficult piece of business, the presbytery upheld the decision of the Committee on Ministry to disapproval the call of the minister that Seventh Presbyterian Church had wanted to call.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

Joys and Concerns: Prayers of thanksgiving, healing or concern were offered for Michael Moore, Warren Moore, III, Debbie, and Emily Moore; Rebecca Moore; Skylar McDermott; Bob Clarke; Howard Story; Eileen

Hastings; the issue of Health Care in the U.S.A.; the family of Dr. Cary Grayson Suter, Becky Lindsay's uncle; Jack and Nita Kleier.

Rev. Smith closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

The next regular meeting of the Session of Community of Faith Presbyterian Church will be Thursday, October 8, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. at the church.

Rebecca Lindsay,
Clerk of Session



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





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

UPCOMING EVENTS

End of Daylight Saving Time	November 1
Wednesday Bible Study 11:00am	November 4
Jean Jennings Birthday Party 12:30 to 6:30	November 8
Presbytery Meeting at Blue Ash 5:30pm	November 10
Wednesday Bible Study 11:00am	November 11
Trustees 6:30pm	November 12
Session 7:00pm	November 12
Fellowship Dinner	November 15
Wednesday Bible Study 11:00am	November 18
Congregational Meeting-Election of Officers	November 22
Wednesday Bible Study 11:00am	November 25
Thanksgiving Day	November 26
First Sunday of Advent (Hanging of the Greens)	November 29
Women's Christmas Party	December 7

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