

November 2011

Chronicles

Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
1400 Highland Pike, Covington, KY 41011
WWW.COFNKY.ORG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Thinking of Thanking!

November is the month of Election Day, Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving, also, in my family at least, it is the month I turn 65, my younger child turns 40, and my older grandson becomes 25. These are all significant numbers each representing a milestone. Was it only in November, 1986 when my birthday fell on Sunday, and some church members stuck a couple of black balloons to the pulpit and taped an "over the hill" decoration across the front of it?

Boy, was I surprised to find that. Now my son is nearly forty.

Ouch! Wow! Choose your own epithet.

Worse still, I have a grandson who will be old enough to run for congress. What can this all mean?

To me it means gratitude, saying thanks to God for bringing us along as far as we have gone. I am as excited to be at this milestone as I was when I was dubbed "over the hill."

It's all good, as they say.

It means saying thanks to veterans who trusted in God, and in their country enough to step out with a risky foot out of the trenches and over the

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top, through the wire, or onto the beach, out of the helicopter and into those stinking paddies.

Because of veterans we still have election days.

The story of the first Thanksgiving has been discredited, but the idea remains creditable, and credible! Probably the early English settlers of Massachusetts did not sit down with the locals for turkey and other critters with all the trimmings. But as a national myth it continues to serve us well, reminding of us of the need to recognize what we have been given and to be polite enough to say thank you for it. To thank God, others, and don't forget to take a little credit for yourself, or maybe others will remember your part in providing them with another reason to say thank you.

At a deeper level I find myself meditating on the presence of chance in my life. I have found myself near death at least a half dozen times and knew it at the time, other times I learned of it later, while God only knows the number of times I was so exposed and did not have the first clue about it.

As "big" birthdays approach, I find myself asking "Why?" Why am I alive after so many near misses? Is there some sort of purpose I must fulfill? And yet we have all seen people who have passed before us who seemingly had no purpose to fulfill, no reason to live or even to die. They just did, and left us pondering all of that.

On the other hand why must my life and death be tied to any sort of divine purpose at all? All of which leaves me, well, pondering.

What springs out of my uncertainty and lack of awareness is simply and certainly the response of gratitude. I am here. My family is growing in wisdom and stature-- I hope. I cannot recall a time in my life when I have been happier to be what I am and to do what I do. We all know that I am far from perfect, but I do and can give thanks to God, to you, and maybe a little bit to me, for allowing me to be where I am, when I am.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Don

COF has a Facebook group! Invite your friends and family to check out our new and improved website and to join our Facebook group! You can access our website to share with your friends and family at www.cofnky.org. Our Facebook group can be found by searching for Community of Faith Presbyterian in the search engine.

IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS



Pete Beckett, Mark Brant, Donna Kreicker, KC Clarke, Phyllis Houpp, Lynda Jaeger, Gary Willis and Art Brophy.

Please remember our nursing home residents and shut ins: Ruth Comisar, Evelyn Wallace and Art Brophy

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

Miguel Carlin has a new address. Please change his contact information in your directory. 14515 Briar Forest Drive, Apt. 215, Houston, TX 77077

FROM OUR TREASURER

GENERAL			MISSION			
			<u>Year - To - Date</u>			
2011	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Desig.</u>	<u>Other</u>
Beg. Balance	11,077	4,308	-2,158	305	547	-1,210
Income	11,737	100,812	375	922	2,634	1,352
Expense	8,124	<u>90,260</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>898</u>	<u>2,894</u>	<u>2,909</u>
End Balance	14,689	14,859	-2,151	329	287	-2,767

MISSION AT WORK — MISSION UMBRELLA BY: JACK KLEIER

I'm back this month and I want to thank Miguel for his good work the past couple of months filling in this space.

This month we will cover a few subjects as we prepare for Christmas and the end of the year. We as a nation are facing tough economic times. Many organizations that depend on the generosity of donors have had to really tighten their belts and cut way back on both program and staff. The really difficult part is that while money has grown short, the needs that face the organizations has grown greater. As we face the Christmas Season, let us keep this in mind and do as much to help as we possibility can.

Each year local churches receive a statement from the Presbytery as to the Per Capita amount that they owe to the Presbytery. This amount helps the higher judicatories raise funds for their operation. Each judicatory, Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly determines the amount it needs to operate during the coming year. The Presbytery adds these amounts and multiplies that number by the number of congregants that your church has recorded at the end of the previous year. The Church is then asked to pay that amount to Presbytery as their fair share in the operation of the greater church. The amount this year is \$27.19 per member. We owed Presbytery \$3,262.80. To date we still owe them \$762.80. If you haven't paid your per capita there is still time to do so between now and the end of the year. Donations can be made to help those who can't afford to pay the Per Capita.

We will again accept gift cards from Target, Wall Mart, and K-Mart for the children at Buckhorn. We ask that you bring the gift cards to church by Dec 4, so that we can get

them to Buckhorn in time for some Christmas shopping. I can get names and sizes if anyone would rather do their own shopping, but we have found that gift cards of any amount work well and the staff is better able to get the items the kids need/want the most. Buckhorn has had a rough year financially. Help with Christmas will be greatly appreciated. If you are so inclined and want to continue contributions to this agency please let me know and we will get you all the information you need.

The Christmas Giving Tree is a program that helps needy families in Ludlow. Jean Jennings has headed this program up for years and to her we say a great big Thank You! Jean will have doves with wishes on them. Anyone interested in taking part in this program can see her. This is just one more way that we can help make someone else's Christmas a little bit brighter.

If you have been following the papers you are aware that organizations that help feed needy families have been running short of food due to the increased demand on their agencies. We will again accept canned goods for Be Concerned. This project can start right away. We will take whatever is on hand down for Thanksgiving and then continue to collect for Christmas. When you go shopping look for the buy-on-get-one sales. Give the second can to Be-Con. Also 10 for \$10 sales are a way of sharing with people in need.

These are just a few of the opportunities that we have to make Christmas merry and bright this year. When times are tough, Christians respond out of a love for Christ and for our neighbors. Christ told us that in as much as you do this to the least of my brothers you do it to me.

As we near the end of another year, I thank each of you for your generosity. We truly walk hand in hand in Mission to Jesus Christ

FILM CAPSULES

BY: ED McNULTY

The Way

Rated PG-13. Proverbs 4:11-13

By far the best film currently showing, this combination of the themes of father-son and on-the-road, features real life father Martin Sheen directed by his son Emilio Estevez. The latter plays the son in flashback scenes, and even wrote the script inspired by experiences that he and his father had when several years ago they walked the pilgrimage of Camino de Santiago, in English known as "The Way of St. James" or, simply, "The Way." Sheen is Dr. Tom Avery, an ophthalmologist who has settled into the routine of life, estranged years earlier from his free-spirited son Daniel. He receives word of Daniel's death while starting out from the French Pyrenees on the Way. When he goes to retrieve the body, he impulsively decides to finish Daniel's pilgrimage. He meets many people on the journey, including three who become his close companions, none of whom started with any religious motive. A deeply spiritual film, without becoming explicitly Christian, the director/writer's attention to small details, of the journey and of the development of the various characters (including that of a proud and honest gypsy father), will embed this film in your memory long after those of lesser films have into oblivion.

Ides of March

Rated PG-13. Psalm 146:3-4; Matthew 16:26 KJV

Although George Clooney directed and stars in this political thriller, he is not the central character. Ryan Gosling, so effective in *Lars and the Real Girl* and *Drive*, is the idealistic Stephen Meyers, press manager for Clooney's presidential candidate, Governor Mike Morris. Convinced that his man is the real deal, Stephen throws himself body and soul into the campaign. However, this dark film is not *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, though it does share the plot device of that film's worshipful young hero discovering that his hero has feet of clay. However, Stephen's reaction is very different, leading to the question: "Is this film merely a cynical take on modern politics, or is it a cautionary moral tale aimed at those who "trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help"?"

Moneyball

Rated PG-13. Matthew 9:16-17

Based on the Michael Lewis book, *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*, this sports film deals with management rather than what takes place on the field. Brad Pitt again displays his fine acting talent as Billy Bean, general manager of the always cash-strapped Oakland Athletics. Tired of seeing his best players lured away by wealthier

FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED

BY: ED McNULTY

teams, he joins with the nerdish Peter Brand (Jonah Hill), a recent Yale graduate who has never walked onto a ballfield, yet who has studied base ball statistics and believes that it is the number of times a player gets on base that it is the most indicative of his true value to a team, not more flashy statistics such as number of hits. The engrossing film is about change and dealing with resistance to change, something that church leaders, lay and cleric, also face from week to week when they seek to improve their congregations.

Drive

Rated R. Proverbs 4:14-17

Ryan Gosling, so winsome as the ultra shy hero of *Lars and the Real Girl* and so idealistic in *Ides of March*, portrays a Hollywood stunt driver who moonlights as the driver of a getaway car for armed robbers. When he befriends the young mother and her little son who live down the hall, we see that he can be very tender and caring, as well as very brutal. However, when her husband is released from jail and the two men become involved in a robbery gone badly, his life is upended in unexpected and tragic ways. He would have done better to have heeded the words of the author of Proverbs.

50/50

Rated PG-13. Proverbs 17:9 & 18:13

Although billed as a comedy and co-starring Seth Rogan, do not be deceived by the label. The film's title comes from the odds for survival of 27 year-old Adam Lerner, stricken with a rare form of spinal cancer. Amidst Rogan's usual profanity and sexual comments, you will encounter an honest, deeply moving drama of a young man struggling with and adjusting to the severe treatment of the disease, with support from numerous persons. Screenwriter Will Reiser based his script on his own battle with cancer, so the story is authentic and free of the usual weepiness of such medical dramas. Adam is wonderfully played by Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and Anjelica Houston is his protective mother, also burdened with the care of her Alzheimer-afflicted husband. Rogan is raunchy, but in several tender moments we see him as the kind of loving friend whom we would want beside us if we had to go through chemotherapy and related treatments. Although not a religious man, Adam learns what, and who, is important in his life—and just how precarious everything can be.

FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED

BY: ED McNULTY

The Thing

Rated R. Psalms 55:4

Director Matthijs van Heijningen Jr.'s film has been called a prequel to John Carpenter's 1982 film because it ends where Carpenter's began, with the helicopter chase of a dog. The latter's film was an excellent remake of the 1951 adaptation of a short story by the then greatest of science fiction editor John W. Campbell, Jr, that film having a longer title *The Thing From Another World*, shortened to *The Thing*. Even though it was 60 years ago, I well remember the suspense and fright while watching the story about the discovery of a crashed space ship and the body of an alien frozen in the ice. The new version, like Carpen-

ter's, moves the scene from the Arctic to Antarctica, and boasts far more sophisticated science and gruesome special effects—the gory, blood splattered alien's taking over of the bodies of its victims. Focusing more on gore than suspense, this film is not for the squeamish. Were any of the characters even a bit religious, she or he might have turned to the above psalm.

Longer reviews of the above can be seen at www.visualparables.net, as well as a sample issue of the magazine Visual Parables. Subscribers will also be able to access discussion questions for the films.

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS

The James A. Ramage Civil War Museum along with the City of Ft. Wright and the City of Ft. Mitchell will honor Vietnam War Veterans on November 13th, 2011 at 2:00pm.

Tribute will be paid to both living and deceased veterans. This will take place at Highland Cemetery, Fort Mitchell. Please contact the City of Fort Wright at 859-331-1700 for more details or call Kathleen at 859-331-2499.

This is a beautiful service. Please advise any Vietnam Veteran you know to call so their name will be in the program.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES

August 11, 2011

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 Thursday, August 11, 2011, at 7:03 P.M. by the moderator, The Rev. Donald H. Smith, Jr. Rev. Smith opened the meeting with prayer.

DOCKET: The docket was approved as presented.

MINUTES: The minutes of the regular meeting of Session held on July 14, 2011, were approved as presented.

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT:
Communion: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated by intinction on Sunday, August 7, 2011, during the morning worship service. Rev. Smith presided assisted by Elders Jo Shade, Linda Hils, and Bill Dupps.

ACTION: On recommendation by the clerk, Session voted to remove the names of Charlotte Haynes Owen and Irma Frances (Spicer) Bales from the Active Roll and to place their names on the Deceased Roll. Charlotte died on July 22, 2011. Her funeral service was conducted by Rev. Smith on July 27, 2011, at Linnemann's Funeral Home. Interment was in Highland Cemetery in Fort Mitchell, KY. Irma died on August 1, 2011. Her service was held in the sanctuary of Community of Faith on August 4, 2011, with Rev. Smith

presiding. Burial was at Floral Gardens Cemetery in Taylor Mill, KY.

The clerk received an e-mail from Janis Adams, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Cincinnati listing actions that local congregations and sessions need to take in the near future as the PC(USA) transitions into the New Form of Government (nFOG). Copies are provided for Session's information. **ACTION:** A motion that we form an ad hoc committee of three to go over the changes that the congregation and Session need to make and to bring back recommendations to Session next month was adopted. Elders Dawn Farwick, Jack Kleier, and Jo Shade volunteered. Rev. Smith will serve as an ex officio member. Chair of the committee will be Jo Shade.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Smith provided a written report, which is filed with these minutes, of his activities on behalf of COF over the past month. Of note were the two funerals of long-time members of the church that he conducted, those of Charlotte Owen and Irma Bales (Details above.)

TRUSTEES: Elder Dawn Farwick, President of Trustees, reported that an offer has been made on the property in Ludlow by a couple who would like to use the church for their home. The offer is for \$75,000, with \$10,000 as a down payment and the remainder to be paid at 5% interest amortized over 20 years with a monthly payment of approxi-

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES, CONTINUED

mately \$430. A balloon payment at the 10th year of \$40,000 would retire the loan. The total gained would be \$97,000. Community of Faith would act as the bank. The purchasers are aware that we will remove the time capsule from the building.

If the terms of sale are approved by the Session and by the Congregation at a called meeting on August 28, 2011, Rev. Smith will take the terms to Presbytery's Board of Trustees, in which case, it should be brought before Presbytery at its next stated meeting on September 13. **ACTION:** A motion that Session accept the offer for the sale of the property at 423 - 429 Oak Street in Ludlow, KY, 41016, with the terms stated above was approved. **ACTION:** A motion was adopted to recommend to the congregation a designation of 5% of the sale price of the property to Presbytery, 10 % to CLASP, and 10% to the Ludlow Scholarship Fund to be paid out of the \$40,000 balloon payment at the end of 10 years.

Dawn will do a Minute for Outreach on August 21, 2011, concerning the offer on the property.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Gary Willis provided written financial reports for the past month which will be filed.

UMBRELLA REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION AND PROPERTY: Elder Dawn Ramsey reported that Floyd Hasting is working on the air conditioners. Several things need to be done at Ludlow depending on the sale of the property.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Elder Erika Berry reported that the Congregational Care Umbrella has been working on preparations for the Ice Cream Social.

The Annual Fireworks Party will be held on Sunday, September 4 with food available for purchase. Floyd Hastings will be in charge of set-up.

On Sunday, September 25, a potluck luncheon will be held following the morning worship service for the CEPAD visitors. The three visitors will be preaching at COF on that Sunday Morning. Elder Bill Lindsay will be giving a Minute for Outreach this coming Sunday.

MISSION AND EVANGELISM: Elder Jack Kleier reported that the coupon drive to benefit families of soldiers on active duty is underway. Sharon Carlin will send the coupons to Trinity Presbyterian in Raleigh, N.C. Plans are underway for hosting our mission partners from Nicaragua. A family cookout will be held in October (specific date to be determined) with invitations issued to the Calvary Chin and Third Presbyterian congregations.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH SESSION MINUTES, CONTINUED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Clerk Rebecca Lindsay will contact Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and invite a member of that committee to meet with Session at our regular September meeting to help us begin the transition process leading up to and following Rev. Smith's retirement.

NEW BUSINESS: A request from the Ludlow Historic Society to visit the Ludlow Church building as part of a walking tour on the afternoon of September 18 was received. **ACTION:** It was moved and adopted that we regretfully decline because of the imminent sale of the property. We are uncertain of the closing date. If we find out that that September 18 is open, we will contact them.

The clerk will be on vacation in late August and early September. Elder Jack Kleier will serve as secretary pro tem for the special congregational meeting on August 28. Elder Dawn Farwick will serve as secretary pro tem for the regular Session meeting on September 8.

ACTION: By common consent it was decided that Rev. Smith will write a letter of sympathy and support to Lakeside Presbyterian Church in light of the death of Craig Dieter, a member of Lakeside, and his son, Scott, and the wounding of Mrs. Dieter.

Help is needed with cleaning the restrooms. We will ask the Chin Church to help in maintaining clean restrooms..

Rev. Smith reported that he is having problems with the office computer and printer. On advice of Session, he will look for a printer to go with his laptop.

CLOSING:

Joys and Concerns: Prayers of thanksgiving and concern were lifted for the following: the Dieter family and Lakeside Presbyterian; Linda and Mark Bowen; Roger and Martha Bell; Mark Brandt; Cliff and Donna Kreiker; Buckhorn; the Bales family; the Owen Family; Linda LaVelle; Bill and Becky Lindsay.

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Rev. Smith and was adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

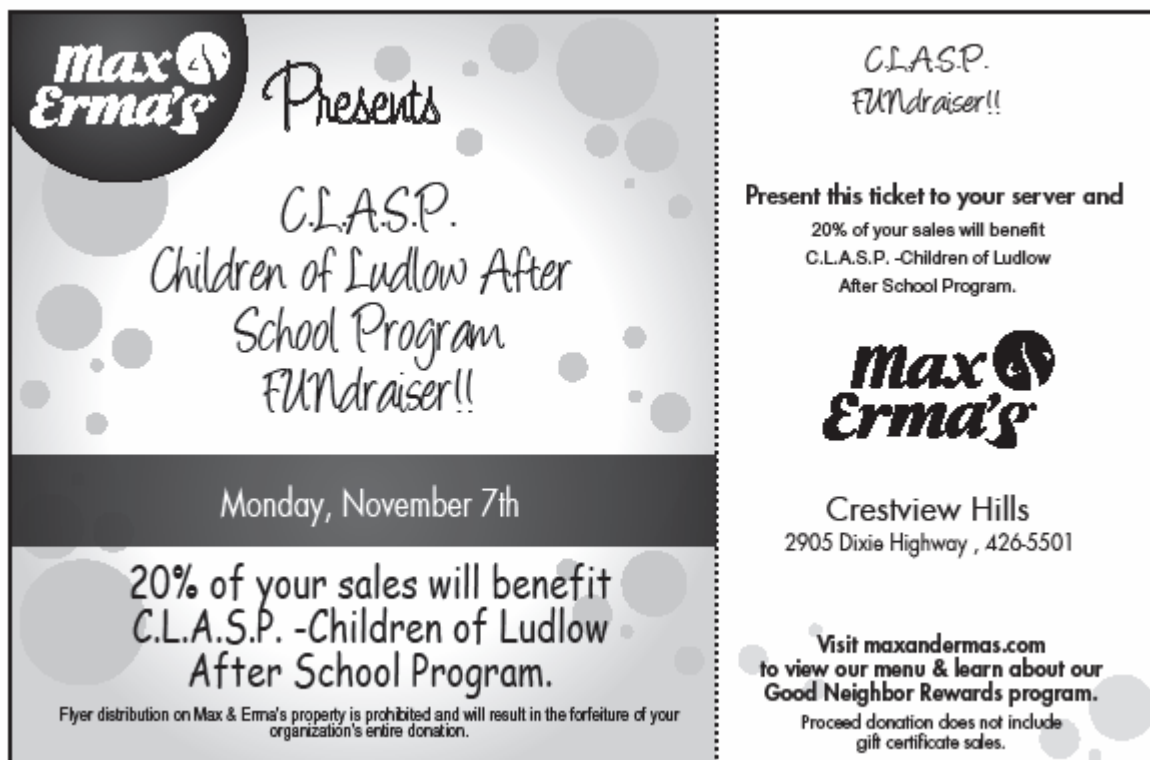
The next stated meeting of Session will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 7:00 P.M. at the church.

Rebecca S. Lindsay,

Clerk of Session

CLASP MAX & ERMA'S FUNDRAISER, MONDAY NOV. 7

On Monday, November 7, Max and Erma's restaurant at the Crestview Hills Town Center will again sponsor a FUNdraiser on behalf of CLASP. For every person who brings a CLASP coupon to the restaurant that day, Max and Erma's will donate 20% of the purchase price of their meal to CLASP.



Max & Erma's Presents
C.L.A.S.P.
Children of Ludlow After
School Program
FUNdraiser!!

Monday, November 7th

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.
FUNdraiser!!

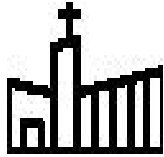
Present this ticket to your server and
20% of your sales will benefit
C.L.A.S.P. -Children of Ludlow
After School Program.

Max & Erma's

Crestview Hills
2905 Dixie Highway, 426-5501

Visit maxandermas.com
to view our menu & learn about our
Good Neighbor Rewards program.
Proceed donation does not include
gift certificate sales.

**Invite your friends and family to participate in the FUNdraiser.
Please print/tear out this coupon and bring it with you
to Max & Erma's on Monday, November 7th**



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

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Choir Rehearsal November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

CLASP FUNdraiser Max & Erma's	7th
Presbytery Meeting @ Northminster 5:00pm	8th
Board of Trustees 6:30pm	10th
Session 7:00pm	10th
Thanksgiving Holiday	24th & 25th
Fist Sunday of Advent	27th

Early December dates to note:

Gift cards for Buckhorn needed by December 4

Ludlow Giving Tree gifts at church by December 11

Phone: 859 331-3238

E-mail: cfpastor@fuse.net

General E-mail: communityoffaith@fuse.net

COFNKY.ORG