

October 2011

Chronicles

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

STEWARDSHIP BY ANY OTHER NAME

At the Urban Pastors meeting the other day the talk turned, as it must this time of year, to giving. We read a decent meditation that argues for elimination of the word *stewardship* and substituting the word *generosity*. My feeling was that generosity conveys the same idea but not the same burden and stench of dogma that stewardship does.

To my mind the word stewardship is sort of like the word evangelism because it is also a word that makes most of us feel uncomfortable, even guilty, especially in a culture of the declining membership in the so-called mainline churches. The word stewardship carries that burden too. Just as many

church members believe that evangelism is all about slick programs just to entice new members; stewardship is a slick alchemical program designed to transform the substance in our wallets to the offering plate.

If that is your thinking about stewardship, I won't flatter myself by thinking that I can change your mind, but I am not quite ready to abandon the field. The concept of giving is not all about giving money or even giving to the church. For me stewardship is grounded in God choosing us for particular work and giving us the skills to carry out those tasks. The gamut of God's gift giving runs from the simplest to the most complex and yet all of those

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gifts are required in order for us to serve God.

We do understand the part about serving God, right?

So we serve God by assessing our gifts and putting them in play for the sake of all creation. Sounds like a tall order for someone who believes that his or her only gift is the ability to work in the most menial tasks in the faith community. How exactly does that sort of thing help to transform the whole earth?

Simple. Somebody has to do it and if you don't do it somebody has to double up and if that person has to double up-- too often there's something called burn-out that happens and then the job-- the necessary job doesn't get done at all, and that breeds complaints and unhappiness, and so it goes.

We have an obligation to God, and born of that, an obligation to each other and ourselves.

Stewardship is the care we take of the things we have been given. We have been

given a second chance. We have been given each other. We have been given property of considerable value. We have been given responsibilities according to our gifts.

Generosity is an attitude that recognizes need and does its part in meeting more than that need.

There's the element of gratitude as well or at least the form that is more than merely saying thank you, although that is important too. Doing "thank you," can find form and life in stewardship and generosity.

We have been hit hard over the last year. But I am convinced of that old cliché that "God isn't finished with Community of Faith Presbyterian Church." As you meditate on this and other things, as the challenge of giving is set before you for the upcoming year, don't forget to say and do thank you.

Don



We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Marion Acree. Marion died on September 7. Services have already been held.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Linda Bowen. Linda's memorial service was held at COF on September 17, 2011

IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS



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

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Miguel Carlin 7th
- Nancy Ziegler 14th
- Ryan Nowak 20th
- Michael Roy 20th
- Sandi Brown 25th
- Robert Hamilton 28th
- Jennifer Beach 31st



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.

FROM OUR TREASURER

GENERAL			MISSION			
			<u>Year - To - Date</u>			
2011	<u>August</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Desig.</u>	<u>Other</u>
Beg. Balance	11,012	4,308	-1,568	305	547	-1,210
Income	10,236	89,075	256	818	2,478	1,238
Expense	10,001	<u>82,136</u>	<u>847</u>	<u>862</u>	<u>2,775</u>	<u>2,697</u>
End Balance	11,247	11,247	-2,158	261	251	-2,670

A WORD ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

BY: MIGUEL CARLIN

Food for Thought

Over the last several years our congregation has worked together to use our time, talent, and treasures to do the work that Christ calls us to do. Does my financial pledge, time, and talent that God has given me make a difference? I have struggled with the answer to this question. In this fast-paced society, which my generation has grown up in, we expect immediate and visible results yesterday. However, God has challenged me to remember that it is not about building the largest ministry or giving the most money to the church. Instead the focus should be on taking a breath and letting God use the gifts that I am able to give now in order to make a difference. This year's stewardship campaign theme, "Our Gifts to God," will allow us to learn how the gifts we have given to the church in the past have made a difference.

Together we will also have an opportunity to take a collective breathe to pray and reflect on how God can use all of our gifts to strengthen the congregation and community at large. The stewardship team is in the process of planning a stewardship program to help you discover how your gifts can help over the next year. The program is scheduled for October 30 after service, a pot-luck luncheon will follow. We welcome any questions or comments you may have on stewardship. In closing we want to thank all of the volunteers and friends that have used their gifts this year to help us achieve and implement ministries that we did not think were possible.

As we begin "Our Gifts to God" Stewardship Campaign, I want to share this thought provoking story and reflection I recently found in the Upper Room Devotional Guide. It reminds us all of how God uses our gifts and talents to make a difference, no matter how big or small.

"One of my foster children gave me a rock. My wife didn't understand why I kept it, until I explained its history. Foster children often have very little: no home, no family, no toys, no clothing except what they are wearing. A rock is not much, but my child found it, thought it a good rock, and gave it to me. It was the most generous he could be.

Some people are able to give large sums of money. Often they are memorialized with plaques or have buildings named after them. Other people have very little to spare, but give it anyway. Or perhaps they give their time and service to others instead of money. Still others give sacrificially of their love and prayers.

God measures our gift by the spirit that prompts us to give. Some who are considered great philanthropists may not be giving from a generous heart. But like the widow in Jesus' parable, others whose gifts may seem small are actually storing up true treasure by giving generously."

<http://devotional.upperroom.org/devotionals/1999-11-15>

FILM CAPSULES

Film Capsules Summer #2, 2011
Monthly short takes on the movies
 by Presbyterian minister Dr. Edward McNulty.
 His longer reviews are now available free at
www.visualparables.net.

Contagion

Rated PG-13. Jeremiah 8:22 & 9:21-22
 Director Steven Soderberg takes on an exciting hunt to track down the source of a mysterious disease that quickly becomes a worldwide pandemic when a business-woman (Gwyneth Paltrow) returns from China to Chicago. Her husband (Matt Damon) cannot believe the doctor telling her that she is dead, but then his little son also is stricken and dies, and soon he is trying to keep his daughter safe as panic engulfs the city. At the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention a deputy director (Laurence Fishburne) sends out doctors on dangerous missions to discover the source and cure for the swiftly spreading disease. Although the large cast and episodic structure does not allow us to focus much on any one character, the film is exciting to watch—and chilling to see how jet travel contributes to the spread of disease and the Internet to the spread of almost equally deadly false rumors.

The Debt Rated PG-13.
 Helen Mirren again rises to her usual dramatic height as Rachel in this remake of an Israeli film about a team of Mossad agents who years before had been sent to East Berlin to kidnap and bring back to Israel a Nazi doctor who had performed gruesome experiments on prisoners during the Holocaust. Their plan goes awry, resulting in their keeping a dark secret from the world. After her daughter writes a book detailing their exploits, Helen em-

BY: ED MCNULTY

barks on a secret solitaire mission to make right what went so wrong so many years earlier. A good study of character in the way that it shows how each of the three agents have tried to live through the years with their secret.

Sarah's Key Rated PG-13. Psalm 8:8
 This is a powerfully poignant story of unintended consequences and debilitating guilt and sorrow during the Nazi holocaust. Set in Paris, it begins in the present with a journalist researching a story involving the apartment of her lover's family. Occupying the apartment since the Nazi occupation, were they personally involved in the eviction and arrest of the Jewish family living there at the time? The key refers to the one that young Sarah kept with her after hiding her little brother in a cupboard to keep him safe from the Germans who were breaking into their apartment. Her intention to return is thwarted by their arrest and deportation, and her anguish stems from the knowledge that her brother will keep his promise not to call out or try to leave before she returns.

Columbiana

Rated PG-13. Proverbs 22:8 & Galatians 6:7
 As with *Hanna* we have another thriller featuring a highly skilled woman assassin, though by the time she grows up Cataleya (she is named for an orchid growing in her native Colombia) is older than the teenaged Hanna. The film begins in Bogotá where the little girl witnesses the murder of her parents, who are members of a drug cartel. She stabs one of the killers in the hand and leads the thugs on a merry chase through the streets and over the rooftops, escaping to America, where her uncle raises her, at

FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED

her own request turning her into a skilled killer. The rest of the film chronicles her vengeful attacks on those who murdered her parents. What makes this a cut above other such violent films is that her violence falls back on her loved ones, though this does not result in her changing her ways, as the hero of Stephen Spielberg's *Munich* does. The film's ending sets us up for a sequel, no doubt equally as violent.

Drive Rated R. Proverbs 4:14-17
The star of *Lars and the Real Girl* plays a very different role in this heist film in which he is known only as Driver. He works by day as a Hollywood stunt driver and part-time auto mechanic, but at night hires himself out as a wheelman for robbers. His solitary life is brightened for a while by the mother and her little boy living down the hall from him. This soon comes to a halt when her husband is released from prison and he and Driver become part of a heist that goes terribly awry. Ryan Gosling is outstanding as a man who can turn on a dime from gentleness while around the mother and child) to head-stomping ruthlessness.

Warrior Rated R. Colossians 3:12-14
Just as *the Fighter* was more about family relationships than boxing, so this Mixed Martial Arts film focuses upon family relations as much as the sport in which boxers are allowed, under supervision, to kick and wrestle as well as punch. Brendon is a popular teacher whose home is about to be foreclosed, so he decides to return to the sport which he had given up years before in order to win the huge prize being offered at the

BY: ED McNULTY

“Sparta” world tournament in Atlantic City. His estranged brother also decides to enter for his own reasons tied to something that happened when he was in the Marines serving in Afghanistan. The brothers are not speaking, but their hostility toward their now reformed alcoholic father (Nick Nolte) is even greater. The film will be too violent for many, but for those who can stand it, there is an unusual and moving scene of reconciliation that will be remembered for a long time.

Mr. Poppers Penguins Rated PG-13.

Jim Carry is the divorced father who turns his lavish apartment into an ice box when he takes in a half dozen penguins sent to him by his neglectful globe trotting father whom as a child he never saw more than a day or two at a time. This draws his own two children back to him, and causes his wife to re-evaluate their relationship. The plot is very far-fetched, but much of the humor will amuse both young and older viewers. The latter will also appreciate his vocational decision at the end, signifying a change in his values.

SHOWING ONLY AT DANBARRY DOLLAR SAVER THEATERS

The Lion King 3D. Rated G

Yes, it's money that the Disney folks are after in bringing their 1994 blockbuster back to the screen in 3D form, but what an opportunity to see it in all its spectacular glory on a big screen again. It's the spectacle of the African veldt and the setting sun and the stampedes and...well, there is so much to dazzle the eye in this beautifully animated film, that Disney

FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED

fans will want to put aside their small screen DVD players and see this film as it should be seen. The Hamlet-inspired story is filled with wonderful characters.

ON DVD

Dumbo: 70th Anniversary Edition
NR. Proverbs 31:8-9 & 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Everything about this 70th Anniversary Blu-Ray/DVD release is first rate, especially the Extra Features that deepen the viewer's understanding of the making of the film and the troubled times—the latter both for our country (the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor bounced the little elephant from Time Magazine's cover) and the Walt Disney Studio. Disney was saved from financial ruin by the film's success (the box office failure of the expensive *Fantasia* had left the studio deeply in debt). A wonderful outsider story, the film shows how with encouragement and support one can transform what others regard as a handicap into an asset. Both this film and the short "Elmer Elephant

BY: ED McNULTY

and the Flying Mouse" are gold mines for those looking for material for lessons for children! The set is expensive, but would make an invaluable asset to a church leader's library. (Lots more on this will soon be available at visualparables.net)

For Harry Potter Fans

I've just finished reading a small book by Presbyterian minister Rob Smith that fantasy fans will find enlightening. *Hogwarts, Narnia, and Middle Earth, Places Upon a Time* is filled with biblical and theological insights into the three major fantasy series of our time, J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter; C.S. Lewis's Narnia; and J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. This book and Dr. Smith's novels are available in either print or Kindle format at Amazon.com.

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.

2011 CROP WALK

St. John's United Church of Christ in Newport along with Florence Christian Church would like to invite Community of Faith to join us in participating in the 2011 CROP Walk on October 2, 2011. We will gather at St. John's UCC in Newport at 1:30 p.m., and the walk begins at 2:00 p.m. There are packets in the communications center for any member or friend of the church who would like to participate. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Miguel Carlin at MiguelCarlin@msn.com.

Your Presbytery Link

The Presbytery of Cincinnati met on September 13, 2011 at Knox Presbyterian Church.

EDUCATION was provided by the Rev. Dr. Lonnie Oliver (Associate for African American Congregational Support, General Assembly). He shared information about GA's six areas of growth strategies for African American congregations: new church development, transformation, leadership development, young adult ministry, emphasizing the gifts of female teaching elders, and creative evangelism. The emphasis in all six is making new disciples, not simply more members.

FELLOWSHIP happened throughout the evening especially during the sharing of a light meal and dessert.

WORSHIP included a sermon emphasizing "Evangelism" delivered by the Rev. Dr. Lonnie Oliver. The presbytery celebrated the Lord's Supper and installed Moderator Jill Moormann (ruling elder, Knox) and Vice Moderator Kevin Stainton (pastor, Heritage). The offering was collected to benefit hunger ministries designated by Knox and Bond Hill churches.

ACTIONS taken by the presbytery, or committees on behalf of the presbytery, included among others:

Electing new committee members and chairs and thanking those whose terms of service have been concluded.

Authorizing the Board of Trustees to auction property of the dissolved Bantam church.

Authorizing ruling elders to preside at the Lord's Supper: (year-round) Reggie Roberts at Third, Vanessa Rose and Melinda Wheeler at Dry Ridge, and (on World Communion Day) Jim Faas at Seaman.

Approving the invitation for the Rev. Robert League (HR) to serve as temporary supply at Cherry Fork.

Appointing moderators for some sessions and mentors for some ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service.

Commissioning people who will be participating in presbytery mission trips to Guatemala and to Nashville, Tennessee for storm recovery work.

Examining and approving inquirers Sungduk Yun (College Hill) and Dawn Black (Northminster) for candidacy as they prepare for ministry as teaching elders.

Your Presbytery Link, continued

Approving minimum compensation standards for teaching elders and certified Christian educators and minimum compensation guidelines for ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service.

Approving a resolution of support for the Anna Louise Inn.

INFORMATION shared by groups and individuals included:

Council proposed the 2012 Presbytery Budget (with action to be taken in November).

The Nominating Committee is seeking recommendations for commissioners and a young adult advisory delegated to be elected by the presbytery to serve at next summer's General Assembly.

Presbytery mission money is being used in a variety of ways including:

a retreat taken by congregations participating in the 3-year long Journey to Transformation

a summer food and caring program hosted by Reading-Lockland and partner congregations.

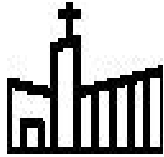
UPCOMING EVENTS

September 26: Y'all Come. Curious about the Presbyterian Fellowship event held last August College Hill, 7-9 p.m.

October 15: Reframing Hope: ministering to the missing generation. A conversation with Carol Howard Merritt (PCUSA teaching elder and author). Pleasant Ridge, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.presbyteryofcincinnati.org





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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Choir Rehearsal	October 5, 12, 19 & 26
Board of Trustees 6:30pm	13th
Session 7:00pm	13th
Stewardship Pot Luck Luncheon	30th

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