



The Good News

Pulaski Heights Christian Church – web: phcc-lr.org | December 2017 – Volume 70 No. 12



Photo: Kelly Hicks

Nov. 5, 2017. Pulaski Heights Christian celebrated 90 years as a congregation, and 25 years as Open & Affirming.

PHCC is a Hillcrest community church affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It has been at the corner of Spruce and Hillcrest since 1927. Our email is lrphcc@gmail.com.

2017-2018 Board:

Moderator, Sam Ellis (sam.ellis@pobox.com)
Vice-moderator, Chet Chaney (chetchaney@yahoo.com)
Treasurer, Angela Frazier (afraz17@yahoo.com)
Secretary, Phillip Bayne (pbayne314@gmail.com)
At-large: Dr. John W. Graves (johnwgrav@aol.com)

2017-2018 Elders: Rebecca Frazier (rfrazier@tomycpa.com);
Phillip Bayne (pbayne314@gmail.com)

Minister: Susan G. Miller

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Judge Griffen photo, Choir photo

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Anniversary Celebration. The wonderful thing about our church is that "thanks" truly goes to everyone because every single one of our members was involved in making the day a fun, joyful occasion. In addition, there were many friends in the community who helped and added to the festivities.



Photo: Kelly Hicks

We were blessed to have Rev. Arnold Nelson in the pulpit and Judge Griffin speaking at the luncheon. Both were inspiring, and their inspiration led to a wonderful follow up article in the Democrat Gazette.

You can find that article at this link:

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/nov/07/with-scars-as-trophies-20171107/>

We were also blessed to have the cover article in the Arkansas times the week leading up to the Anniversary. Thank you, John Graves and André. If you want a copy let us know or visit this link:

<https://issuu.com/arkansastimesvisitorsguide/docs/arkansas-times-11-02-2017>

Kelly Hicks, a professional photographer who rents a studio from us, photographed our Anniversary Worship service and provided more photos than we can publish this month. Thank you, Kelly.



Dr. Nadine Burton, GRR; Rev Arnold Nelson, former PHCC pastor;
Rev. Susan Miller (photo KH)

Thank You (continued)

If you like our anniversary logo then please be sure to thank Mick Wiggins when you see him in the hall. He is a professional graphic artist who has an international reputation and he provided his design services for free. Thank you, Mick.

I liked the logo so much that I commissioned my very talented neighbor, Linda Colley, to make a mosaic of the logo. Check it out next time you are in the office.



More Kelly Hicks photos of the day. PHCC people:



Marilou Coins and Angela Frazier greet visitors

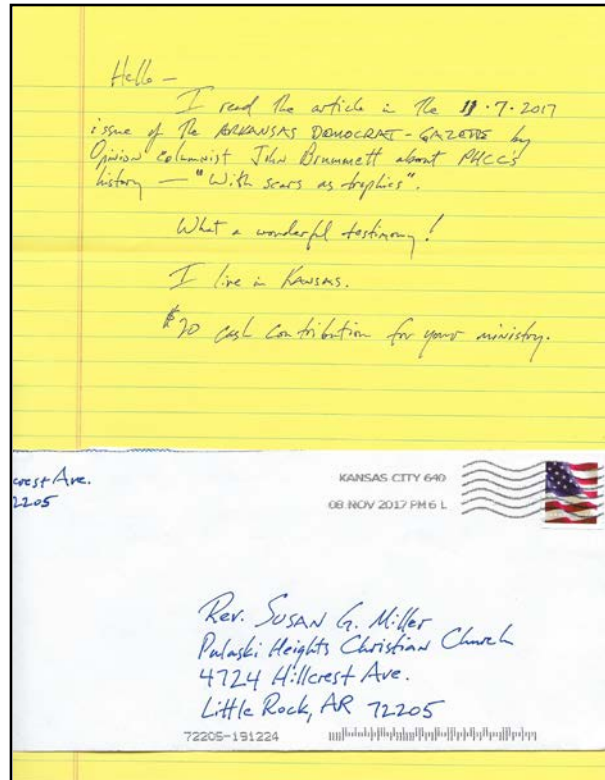


Patricia Mason and Kathryn Askew join in our opening hymn

Anonymous Recognition

We received a letter in the mail after the Anniversary Celebration was written up by John Brummett in the *Democrat-Gazette* newspaper. As you can see in the photo, our address was used for the return address. But the postmark is Kansas City.

Susan wrote, "Very Sweet letter. Unfortunately, there is no way to thank this person. Please put in Dec. newsletter."



We received an anonymous donation via mail. The person's note said:

"Hello.

I read the article in the 11-7-2017 issue of The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette by opinion columnist John Brummett about PHCC's history—"With scars as trophies".

What a wonderful testimony!

I live in Kansas.

\$20 cash contribution for your ministry."

There is no signature. But the envelope indeed carried a twenty-dollar bill.

Christmas Is Approaching

Today is December 1st. Yes, I'm behind. I just got through walking my dogs in shorts and a t-shirt (me, not the dogs). The day we put up our Christmas tree it was 77 degrees! Let me be clear, I am not complaining except that it probably all has to do with global warming and that is not good. But, that is an article for another day.

It just makes me realize that my sense of "Christmas is approaching" is tied to the weather and the changes outside. I guess I better not move to the southern hemisphere!

How about you? Does it feel like Christmas is approaching? Are we ever really ready for Christmas? I'm thinking: always and never. We are always ready because we always need the message and hope of Christmas. We may feel like we are never ready because the expectations that surround Christmas can be pretty daunting.

Whenever I feel overwhelmed by those expectations, I remind myself that the first Christmas came without any of the fanfare of our modern Christmas celebration. No feast. No relatives, but plenty of strange strangers (those shepherds and Magi). No decorations or lights other than perhaps a lamp or stable torch. Not even a home. But that first Christmas had everything that the world needed for every Christmas and every day ever to come. It had the gift of Emmanuel, God with us.

Jesus was born into a messy world. To a poor people. In a turbulent political time. In a barn. To a backwater nation occupied by the dominant world power of the day.

Why didn't God wait for a more advantageous time? Why not wait until Israel was restored to her former glory? Why didn't God choose a more central location? Why not Rome, the center of civilization? Why didn't God choose players that would be more credible? A young woman pregnant before the end of the betrothal? A peasant man with a simple trade?

Why? Because it was Kairos time meaning the decisive or opportune moment. It was the fullness of time as Paul describes it. Simply put, it was God's chosen time. It was the right time and ever since, time has been infused with the fullness of his grace and presence.

Today, as much as ever we need to embrace the gift

of his presence in our lives and in our world. Today, as much as ever we need his hope and peace. We need, like the Shepherds to be lit with joy as we listen to angel song. We need, like the Shepherds to run and find him. We need, like the wise men, to put all aside in order to seek him. We need, like the wise men to have the courage to defy evil in order to protect him. We need, like Mary and Joseph to say "Yes" to him and allow him to change our lives. We need, like Mary to sing his praises and ponder in our hearts all that his advent means.

As we wait to celebrate his birth, our world is still in a mess. Greed runs rampant and fuels violence. Division builds walls of mistrust to keep us from listening to one another. Bigotry paints lop sided pictures of every social challenge. Blame finds scape goats with ease. And so we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, Come." Be born in us and bring us contentment. Be born in us and tear down our division. Be born in us and give us eyes to see one another as you see us. Be born in us and ignite our passion for peace.

May we all use this advent season to prepare our hearts and minds to receive God's gift of Emmanuel, Jesus, our Savior.

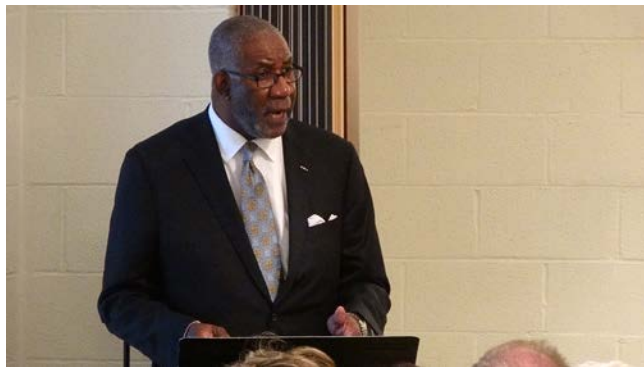


On November 5th our special guest Thelma Mothershed-Wair received a round of applause in commendation of her courage in 1957 as one of The Little Rock Nine. (Photo: Kelly Hicks)



Rev. Donna Rountree, standing in the pulpit she used to occupy each Sunday morning, reads the scripture passage selected by Rev. Arnold Nelson for his sermon. (Photo: Kelly Hicks)

“Your scars are your trophies.”



Among our special guests on November 5th was Rev. Judge Wendell Griffen. He congratulated us our history of social justice, and told us “Your scars are your trophies,” as he challenged us to find new ways to serve God. His speech during the luncheon was both inspiring and humorous. (photo: Tom Ryan)

Please Continue Prayers for:

Eric C’s family; Martha C., the Perry Family, Ron C., Jean H., Kim P., Lynda C., Keith R., Glenna & Bill S., Eddie G.; Wissam A.; our Church; the homeless of Little Rock; the Great River Region of the DoC; those struggling to do God’s will; refugees who are fleeing the violence of war. Pray for peace as global tensions rise, pray for the grieving, that they may be comforted; those worldwide being persecuted for being ‘different’; please pray for the wounded; the citizens and residents of the U.S.A., the many who are *still* recovering from hurricanes, and others God leads you to know of.

October 2017 Stewardship Report

Oct. Budget Needs – \$8,125.00
Oct. Offering – \$7,057.50
Other Income – \$3,305.00
Total Oct. Actual Income – \$10,362.50

Oct. Budgeted Expenses – \$8,912.08
Oct. Actual Expenses – \$8,878.93
Net Result for Oct. – \$ 1,483.57

Fiscal-Year-to-date through 10/30/17
Offering – \$24,679.30
Other Income – \$15,235.48
Total FYTD Income – \$39,914.78
Expenses FYTD – \$34,967.50
Net Result FYTD – \$ 4,947.28

December 2017 at PHCC

Events in December 2017

– **Birthdays in December** 3 – Joseph Ryan; 7 – Susan Miller; 8 – Julian Robbins; 15 – Rebecca Frazier; 19 – Kelly Chaney; 20 – Kathleen Perry.

– Events of note

3 – 1st Sunday in Advent; Hanging of the Greens; Quarterly Potluck; Dirty Santa Gift Exchange

10 – 2nd Sunday in Advent

13 - 6:00 pm Board Meeting

17 – 3rd Sunday in Advent, Sign January birthday cards.

18 – Third Monday Meal is served; 1101 W. Markham St.

24 – 4th Sunday in Advent & Christmas Eve

25 – Christmas Day 2017

31 – Community Breakfast

– **Sunday School Dec.** 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

January 2018 at PHCC

Events in January 2018

– **Birthdays in January** 5 – Sam Ellis; 12 – Ms. Keith Ryan;

15 – Jack Perry VC3.

– Events of note

10 - 6:00 pm Board Meeting

21 – Sign February birthday cards.

15 – Third Monday Meal is served; 1101 W. Markham St.

– **Sunday School Jan.** 7, 14, 21, 28

It was fun to sing



Anniversary music was provided by Jeannie Cross, Bill Ward, Betty Jo Thibault, Tom Ryan and Stephen Cross.

Pulaski Heights Christian Church
(501) 663-8149
4724 Hillcrest Ave. Little Rock, AR 72205
lrphcc@gmail.com ~ www.phccl.org
Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Susan G. Miller, Minister
Music Ministry ~ Stephen & Jeannie Cross
Musician ~ Betty Jo Thibault
Office Assistant ~ Tom Ryan