



The Good News

Pulaski Heights Christian Church – web: phcc-lr.org | February 2017 – Volume 70 No. 2



Just over one year ago in Little Rock (Jan. 22, 2016)

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 lphcc@gmail.com.

2016-2017 Board:

Moderator, Sam Ellis (sam.ellis@pobox.com)
Secretary, Greg Pendleton (CapitolView@aol.com)
Treasurer, Angela Frazier (afraz17@yahoo.com)
At-large: Dr. John W. Graves (johnwgrav@aol.com)
2016-2017 Elder: Rebecca Frazier (rfrazier@tomycpa.com);
Minister: Susan G. Miller

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February is Black History Month

In honor of black history month I wanted to share a couple of lesser known parts of U.S. Black History. I also would like to encourage everyone with a computer to google "Black History Month" and take some time to look at the articles that come up. I was struck by the resilience of a people who have persevered through so much blatant hate and hostility and yet have contributed so many cultural, scientific, educational, sport, and business accomplishments. At the same time I was saddened by the ongoing oppressions that our Black brothers and sisters have had to endure. In an article entitled, **Famous Firsts by African Americans** by Borgna Brunner I learned that the first African American Mayor of a major city, Carl Stokes of Cleveland, OH, was not elected until 1967 and the first female African American Mayor, Sharon Pratt Dixon Kelly of D.C., was not elected until 1991. It took a long time since 1776 for the privilege of liberty and leadership to become a part of life for our citizens of color.

I suppose those facts should not be that surprising when you consider that it was during the 60's that African Americans first started making headway in having the right to vote in fact and not just in theory. Even today there are many who seek to put impediments in the way of access to the poll box. It is so easy for those of us who have grown up without ever having to face the power of institutional racism to forget that people of color have been engaged in the struggle for full and equal citizenship for a long, long, time. I pray that there will be a day when our nation will fulfill its foundational statement that "all people are created equal."

Now, for the lesser known facts about African American history that I promised: here are two stories from a PBS article entitled, [10 Little Known Black History Facts](http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/10-black-history) (www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/10-black-history)

Most people think of [Rosa Parks](#) as the first person to refuse to give up their seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. There were actually several women who came before her; one of whom was Claudette Colvin.

It was March 2, 1955, when the fifteen-year-old schoolgirl refused to move to the back of the bus, nine

months *before* Rosa Parks' stand that launched the Montgomery bus boycott. Claudette had been studying Black leaders like Harriet Tubman in her segregated school, those conversations had led to discussions around the current day Jim Crow laws they were all experiencing. When the bus driver ordered Claudette to get up, she refused, "It felt like Sojourner Truth was on one side pushing me down, and Harriet Tubman was on the other side of me pushing me down. I couldn't get up."

Claudette Colvin's stand didn't stop there. Arrested and thrown in jail, she was one of four women who challenged the segregation law in court. If *Browder v. Gayle* became the court case that successfully overturned bus segregation laws in both Montgomery and Alabama, why has Claudette's story been largely forgotten? At the time, the NAACP and other Black organizations felt Rosa Parks made a better icon for the movement than a teenager. As an adult with the right look, Rosa Parks was also the secretary of the NAACP, and was both well-known and respected – people would associate her with the middle class and that would attract support for the cause. But the struggle to end segregation was often fought by young people, more than half of which were women.

One in four cowboys was Black, despite the stories told in popular books and movies. In fact, it's believed that the real "Lone Ranger" was inspired by an African American man named Bass Reeves. Reeves had been born a slave but escaped West during the Civil War where he lived in what was then known as Indian Territory. He eventually became a Deputy U.S. Marshal, was a master of disguise, an expert marksman, had a Native American companion, and rode a silver horse. His story was not unique however.

In the 19th century, the Wild West drew enslaved Blacks with the hope of freedom and wages. When the Civil War ended, freedmen came West with the hope of a better life where the demand for skilled labor was high. These African Americans made up at least a quarter of the legendary cowboys who lived dangerous lives facing weather, rattlesnakes, and outlaws while they slept under the stars driving cattle herds to market.

While there was little formal segregation in frontier towns and a great deal of personal freedom, Black cowboys were often expected to do more of the work and the roughest jobs compared to their white counterparts. Loyalty did develop between the cowboys on a drive, but the Black cowboys were typically responsible for breaking the horses and being the first ones to cross flooded streams during cattle drives. In fact, it is believed that the term "cowboy" originated as a derogatory term used to describe Black "cowhands."

February is time for WEEK of Compassion

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Week of Compassion seeks to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities.

Week of Compassion allows you to respond to the Gospel and put your faith into action. It's efficient, trustworthy and effective - to boot. Won't you join our movement of courageous compassion?

Week of Compassion responds all year long, and offerings are always welcome. Our special offering emphasis is on the Sundays of February 19th and 26th.



February brings Valentine's Day

So, if you love Valentine's day, then great, but if you don't, why not try something new? Some folks have soured on Valentine's day and say it is the invention of florists, and card and candy companies. So forget the pressure for Romance and use the holiday as an occasion to do a random act of kindness for a stranger, or for someone who couldn't possibly pay you back. Or if that doesn't sound right then do something nice for a neighbor. Maybe make that visit you've been intending to make to a nursing home, or to a shut in's home. Buy a baseball glove or some other toy for a neighborhood kid. You can do it anonymously or face to face. Give a Starbuck's gift card to a co-worker. Maybe pick the grumpiest co-worker, or the quiet person who does so much for others but shuns the limelight for themselves. If you decide to do this then have fun doing it and remember it doesn't take much or any money to surprise someone with kindness.

Socks.

We've recently learned a lot about those unglamorous coverings that we put between our shoes and our feet. We have recently learned, for example, that homeless persons request *dark* socks. Black is the most popular color. Why? Because dark socks show less dirt and less wear. And socks wear out quickly when you must walk everywhere you go.

Also, you can develop trenchfoot like WWI soldiers did if your socks get wet and stay wet (doesn't matter whether it's rain or sweat, by the way). So, changing socks frequently, which is the best way to stop trenchfoot, is a necessity.

And we should give away socks three or four times each year. Maybe January, May and October.

Who would have thought this? In January, we gave away 360 pairs of white socks.

That's right. One hundred fifteen homeless persons got to walk away from supper on Tuesday, January 17th with three pairs of new, clean white socks in hand. The other 15 pairs were left to be distributed by Broadway Bridge Project.

Thus, we've learned important things about socks: homeless persons need them, and if you want to know what kind to buy, just ask homeless people. They will tell you. So, in May, it will be 360 pairs of *black* socks.

Lent begins on March 1

The churches of Hillcrest will once again be gathering together during lent on Friday's at noon. Our theme for this year's Lenten Worship Series is **#Blessed**. We will be exploring themes of Justice and mercy as they are presented through the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12. Here is the schedule. **Please plan to join us for worship and a wonderful soup luncheon at noon on each Friday.**

Date — Place — Preacher

March 3 — P. H. United Methodist — Rev. Ruskin Falls

March 10 — Pulaski Heights Baptist — Rev. Britt Skarda

March 17 — Holy Souls Catholic — Rev. Susan Miller

March 24 — P. H. Christian — Father John Marconi

March 31 — P. H. Presbyterian — Rev. Jay Clark

April 7 — P. H. United Methodist — Rev. Randy Hyde

Jean Hampton Visit

Bill Ward and Greg Pendleton took a day trip to Kimberling City, MO in December 2016 to visit long-term church member Jean Hampton. They didn't have a very long visit, but were able to bring news that Jean is doing well. They also sent the church three photos of their visit, with Bill's caption.



Here are some photos from our visit to see Jean Hampton on December 16th.

She had her 90th birthday in 2016! The photo of her "head on a stick" was from the birthday party. The photo of Jean and her friend Julia was from sometime in the recent past when they won a pool championship at the senior center.

March 2017 at PHCC



April 2017 at PHCC



Events in March 2017

– Birthdays in March 24 – Carolyn Martin; 25 – Jean Hampton; 26 – Shannon Perry VC3; 31 – Tom Ryan.

– Events of note

1 – Lent 2017 Begins
Lenten Luncheons: Fri. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
15 – 6:00 pm Board Meeting
19 – Sign April birthday cards.
20 – Third Monday Meal is served; 1101 W. Markham St.
– Sunday School Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26

Please Continue Prayers for:

Shannon P., Betty A., Susan G., Ron C., Jean H., Julia Faye C., Kim P., Trip R., Lynda C., Keith R.; those rebuilding in West Virginia & Tennessee; those struggling with fear and loss in areas throughout the world; our Church; the homeless of Little Rock; the Mission First initiative of the DoC; those struggling to do God's will; those worldwide being persecuted for being 'different'; the citizens of the U.S.A., and others God leads you to know of.

Events in April 2017

– Birthdays in April 15 – Sue Jenkins; 16 – Chet Chaney; 18 – Nathan Perry VC3; 23 – Grace Rehmert VC3; 28 – Justin Runnels VC3.

– Events of note

Lenten Luncheon: Fri. Apr. 7
9 – Palm Sunday
12 – 6:00 pm Board Meeting
14 – Good Friday
16 – Easter Sunday; Sign May birthday cards.
17 – Third Monday Meal is served; 1101 W. Markham St.
30 – Community Breakfast; 7:30 a.m. Quapaw Quarter UMC, 1601 S. Louisiana St.
– Sunday School Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Our Newest Member



Jamie Crockett

December 2016 Stewardship Report

Dec. Budget Needs – \$8,166.67
Dec. Offering – \$5,405.00
Other Income – \$3,236.45
Total Dec. Actual Income – \$8,641.45

Dec. Budgeted Expenses – \$8,890.33
Dec. Actual Expenses – \$14,452.88
Net Loss for Dec. – \$ -5,811.43*

Fiscal-Year-to-date through 12/31/16
Offering – \$30,136.05
Other Income – \$20,851.39
Total FYTD Income – \$50,987.44
Expenses FYTD – \$56,640.71
Net Loss FYTD – \$ -5,653.27*

*Losses shown are due to payment of yearly premiums in total for church insurance policies in December 2016.

Pulaski Heights Christian Church
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Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Susan G. Miller, Minister
Music Ministry ~ Stephen & Jeannie Cross
Musician ~ Betty Jo Thibault
Office Assistant ~ Tom Ryan