



The Good News

Pulaski Heights Christian Church – web: phcc-lr.org | Jan.-Feb. 2018 – Volume 71 Nos. 1 & 2



Photo: Tom Ryan

Rev. Miles Cook offers a prayer at the dedication of the new Great River Region office space on Dec. 7, 2017. Joining him (L-R) are Wendy Paquette, Rev. Susan G. Miller, Rev. Carolyn Miles, and Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton. The GRR office is now located in the PHCC building.

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

Inside this Issue

__Page 1

God Be with You

__Page 2

New Church Member ☼ 2018 Hillcrest Churches Lenten Worship

__Page 3

Third Monday Gifts 2017

__Page 4

Congregational Meeting ☼ GRR 2018 Priorities

__Page 5

Week of Compassion 2018

__Page 6

February 2018 Birthdays & Events

March 2018 Birthdays & Events

November & December 2017 Stewardship Reports

Prayer Requests

God Be With You

This year the dates of Lent give us some interesting things to contemplate.

First, Lent begins on Valentine's Day, a day that celebrates love. Lent begins the journey towards Easter in which we remember the sacrifice that Christ made in order to show us how much God loves us. In the immortal words of John's gospel, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son..."

On Ash Wednesday we are marked with the sign of the cross with ashes from the Palms of last year's Palm Sunday celebration. This powerful symbolism points to the finite nature of human love as we hear the words, "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." This finite human love is contrasted with the infinite embrace of God's love, as we see in the last portion of John 3:16, "that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Next, and my favorite part—Easter this year is on April Fools Day. That seems a very fitting day to celebrate life and love having the last laugh over death and evil. Christ's enemies thought they were silencing him forever but the empty tomb became the world's megaphone blasting the message, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" St. Paul wrote about being "fools for Christ". A recent popular Christian book is entitled, "crazy love." Love can often seem a fool's errand; a risky proposition. But, it is also the most powerful force in the world being the only thing that can truly overcome hatred. Love is God's way to rehab our world and the cross is God's chosen tool. Through the cross God was at work making a new creation.

I am sorry that I will not be here to celebrate Easter with you this year. As most of you know, Patrick and I are moving to St. Louis at the end of February. I sent my formal resignation letter to the board on December 5th and told the congregation that following Sunday on December 10th. My last Sunday will be February 25. Patrick will be starting a new position with SSM Health in St. Louis (Franciscan Sisters of Mary Health System). He will be at their corporate offices in St. Louis and will be in charge of Ethics and Mission Integration for the system. We were not planning to move. Patrick was approached and asked to apply.

I have loved my time at PHCC and have been blessed

in so many ways. I will continue to keep the congregation in my thoughts and prayers. I pray that God already has someone in mind who will be a wonderful fit for this dynamic and courageous congregation.

Change is always hard, and good-bye is harder still. Did you know that goodbye derives from the phrase, "God be with you"? A long time ago, people often used to say, "God be with ye" to someone who was leaving, which was later on contracted to "Godbwye". And then finally, it was further shortened to "goodbye". The word which so many of us dread is actually a word of blessing.

My grandmother's church, First Christian in Paul's Valley, Oklahoma always closed their worship service with one of two songs, "Blest be the tie that binds." Or "God be with you till we meet again." They seem a fitting close for this good-bye.

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

My heart will continue to be tethered to Pulaski Heights Christian Church. The tie that binds all Christian hearts is love for the Lord and a desire to serve him. I have been blessed to be a part of this community who has a passion for loving and serving the Lord through loving and serving our neighbors in need.

So, my dear friends, I say:
God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.

Peace of Christ,
Susan



New Church Member



Rev. Carolyn Miles



2018 Hillcrest Churches Lenten Worship Series Dates and Locations

All services begin at Noon on Friday.

February 16

Host Church: Pulaski Heights Presbyterian
Preaching: Rev. Scot Crenshaw

February 23

Host Church: Pulaski Heights Christian Church
Preaching: Rev. Jay Clark

March 2

Host Church: Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church
Preaching: Father John Marconi

March 9

Host Church: Pulaski Heights Baptist
Preaching: Rev. Britt Skarda

March 16

Host Church: Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church
Preaching: Rev. Lynn Worthen

March 23

Host Church: Pulaski Heights Baptist Church
Preaching: Rev. Ruskin Falls

Third Monday Gifts 2017

This is what we gave our guests at the Third Monday meals in 2017. We can repeat these for 2018 or substitute other items for some months. These photos don't necessarily show the actual items we purchased and gave away.

January



Crew Socks, 3 pairs

February



Toothpaste, toothbrush, lip balm

March

No items. The meal service was canceled by the venue for the third week in March.

April



Bar soap, washcloth, bandages, hand sanitizer

May



Black crew socks, 3 pairs

June



Razor and shave cream

July



Insect repellent spray

August



Snack bars

September



LED flashlight

October



3 pairs of socks. Black for men, colorful for women

November



Hat and gloves

December



Twin-bed size blanket

Congregational Meeting Held on January 28, 2018

The congregation met after Worship on Sunday the 28th of January to deal with two items of business. The first item of business was the suggestion by Moderator Sam Ellis that the pastoral search committee be made up of the Board members, plus anyone from the congregation who wants to serve on the committee. This was made a motion, seconded, and approved unanimously. The Great River Region has provided a manual to guide us in the upcoming pastoral search. The committee was slated to meet as soon as practical.

The second item of business was the election of Board members for Fiscal Year 2019, which begins July 1, 2018. The terms are for two years. Angela Frazier was re-elected as Treasurer for the July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020 term. Dr. John Graves was re-elected as at-large Board member. Two other members will join the Board as at-large members come July 1, 2018: Evelyn Behrle and Rebecca Frazier.

We welcome all the current, returning, and newly elected Board members.



Great River Region Releases 2018 Priorities

In a letter dated January 23, 2018, Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton communicated her thanks for the support our member churches offer to the Great River.

She outlined some of the accomplishments of the year 2017, and then noted that the region had a financial dip in November and December. "We are currently holding a (\$35,000) deficit; the board approved a budget consistent with 2017's budget." Rev. Burton then went on to mention the Regional Priorities for this year:

► The Regional Board will conduct a visioning workshop toward a new vision, mission and values

for Regional Assembly in November 2018.

► The Regional Commission on Ministry is continuing to nurture candidates for ministerial Credentials, and developing a training strategy for Anti-Racism Certification for Ordained and Commissioned Clergy

► The Region will develop a New Church Committee to enhance our new church and demographic development initiatives

► The Region will develop a Fund Raising Team

We were made aware of an upcoming opportunity: "The Great River Region is partnering with Hope Partnership, Disciples Church Extension Fund, and Park Hill CC (Host Church) to pilot its **first Regional Leaders unConference** on March 17, 2018. Participants will get to choose their own topics for discussion and end the day with a keynote and feedback session with Rev. Dr. Stacy Spencer, Senior Pastor, New Direction Christian Church, Memphis, TN.

In closing, Dr. Burton noted, "Our work is possible because you continue to see the need for ministry throughout our three states. The 'Sun' will keep on shining because we have the 'Son' in our hearts—what a great recipe for 2018! Thank you for the opportunity to share ministry together!"

First Snow of the Year

Overnight on January 16, 2018 about an inch of snow accumulated on the ground in Little Rock. The next morning, at 11:40 a.m. on the 17th this is what our parking lot looked like with snow in the shade.



When we get ice and snow, please remember that the educational building casts a long shadow, and ice and snow remain in our north parking lot long after the streets are clear. Please take care as you traverse this to the kitchen door!



Week of Compassion 2018

Perhaps the best way to understand the Week of Compassion ministries that our congregation supports through Special Offerings is to think of WoC as a group of ever-diligent friends who step in when you need help the most.

For them to be able to assist with natural and other disasters, and with simply making the logistics of daily living more amenable in parts of the world, there must be funding available. No one can predict where the Week of Compassion will be ministering in response to a disaster in any coming month. But they do keep a list of where they are and where they have been at <http://www.weekofcompassion.org/>. Here is what they were called on to do at the last minute, from October to December of last year:

FOURTH QUARTER 2017 RESPONSES DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Africa

Angola, Refugee Response
Cameroon, Boko Haram Conflict Relief (2)
Chad, Boko Haram Conflict Relief (2)
Ethiopia, Drought Relief
Nigeria, Boko Haram Conflict Relief (2)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Costa Rica, Tropical Storm Relief
Dominican Republic, Hurricane Relief
Haiti, Hurricane Relief

Middle East and Europe

Iraq, Internally Displaced Response
Jordan, Refugee Response
Syria, Emergency Winter Relief

Southern Asia

Bangladesh, Flood Relief
Bangladesh, Refugee Response
Myanmar, Internally Displaced Response

United States and Canada

California, Emergency Relief for Undocumented Families
California, Wildfire Relief (4)
Florida, Hurricane Irma Relief (4)
Iowa, Storm Relief
Missouri, Tornado Relief
Puerto Rico, Hurricane Relief (4)
Texas, Hurricane Harvey Relief (11)
United States and Canada, Long-term Disaster Recovery
Louisiana, Long-term Flood Recovery
Missouri, Long-term Flood Recovery
Texas, Hurricane Harvey Long-term Recovery
US Virgin Islands, Long-term Hurricane Recovery

The website shows a list of on-going relief efforts that are not responses to acute crises but are as important as any disaster relief efforts.

DEVELOPMENT, LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

Africa

Angola, Women Empowerment
Kenya, Children Education
Zambia, Sustainable Agriculture

Latin America and the Caribbean

Colombia, Conflict Transformation
Paraguay, Chaco Sustainable Development Support

Middle East and Europe

Israel/Palestine, Youth Empowerment & Just Peace (2)
Serbia, Roma Sustainable Development Support

Southern Asia

Indonesia, Food Security

Our congregation will collect donations for Week of Compassion in a special offering on February 18 and 25, 2018. Please be as generous as you can.

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., Julia C.; 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 millions who are *still* recovering from 2017 hurricanes, and others God leads you to know of.

November 2017 Stewardship Report

Nov. Budget Needs – \$8,125.00
Nov. Offering – \$6,797.70
Other Income – \$3,196.00
Total Nov. Actual Income – \$9,993.70

Nov. Budgeted Expenses – \$8,912.08
Nov. Actual Expenses – \$13,244.58
Net Loss for Nov. – \$ -3,250.88

Fiscal-Year-to-date through 11/30/17
Offering – \$31,477.00
Other Income – \$19,067.95
Total FYTD Income – \$50,544.95
Expenses FYTD – \$48,491.00
Net Result FYTD – \$ 2,035.95

November monthly loss due to the 90th/25th Anniversary Celebration, reimbursement of several months of Third Monday Meal food costs, and HVAC expenses.

December 2017 Stewardship Report

Dec. Budget Needs – \$8,125.00
Dec. Offering – \$10,980.00
Other Income – \$5,579.02
Total Dec. Actual Income – \$16,559.02

Dec. Budgeted Expenses – \$8,912.08
Dec. Actual Expenses – \$12,949.23
Net Result for Dec. – \$ 3,609.79

Fiscal-Year-to-date through 12/31/17
Offering – \$42,457.00
Other Income – \$24,646.97
Total FYTD Income – \$67,103.97
Expenses FYTD – \$61,440.23
Net Result FYTD – \$ 5,663.74



Events in February 2018

- Birthdays in February 26 – Stephen Cross.
- Events of note
- 14 - Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins
- 16 – Hillcrest Lenten Luncheon at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church. Rev. Scot Crenshaw preaching
- 18 – Sign March birthday cards.
- 19 – Third Monday Meal is served; 1101 W. Markham St.
- 21 - 6:00 pm PHCC Board Meeting
- 23 – Hillcrest Lenten Luncheon at Pulaski Heights Christian Church. Rev. Jay Clark preaching.
- 25 – Quarterly Potluck Luncheon at PHCC
- Sunday School Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25



Events in March 2018

- Birthdays in March 14 – Phillip Bayne; 23 – Rachel Smith; 24 – Carolyn Martin; 25 – Jean Hampton; 31 – Tom Ryan.
- Events of note
- 2 – Hillcrest Lenten Luncheon at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church. Fr. John Marconi preaching.
- 9 – Hillcrest Lenten Luncheon at Pulaski Heights Baptist Church. Rev. Britt Skarda preaching.
- 18 – Sign April birthday cards.
- 19 – Third Monday Meal is served; 1101 W. Markham St.
- 14 - 6:00 pm scheduled Board Meeting
- 16 – Hillcrest Lenten Luncheon at Holy Souls Catholic Church. Rev. Lynn Worthen preaching.
- 23 – Hillcrest Lenten Luncheon at Pulaski Heights Baptist Church. Rev. Ruskin Falls preaching.
- 25 – Palm Sunday
- 30 – Good Friday
- Sunday School Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25

Pulaski Heights Christian Church
(501) 663-8149
4724 Hillcrest Ave. Little Rock, AR 72205
lrphcc@gmail.com ~ www.phcccl.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