

The Good News

Pulaski Heights Christian Church – web: phcc-lr.org | March 2017 – Volume 70 No. 3



Flowers, Grand Teton National Park, 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(CaptolView@aol.com)

Treasurer, Angela Frazier (afraz17@yahoo.com)

At-large: Dr. John W. Graves (johnwgrav@aol.com)

2016-2017 Elders: Rebecca Frazier (frazier@tomycpa.com);

Phillip Bayne (pbayne314@gmail.com)

Minister: Susan G. Miller

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Recovering Forest 2016 (photo)

From Ashes to Flowers, or why Ashes?

Last summer, Patrick and I travelled with good friends to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. We drove through an area where the great fire of 1988 took place in which 793,000 acres of the park burned, representing just over 1/3 of the park. I remember being surprised by how blackened and desolate the area still appeared. In every direction for miles there were charcoal skeletons of trees like ashen fingers reaching to the sky. It was a reminder of the fragility of nature and life in general. As we left Grand Teton to make the 1,434 mile journey home we drove through thick smoke from fires in the Tetons that were starting to close in on Yellowstone. We read when we got back that the highway we took was soon closed due to the fires and the lodge we stayed in at Grand Teton which was “the winter headquarters” for the Tetons was also closed due to the fire.



My feeling was one of sadness and humility. We mourned for the loss of life and beauty. The grandeur of the parks is beyond describing with

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words alone which is why I took a few thousand pictures. Yet, all that grandeur is quickly marred and left lifeless for years when the hungry flames of fire pass through leaving only charred remains. Life really is a beautiful, gorgeous, precious, but also delicate gift.

In the Old Testament ash reminded the people of their mortality, and it represented their mourning, and their sorrow for sin. People would sit in sack cloth (rough cloth such as burlap) and mark themselves with ash to signify to God their sorrow for sin and their need for God's help.

The Christian church continues the use of ashes to represent our sorrow for sin and our desire for repentance. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday when the ashes from the burning of last year's palms from palm Sunday are placed on worshippers' foreheads or hands with the statement, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return", or "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel".

It sounds morbid and mournful, but not without hope, for the ashes are placed in the form of a cross. This reminds all of us that out of death, God brought life. From the desolation of sin, God brings a new creation. With the psalmist we hear, "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow."

As we visited the blackened forest in Yellowstone I took pictures of the charred trees but I also busied myself taking pictures of the green ground cover that was beginning to grow and the beautiful wild flowers whose colors seem to brightly proclaim the resilience of life even in the midst of devastating loss. The Gospel, even in times of mourning and sorrow, is always good news.



Immanence

Evelyn Underhill (1917)

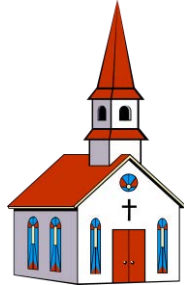
I come in the little things,
Saith the Lord:
Not borne on morning wings
Of majesty, but I have set my feet
Amidst the delicate and bladed wheat
That springs triumphant in the furrowed sod.
There do I dwell in weakness and in power;
Not broken or divided, saith our God!
Is your strait garden plot I come to flower:
About your porch my vine
Meek, fruitful, doth entwine;
Waits, at the threshold, Love's appointed hour.

I come in the little things,
Saith the Lord:
Yes! on the glancing wings
Of eager birds, the softly pattering feet
Of furred and gentle beasts, I come to meet
Your hard and wayward heart. In brown bright
eyes
That peep from out the brake, I stand
confessed.
On every nest
Where feathery patience is content to brood
And leaves her pleasure for the high emprise
Of motherhood—
There doth my Godhead rest.

I come in the little things,
Saith the Lord:
My starry wings
I do forsake,
Love's highway of humility to take:
Meekly I fit my stature to your need.
In beggar's part
About your gates I shall not cease to plead—
As man, to speak with man—
Till by such art
I shall achieve my immemorial plan,
Pass the low lintel of the human heart.

Lenten Luncheons or #BLESSED

The churches of Hillcrest will once again be gathering together during Lent on Fridays at noon. Our theme for this year's services 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. Our hosting Friday is March 24th.



March 3

Pulaski Heights United Methodist
Rev. Ruskin Falls
Matthew 5:1-3, Blessed are the poor in spirit

March 10

Pulaski Height Baptist
Rev. Britt Skarda
Matthew 5:4, Blessed are those who mourn

March 17

Holy Souls Catholic
Rev. Susan Miller
Matthew 5:5, Blessed are the meek

March 24

Pulaski Heights Christian
Father John Marconi
Matthew 5:6-7, Blessed are those who hunger and are merciful

March 31

Pulaski Heights Presbyterian
Rev. Jay Clark
Matthew 5:8-9, Blessed are the pure in heart and the peacemakers

April 7

Pulaski Heights United Methodist
Rev. Randy Hyde
Matthew 5:10-12, Blessed are the persecuted

Holy Week and Easter are fantastic times to invite someone to church

The world is full of people who are carrying heightened anxiety right now. People need to be reassured that they are loved and accepted by God and welcomed by God's church. There are people who are hurting because their only experience of church has been of exclusion and judgement or even condemnation.

Is there someone in your world who could use a place to feel accepted and loved? A place to find their niche to serve? A place to discover a community focused on inclusion of all God's people and mission to "the least of these"?

When we hear rumblings of growing oppression, let us respond with growing expressions of inviting love.

Lenten Sermon Series— Object Lessons for Lent

During Lent, I will use the Lectionary readings but will highlight an object that is suggested by the reading. That object will be the focus of the sermon for that week.



Some of the objects we will be looking at are a stone, a water jar, or water, a bow, a lantern, a tear drop.

All of these objects will bear witness to Christ as we journey together toward the cross.

For our Good Friday service, we will have a Tenebrae service that also makes use of "objects" that help carry the message of Jesus' last days and hours.



Jar: clipartkid; stone: clipartpanda;
lamp: bnsonger47; church: clipartlibrary

March 2017 at PHCC



April 2017 at PHCC



Events in March 2017

– **Birthdays in March** 14 – Phillip Bayne; 24 – Carolyn Martin; 25 – Jean Hampton; 26 – Shannon Perry VC3; 31 – Tom Ryan.

– Events of note

1 – Lent 2017 Begins.
1 – 6:30 p.m. Joint Ash Wednesday Service with Parkview Christian Church at 15108 Kanis Road in Little Rock.
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:

Stephen C., Shannon P., Betty A., Ron C., Jean H., Julia Faye C., Kim P., Trip R., Lynda C., Keith R., Sondra A from IN; those rebuilding in Louisiana and California; those struggling with fear and loss in so many places in the world; our Church; the homeless of Little Rock; the children of Khayelihle Children's Village in Zimbabwe; 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.

January 2017 Stewardship Report

Jan. Budget Needs – **\$8,166.67**
Jan. Offering – \$6,253.00
Other Income – \$3,236.46
Total Jan. Actual Income – \$9,489.46

Jan. Budgeted Expenses – **\$8,890.33**
Jan. Actual Expenses – \$7,123.51
Net Result for Jan. – \$ 2,365.95

Fiscal-Year-to-date through 1/31/17
Offering – \$31,959.05
Other Income – \$27,388.14
Total FYTD Income – \$59,347.19
Expenses FYTD – \$63,764.22
Net Loss FYTD – \$ -4,417.03

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

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
13 – 6:30 pm Joint Maundy Thursday Service at Parkview CC
14 – 6:30 pm Tenebrae Good Friday Service at PHCC
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 United Methodist Church, 1601 S. Louisiana St.
– **Sunday School Apr.** 2, 9, 16, 23, **30**



Slowly recovering forest 2016, fire was in 1988.

Pulaski Heights Christian Church
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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