

The Good News

Pulaski Heights Christian Church – web: phcc-lr.org | May 2017 – Volume 70 No. 5



Jamie Crockett douses candle #1 at the Good Friday Tenebrae Service

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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You also should Love One Another

Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

There is an old legend which says that when God first created the birds they had no wings because God was still working on them. So, the birds could only scratch and claw for food and hop about the ground. But they managed to find enough seeds and scraps to just get by.

Then one day God came to the birds and announced that their wings had been finished. He unveiled these marvelous gifts to them. To God’s surprise, the birds were not happy.

They looked at the wings and saw their enormous size and could only think that they would be a burden. Why, they will double our size! How will we ever get around? How will we find food? Their bright colors will only draw attention to our many natural predators. The birds wondered why God would give them such a burden.

So, God left the wings, and the birds continued to make their way, scratching and hopping along the ground. But many of the birds remained curious.

They said to each other, God has never misled us or been unkind to us. God has only given us good gifts in the past. And they stared at the wings.

Finally, one of them walked over and nudged at the wings with her beak. She found that the wings lifted easily. Another came and did the same and the two of them saw the wings rise and float before falling back to the ground. This intrigued them both. So, they nudged, and nudged and finally wrestled their bodies underneath the wings. They found that they fit very easily, and securely on their backs, and were quite easy to carry.

The other birds laughed at them at first. Until, to the amazement of the birds, the wings began to grow and

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they soon had attached themselves to the bodies of this pair.

One of the birds began to flap their wings and, feeling the air stir into a soft breeze by this gentle movement the other followed suit.

Soon the motion of the wings lifted each of them from the ground and they found themselves soaring high in the air—far above their friends below. They were silly with delight as they realized that the gift God had given them was not burden but freedom. It did not weigh them down but lifted them up to soar, and go places they could otherwise never hope to go. To see things they could never see from down below.

The pair eventually grew tired and came back to their friends where they found all of them nudging at their wings, and shimmying underneath. They all wanted to fly. The birds had found the purpose of their wings and found it was their destiny.



Jesus' commandment to love one another as he has loved us can feel rather overwhelming at times. Love brings with it responsibilities and obligations. It calls for sacrifices. When we speak of love we often speak of words like commitment, duty, and fidelity. Yet if we see it only in this light we are like the birds who first saw their wings only as a burden.

Our purpose is to love. To love God, and to love one another. When we understand and embrace that purpose, we discover that far from being a burden to bear or an obligation to meet—it is a gift to embrace. Love lifts us, and sets us free to soar high, to go far, and to be all that God has made us to be.

When storms come, and thunder roars, when starless skies bring long dark nights, we can find refuge in God's love and in each other's love. The storms pass. The dawn pierces even the darkest of nights, and love endures.

-- Susan

Image: www.restorationoutreachmission.org
via kmooreperspective.blogspot.com

You Helped with This!

At Christmas time in 2015 we were asked to join with Central Arkansas Disciples congregations to fund a hay bailer for [Khayelihle Children's Village](#) in Zimbabwe, Africa. Working together, enough money was raised to buy the bailer, which is used to harvest the hay that grows near a local airport. From another source the Village has received a bus that the kids and staff can use for traveling. As you can see, the bailer is a beauty! And they have a full bus when they travel. The photos came from Mrs. Vuma at the Village, to Mr. BJ Mpoto, to Rev. Johnny Wray in Indianapolis, to Rev. Miles Cook in our region, and to us. In the process this message was sent by Johnny Wray:

Friends -- attached are some photos from KCV that BJ asked me to send to friends here in the U.S. As always he expresses not only his deep gratitude but that of the Disciples community in Zimbabwe for your support of KCV and Showers of Blessings. BJ is hoping to come back to the States in November. Let me know if you're interested in a visit.

Gratefully,
jww



Hay Bailer



The Bus



Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Many worshippers gathered in our Sanctuary on April 13, 2017 for a special Good Friday evening service. This was a joint worship service with three churches attending: Cross Street Christian, Parkview Christian, and Pulaski Heights Christian. The only part of the Tenebrae service that was “standard” was the call to worship and opening prayer.

Then came nine object lessons that centered on scriptures: from the anointing of Jesus’ feet, through his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. The nine objects started out on the Communion Table, and as each was displayed, it was passed to a worship table that had nine lit candles. But the addition of an object to the table meant that the candle for its position was snuffed out, and darkness built. This symbolized the passage from light into darkness as Jesus was condemned and put to death.



The nine objects were: an ointment jar, a cup, a sword, a ceramic rooster, 30 pieces of silver, a water bowl and towel, a crown of thorns, a hammer and three nails, with the last object being a purple cloth that was rent in two.



Cross Street Christian Choir

Between the object lessons were musical interludes. Sometimes a choir and solo (The Cross Street choir with soloist Marion Carter singing “No Greater Love; Stephen Cross singing “The Passion Song,” and “Surely He Died on Calvary” sung by Elder Barbara Smith with DeJuan Carter on piano), or the congregation joining together for part of a hymn.



Greg, Carol, Susan, Robert

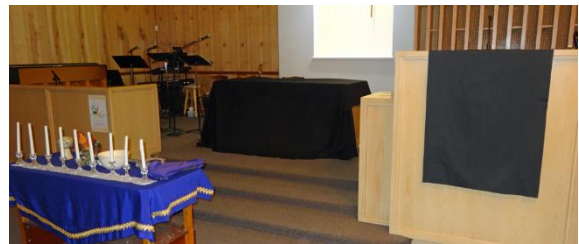
Readers presented the scripture, a meditation and prayer for each object. The readers were Greg Pendelton, and Rev. Susan Miller of Pulaski Heights, Rev. Stan McDougal of Parkview, and Revs. Robert Palmer and Carol Miles of Cross Street. Rev McDougal was unable to photograph himself!



Jamie, Sam and Phillip, Greg, Phillip

After each scripture passage was read, a Pulaski Heights member would pick up and display one of the objects from the Communion Table, holding it for all to see while the meditation was read. Then, the person holding the object would also put out one candle before the prayer was read. Those moving the objects were Jamie Crockett, Phillip Bayne, Sam Ellis and Greg Pendleton.

As Elder Smith sang the final song, the Communion Table was stripped of its candles and cross, the pulpit scarf was taken away and replaced with a black scarf. Then a black shroud was draped over the Communion Table, hiding it from sight. The lights in the sanctuary were dimmed as the hymn concluded, and we departed in silence from the Sanctuary.



To hear all these scriptures surrounding Jesus’ arrest, trial and execution on the cross, in order and at one sitting, really focuses the bleakness of that moment for humankind. Afterward, outside the church, many reported being deeply moved by the experience.

Photos by Stan McDougal and Tom Ryan

Easter Sunday 2017

Stephen played trumpet for the prelude and for *Christ The Lord Is Risen Today*. And we had flowers!



Carolyn Martin, Chevy Austin Strickland and Connor Gene Welch provided an Easter Lily in loving memory of Shannon Amanda Martin. Stephen and Jeannie Cross provided tulips in loving memory of Becky Cogbill and Larry Cross. Susan Miller provided flowers in memory of her mother, Betty Miller, her sister, Ann Weathers, and Foster Brother, Andy Wapskineh. Tom Ryan provided a red Easter lily in memory of his father, Thomas M. Ryan, Sr. And Dr. John W. Graves provided lilies in memory of Dr. Joseph Boone Hunter and Mary Hunter



Twenty-two gathered in celebration of the Resurrection on April 16, 2017. Susan's sermon was "The Non-verbal's of Easter." The Special Easter Offering reached \$490.00.

March 2017 Stewardship Report

Mar. Budget Needs – \$8,166.67

Mar. Offering – \$6,314.00

Other Income – \$5,340.08

Total Mar. Actual Income – \$11,654.08

Mar. Budgeted Expenses – \$8,890.33

Mar. Actual Expenses – \$7,370.33

Net Result for Mar. – \$ 4,283.75

Fiscal-Year-to-date through 3/31/17

Offering – \$43,323.05

Other Income – \$35,884.16

Total FYTD Income – \$79,207.21

Expenses FYTD – \$78,412.37

Net Result FYTD – \$ 794.84



Events in May 2017

– Birthdays in May 5 – Marie McCrudden.

– Events of note

4 – 1st Thursday Shop 'n Sip.

7 – Reception for Rachel Smith, & Potluck Luncheon

10 - 6:00 pm scheduled Board Meeting

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

21 – Sign June/July birthday cards.

– Sunday School May 7, 14, 21, 28



Events in June 2017

– Birthdays in June 1 – Janette Groover; 1 – Una Groover;

10 – Jamie Crockett; 12 – Tanner Summerlin; 19 – Theresa

McCrudden; 25 – John Graves.

– Events of note

1 – 1st Thursday Shop 'n Sip.

4 – Pentecost Sunday

14 - 6:00 pm scheduled Board Meeting

18 – Sign July birthday cards.

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

30 – Fiscal Year 2017 ends

– Sunday School June 4, 11, 18, 25

Please Continue Prayers for:

Stephen C., Martha C., Shannon P., Betty A., Ron C., Jean H., Kim P., Trip R., Lynda C., Keith R., Mrs. F., Bill S.; Alpay, Shenaz and Ezgi Y., Wissam A.; Rachel S. and Theresa Mc. as they graduate; our Church; the homeless of Little Rock; the Mission First initiative 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'; the citizens and residents of the U.S.A., and others God leads you to know of.

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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