



# The Good News

Pulaski Heights Christian Church – web: [phcc-lr.org](http://phcc-lr.org) | November 2017 – Volume 70 No. 11



*A group photo made during Rev. Arnold Nelson's time here.*

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](mailto:lrphcc@gmail.com).

**2017-2018 Board:**

- Moderator, Sam Ellis ([sam.ellis@pobox.com](mailto:sam.ellis@pobox.com))
- Vice-moderator, Chet Chaney ([chetchaney@yahoo.com](mailto:chetchaney@yahoo.com))
- Treasurer, Angela Frazier ([afraz17@yahoo.com](mailto:afraz17@yahoo.com))
- Secretary, Phillip Bayne ([pbayne314@gmail.com](mailto:pbayne314@gmail.com))
- At-large: Dr. John W. Graves ([johnwgrav@aol.com](mailto:johnwgrav@aol.com))
- 2017-2018 Elders: Rebecca Frazier ([rfrazier@tomycpa.com](mailto:rfrazier@tomycpa.com)); Phillip Bayne ([pbayne314@gmail.com](mailto:pbayne314@gmail.com))
- Minister: Susan G. Miller

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## Surrounded by so Great a Cloud of Witnesses

Time flies. October was a whirlwind of activity at Pulaski Heights, much of it leading up to our Anniversary weekend Celebration on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

What a joy it is to be so close to our special day. We look forward to welcoming friends and former Pastors and members, and most of all we hope to welcome new friends. The theme that our members selected for the celebration is “A place to belong for all God’s people”. That theme reflects the ministry of the past and our hope for the future. We want to be a place where all God’s people feel the warm welcome of Christian love.



**90th Anniversary**  
25 Years of Open and Affirming Ministry

90 years is a long time and through those years Pulaski has weathered many storms and stood steadfast through many tests and trials. Faith in Christ has been the inspiration through it all.

November 1<sup>st</sup> is “All Saints Day.” Growing up, I do not remember my Disciple congregation ever mentioning or celebrating “All Saints Day.” However, my first church, First Christian Church in Sioux City, Iowa was in an area of the country where “All Saints Day” was observed by many churches and so we Disciples began to celebrate it as well.

Unlike our Catholic brothers and sisters, many of us in the Protestant church do not have a formal recognition of “sainthood”, but we do recognize that there are people who have been great inspirations in the faith and we give God glory for their uplifting witness. These might be famous historical people like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Augustine, Charles, John or Anna Wesley, Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone, Martin Luther, Sojourner Truth or Dorothy Day. Or they might be regular folks like the person who led us to faith, an inspirational teacher or coach, or a beloved grandmother or uncle.

<p>end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial.<sup>6</sup></p> <p><i>The Faith of Moses</i> (Ex 2.1-10; 12.31-51)</p> <p>23 By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter,<sup>25</sup> choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.<sup>26</sup> He considered abuse suffered for the Christ<sup>1</sup> to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward.<sup>27</sup> By</p>	<p>and in caves and holes.<sup>28</sup> Yet all these, though commended for their faith, received what was promised because they did not, apart from faith, have perfect.</p> <p><i>The Example of</i> (Prov 3.11-12)</p> <p>12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so many witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,<sup>13</sup> and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,<sup>14</sup> looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before</p>
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One of my favorite parts of All Saints Day is the use of scripture from Hebrews 11 and 12. Hebrews 11 is a powerful review of the heroes of faith from the Hebrew Bible. It reads like a litany. Each pillar of faith is introduced with the words, “By faith” and then their example of lived faith is recalled. Here are a few verses.<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called...and he set out, not knowing where he was going...<sup>23</sup> By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth...<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land...<sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. The passage builds to a crescendo where the author states,<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets.

These pillars of faith are mentioned by the author to encourage those in his day. He draws on their inspiration to spur them to live by faith as they did. Or in the words of Hebrews 12:1, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

Pulaski Heights also has a great cloud of witnesses to encourage and inspire us to continue to persevere in the race of discipleship that is set before us.

The author of Hebrews might write it this way, By faith, Rev. and Mrs. Hunter started this church. By faith, the church invited all to the table of our Lord practicing open communion when most excluded all but their own members.

By faith, the church served the poor during the great depression.

By faith, Rev. and Mrs. Hunter ministered to Japanese Americans who were interned at the camp at Rohwer, Arkansas



By faith, Colbert Cartwright and the church confronted the evil of segregation and helped protect the Little Rock Nine

By faith, Arnold Nelson and the church confronted the homophobia of our denomination and became one of the first Open and Affirming congregations in the nation.

By faith the church persevered during a time of conflict and struggle for identity

By faith today, we see Jesus in the eyes of the homeless poor and have dedicated ourselves to serving Christ through these neighbors.

Dear Friends, I am very grateful for the faith of those who have gone before us at Pulaski Heights and for the faith of our brothers and sisters today. It is a privilege to follow Christ. We have looked, and I pray always will look to Jesus as the one who leads the way, and inspires the journey. Jesus is the pioneer and perfecter, as Hebrews says, of our faith.

Please be in prayerful consideration of who you can reach out to in faith and invite to join us as we celebrate 90 years of being that “place to belong for all God’s people.”

—Susan

**NINETY YEARS OF PROGRESSIVE  
CHRISTIANITY  
"Welcoming All of God's Children"**

By Dr. John William Graves

There are hundreds of small religious congregations in Arkansas, but only a few of these have repeatedly made their way into history books. One such congregation is the Pulaski Heights Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Little Rock. Now celebrating its founding in October, 1927, for ninety years the church has been witnessing for social justice, often speaking truth to power and challenging social norms and practices that have contravened core Christian values and teachings.

This splendid tradition had its origins in the career and life of its founding minister and first pastor, Dr. Joseph Boone Hunter. From childhood onward, Reverend Hunter was nurtured in the Disciples of Christ faith tradition, which had its earliest wellsprings in the eighteenth-century Enlightenment and was strongly influenced by the Enlightenment's embrace of individual liberty, human equality, and fraternity and compassion. Essentially non-creedal in nature, the Disciples movement stressed the concept of the "priesthood of all believers" and belief in what Thomas Jefferson once described as "the illimitable freedom of the human mind." This naturally caused its adherents to ascribe to and stress the primacy of individual conscience: a moral person ultimately was required to profess and act upon what he or she believed to be right, irrespective of any personal consequences.

That Reverend Hunter had absorbed this outlook is evident from the motto that he authored for the Pulaski Heights Christian Church, the words of which are inscribed in the stained glass of the church's sanctuary windows: "This Church Defends No Doctrine But Christ, Preaches No Gospel But Love, and Has No Purpose But To Serve."

Reverend Hunter's adherence to his faith tradition is evinced not only by his words, however, but by his deeds-by actions taken by him throughout his life. During the 1920s he and his wife, Mary Cleary Hunter, both served as young missionaries to Japan, where they met and were married and where their two children were later born. After the Japanese

attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the American government forcibly relocated Japanese Americans from their homes on the West Coast solely because of their Japanese ethnicity. Ten internment camps were established for these displaced persons, two of which, Jerome and Rohwer, were located in southeast Arkansas. The reception the Japanese Americans received upon their arrival in Arkansas was anything but an example of Southern hospitality. The state government refused to issue birth certificates for Japanese American children born at Jerome and Rohwer, and the Arkansas Medical Society urged its members not to provide any medical services or care for the internees. Ignoring the social opprobrium, Reverend Hunter accepted a request that he assume the post of Director of Human Services at the Rohwer camp, overseeing with his wife Mary schooling, medical care, religious services, and activities surrounding births and deaths. The Japanese American Citizens League subsequently awarded Reverend Hunter its highest honor for his promotion of social justice and racial understanding, and he later was among those instrumental in having the Rohwer site declared a National Historic Landmark.

After returning from Japan and before assuming his responsibilities at the Rohwer internment camp, Reverend Hunter served as the first minister of Pulaski Heights Christian Church from 1927 to 1940. Within some two years after he began his ministry, the stock market crashed on Wall Street in October, 1929, an event followed quickly by the onslaught of the Great Depression of the 1930s. By 1931, one out of four Americans were unemployed. Some unemployed members of Pulaski Heights Christian ceased attending church out of embarrassment, as they could no longer afford to place offerings in the collection plate during Sunday worship services. In response, and at Reverend Hunter's urging, the congregation ceased using the collection plate, instead placing a "treasury chest" in the church narthex, where donations could be made privately and anonymously. Concern and care for the impoverished and economically marginalized has continued over the years at Pulaski Heights Christian. In the past members of the congregation have volunteered to prepare and serve breakfast at

Little Rock's Salvation Army shelter for the homeless. Currently, in collaboration with Holy Souls Catholic Church, the church prepares and serves meals for homeless persons in downtown Little Rock on the third Monday evening of every month, and on each fifth Sunday of any month the church, with the assistance of youth from Venture Crew 3, that it sponsors, helps prepare and serve meals for the downtown Quapaw Quarter UMC Community Breakfast. The tradition of concern for the poor begun by Reverend Hunter is still very much alive.

Reverend Hunter was also a National Founder of the Disciples Peace Fellowship and continued to promote peace and brotherhood and sisterhood among all peoples throughout the rest of his life. To him, however, peace was never equated with passivity or turning a blind eye to injustice. When reviewing a film, *Operation Abolition*, that purported communist backing for student protests at the University of California at Berkeley, he exposed the fact that the film was biased and had been doctored in an attempt to discredit the students. His criticism made the front pages of newspapers, and he was denounced by some as likely being a communist himself. The episode was carefully investigated by the FBI, which found no substance at all to the charge.

When the Little Rock Central High School crisis erupted in 1957 following Arkansas governor Orval Faubus's unsuccessful attempts to block racial integration at the school, Reverend Hunter was serving as Administrator for the Arkansas Council of Churches. In this capacity he worked with Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine to fight against racial bigotry and oppression. He was joined by the Reverend Colbert Cartwright, then minister at Pulaski Heights Christian, who was ably supported by a leading congregant of the church, Forrest Rozzell, Executive Director of the Arkansas Education Association. Defying public criticism from white segregationists, Reverend Cartwright denounced Governor Faubus's actions from the pulpit, and he was one of only an extremely small handful of white ministers in Arkansas's capital who praised the courage and fortitude of the nine black students at Central and lent them support. In consequence, he and Forrest Rozzell were placed by

Faubus under state police surveillance, with police investigators sometimes being parked outside the church recording their comings and goings.

Winthrop Rockefeller, who later would become Governor of Arkansas himself, was so impressed by the examples of Reverend Hunter, Reverend Cartwright, and Forrest Rozzell that he anonymously donated the funds to place the nine stained glass windows in the Pulaski Heights Christian Church sanctuary. A plaque located today in the church narthex next to the main church entrance commemorates Rockefeller's donation honoring their commitment to justice and equality.

More recently, Pulaski Heights Christian has further built upon its long tradition of progressive Christianity. In 1992, during the pastorate of the Reverend Arnold Nelson, it became the first Disciples' congregation in Arkansas and one of the first ten in the entire denomination to declare itself open and affirming. The door is open to everyone at Pulaski Heights Christian, regardless of their sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, gender, condition of disability, marital status, or degree of affluence and economic standing. Today, Pulaski Heights Christian Church continues to follow in the footsteps of its early founders and leaders, maintaining fidelity to their Social Gospel beliefs and principles and praying as did Jesus: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven."



Central Arkansas Pride, October 28, 2017  
Sam, Phillip, Jimmy, Susan and Ashley marched in the parade, carrying both our banners, and we also had a table in the pavilion area.

## November Events in Detail

### Hats & Gloves

Last year our Third Monday Meal group gave away hats and gloves on November 21. **This year the third Monday is on November 20th.** We plan to give away hats and gloves once again. In fact, there were some requests for hats and gloves for October, since it got cold sooner this year. The church will order the items, but you may also provide additional items if you wish to purchase them. We will need to have all hats and gloves at the church by November 19th so that they can be given away at 6:00 p.m. on November 20th. Financial donations may be given at any time.

December will allow us to repeat our gift of blankets to the homeless guests on the Third Monday.

### Hillcrest Churches Thanksgiving Service 2017

On Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. the Hillcrest area churches will hold a joint Thanksgiving Worship Service. Pulaski Heights Presbyterian is hosting the event. They are at 4401 Woodlawn, Little Rock. Rev. Britt Skarda of Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church will bring the sermon. The cash offering will be donated to Lucy's Place. There will be a brief reception following the service.

### GRR Office Move at Hand

Although the move was originally hoped for in October, getting the space ready for the Great River Region office has taken a bit longer than anticipated. However, all the redecorating and infrastructure updating is nearly done. The office move is expected to take place in the first two week of November, 2017.

Of course moving out of a large space into a more compact office means that there are surplus items, and that leads us to the next article.

### GRR Garage Sale Nov. 9-11

From 10 am to 2:00 p.m. each day you will be able to rummage through years and years of valuables and office equipment, furniture, books and other undiscovered treasures. This information is being shared with all our Arkansas churches, so make plans

to shop early and often during the sale. The old office is at 9302 Geyer Springs Rd, Little Rock.

The Region is asking for volunteers to assist with prepping the area on Wednesday, Nov. 8 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. If you are not busy, please stop by to help at the office on Geyer Springs Road in Little Rock. Please RSVP to drnburon@grrdisciples.org if you are able to help!

### Poinsettias & Hanging of the Greens Service on December 3, 2017

Wait for it....Are you Ready? Christmas is coming and Advent is right around the corner. We will have our Hanging of the Greens Service on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017. We will have a pot-luck following the Hanging of the Greens service.

If you would like to bring a poinsettia(s) in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one then please let the church know and we will print their names and acknowledge your gift in the Hanging of the Greens service. Feel free to bring the color of Poinsettia that you most enjoy. Then you can take your poinsettia home with you on Christmas Eve.

This year Christmas Eve is on a Sunday. We will have our Christmas Eve service during our regular worship time at 10:30 a.m.

If you have a favorite Advent Hymn or Christmas Hymn that you would like for us to sing during the season then please share your suggestion with the church office.



We had a table at HarvestFest again this year. Bill Ward, Rev. Susan Miller, Jamie Crockett and Greg Pendleton, Chet and Kelly Chaney and Rachel Smith were in place much of the day! They had coloring sheets for the kids and give-aways for adults, too.

## Four Pastors



L to R: Rev. Colbert S Cartwright (minister 1954-1964)  
 Rev. Sam F. Freeman (minister 1940-1948)  
 Rev. Joseph B. Hunter (minister 1927-1940)  
 Rev. Lewis H. Deer (minister 1948-1953)  
 Date of photo unknown.

### Please Continue Prayers for:

Eric's brother James; Martha C., the Perry Family, Ron C., Jean H., Kim P., Trip R., 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 recovering from hurricanes, and others God leads you to know of.

### September 2017 Stewardship Report

Sep. Budget Needs – \$8,125.00  
 Sep. Offering – \$4,102.00  
 Other Income – \$5,690.89  
 Total Aug. Actual Income – \$9,792.89

Sep. Budgeted Expenses – \$8,912.08  
 Sep. Actual Expenses – \$9,312.50  
 Net Result for Sep. – \$ 480.39

Fiscal-Year-to-date through 9/30/17  
 Offering – \$16,021.80  
 Other Income – \$13,530.48  
 Total FYTD Income – \$29,552.28  
 Expenses FYTD – \$26,088.57  
 Net Result FYTD – \$ 3,463.71

## November 2017 at PHCC

### Events in November 2017

– Birthdays in November 3 – Jacob Runnels; 21 – Ryan Groover; 23 – Rev. Marilou Coins; 25 – Rex Easter, Sr.; 30 – Lynda Copas.

### – Events of note

5 – Daylight Savings Time ends.  
 5 – 90<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!  
 15 - 6:00 pm Board Meeting  
 19 – Sign December birthday cards.  
 20 – Third Monday Meal is served; 1101 W. Markham St.  
 21 – Community Thanksgiving Service 7pm at Pulaski Heights Presbyterian  
 23 – Thanksgiving Day 2017  
 – Sunday School Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26

## 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent. Hanging of the Greens.  
 3 – Potluck luncheon after Worship  
 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
 13 - 6:00 pm scheduled Board Meeting  
 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent, Sign January birthday cards.  
 18 – Third Monday Meal is served; 1101 W. Markham St.  
 24–4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
 25 – Christmas Day 2017  
 31 – Community Breakfast  
 – Sunday School Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31



Pulaski Heights Christian Church  
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[lrphcc@gmail.com](mailto:lrphcc@gmail.com) ~ [www.phccl.org](http://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