

## Did you know...

there are 73 steps to get to the top the of bell tower?



## Lord's Bounty Scholarship Applications Available

The Lord's Bounty is a non-profit re-sale shop in College Hill. All proceeds from the shop are used in the College Hill community for scholarship assistance and local non-profit ministries.

Scholarships are available for undergraduate college or technical training beyond high school to students who live in College Hill or attend a College Hill church.

The Lord's Bounty awarded scholarships to 12 students for the 2017-18 school year.

Request a scholarship application for the 2018-19 school year by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

The Lord's Bounty  
5852 Hamilton Ave.  
Cincinnati, 45224.

All scholarship application materials must be received by January 31, 2018 to be eligible.

## AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Supper Club will meet early this month - Monday, December 11 in Fellowship Hall. Mark Behnken, CHPC's organist, will present a program of a carol sing/stories and history of our most beloved carols accompanied by Mark on our chancel organ. He will also demonstrate the workings of several of the organ manuals during his presentation.

Mark, a child prodigy, comes from a family of musicians. He started piano lessons at age three and organ lessons at age five. He appeared in concert with the Detroit Symphony at age nine, and at that age became organist of a large church in Michigan.

Mark has studied with some of the greatest organists of our time. Before coming to Cincinnati, he was a college professor of organ and music history at Midwestern Baptist College. While there he was the director of the Oratorio Society for 16 years.

Mark has given concerts throughout the United States, Canada, Great Britain France and the Netherlands. He is currently on the board of the American Guild of Organists.

The public and members of the American Guild of Organists will be invited to attend the concert in the sanctuary and join Supper Club for dinner.

Remember the date, December 11, in Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm for dinner. The cost is \$12.00. You must make reservations by Thursday, December 7, by calling Sally Mosier at 791-1644.



## Church Without Walls

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Our wonderful CHPC family really hit one out of the park for our Thanksgiving food drive! With collaboration from other neighborhood churches and McAuley High School over four hundred complete Thanksgiving meals were assembled and delivered to families in our city.

For the first time ever there was no need to use additional funds to purchase the side dishes we provide and the Colerain Wal-Mart staff really went to the plate for us to have turkeys in and ready to go. You have made this the best Thanksgiving effort to date.

Christmas is right around the corner and I know with your generosity we will repeat this performance for the needy families in our community.

Thanks to all who were God's hands and feet in this time of giving. You are the best!

Your CHPC deacon staff



# BELLTOWER NEWS



DECEMBER 2017



Woven is a community of women which is committed to community, depth, discipleship and love. We desire to be safe places where women can find freedom, grace, love and courage to be who they have been created to be.

We are looking forward to 2018 and how God will draw us closer to each other and Him. We are looking forward to the annual Advent Brunch to close out 2017 on December 9 from 10am-Noon. Women of all ages are welcome to come.



In 2018 we will continue small groups, monthly gathering nights and start equipping discipling relationships. In February, we will again host a simulcast of IF:Gathering here at CHPC. In prayer, we are asking for God to move in big ways.

At IF:Gathering 2018, we will look at one of Paul's letters to Timothy as he reminded him of the power and responsibility of sharing the gospel. We want to give God away in the very places He's put us, so we're going to gather for the purpose of remembering why following God and making disciples matters. We all get tired, we all wonder if what we're doing matters, so IF:Gathering 2018 will be the reminder -- it will be the celebration. The work we're doing to share the gospel on the earth is worth it and God DOES move through the little things that nobody sees. Join us.

Look for the 2018 Woven calendar to be posted on CHPC's website soon and if you are interested in coming alongside and helping or if you have other questions, email Missi at [missikershner@gmail.com](mailto:missikershner@gmail.com)



## PRAYER EXPERIENCE

It's easy to lose sight of the heart of the season. The world has taken Christmas and twisted it into a commercial, busy, stressful holiday.

For the church, we look backward to remember Christ's first coming - as a baby in a manger - and forward to His second coming, as King of Kings and Redeemer.

God is in control and for the next four weeks, we will look at how He planned for us to have a way to be with Him even though we are sinners and unclean before his Holiness.

Prayer stations can provide an opportunity for our church family to respond to God, meditate on His word, and spend the season focused on God and His plan to be in relationship with us forever.

An Advent prayer experience will be available to visit from Saturday, Dec. 2 through Sunday, Dec. 31 in the Ministry Center Basement. The stations are designed to help us focus on a time of preparation for the celebration of the plan that forgives our sins and allows us to be in relationship with God

Come as many times as you like and converse with God.

The experience is available at any time that the church building is open.



## Global Worker Update

### Part 1

*God scatters His people around the globe so that “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” (Habakkuk 2:14) As we walk with Him, He guides each of us where we can serve Him best. Here are some of the places and ways God has been using the people sent out through CHPC for His glory and the benefit of the world in 2017. Please ask the Lord of the harvest to send more workers: As you will see, several are ready to retire, but the work is not finished. Then, join our workers in God’s harvest by standing with them daily in PRAYER.*

**Anne Alexander** serves with OMF International and Bible-Telling, an international ministry based in Illinois that trains anyone to tell the stories of Scripture in an engaging way. This is accomplished through weekend training events, published materials, presentations at national and international storytelling conferences, and annual tours of Israel so participants can practice their storytelling skills on the sites where they actually occurred. Anne’s goal for 2018 is to complete her Doctorate of Intercultural Studies through Biola University – while working full time with BibleTelling and OMF, focused on helping Chinese and Christians in the US and around the world learn to use the stories for discipleship, evangelism, and equipping for ministry.

**Alice Bechtold** teaches future world leaders (who happen to be in second grade at the moment) at an international school in South Korea. Her typical class has about 20 children speaking 8 different languages. At the beginning of the school year, there are usually several who have little or no English. She integrates stories from the Bible into her curriculum daily, which is a new experience for many of the families. Please pray for comfort for Alice as she is far from her family, who

have had a difficult year, including the sudden death of her younger sister last spring.

Two pastors we support live in a part of the Middle East that has suffered much turmoil. They work to encourage and strengthen the small community of Christians that remain, and build relationships of good will and trust with other religious communities in order to demonstrate God’s love through service. They have had abundant opportunities to meet the needs of refugees who are still crowded in nearby camps. Pray God will open doors for continued service in Jesus’ name in the region.

**Pat Durst** serves foreign students at the University of Cincinnati, along with several teammates of International Friendships, Inc. Together they provide enjoyable social activities, opportunities to connect with U.S. Americans while here (such as sharing Thanksgiving dinner with a local individual or family), and one-on-one or group Bible study for students who are interested in learning more about the faith. Pat’s years teaching English in China prepared her well to make deep connections with the wave of young people and mid-career visiting scholars arriving from all over the world to study. Pray she will connect with the ones eager to know God.

**Ryan Finke** serves with International Friendships, Inc., as Communications Director in Columbus, Ohio. He creates informative newsletters for IFI supporters who wish to reach out more effectively to students, videos documenting God’s work through IFI, and web tools to help students, staff, and volunteers connect. He and his wife Liz and 9-month-old son Ronan host a weekly Bible study for international students from OSU. Sharing the gospel or a copy of Scripture in the appropriate language with students who previously knew nothing of Jesus is a great source of joy for Ryan. Sign up for online news at [r.finke@ifusa.org](mailto:r.finke@ifusa.org).

### December Schedule

**Congregational Meeting - Sunday 12/17**  
10:00am in the Sanctuary  
Voting on adding an Elder & Deacon for 2018 Officers

**Christmas Eve (Sunday 12/24)**  
Jesus University Pancake Breakfast  
9:00am - 12:00pm

**Christmas Eve Services**  
10:00am & 8:00pm

**Christmas Day (Monday 12/25)**  
12:00pm - 2:00pm  
Feast of Love  
Christmas Dinner

## Prayer Page

### CHPC Community

Connie Warren	Thom Warren	Annette Welch	David Welch
Sandy Wendt	John Wendt	Suzanne Wiers	Carl Wiers
Kim Whittkamp	David Whittkamp	Nancy Wolf	Ron Wolf
Dottie Zimmerman	Bill Wooten	Alfred Nyamusa	Barbara McMullen
Chris Statt	April Statt	Lisa Carpenter	Rnika Shamel
Ruth Guentter	Bill Guentter	Janice Long	Howard Bailey
Neema Bugandwa	Victor Bugandwa	Cheri Bellingham-Funez	Mike Funez
Michael Parker	Josephine Faulk	Sonia Leaks	Anita Shoemaker
Laura Battoclette	Ross Battoclette	Rita Casterlow	Michael Casterlow
Dylan Douglas	Elaine Asbury	Wanda Jefferson	Phillip Jefferson
Paul Trippel	Patricia Duncan		

### In The Military

Adam Steveley US Army	Chris Jaeger USMC
Cary Jaeger USMC	Kirk Kalmbacher US Coast Guard
Zach Scharf Army National Guard	Nyjoel Baker US Air Force
Danny Holian US Navy Pilot	Will Connor US Army
Gus Carpenter US Marines	Andrew Deiters US Marines
Peter & Amanda Leugers US Navy	

### Home Bound / Health Center

Chloe Bernius	Emily Cates
Betty Henderson	Mae Klusmeier
Margaret Kuyper	Jessie Little
Jane Lott	Ethel Siefert
Janet Sinks	Gloria Smith



### Opportunities to Pray

Community Prayer Monday 6pm-7pm @ House of Joy  
Kindling Prayer Group December 13 @ 7pm in the White House  
Morning Prayer For CHPC Thursdays @ 8:30am in the Prayer Room  
Sunday Morning Prayer Sundays @ 8:00am in the Prayer Room

**CHILDREN,  
YOUTH &  
FAMILY**

For more information contact:  
**Robyn @ 513-505-3041**  
[rhubbuch@chpc.org](mailto:rhubbuch@chpc.org)

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

DECEMBER

1-3 CRASH EVENT: WINTER RETREAT  
10-16 CRASH SMALL GROUPS  
17 CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY  
6-8PM  
1/1 CRASH EVENT: PERFECT NORTH SNOW TUBING  
1-6PM



## Once Reformed Always Re-forming

CELEBRATING THE  
REFORMATION  
AND LIVING INTO  
THE FUTURE

12TH IN A SERIES. Much of the world marked the start of 'The Reformation' on All Saints Eve Oct 31 — the adopted date of Martin Luther's tacking his theological questions on the church doors in Wittenberg Germany. During 2017, the *Cincinnati Reformation Team*\* introduced readers to key Reformers before, during and after Luther's time — men and women from England to the Czech Republic to the shores of the New World. The term 'reform' captures the Biblical concept of 'turning,' and is used to describe a return to the ways God revealed in His Word, the Bible. 500 years ago God unleashed the powerful life-giving, world-transforming Gospel through people just like us. Is the Reformation 'over' or is there more to come?

### SEMPER REFORMANDA

BY REV RICH LANNING — PASTOR, EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

As we conclude this series of articles reflecting on the history and blessing of "The Reformation," it is fitting that we remember *ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda* — the church reformed, always reforming. This charge urges us not to rest on our *Reformed* laurels, nor to conclude that the project of reforming the church was completed in the sixteenth century. Every succeeding generation must struggle mightily with applying the *Word of God* and the doctrines recovered at the time of the reformation in their time and culture.

The phrase itself appeared first in a devotional book written in 1674 by Dutch pastor, Jodocus van Lodenstein [1620-1677]. Although it came more than a century after Luther and Calvin, the saying captures the spirit that propelled the Reformation forward. When Lodenstein coined this phrase, the worship, doctrines, and government of the surrounding churches were largely Calvinistic or 'reformed.' Ministers and lay-people had courageously stood and suffered for the sake of the Gospel. God was pleased to bless their faithfulness with a strong, vital reformed church in what was to become the Netherlands.

A plurality of the population joined local reformed churches. The succeeding generation continued to be well taught by faithful pastors and parents. The churches were well-regulated. Their worship, government, and doctrines were consistent with the Heidelberg and Belgic Confessions. Yet, Pastor Lodenstein recognized that there was trouble in the Dutch churches. He believed that professing believers of his day were in need of a *new reformation*.

Lodenstein identified the problem as *formalism*. He perceived that *less than 50 years after Luther's courageous stand*, church people knew the right answers concerning the Bible and theology, but these powerful truths were not penetrating their hearts. The church of his day was being challenged with the

problem of leaders and followers just going through the motions. There was spiritual lethargy, lovelessness, and a lack of vital faith in the hearts of many.

There is a sense in which every new generation of Christians needs to wrestle anew with the glorious teachings handed down to us from the past. Believers need to be convinced that the doctrines of God's unmerited grace and love are rooted in and flow directly from the Scriptures.

Over the centuries, Christians forged Confessions and Creeds that *illuminated, but never replaced Scripture*, the Word of God... and died for them. Others in the Church used Lodenstein's 'quote' to justify jettisoning such historic church teachings. To refute this, after World War II a phrase was added: "the church reformed, always reforming according to the Word of God."

Today, take time to think in fresh terms of what the Gospel means in a digital age in which most of us are wired and tired. Christianity should always be first-generation new. And if it isn't, it can lead to a dry, dead, orthodoxy—and in turn to dry, dead Christians — far from 'the Reformers' who literally *turned the world upside down*.

The questions we are prompted to ask are these: What are the unique challenges that we are confronted with in our time? Where do our churches and our own lives need to experience a fresh reformation?

If the world around us is confused and chaotic, it is in part because we, the church of our time, are confused, compromised and consumed with other than God's ways and work. As 2017 ends, may we recover the truths that filled the Reformers with indomitable strength and courage. May we take to heart the need to be the "church reformed, always reforming *according to the Word of God*" and in the power of God. May we each be known as ones who know the Word of God made flesh, Jesus Christ, and live to make Him known and glorified.

*\* The Cincinnati Reformation Team is a group of pastors and laypeople (male and female), who covenanted to use their writing gifts to interpret the Protestant Reformation to people in the pews. Their monthly articles have been circulated to individuals and churches of many denominations, nationally and internationally...so that God might receive the Glory for His work of reformation.*



### 3C's Inspirations

How beautifully leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days." – John Burroughs

Ah the final weeks of autumn. What is it about this season that brings on the yearning for contemplation and peace within? Perhaps it's hearing the pitter-patter of children's feet as they bustle through this joyous little school and smiles greet new friends as the school year takes root. For many it's experiencing the thrill of crunching leaves on a sidewalk street, the sights and sounds of a quiet forest trail, or the collection of harvest as plants turn to seed and God's creatures gather their supplies in preparation for a long winter.

This also is a time of hurried schedules and competing to-do lists, particularly in the lives of young families. Many of you are juggling new babies at home, school schedules, homework requirements, work/office expectations, sports and music practices, fund-raisers, carpool arrangements and the plethora of events that always seem to be scheduled this time of year. It can be overwhelming and, let's admit it, a bit stressful, to our over-wired brains, trying to juggle so much while maximizing the 'fall experience' for our little ones as well as preparing for the holiday season ahead.

Or perhaps, this season is different for you. The colors of the season feel muted. Many are struggling to make ends meet. For some, sickness or sorrow prevails. A prognosis remains uncertain, or a relationship proves challenging. While God is by our side through these struggles, it can be difficult for many to find lightness during this chapter. That is truly, I believe, why we need each other. We may vary in our needs and abilities, but as part of the 3Cs community - and this world - we are here to love and support.

So, in forthcoming weeks, as we walk the tight rope between capturing moments and staying on task, may we pause for awhile each day to contemplate all that is before us, including that which we cannot see. (continued in next column)

May we give thanks for these amazing little children who unite us in precious times, for their teachers and classrooms which bring growth and wonder to their growing minds each day. May we remain aware of our neighbors' journey and the needs of those around us, and reach out for help when we need it. And may we thank God for the gifts we've been given. For it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.

Wishing you all a sense of harmony and 'enough' this season. - Sheila Tobergte

### Caroling & Cookie Exchange

You are invited once again to the Brooks' home for our annual **Cookie Exchange and Christmas Caroling Party!**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 15TH - 7:00PM TO 8:30PM**  
**1192 CEDAR AVE., CINCINNATI, OHIO 45224**

Rules of the cookie exchange: bring 1 dozen take a dozen home, bring 2 dozen take 2 dozen home, and so on...

Have no fear there will be refreshments served. Dress warm for caroling (weather permitting). Call Helen with questions: 513 375-4230



### JESUS UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS EVE PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Sunday, December 24, 2017  
9:00am - Noon in Fellowship Hall

Jesus University enjoys participating in worship and it is excited about this Advent season. We want to raise money in order to support members, who may have a hardship. JU is working hard preparing to dance for you Christmas Eve morning and hopefully we won't be too full from pancakes to move! Come share a Jolly Breakfast before or after Sunday service. Suggested donation: \$5 plate

# CARE & COUNSELING CORNER

## Helping Yourself Heal During the Holiday Season

Reprinted with permission from "Helping Yourself Heal During The Holiday Season" by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. For more information on grief and healing and to order Dr. Wolfelt's books, visit [www.centerforloss.com](http://www.centerforloss.com).

Holidays are often difficult for anyone who has experienced the death of someone loved. Rather than being times of family togetherness, sharing and thanksgiving, holidays can bring feelings of sadness, loss and emptiness.

*Love does not end with death*

Since love does not end with death, holidays may result in a renewed sense of personal grief—a feeling of loss unlike that experienced in the routine of daily living. Society encourages you to join in the holiday spirit, but all around you the sounds, sights and smells trigger memories of the one you love who has died.

*No simple guidelines exist that will take away the hurt you are feeling.*

We hope, however, the following suggestions will help you better cope with your grief during this joyful, yet painful, time of the year. As you read through this article, remember that by being tolerant and compassionate with yourself, you will continue to heal.

### Talk about your grief

During the holiday season, don't be afraid to express your feelings of grief. Ignoring your grief won't make the pain go away and talking about it openly often makes you feel better. Find caring friends and relatives who will listen—without judging you. They will help make you feel understood.

### Be tolerant of your physical and psychological limits

Feelings of loss will probably leave you fatigued. Your low energy level may naturally slow you down. Respect what your body and mind are telling you. And lower your own expectations about being at your peak during the holiday season.

### Eliminate unnecessary stress

You may already feel stressed, so don't overextend yourself. Avoid isolating yourself, but be sure to recognize the need to have special time for yourself. Realize also that merely "keeping busy" won't distract you from your grief, but may actually increase stress and postpone the need to talk out thoughts and feelings related to your grief.

### Be with supportive, comforting people

Identify those friends and relatives who understand that the holiday season can increase your sense of loss and who will allow you to talk openly about your feelings. Find those persons who encourage you to be yourself and accept your feelings—both happy and sad.

### Talk about the person who has died

Include the person's name in your holiday conversation. If you are able to talk candidly, other people are more likely to recognize your need to remember that special person who was an important part of your life.

### Do what is right for you during the holidays

Well-meaning friends and family often try to prescribe what is good for you during the holidays. Instead of going along with their plans, focus on what you want to do. Discuss your wishes with a caring, trusted friend. Talking about these wishes will help you clarify what it is you want to do during the holidays. As you become aware of your needs, share them with your friends and family.

### Plan ahead for family gatherings

Decide which family traditions you want to continue and which new ones you would like to begin. Structure your holiday time. This will help you anticipate activities, rather than just reacting to whatever happens. Getting caught off guard can create feelings of panic, fear and anxiety during the time of the year when your feelings of grief are already heightened. As you make your plans, however, leave room to change them if you feel it is appropriate.

### Embrace your treasure of memories

Memories are one of the best legacies that exist after the death of someone loved. And holidays always make you think about times past. Instead of ignoring these memories, share them with your family and friends. Keep in mind that memories are tinged with both happiness and sadness. If your memories bring laughter, smile. If your memories bring sadness, then it's all right to cry. Memories that were made in love—no one can ever take them away from you.

### Renew your resources for living

Spend time thinking about the meaning and purpose of your life. The death of someone loved creates opportunities for taking inventory of your life - past, present and future. The combination of a holiday and a loss naturally results in looking inward and assessing your individual situation. Make the best use of this time to define the positive things in life that surround you.

### Express your faith

During the holidays, you may find a renewed sense of faith or discover a new set of beliefs. Associate with people who understand and respect your need to talk about these beliefs. If your faith is important, you may want to attend a holiday service or special religious ceremony.

As you approach the holidays, remember: grief is both a necessity and a privilege. It comes as a result of giving and receiving love. Don't let anyone take your grief away. Love yourself. Be patient with yourself. And allow yourself to be surrounded by loving, caring people.

## Adult Spiritual Formation Now - December 17

Adult Spiritual Formation is about growth in a neglected area, the human spirit. Our culture pays much attention to exercise and fitness but little attention to spiritual health. The Apostle Paul remarks that bodily exercise profits only a little by comparison. As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons why not consider feeding your spirit.



Current Classes are:

### Mary Had A Baby

This Advent study is based on African American Spirituals. The four spirituals featured are Rise Up Shepherd and Follow, Children, Go Where I Send Thee, Go Tell It on the Mountain, and Mary Had A Baby. Come prepared to see these songs in a new light. Led by Helen Brooks at 10:10am.

### The Women of Christmas: Elizabeth, Mary, Anna, & More

This study is based on the book of the same title by Liz Curtis Higgs author of more than 30 books with 4.5 million copies in print. Higgs also wrote Bad Girls of the Bible which we studied in previous years. One reader has said: Higgs brings such depth to each character of the Bible that I feel as if I have met them. Leader to be determined, meets at 10:10am.

### Christmas According to Matthew and Luke

Many have forgotten that Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ. This class will look at the Christmas story in Matthew and Luke. The Jewish people had anticipated the Messiah and after 400 years of God's silence, He delighted them with angels, shepherds, and prophecy. Led by William Custer at 10:10am.