



# Belltower News

College Hill Presbyterian Church - May 2018

## Current Sermon Series

How well do you know the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is God. The Trinity describes the eternal reality of one God existing as three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This spring we will explore the history and ministry of the Spirit. How do we relate to the Spirit? How does the Spirit relate to us? How does the Spirit relate to the Father and the Son? The Scriptures outline the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit from creation to the church today. Let's meet with the Spirit this Spring.

**May 6:** The Holy Spirit Grows the Church

**May 13:** The Holy Spirit Empowers the Church

**May 20:** The Holy Spirit Changes the Church

**May 27:** The Holy Spirit Comforts the Church

### Miss a sermon?

Listen online [www.chpc.org/sermons](http://www.chpc.org/sermons)

## IHN-Housing Homeless Families

*Dave Butz*

As many of you already know our church partners with IHN and other area churches to provide a warm, safe and non-judgmental place for families who have no other option than to enter a homeless shelter.

We have this amazing opportunity to be a respite in the midst of their turmoil. We give shelter, plenty of great food and enriching activities for parents and their children. While at the same time they are receiving help from IHN with budgeting, finding work, child care, counseling and negotiating the different agencies that will help them find permanent safe housing. This is such a worthwhile program that brings together those in need and those that can help. It allows us to help change lives in a very tangible way. 96% of families are never homeless again.

When I was a child and we became homeless it took my mother 3 months to stabilize our situation with the help of very loving church members. Today IHN is able to do this in an average of 30 days. This is with effort on all fronts. This means that these families are changing churches 4 or 5 times – staying one week at each church. With that comes all the uncertainty that you might imagine. We have the privilege of being that calming presence in the center of their storm.

Being welcomed by us is the first step of the journey for most families. It is an important reminder that they are not alone and that someone cares. We are not always thanked and are often challenged. What better way to serve our Lord and Savior. We would like to thank each of you for being a part of this ministry, you are truly the hands and feet of Jesus. Because of our united effort CHPC usually receives high ratings on follow-up surveys of our guests. If you would like to learn more about IHN and other opportunities to serve the homeless look for us in the atrium after services May 6 and May 13.

GETTING TO KNOW THE

*Holy Spirit*

## Background information for an upcoming vote at the Congregational Meeting May 20, 2018

*Elders and deacons are set apart for specific tasks, for the equipping of the saints for ministry and for making sure that things are done decently and in order (paraphrased from Eph. 4:11-12 and I Cor. 14:40).*

Late last year, Session appointed a Task Force to explore and make recommendations in response to the following two questions:

- 1) Do we have the right number of Elders serving on Session and its supporting committees to effectively lead CHPC?
- 2) Can we complete necessary work conducted today by Session and committees with fewer covenant partners in leadership?

This task force consisted of five Elders; Cedric Lowe, Tim Johnson and three Elders currently serving on Session: Bev Graves, Mark Jorgensen and Missi Kershner. In March, Session voted to approve the following recommendation from the task force:

To recommend to the congregation that the By-Laws of CHPC be changed to reduce the size of Session membership from fifteen Elders to nine Elders. This is to require a three-year phase-in beginning with the 2018 Nomination and Election process, whereby the number of Elders nominated by the Congregational Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation will be reduced from five to three Elders per class.

*Why is Session making this recommendation?*

As membership and attendance at CHPC have changed over the years, the number of Elders on Session has been adjusted in the past; often to mirror those changes. So there is precedent for this. In a congregation of 1,000+ attending, five per class seemed reasonable (1 per 67 regular attenders). Today five per class with fewer than 300 attending, seems too large (1 per 20 attenders). In examining other Presbyterian congregations, similar in size to CHPC, some have as few as two or three Elders on Session, so there is great latitude in how many Elders

are called to serve at any given time.

Our pool of Elder candidates remains a strong group, but releasing two prospective candidates each year for other ministry work each of the next three years (and beyond) may strengthen our Deacon board, FFAT and other committees and better prepare these individuals to serve on Session in the future.

*How and when will this be implemented?*

Pending congregational approval on May 20<sup>th</sup>, this will be phased in over the next three years, allowing time for Session to continue to discern and shape the role of Elders in the future ministry of CHPC. Specifically, how to best allocate our resources to engage with appropriate ministry areas and staff. We would elect three Elders beginning this year (2018); three in 2019 and three in 2020 so that the Session will consist of nine Elders on January 1, 2021.

*How will the work of Session get done with fewer Elders?*

A critical question for sure. Pending approval, the task force will reconvene to examine with Session how to most effectively engage Elders in the work of both the standing committees and in partnership with the ministerial staff of the church. Those conversations began concurrent with this Session recommendation and will continue in close consultation with our Pastors.

*Can we be assured of a diverse representation of our congregation in a smaller Session?*

Absolutely. Your Session and the CNC are committed to connecting, serving and celebrating in a multicultural congregation and there is an unwavering commitment to seek Elder candidates raised up by God, through the nominating process of the congregation, who will give voice to the various cohorts of our church.

*I have other questions or concerns. Who might I address those to?*

The task force welcomes your questions. Please seek us out on Sunday mornings; by phone or email anytime prior to May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Bev Graves - 513-591-8786  
Mark Jorgensen - 513-846-2929  
Missi Kershner - 513-254-6908

## The West End Story:

### A Cautionary Tale For College Hill?

Jim Warner

How would you feel if you were notified that you had 30 days to move from your home and within months your entire neighborhood was destroyed in the name of urban renewal? What if College Hill (including College Hill Presbyterian Church), Northside and North College Hill were slated to be demolished (roughly the population of the West End)? The residents in the West End of Cincinnati experienced just that after the urban redevelopment plan for the overhaul of their neighborhood was implemented starting in 1958. The densely populated area included 10,295 dwelling units, 137 food stores, 118 bars and restaurants, 86 barbershops and beauty parlors, 80 churches and missions, and more. Ninety-eight percent of the displaced persons were people of color, which has led to great hurt, bitterness and distrust that lingers to this day (as seen from the reaction to the soccer stadium proposal). The razed area became Queensgate. In their desperate search for someplace to live, many of those people settled in College Hill.



On Tuesday May 1 the Finding Kenyon Barr photo exhibit will be opened in the atrium here at College Hill Presbyterian Church and will run through the end of June. The 39 enlarged photographs featured in the exhibit illustrate the vitality of the West End neighborhood. The area was home to landmark architecture, booming businesses, and vibrant community institutions. More importantly, this neighborhood was home to 27, 737 people, 97% black. The exhibit is the

creation of Ann Delano Steinert, who hopes the exhibit will educate the city about the mass displacement caused by this urban renewal project.

On May 30 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm, a special evening event is planned that will include a brief historical presentation and a panel of persons who have in some way had their lives affected by this major dispersion of people. As a “church without walls” we are hoping to educate ourselves regarding a segment of our city’s history that has largely remained untold and give voice to those who have been affected. In doing so, we hope to build public understanding and empathy to inform economic and planning efforts in College Hill. It is also our desire to encourage public dialogue between College Hill and the City of Cincinnati.

This effort is a ministry of a new small group called Shalom Makers, who are focused on “tearing down the dividing walls of hostility” on earth, as Jesus did on the cross and in heaven.

For questions regarding the event and the group, you can contact Jim Warner, Cheryl Schaeffner, or Fran Kelley.

### Supper Club

Open to singles and couples of all ages—Mon., May 21. CHPC Fellowship Hall—6:15 PM Dinner, 7:00 Program: “The Quakers, Their History in Cincinnati” Sabrina Darnowsky, Historian/Author will speak on the Quakers, their beliefs and history. She will answer the questions: Who are the Quakers? What do they believe? How have they played an important role in our country’s history and the history of Cincinnati and the underground railroad? Sabrina authored the book: “Friends Past and Present – The Bicentennial History of Cincinnati Friends” in 2015.



For dinner reservations,

Call Sally Auble at: (513) 741-3125.

## Recognizing Seasoned Saints on CHPC's 165th Birthday

On April 23, 2018, College Hill Presbyterian Church celebrated its founding 165 years ago. That was before the Civil War ended.

On November 1st, in 1949, Tink Linder became a member of this church. She is now the longest, living member, with Betsy Crumrine a close second. Can you imagine the stories these ladies could share?

The following is a list of active members who have been here 50 years or more:

<i>Carol Baker</i>	<i>Rony &amp; Judy Henke</i>	<i>Ted &amp; Rebecca Salt</i>
<i>Jim &amp; Nancy Bodmer</i>	<i>Amy Hudoba</i>	<i>Jack &amp; Mary Schiering</i>
<i>Betsy Crumrine</i>	<i>Bill &amp; Peggy Kehrner</i>	<i>Nancy Shryock</i>
<i>June Elwood</i>	<i>Janet Kling</i>	<i>Kathy Spelman</i>
<i>David &amp; Carol Freas</i>	<i>Susan Koch</i>	<i>Russell &amp; Barbara Stone</i>
<i>Gene &amp; Sandy Gosselink</i>	<i>Tink Linder</i>	<i>Elena Stothfang</i>
<i>Joyce Graber</i>	<i>Sally Mosier</i>	<i>Tildy Stubbers</i>
<i>Harold Gustafson</i>	<i>Connie Phipps</i>	<i>Ron &amp; Nancy Wolf</i>

And, these are covenant partners under CARE who have also been here more than 50 years:

<i>Mariam Colter (age 104)</i>	<i>Doreen Johnson</i>
<i>Dorothy Dinsmore</i>	<i>Laverne Lay</i>
<i>Jane Ingram</i>	<i>Don &amp; Ursula Wall</i>

When you see one of these seasoned saints, please thank them for their years of faithful service to the Lord and to the body of Christ at CHPC.

### Have an idea for Belltower News?

Belltower News is forming a writing team that will meet monthly to write, collect, and edit articles so that we can make the best publication possible. If you'd like to be included, call Mike Jorgensen or if you want to submit an article send it to [worshipadmin@chpc.org](mailto:worshipadmin@chpc.org)

The 2018 submission deadlines are by 5 pm on May 29th, June 26th, July 31st, August 28th, September 25th, October 30th, November 27th, December 18th.

For previous issues, visit [www.chpc.org/BelltowerNews](http://www.chpc.org/BelltowerNews)

