

BELLTOWER NEWS

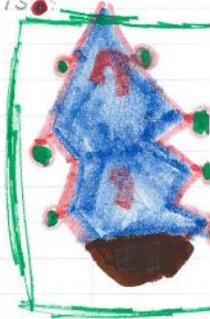
College Hill Presbyterian Church – February 2019

513.541.5676 | 5742 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45224 | chpc.org

THANKS FROM PLEASANT HILL

Dear CHPC Members,
Thank you for the gifts?

Ihamilah Johnson



Dear CHPC Members,
Thank you for the gifts and presents. The presents were awesome I can't wait to open and play it. Thank you for your hard work. Hope you have a Merry Christmas.
by, Lexi Ye



To: college Hill Presbyterian Church

Thanks for giving me a present that was very kind. I can't wait to play with the games I got.



COLLEGE HILL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CROSSWORD

By Kelly Hibbett

Working on those memory verses? Hope you LOVE reflecting on this one from 1st Corinthians!

"A" is for "Across" and "D" is for "Down."
(Answers on back)

13 If I speak in the **46A** of men or of **8A**, but do not have love, I am only a resounding **16A** or a **34D 29A**.² If I have the gift of **47A** and can fathom all **33D** and all **17A**, and if I have a **14A** that can move **10D**, but do not have love, I am **4D**.³ If I give all I **6A** to the

2D and give over my body to **11D** that I may **7D**, but do not have love, I **42A** nothing.

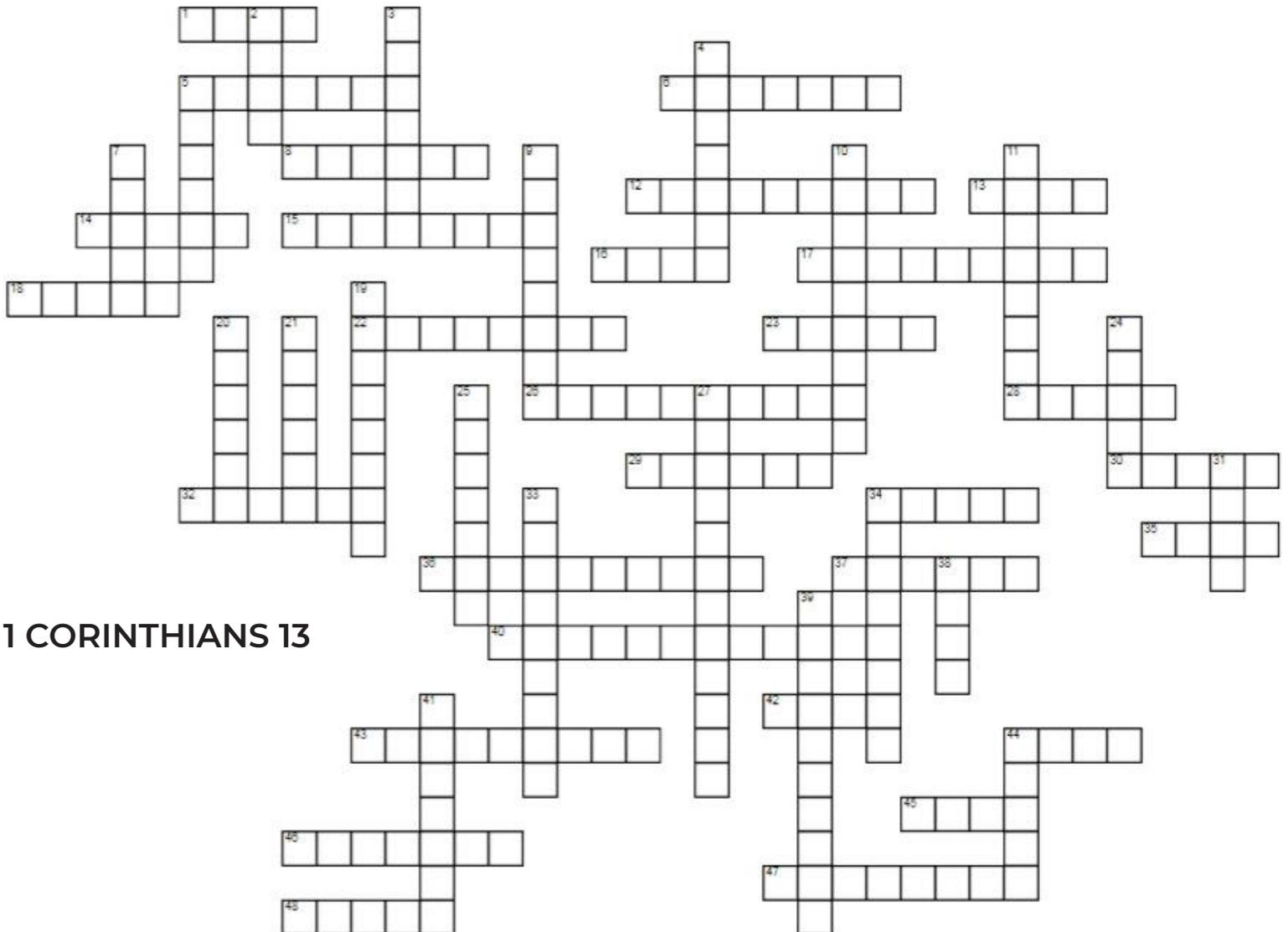
⁴ Love is **3D**, love is **38D**. It does not **31D**, it does not boast, it is not **28A**.⁵ It does not **9D** others, it is not **40A**, it is not easily **25D**, it keeps no record of **32A**.⁶ Love does not delight in **45A** but rejoices with the **24D**.⁷ It always **15A**, always **5D**, always **30A**, always **36A**.

⁸ Love never **48A**. But where there are prophecies, they will **23A**; where there are **41D**, they will be stilled; where there

is **43A**, it will pass away.⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part,¹⁰ but when **27D** comes, what is in part **39D**.

¹¹ When I was a **34A**, I **37A** like a child, I **5A** like a child, I **22A** like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of **12A** behind me.¹² For now we see only a **26A** as in a **20D**; then we shall see **44A** to face. Now I know in **13A**; then I shall know **44D**, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three **21D**: **18A**, **1A** and love. But the **19D** of these is **35A**. ■



1 CORINTHIANS 13



WORSHIP AT CHPC

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)

CHPC embraces a Sunday morning gathering that facilitates a joyful, contagious, interdependent, and God-glorifying worship culture where people are transformed and included in spite of circumstances or differences.

This is accomplished through planned opportunities that weekly encourage us to be:

EXPECTING God's invitation into His presence

Believing that God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is present and has invited us, we glorify Him by entering into His presence humbly with thanksgiving and praise. (Psalm 100, James 4:8)

We desire to be a supernatural community living with the certain knowledge that Christ has overcome sinful and man-made divisions based on generations, color, and economy through his unifying work on the cross. (Ephesians 2)

We invite and welcome all whom God draws together through Jesus. (Romans 15:7)

ENCOUNTERING God as He reveals Himself

We recognize and encourage the varied gifts, talents, and responses of our diverse church body to shape our corporate worship. (1 Corinthians 12:4-13)

As we all actively participate in worship, God unites, matures and builds our unique personalities and roles into the body of Christ, a royal priesthood, a people of God who encounter Him differently together than we do separately. (Hebrews 10:19-25, 1 Peter 2:9)

EXPERIENCING the Truth of God's Word as it speaks powerfully to the reality of our lives

Across peoples and nations, the Word of God, correctly understood through the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:6-16), is the language of God's Kingdom culture.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

STRUGGLING with challenge to change

With the Spirit's leading, we share stories of our struggles and victories with other believers.

SURRENDERING all that we are to God

As we continually offer ourselves in prayer to God, He transforms us into the likeness of His Son (Romans 8:26-29) and empowers us to do greater works than Jesus (John 14:12-17)

SENT as transformed people to make disciples

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20) ■



THEN SINGS MY SOUL

By Pam Dollard, Bob Faul, Kelly Hibbett, Cheryl Schaeffner

February is the month we think especially of love. While most of the world focuses on romantic love, there is a love connection with God, communicated through worship, that moves our hearts to deeper faith. Indeed, scripture encourages us to worship and glorify God through music, both vocal and instrumental (Psalm 98:1, Psalm 100:1&2, and Colossians 3:16). For CHPC worship leaders and congregants alike, music seems to be a two-way street as God speaks to us through it as well, reminding us of His presence in our lives.

WORSHIP MUSIC MINISTERS TO OUR HEARTS & STRENGTHENS US

Helen Brooks' mom always told her, "Remember whose child you are," and she can't help but do just that as she praises and reflects His glory by singing in the worship band. When she contemplated having to lead the congregation in her mom's favorite song, "It Is Well," just six months after her mother's passing, Helen didn't think she had the courage. But then she heard her mom's voice saying, "Sing that song, Baby," and in doing so, it ministered to her heart. She "let go of her soul and trusted in Him" for "the waves and wind still know His name." For Helen, preparation is the most important part of the singing. All week long, she reads scripture and prays, inviting the Holy Spirit to be with us and move us, and then "through it all, through it all," He is present.

Margretta Davis's favorite worship band song by far is "No Longer Slaves," which she plays almost every day as part of her praise and worship. Margretta says she is the

type of person to fear everything, but through God's grace, she has grown out of it. This song keeps her focused on the fact that fear no longer has the grip on her it once had, and as she listens to it, she praises God for allowing her to grow so much in His light.

Worship band member **Mindy Nagel** explains, "I feel the Holy Spirit moving in our church when we worship together. As I dance, sing or play my instrument I am trying to be sensitive to how the Spirit is moving and reflect that in a way that the congregation might see, feel or understand. Whenever I am struggling, the voices and worship of the congregation hold me up and encourage me." For example, when leading the congregation in "Cornerstone" last month, Mindy felt God's Spirit holding her up amid the struggle of coping with her father's declining health and hospitalization. The song reminded her that in this and in all "high and stormy gale[s]" He is her "anchor... within the veil."

WORSHIP MUSIC EXPRESSES OUR PRAISE FOR HIM

An anonymous Worship Band member explained, "I've had a great cognizance of God's presence in those instances when the congregation is familiar enough with the worship song and focused in the "Christ moment" that we are not just singing with each other, but singing TO the God we worship... very peaceful and significant."

For **Matthew Dumford**, sound technician, worship music "provides a time to refocus on God, give him praise, and orient [ourselves] towards following him throughout the week."

A congregant who wished to remain anonymous commented, "I am often so moved by the music that it renders me speechless. Somehow, the words always connect with my life in that moment and touch my soul. I may not be able to sing because of the lump in my throat and the tears in my eyes, but my heart does cry and my bones do sing out praise for my Lord."



WORSHIP MUSIC HELPS US FEEL GOD'S PRESENCE

When asked about his musical background, drummer **Chris Fears** made this abundantly clear: "I feel God's presence move throughout the building once the music starts...

.I was brought up watching one of the greatest drummers in the city at New Life Temple Church. Being around him inspired me to grab two wire coat hangers out of the pastor's closet, twist them into what I thought were drum sticks, and jump on the drums until the drummer made it to church after running behind. I was only around the age of 5 at the time. So let's just say I started really early on those skins! I have played for Winton Woods High School marching band, Woodward High School Marching band, traveled with a reggae band for around two years, and most importantly played for several churches in the tri-state area. Now I'm blessed with the opportunity to apply all that I have learned throughout my life here at CHPC. He has moved throughout the church in a powerful way through the music being played at our services."

Choir member and guitarist **John Wendt** would agree that God touches our souls as we worship in song: "Music has a direct line to your heart and soul. Moving words and harmonies get amplified through great music and dance."

Making a scriptural connection, **Penny Sauer** says, "As one of the 9 a.m. service lead worshipers, I have the privilege of choosing the hymns for the majority of services when I lead. Spending time in the scripture passage of the week and then searching for hymns that support that scripture have really brought the richness of the theology of many of the hymn texts to life for me. Worshiping God through song then becomes much more meaningful and personal to me when I really focus in on the words that I am singing."

Revealing a very personal connection to the music, **Bob Faul** explains, "Great music inspires me and enriches my soul. As I listen to music, the varied instruments remind me of God's infinite variety. Great melodies and perfect harmonies reflect God's majesty and perfection. Who can hear the haunting sounds of the oboe, the clarity of hand bells, the gracefulness of the violin, the depth and power of the

cello, or the majesty of the French horn without being somehow moved emotionally and spiritually and made aware of God's presence? The magnificent pipe organ in our sanctuary is perhaps an even better example of an instrument that represents God's majesty. For me, both composers and musical performers alike have a God-given talent that makes it possible for them to inspire us through their music and to make God's presence in our lives very real.

Hearing the melody from a familiar hymn can remind us of God's presence. Years ago, when I visited my mother in a senior facility, I often played hymns on an old piano in the recreation room for a group of the residents. Both the staff and I were surprised when folks who had not spoken at all for years began singing the words of those hymns. I really don't know why or how such a thing could happen. However, I believe that somehow, deep in their hearts and minds and souls, God was present; and through those beloved old hymns that were engraved in their hearts, He came alive and spoke to them. Amen!"

Perhaps this month as we are in our worship services, we will be mindful to give thanks for the gift of music that elevates our hearts in worship and love for our faithful God who loved us first. We give thanks also to the musicians who allow God's gifts to shine through them! ■

Check out some SideNOTES about the worship band on the next page >>>>>

SIDENOTES

Darryll Davis, Contemporary Worship Leader, views the band's role as leading worship, not giving a performance. Sensing what is happening as God's Spirit moves among us, Darryll adjusts the "plan" accordingly. The whole worship team connects so well with one another that they've created a sort of synergy, allowing them to flexibly modify what they rehearsed mid-stream with just a look or signal from the leader. We congregants then get to experience communion with God as musicians, singers, dancers, and sound and video technicians seamlessly lead us in worship.

How Are Worship Songs Chosen?

1. The sermon!!!
2. Balancing the need for repetition so the congregation can learn the songs and the desire to keep them fresh for the band.
3. Skill level of the band's rotating musicians: Challenge current members while bringing in new ones.

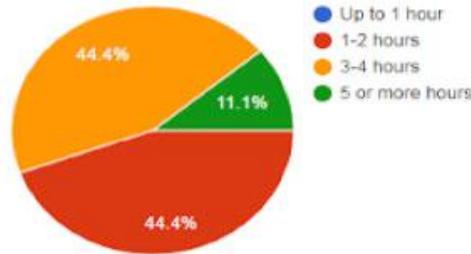
CONGREGATION COUNTDOWN:

Top 10 Worship Band Songs of 2018

- 4th:** "All the Poor and Powerless"
 "Come Ye Sinners"
 "No Longer Slaves"
 "O, Come to the Altar"
 "What a Beautiful Name"
- 3rd:** "Great Are You, Lord"
- 2nd:** "It Is Well with My Soul"
 "Amazing Grace/
 My Chains Are Gone"
 "Reckless Love"
- 1st:** "Holy, Holy, Holy"

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

How much time goes into band practice?



Darryll Davis appreciates the commitment of band members, who do all of their practice at home to learn the songs so that their Wednesday night and Sunday morning band practices can be devoted to rehearsal.

Which Instrument Does NO Band Member Admit to Playing?

Guitar	Bass	
Percussion	Accordion	
Banjo	Clarinet	
Harmonica	Steel Pan	
Piano	Saxophone	
Handbells	Trumpet	Violin

Answer: The same instrument played by Uncle Al, Boris Karlov, Lawrence Welk, Mumford & Sons, and pirates from film (not porch ones, though that would be fun).

Which Band Member Is Most Likely to Be a Closet Accordionist?



THANK YOU, WORSHIP BAND!

Mike Jorgensen, Ken Davis, Chris Fears, Chris Knueven, Molly Brown, Bev Graves, Missi Kershner, Helen Brooks, Mindy Nagel, Darryll Davis, Bee Dee (Bernice Davis), Penny Sauer, Cedric Lowe, Matthew McAllister, John Wendt, Phillip Cotter, Natasha Rulason, Stephen Schneider, Rebecca Snyder, Kendra Russell, Alan McKinney, Matthew Dumford ■

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY JUNE 22

By Sharlyn Stare

This year is a biggie for the Stare household. It has been 50 years since Barry and I committed our lives to Jesus Christ and to each other. In 1968 we came to CHPC to “get married.” The new pastor, Jerry Kirk, asked us, “Why do you want a church wedding?” We stumbled through that question. He said, “I’m not in the business of marrying people. I’m in the business of building Christian homes . . . are you interested?” It was a viable option.

He asked, “What is your personal relationship with Jesus Christ?” Barry and I looked at each other and mumbled something about being raised in a Christian home. Jerry sold us a book — “A Taste of New Wine” by Keith Miller, a fellow engineer. He said, “Come back and we’ll talk about Keith and what he discovered about life.”

During the next 8 months of premarital counseling, Jerry described marriage under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. He shared Scriptures and stories of successes and failures in his own marriage to help us understand this new concept.

We thought we knew what love was — little did we know. As the months went by, we learned to reveal more of our *real* selves to each other and we found more love and acceptance. We slowly began to understand a God *who knows everything* about us and still loves us unconditionally. . . enough to die for us. We knew God’s forgiveness. On our wedding day we made a three-way covenant: to one

another and to Jesus Christ as Savior.

Saying *I do* started the adventure. Things that caused our earthly relationship to grow were similar to what helped our relationship with Christ to grow.

1. We’d talk and write to one another and cherish our communication.

Likewise, as we studied God’s Word, it marinated our lives. “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*” 2TIM 3:16 We learned to express our love to God for who He *is*, and to pray and sing using *His Words*. — and we had fun doing it.

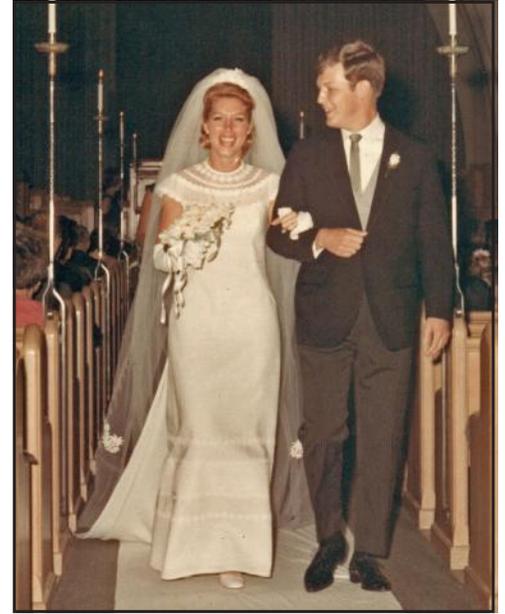
2. We’d spend time with others who knew our spouse.

God provided mature Christians at CHPC and beyond to grow our relationship with each other and Christ. This ‘Family in Christ’ continues to challenge, mentor, nurture, equip and hold us accountable. We’ve experienced the truth of Ephesians 4:13-16 & Romans 12:1-2.

3. We’d steward our time, talents, money and energy for our spouse’s benefit so that he/she can be all Christ intends.

Jerry Kirk was very clear, “Begin your relationship with Christ by tithing time, talents and money, and then increase your giving as He leads. God owns everything. So ‘hold things loosely,’ serve with excellence, and be good stewards. These reveal *whose* you are, and who you really serve.

Over the years, we have gone through *seasons of forgetfulness*. Busyness, ‘distractions’ and crises creep in.



Things that make life together ‘fun’ and purposeful begin to slip away. Words of love and affirmation diminish. Our premarital counseling warned us about such times. Jerry Kirk said, “Renew the *lease* on your marriage covenant regularly. Memorize your wedding vows and say them to each other. God is for you and will renew your marriage!” Refocusing on Christ does draw us back into right relationship with each other.

Each June we stand before God, our pastor(s) and witnesses to formally renew our vows. We praise God for His faithfulness, and trust in Christ’s power and purpose for us (PHIL 4:13). *We have been formed and trans-formed by the grace of God in and through our relationship with a unique community of faith, CHPC.* Thank you for your special part. You are invited to the celebration. *Save the date:* Saturday, June 22nd. ■

CHPC ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS \$41,000!

The CHPC Endowment Committee which consists of Bart Sauer (Chair), Chris Evans, Jacky Kalubi, Claire Snyder, Mary Sue Verhagen and Heather Lethander, recently completed the 2018 grant cycle by awarding \$41,000 to 15 different ministries around the world. The grants ranged from \$900 - \$5,000.

WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT FUND?

An endowment fund is an investment fund established by a foundation that makes consistent withdrawals from invested capital. The capital in endowment funds, often used by universities, nonprofit organizations, churches and hospitals, is generally utilized for specific needs or to further a company's operating process. In our case, the CHPC Endowment Fund was established in 1975 so that we can help provide funding to organizations that are proclaiming the gospel of Jesus and doing outreach in our community, across the country or around the world. The Endowment Fund is managed by an independent investment

company and is entirely separate from the budget. Since 1975, the Fund has distributed over \$850,000 to organizations that are helping to share the good news of Jesus with the world.

Our 2018 grant recipients included local ministries such as 3Cs Nursery School (funding towards a new playground), MOVE CINCY (computer equipment for their ministry with disadvantaged youth), and Young Life (scholarships towards camp). We also provided funding for groups in Turkey, Africa, Honduras and India to purchase computers, sewing machines, and renovate buildings used in ministry!

The grant cycle will begin again in October, 2019. If

you know of ministries working to spread the news of Christ and help others, encourage them to apply on our website, chpc.org/endowment-fund/. You can also donate! The Endowment Fund only gives out of the investment income of the fund. You can help ensure that the Fund remains fiscally sound for years to come by making a tax-deductible donation. The donation form is located at chpc.org/endowment-fund/ ■



2019 SWIM MINISTRY DATES

By Sharlyn Stare



SWIM LESSONS WITH AN ETERNAL DIFFERENCE

CHILDREN/YOUTH:

10am, 11am, 12pm
June 24-28; July 15-19; July 29-Aug 2
North Hills Swim Club, Daly Rd.

ADULTS: 6-7pm

July 8-12; 22-26
Twin Towers Pool, Hamilton Ave.

QUESTIONS?

Sam 513.382.5902

BROCHURES /APPLICATIONS:
APRIL 1, 2019

STAFF TRAINING: 6-9pm

Th June 6 & Fri June 7
and 9-4 Sat June 8.

LEARNING TO DANCE IN THE RAIN (PART 2)

By Marybelle Chapman

[Author's note: In the December Belltower I shared about a plaque I have that reads, "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain." I told about how difficult it's been since Chappie's death, but that I was working hard trying to learn to dance in the rain.]

During this past year I have been aware that folks from the church were praying for me and supporting me. Sometimes it seemed I could feel a peace that had to come from somewhere beyond me. Now when people ask how I'm doing, I tell them, "I'm doing better than I ever imagined." I'm convinced that it's the prayers of the saints that have lifted me up and held me fast and securely.

All my married life I've been convinced that if I were left a widow I'd just curl up and die. I often prayed, "Lord, take me first." Since the first Pancreatic Cancer diagnosis there was a knot in

my stomach that I thought would be there forever. I had crying spells many, many times a day, and I cried every night when I went to bed. Once when I was filling out a form, I had to circle S or M or W. I circled the W (widow) and cried for half an hour.

For so long, I realize now, I've been feeling guilty about being happy. Sometimes I would forget that he wasn't here as I was enjoying a conversation or a simple get-together with friends. Then I'd go off and cry feeling like I had abandoned him.

A few weeks ago I had a concrete illustration of support from my church. During the early moments of the 10 o'clock hour, a friend asked me to go over in the corner of the Fellowship Hall and wait for her for a few minutes. She came back with several men, members of the church. She had her cell phone tuned to some dance music, and one by one the men danced with me. They said things like, "You're not

dancing alone." "We are with you." and "We love you." I was overwhelmed and shed a few happy tears.

Such a perfect expression of the body of Christ! Such a wonderful example of what the church is all about . . . love, empathy, compassion, responsiveness, understanding.

As I sit here writing this, I'm absolutely soaked! I've been out in the rain, dancing, for hours. I have friends all around me and some of my children and grandchildren and great grands. I've discovered that I can enjoy them and laugh with them, even though Chappie isn't here. I still have crying spells triggered by a picture, a song, or a sympathetic word from a friend. So I still need lots of prayer. But thank you, College Hill Presbyterian Church for being the Church. This is what Jesus intended the church to be – a group of people who love and support each other and dance together in the rain. ■

LOOKING TO HELP OUT?

CHPC has some great opportunities to volunteer and we need all kinds of skill sets! Here are three to consider:

1. Church Photographers – With a new website, brochure, and social media activity, the church has great need of a library of high-quality pictures. If you own a nice camera (or can borrow one) then you can help us out! We need people who are willing to show up to church events, including Sunday worship, and take lots of pictures.

2. Printing – The church spends hours printing every week whether it is for worship bulletins, newsletters, or Gospel Project material. If you have time in the middle of the week then this could be a great way to help the church out! Printing, like most things, is better with a friend so feel free to sign-up as a group.

3. Social Media Team – Do you spend hours each week on Facebook, Instagram, Yelp or other social media

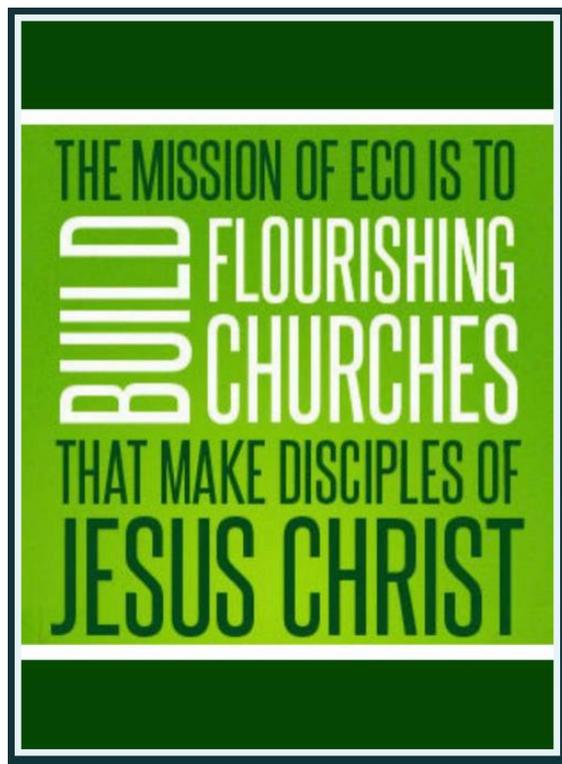
platforms? If so, then you may be able to use that time to help people find our church. We're looking for folks who can help in keeping the congregation up-to-date about what is going on as well as create content that will reach new people.

If you're interested in any of these opportunities or just want to learn more then contact Rev. Mike Jorgensen (mjorgensen@chpc.org). ■



ECO: BUILD FLOURISHING CHURCHES...

By Dana Allin, Synod Executive for ECO



REFLECTING OUR COMMUNITIES: HOW CAN WE BE BETTER?

I continue to be both inspired and overwhelmed by the challenges and opportunities that stand before our movement. There are some obvious issues that include working toward the revitalization of our churches, the ability of our churches to plant vibrant churches, and of course developing a greater quantity and quality of lay and vocational leaders who will be able to lead, plant, and revitalize these congregations. Within these broad issues are some extremely important factors that need to be present.

One of these factors is our need to better reflect the increasingly diverse

communities in which we live. We need to address the issue of diversity not only to stay relevant, but most importantly because we see throughout Scripture that the church is the place that brings ultimate unity in Christ.

The most recent demographic information suggests that by 2045 the Caucasian population in the United States will be the minority. Christian colleges and universities who have been predominantly Caucasian are feeling the challenge of the need to diversify even before the church will feel it. Many who are not able to matriculate a more diverse student population are seeing a dramatic decrease in enrollment that could cause their closing.

When ECO began, we were asked with some frequency about the diversity of our denomination. At that point, our demographics could only be based on the congregations that transferred into our denomination. Therefore we actually mirrored the demographics of our previous denomination and our population was 89% Caucasian. In the last three years we have become a little more diverse with our latest numbers indicating that we are now 85% Caucasian. While this small decrease is a step in the right direction, we certainly have a long way to go!

I have recently talked with a few church planters who are not Caucasian.

Reformed, but not Presbyterian in background, they are considering putting their plant under ECO's umbrella. This is exciting and it has caused me to inquire as to why they are considering coming to ECO. The response has been twofold. First, they love the missional and entrepreneurial ethos that we are projecting. They understand that there are still some aspirational aspects to our culture but that we are heading in the right direction. Second, they love the flexibility that ECO congregations have, especially our competency-based approach to ordaining pastors, as well as the flexibility that allows for the commission of officers to celebrate the sacraments in micro-expressions of church, or even to be commissioned to plant a church. The comment has been that ECO is set up well in our environment to have the potential for significant diversity.

As we seek to be more reflective of our local communities, we also wrestle with what part can the denomination (Synod or presbyteries) play, and what part needs to be played by the local congregation. I think there are a few things we can do denominationally. First, we can be an avenue to introduce leaders to different (yet evangelical) voices that can offer various lenses with which to look through the challenge of culture.

One voice and resource that I find very valuable is through www.arrabon.com, led by David Bailey. One of the things that I appreciate about Arrabon



is the way they are full of grace and truth. In a conversation with David, he indicated that many streams of racial reconciliation have either an angry tone so people do not want to participate, or they gloss over true challenges. However, Arrabon seeks to honor individuals for their willingness to grow, learn and connect in a way that is both honest and mutually supportive. You also may find this George Barna interview with David - <https://www.barna.com/qa-david-bailey/> for their pastor resources helpful, as I did. I hope you will check out their materials and resource offerings as we look forward to utilizing their ministry in the future.

While ECO as a denomination needs to help fuel the conversation and connect with important resources, the local church needs to see itself on the front lines of the racial reconciliation conversation. The measure of the our ethnic diversity is based upon the individual diversity of our local congregations. It is my hope that our churches would seek to do a few things. First, have honest engagement and conversation about issues of ethnic and cultural diversity. I realize how much I tend to look at culture through my own perspective and assume everyone else has that same perspective. I know this can be a very scary proposition, but Paul tells us in Ephesians that Jesus Christ that breaks down the dividing walls of hostility. Isn't the church the most logical place to have these conversations? Second, can we prayerfully consider ways to

grow in our ethnic diversity. I realize that sounds very simplistic, but given the variety of churches and regional locations in ECO, I have to make the question general. Some congregations may be called to intentionally become multi-ethnic. For others, it may be helping to start a missional community or church in the extended community. For others it may be engaging in conversations with other church or leaders in your community.

At our 2016 national gathering, Mark DeYmaz said that legitimacy of the gospel hangs in the balance of our ability to better reflect our communities. He of course was not saying that if we are not more diverse, then the gospel isn't true, but that one of the tangible expressions of the gospel is seeing God's people united in Jesus, as opposed to being divided in society. I pray and hope that we will see unification become true within ECO. ■

AUTHOR: Rev. Dr. Dana Allin heads the ECO. His passions to encourage & inspire leaders have led him to develop both the Missional Leader Training program and the Coach Certification Process. It's an exciting time in the ECO.



2019 ECO GATHERING

The ECO holds a National Gathering that brings together God's resources from within and beyond the denomination to encourage and equip church leaders. CHPC's Session has authorized a team of Elders and lay people to attend each year. The 2019 Gathering was held Jan 29-31 at First Presbyterian, Colorado Springs.

The keynote speakers were:

ALBERT TATE - founder and lead pastor of Fellowship Monrovia, a Gospel-centered, multi-ethnic and intergenerational church.



RICH STEARNS - CEO of World Vision, USA. He has logged 2 million air miles traveling to 65 countries to better understand life and justice issues faced by the world's poorest people, and to exhort world Christians to care and act.



38 workshops were offered, such as "Multi-ethnic Ministry: Leading in, Through & Beyond the Boundaries;" "Racial Reconciliation and the Local Church;" "The Permission Giving Church: Helping People see Themselves as an *Outpost* for the Gospel;" "The Joy of Worship;" and "Transformative Global Mission." I can hardly wait until next year! Info? See Drew Smith or Janet Dumford.

A TASTE OF HONEY

Rosa Brinkman

Much of the history of mankind is a history of eating and taste. Yet at the same time eating and food preparation have always been a cultural manifestation. We want you to take a closer look at the history of taste.

African American food, known as soul food, is closely related to the cuisines of both Africa and the American South. African slaves brought many of their native fruits and vegetables to the Americas, including yams, watermelon, okra, and several varieties of beans, all of which were soon adopted into

the diets of their owners. Slaves who were taken into the plantation owner's house as cooks and household servants learned to combine their own food with their masters' food. African American cuisine also grew out of the slaves' resourcefulness in using the cast-off ingredients of the master's meals. In spite of emancipation, urbanization, and migration to the cities of the North, African Americans have preserved their foods and cooking methods. In the twentieth century, African American foods have been produced for the mass market. ■



Sunday February 24, 2019

Joyful Noise Choir of College Hill Presbyterian Church Cordially invites you to come, taste the African American Experience-A Luncheon of Celebration of African American Cuisine as closure to Black History Month on Sunday February 24, 2019 starting at 12:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M. Musical Entertainment! ■

Come join us!
Our menu will consist of:



GOSPEL PROJECT TESTIMONY

By Kelly Hibbett

I only knew one person in my Gospel Project small group when we first gathered, but I soon realized that God had drawn us together. Each week, the knowledge, experiences, questions, and insights we share seem to resonate within each other and help us grow in our faith. One very clear example of God shepherding us toward each other came in the form of an answered prayer for guidance. Contrary to anything I had ever planned for my life, I had been feeling called to help folks struggling with homelessness. This past summer, the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to the unimaginable challenges confronting those who are suffering

from addiction, poverty, mental illness, and being utterly alone, without family and friends, without knowing the love of Christ. On the first day of the Gospel Project, I met Dave and Cyndy Butz and soon learned that they had received the same calling and were living it out to the fullest. They have become wonderful mentors, giving me some opportunities to help with hosting homeless families through Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) and showing me how to actually be helpful instead of floundering about trying to figure it out alone. God knew just what I needed.

The Gospel Project is also helping me understand and interact with

God's Word in a much deeper way. My knowledge of scripture is very limited, but my group shares a lifetime of studying and living the Word that helps fill the gaps. Our discussions also help bring the Word to life. I have read "Genesis" many times, but with the support of my group, I am starting to understand that it is not just history but is God at work in our lives today.

Most importantly, the Gospel Project is pulling us together as the body of Christ to love and support each other, so our relationship with God deepens and grows. I have always seen God at work in this church, and that work is transforming the lives of all of us in the Gospel Project. ■

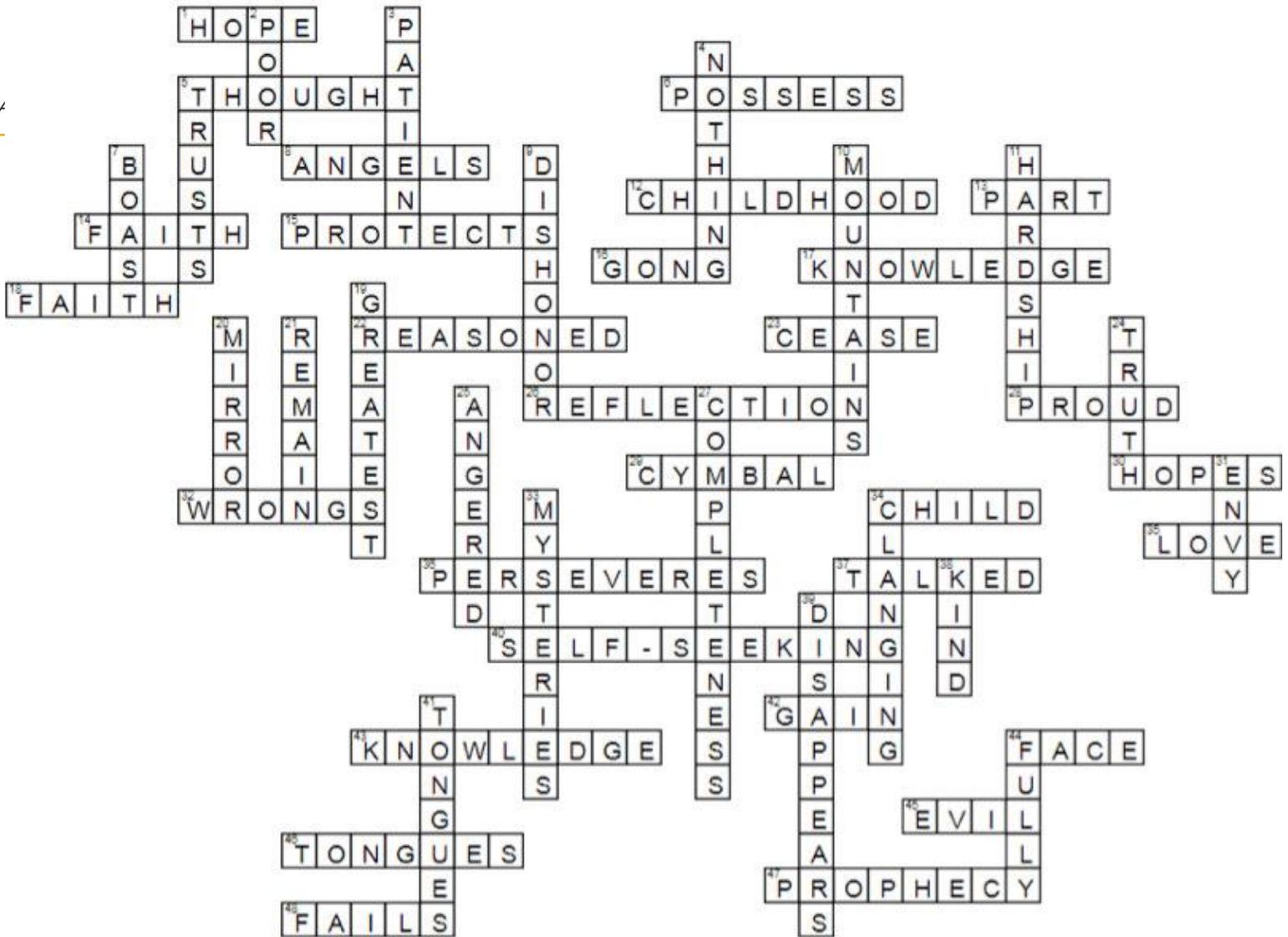
SHEILA VANDERBUR

The Care & Counseling Ministry welcomes new intern, Sheila Vanderbur. Sheila joins the team with Katie Christy, Jodi Haley and Shawn Scott who continue this semester. The ministry is blessed that former intern, Lori Berry, continues as a lay listener. The ministry welcomes new clients who are ready to take steps to address life challenges. The counseling center can be reached by calling the church at 513-541-5676, x1163. For further information contact the Care & Counseling Ministry Director, Jeanne Schneider, at jschneider@chpc.org or x1160.

Sheila Vanderbur- was born and raised in Cincinnati, OH and graduated from Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary (now Cincinnati Christian University) in 2000 with a BS in Biblical studies and a minor in Psychology. She is currently attending Liberty University and hopes to have her MA in Counseling by December 2019. She longs to walk beside those who are hurting, to empower them with the hope of the gospel and help them initiate the positive change they seek. ■



1 CORINTHIANS 13



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. Deadline for March is noon on the 23rd.