

# BELLTOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – June 2019

513.541.5676 | 5742 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45224 | [chpc.org](http://chpc.org)

## SUMMER SERMON SERIES (JUNE 9 – AUG 4)



You influence the world. Wherever you go, you make an impact. God has designed you to affect your surroundings. You may never be president or even a co-chairman of anything, but you still influence those around you. We all have influence and we want to make a positive impact. This summer we will learn from the story of David in 1 and 2 Samuel about how God prepares us and empowers us to influence our world in a way that honors God. Let's grow together as we learn God's ways of making an impact.

The series, starting June 9, will align with The Gospel Project journey through 1 & 2 Samuel, so we have ample opportunity to discuss how our lives relate to God's word during the middle hour and we have significant helps to stay current with the Scripture through out the week. If you have not yet been participating in the small group discussions or weekly helps you can start now. Just show up on Sunday morning at 10:10 in the Fellowship Hall and take a seat around a table with others.

To access the weekly helps you can pick up a hard copy at the front desk or online you can purchase an app or electronic version of the material for \$2.99. This way you stay current no matter where you are through the summer or if you miss a Sunday during the season. The material can be accessed at [chpc.org](http://chpc.org) or purchased at [lifeway.org](http://lifeway.org). To purchase it go to [lifeway.org](http://lifeway.org) and search for The Gospel Project Summer 2019 Adult Guide Volume 4.

Make this summer one of great spiritual influence in your life so that you are better prepared and equipped to influence for God's Kingdom whatever you may be doing and wherever you may be living. ■

### JUNE SERMONS:

- 6-9 **God Speaks:** *1 Samuel 1-3*
- 6-16 **God is present:** *1 Samuel 4-6*
- 6-23 **Correction:** *1 Samuel 8-15*
- 6-30 **Power:** *1 Sam 16-17*

By Kelly Hibbett

In the Book of John, Jesus tells us, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand” (10: 27-28, ESV). Usually, this particular sheep hears God’s voice through scripture, sermons, other Christians, and circumstances. However, recently, Rev. Stephen Eyre, former pastor at CHPC and current director of the Cincinnati chapter of the C.S. Lewis Institute, led a group of us in a meditation on the 23rd Psalm and called for some quiet time in which we were to just listen for God to speak to us. I must admit, I had my doubts...God had never spoken to me like this before (or perhaps I had just never listened), but I tried to keep an open mind and asked what He wanted to tell me. In a brief flash, the words, “It’s all right,” came to me, not audibly but somehow heard. At first, I thought, “Hmmm...that’s nice. God is comforting me amid my recent health concerns, giving me a sort of “There, there.” Then came the correction...very clear...and a bit more stern, leaving no room for misunderstanding: “No. It’s ALL right.” It is difficult to translate into written words, but the intent was for me to know that all was right and according to His plan.

This experience led me to wonder about the various ways in which God reveals Himself to us. We learn in Hebrews that “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but

in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” (1:1-2, ESV), who promised to be with us always (Matthew 28:20). So, the question is, how does God speak to us today?

## ELENA STOTHFANG

Elena Stothfang reports that God normally speaks to her through scripture and devotionals. For instance, in 2014, when her husband Bill was hospitalized, they were debating whether, in his already weakened state, he should undergo an exploratory procedure. Elena asked God, “Do I want knowledge and understanding of what’s causing Bill’s GI bleeding more than I want to spare him discomfort and possibly delay his progress?” She was then drawn to the following passage in Tiegreen’s Walk with God: “Trust even when you don’t understand. Understanding... has the opposite dynamic. Mine is better. Always.”

One of the most poignant times God spoke to Elena in words came during a meeting of session during which they were discussing the funding of various ministries and whether or not to build the atrium. Stephen Eyre led them in a time of silence and directed them to speak out anything God placed on their hearts. The Spirit brought to Elena a line from scripture that Jesus had spoken to Peter: “Feed my sheep” (John 21:17). This



revelation powerfully impacted those present, helping them to make the right decision.

## KATHY REDER

For Kathy Reder, God often speaks in images, especially when she is upset or in need of healing. For example, the first summer she retired from teaching, she started to feel a bit melancholy as her friends and former colleagues embarked on a new school year. Suddenly, an image popped into her head: she clinging to a piece of driftwood in the ocean as she watched her friends waving to her from a passing cruise ship. She felt a deep longing to get on that boat and join them, but then a sailboat passed by, with none other than Jesus at the tiller. She told him she wanted to get on the cruise ship, but He answered, “We’re going someplace different. I know where we’re going, and you can trust me.” She hasn’t discovered her destination yet, but she was comforted to know who was piloting the boat.

Kathy also recalls once receiving a clear message from God that came



in the form of words. At the time, she was frustrated because she felt she was unable to meet the expectations of school administrators while doing her real job, being a teacher. This was particularly disconcerting because Kathy firmly believed that the Lord had placed her in this teaching assignment and she knew He had a reason for putting her there. So, according to her usual practice, she prayed but she humbly admits that the prayer quickly devolved into a string of complaints. Then, very distinctly and right to the point, God spoke to her: "Sometimes you forget who you're working for." These words gave her the will to carry on.

### **JINDA BOWERMAN**

From the time Jinda Bowerman was in second grade, she talked to Jesus as if He were right there next to her, especially if she was afraid. He would talk back to her, but she wasn't sure if it was real or if she was just pretending. However, when she was thirteen,



she awoke from a vivid dream in the middle of the night and for the first time felt the reality of God. The dream depicted the end of the world, and with a mushroom cloud blooming in the background, she led a group of people out. Suddenly, she saw a glowing figure in the center of a clearing and she knew it was God. Amid all of the death and destruction, the pain and despair, she had one question for him: "Why?" He reached out and touched her hand, and instantly, she knew. When she awoke, she couldn't put the answer into words, but the feeling was clear: "Despite the pain and suffering, everything would be okay. The ultimate plan is amazing and good." That feeling stays with her to this day, a gift from God.

God has spoken to Jinda verbally in instances of extreme hardship and distress. She says that when she runs to him, he answers in an internal voice so loud it can be heard on top of her own internal voice.

During one deployment, her unit sustained the largest attack she had ever witnessed. A mortar hit the armory, and explosions went off like the 4th of July. In a bunker waiting for them all to blow up, Jinda asked, "God, what am I supposed to do?" She wanted to leave the bunker and help the soldiers who were unaware that it was the

armory that had been hit; she wanted to take action. It was her training as a medic; that was who she is. God, though, had another plan. It was audible: "Pray." And that's exactly what she did. Amid all of the chaos and explosions, not a single soldier died. A message He gave her at a later time, put it all in perspective for her. While she was talking to her heavenly Father through journaling, He let her know, "If you are seeking my will, you are already there."

### **BILL CUSTER**

Bill Custer has experienced God speaking to him through men with the gift of prophecy and through prayer. When he was in his early thirties, he headed a search committee to find a new pastor for the little church he had been pastoring in Chicago. They found a man whom they thought was a good replacement, but it turned out that the man did some horrible things and hurt Bill tremendously. Bill moved here and wound up at a retreat hosted by a Bible study group in Hyde Park that eventually grew into Crossroads. During the retreat, a group of folks from Vineyard came to speak, and one of them walked up to Bill to pray for him. After the prayer, the man said, "You were hurt very deeply in a church situation and God wants you to know He's happy with the way you handled it." Moments later, a man came over from the other side of the room, prayed for Bill, and relayed the same message. Because the messages were so personal to him and were

exactly what he needed to hear, Bill knew they were from God.

God has also spoken to Bill through theophostic prayer, a ministry still offered at CHPC. At that time in his life, Bill was overworked and emotionally withdrawing from his family in order to “get the job done.” He worried about how his children would know him, how he could be a caring and loving father if his work was consuming him. During a theophostic prayer session, Jan Osborn asked what God would have Bill know. Suddenly, Bill received a vision of himself standing in the middle of an open field as a grandstand full of godly women who had ministered to him throughout his life (including his childhood Sunday School teacher and his sisters) cheered for him. You see, Bill had lost his mother at the age of four and had never truly grieved the loss. God was

ministering to a deep pain that Bill didn’t even realize had been there.

### **MIKE FUNEZ**

Not to steal a television show’s thunder, but it seems God really did “friend” Mike Funez on Facebook. Mike had been separated from his family for over fifty years when he started praying about it, wondering if he would ever see them again. Soon after, a friend saw a posting on Facebook and told Mike, “I think this is your sister.” He rejected the idea at first, but then a neighbor told him the same thing. Those messages initiated a string of events that enabled Mike to reunite with his mother who had had no idea where Mike was and had always wondered what happened to him. He was also given the gift of being able to see two of his brothers, one older and one younger, before losing them both to death within three months of each

other. Mike says that “God surprises you. You just have to be open to seeing how He works in your life.”

God has made each one of us uniquely (Psalm 139), so it stands to reason that the way He communicates with each of us is also uniquely personal. He takes us as we are, knowing who we will become in Him, so he gives us what we individually need to grow in Christ’s likeness. Therefore, since we are “God’s special possession,... may [we] declare the praises of him who called [us] out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9, NIV), sharing with others how He has revealed Himself in our lives. ■

### **John 1:1 (ESV)**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

### **Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)**

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

### **Deuteronomy 32:2 (ESV)**

*May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb.*



# JESUS SAVES ... CAN YOU SAVE YOURSELF?

By Sharlyn Stare - excerpts from Swim Ministry Staff Training Manual



SWIMMING STUDENTS FROM ONE OF THE ADULT CLASSES IN 2018. INSTRUCTORS (L TO R BACK ROW) BARRY STARE, EMILY TOPP, SAM STARE, ROB BECHTEL & CHRIS WELCH.

54% of Americans can't swim well enough to save themselves much less someone else they love.

*They can't float or tread water for 1 minute; jump into deep water and come up for air; spin around in the water and find a way out; get out of the pool without a ladder; swim one pool length without stopping.*

— May. 20, 2014 Today, Health section.

*Internationally, every day, 10 people die from unintentional drowning.*

Drowning ranks 5th among the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the United States. It is the 3rd leading cause of death from unintentional injury world-wide, accounting for 7% of all injury-related deaths according to 2004 data from the World Health Organization.

*Drowning occurred most often in a bath tub for persons under 1 year of age and for adults aged 85 and over, in a swimming pool for children aged*

*1-4 years, and in natural water for persons aged 5-84 years.*

— Center for Disease Control 4/14

**“WHAT KEPT YOU FROM LEARNING TO SWIM?”** Replies from Adults published about USA Today

- Embarrassed to admit I don't know how to swim.
- Too busy.
- Can't afford swim lessons.
- No swimming lessons offered near where I live.
- Health or mobility problems.
- Scared of the water.
- No interest in learning.
- Embarrassed about how I look in a bathing suit/ swim trunks.
- Don't enjoy the water.
- Don't have access to a pool or place to learn to swim.

The #1 reply was (f). The Bible declares Perfect love casts out fear. — Luke 4:18  
Come join the Swim Ministry adult lessons at the warm Twin Towers pool. Let Jesus save... ■



## information for 2019

*Swim Lessons with an Eternal Difference*

*Children/Youths: 10am, 11am, 12pm  
June 24-28; July 15-19; and July 29-Aug 2  
at North Hills Swim Club, Daly Rd.*

**Adults: 6-7pm July 8-12; 22-26  
at Twin Towers Pool, Hamilton Ave.**

ONLINE BROCHURES /APPLICATIONS AT  
[CHPC.ORG/MINISTRIES/SWIM-MINISTRY](http://CHPC.ORG/MINISTRIES/SWIM-MINISTRY)

Questions? Sam Stare 513-542-2442  
[starecvg@aol.com](mailto:starecvg@aol.com)

### **WANTED: SWIM MINISTRY STAFF**

Share your talent with others.

Expect to be part of a miracle! Youth (at least 11 yrs old) and Adults. All must (1) be growing as a Christian, (2) love children, (3) have a sense of humor, (4) enjoy the water, (5) be teachable. Youth, swim skills at American Red Cross Level 4 or above. Adults, a willingness to mentor teens is key; experience as a Life Guard/ Water Safety Instructor is helpful but not required.

Most staff work from 9:30AM to 1:30pm for at least two of the 3 weeks of lessons.

Nominal Pay and Child care benefits.

Staff Training: 6-9PM Thurs June 6 & Fri June 7, and 9-4 Sat June 8.

INVITATION /APPLICATIONS ONLINE AT  
[CHPC.ORG/MINISTRIES/SWIM-MINISTRY](http://CHPC.ORG/MINISTRIES/SWIM-MINISTRY)

# WELCOME HOME CHPC - JUNE 22

By Sharlyn Stare



## HOME

a place of safety  
an emotional haven  
where the Family gathers...  
where Jesus dwells.

## WHY

The occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Barry & Sharlyn Stare vowing to follow Jesus Christ and to marry one another. . . and in thanks to CHPC and to those whom God used to form and transform them individually and as a couple. No church funds are used to pay for this event.

## WHEN & WHAT

Saturday, June 22nd, 2019

## WORSHIP/ FAMILY REUNION/ PARTY

"A homecoming opportunity to express gratitude to God for HIS blessings through College Hill Presbyterian Church since our wedding in 1969." An occasion for our pastoral leaders and extended Christian family from near and far to gather and reconnect with one another.

- 3:20 to 4:00PM in the Sanctuary, enjoy a talented duo playing a combination of sacred and secular music in a jazz style.
- 4PM to 5:15PM in the Sanctuary, a unique worship event led by current and past staff. Open to all.
- 5:15PM Following the service, a private party will be held for those who have come for the reunion and made advanced reservations. Seating is limited by Fire Code and the event budget. No program is planned. It is an unstructured time celebrating with the extended CHPC Family. ■

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

### Want to help others find the church?

Be sure to like, follow, check-in, tag, and review us on social media and use **#CollegeHillPres** when talking about the church!



College Hill Presbyterian Church

@CollegeHillPC

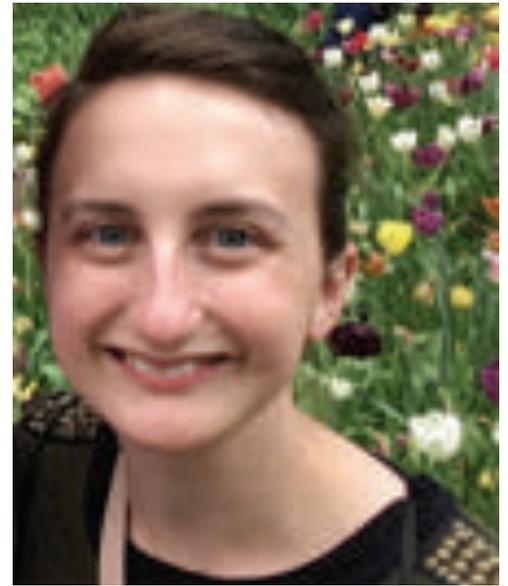
# CARE & COUNSELING

By Jeanne Schneider

The Care & Counseling Ministry welcomes Meredith Hollingsworth to the counseling intern team comprised of Shawn Scott and Sheila Vanderbur this summer. Many lives are being transformed as people seek to have healing from the wounds and brokenness of this world.

Meredith Hollingsworth understands that life's journey is always evolving and often unpredictable. Before becoming a counselor trainee, she facilitated employee development programs and strategic planning sessions for

businesses, local government, and non-profits. She has also worked for interfaith and community non-profits in administrative positions. Meredith received her bachelor's degree from American University in DC and is currently finishing her Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Xavier University. She is also working toward becoming a Certified Career Counselor. She looks forward to discovering client's strengths and helping individuals find their own path. ■



## CREATING CONNECTION WITH OUR KIDS

Parents and caregivers will gain new insight and skills into the relationship between parent and child.

Join Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, Patricia Kuykendoll, for this faith-based workshop focusing on parenting from a position of emotional safety and presence.

Learn through this creative workshop

- Principles of emotional coaching
- Practical ways/activities to emotionally connect
- Ways to address discipline

**Sunday, June 30**

12:30-2 PM

(arrive by 12:15 for lunch)

**Cost:** \$15/person or \$20/couple (partial scholarships available)  
Lunch & Materials Provided  
Child care available

**Register:** [chpc.org/events](http://chpc.org/events)

**More Info:** Jeanne  
[jschneider@chpc.org](mailto:jschneider@chpc.org) 541-5676 x1160 ■

Did you know you can find registration forms, listen to sermons, and pay your tithe online?

**It's easy! Visit [chpc.org](http://chpc.org)**

Now you can also text **(513)854-1604** to give!!  
Simply type in the dollar amount you wish to give (i.e. \$5). Try it!

# SUMMER CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATES

By Jennifer Cronk, Director of Children & Families

- Remember there will be no Nursery or Children & Worship classes at the 9:00 hour, beginning June 9th. Nursery will be available both at the 10:00 and 11:00 hours. Children & Worship will be available at the 11:00 hour.
- There will be no high school Sunday school class during the 10:00 hour (high school kids are welcome to help in the kids' Sunday school class, or go to the adult Gospel Project class). Please have your teen talk with Robyn or Jennifer about what they'd like to do during the 10:00 hour.
- All children age Kindergarten through 6th grade will be in a combined class at the 10:00 hour, beginning June 9th. This class will meet in the basement of the Ministry Center, in the Clubroom.
- The check-in desk will be moving to the Atrium beginning June 9th. All kids in Nursery through high school will check in and get printed nametags there.
- There is no VBS this summer, but kids are encouraged to participate in Swim Ministry ([chpc.org/ministries/swim-ministry/](http://chpc.org/ministries/swim-ministry/)), as well as 3C's Summer Day Camp ([3cnurseryschool.com/summer-camp.html](http://3cnurseryschool.com/summer-camp.html)).
- Parents, please consider attending the Care & Counseling Center's event on June 30th, Creating Connection with Our Kids. Info and registration can be found at: [chpc.org/events/](http://chpc.org/events/).
- Have questions or want to get involved? We'd love that! Please contact Jennifer at: [jcronk@chpc.org](mailto:jcronk@chpc.org). ■

## CHPC PRINCESSES BALLET DANCE CLINIC

Are you interested in joining the College Hill Presbyterian Princesses Ballet team? Register now for a FREE Summer Dance Clinic focusing on ballet technique and learn more about the on-going program at College Hill Presbyterian!

**Monday - Friday July 22-26**

**6:30pm - 9pm**

(Wed. clinic will run from 5pm-9pm)

### College Hill Presbyterian Church

5742 Hamilton Ave  
Cincinnati, OH 45224

All current and prospective female dance students, ages 5 +, are welcome!

**What to Wear:** leotard, tights and dance shoes

**What to Bring:** bag lunch and drink



**Register at:**

[collegehillpbsummerdanceclinic.eventbrite.com](http://collegehillpbsummerdanceclinic.eventbrite.com) ■

### Have an idea for Belltower News?

Belltower News has a writing team that meets 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). Deadline for July is noon on June 25th.