

SANCTUARY IN THE CITY

An Open and Affirming Ministry
A Global Mission Congregation

COMPTON HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



December 2013

Volume 61, Number 10

www.comptonheights.com

The Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn L. Foster, Pastor

Mr. Josh Privitt, Student Assoc. Pastor



May the Quiet of a Holy Night Change Your Life Inside

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Advent Credo

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young shall see visions and your old shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

From *Testimony: The Word Made Flesh*, by Daniel Berrigan, S.J. Orbis Books, 2004.

CROSSPATHS



*Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed,
The world is sleeping,
Holy star, its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes,
Let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.*

Author unknown, "Still, Still, Still" is based on an Austrian carol. It is one of those that touches my heart and transports me to a place of quiet rest. Yet I have often wondered at our representations of the Christmas event as a peaceful; a 'silent night.' Is it only our romanticizing of an event far less simple and assuring? Surely there would have been no shortage of anxiety, pain, and concern. There *is*, after all, the circumstance of the birth; the questions on the lips of those around the 'blessed event.' The unknown future.

Perhaps the anxiety is the very reason our hearts are quieted and we hold dearly to the images of a still, still, still, silent night in this little town of Bethlehem. We, who live with the anxieties and fears of the world, know the need of a young, poor mother to lose herself in the soft skin, the needful suckling, the newly seeing eyes of her infant. We know that when she held her precious child, everything else faded away. Here was Hope. Here was Peace. Here was Joy. Here was Love.

We *need* to sink our hearts into gentleness and quiet, allowing everything else to fade away, if only for a little while. We need to allow the time and heart-space to receive the gift of the birth of God's Peace, God's Hope in our lives. We need to touch life and experience awe. We need to pause to look into the eyes of Love. We need to be aware of the Joy given to us.

This Advent, we are creating times for quiet. On Tuesdays, Dec 10th and 17th our sanctuary will be open from 6 – 8 pm with quiet music and candlelight for anyone to drop in for a time of contemplation or simply to relax – a respite from the busy-ness. On Wednesday, Dec. 18, we will offer Advent Prayer and Vespers from 7-8 pm. Let the Holy fill your heart.

Listen to the falling snow. The night is peaceful all around you. Blessings, Jacque

Advent Devotions written by our Church Family

This is the 6th year of our Advent Devotion Writing. We began in 2008 writing a devotional with Affton Christian Church. Then Crossroads Christian (just across the river in Caseyville, Illinois) joined in. This year First Christian Church in Kennett, MO has joined in! This year Doug Cripe who is now pastor at Kennett edited the devotional. We sent it out electronically and many of you have picked up paper copies of the Devotional Booklet at the church. This year Doug is adding a new component: the Devotional in blog form with the opportunity for comments and engagement! Each day, the devotion for the day is posted. You may find the blog at:

www.kennettchristianchurch.org/advent.html.

Compton Heights' devotion writers this year are: Larry Kreuger, Charlsi Lee, Judi Linville, Marsha McGuire, Nancy Obermiller, and Jacque Foster. Each and every writer from our four congregations has brought a gift of faith and love to this project.

Advent and Christmas at Compton Heights CC

THE TREE OF WARMTH

The “Tree of Warmth” stands in the hallway outside the sanctuary, and as we write it looks a bit cold. But soon it will look warm as we cover it with the gifts of warm hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks. These gifts of warmth will be given to those in need of them through our Isaiah 58 Ministries!

ACT (Advent Contemplation Time) Tuesdays, Dec 10 & 17 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Advent Contemplation Time (also known as ACT, and no there will not be any tests) is coming to Compton Heights for the remaining Tuesdays in the Advent season. From 6 – 8 pm Dec. 10th and 17th the sanctuary will be open with some quiet music, dim lighting, and a warm spirit for reflection, meditation, contemplation, or simply relaxation. ACT will simply be a space for any and all to prepare for Christmas and what that might mean this year. Come and experience ACT in the midst of what can often be a busy time of year.

REINDEER GAMES!! Sat., December 14 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

It may be that the other reindeer wouldn't let Rudolph join in any reindeer games, but OUR REINDEER GAMES ARE FOR EVERYBODY! Don't let this season pass without joining in *these* Reindeer Games! Come share snack, and fun, and laughter in the spirit of Christmas.

ADVENT PRAYERS and VESPERS - Wednesday, Dec. 18 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Advent is a season in which we prepare our hearts for Christ to dwell within us. On this this quiet evening, we will spend time in meditation and prayer, creating sacred space for each other and for all God's people. We intend this to be a time for us to open our hearts to the longings in our world, and to presence of God. Please join us in the sanctuary for this time of prayer and reflection. *(Please let Jacque know by Sunday the 15th if you need childcare.)*

Pastor's Christmas Open House – Saturday, Dec. 21 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Please join us for a relaxing evening of Christmas goodies and the company of friends!
At the home of Jacque and Dave, 3669 Russell Blvd.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship and Caroling in the Neighborhood

Worship 6:00 pm Caroling following worship

Doughnuts, Hot Chocolate, and Cider at the church following caroling!

For over 60 years this congregation has been caroling in the neighborhood following worship on Christmas Eve! Even extended families plan their Christmas Eve around this experience of sacred worship and sharing the joy of Christ's birth in the community. We hope you will join us, making this a Christmas tradition for you and yours!

Celebrations and Concerns

In Our Prayers

Jim and Sharon Clayton are at the home of their son John as they continue their rehabilitation and make plans to move to address below.

Betty and Red Graham have moved to Ozark, MO to a retirement Facility where Red can continue nursing and hospice care and Betty is in an apartment near him.

Royce Sykes as he searches for a new place to live! It was great to have Royce in worship on Thanksgiving Sunday!

New Addresses:

Janice Tayoan

Delmar Gardens on the Green
15197 Clayton Rd.
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Betty and Red Graham

Ozark Riverview Residential Place
1200 W. Hall Street
Ozark, MO 65721

Jim and Sharon Clayton (*have not yet moved in – we will let you know!*)

Hidden Lake Senior Living Community
11728 Hidden Lake Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63138

Thank you to:

- all those who worked so hard on the Nov. workday to clean out and create spaces under the narthex. It is amazing!
- those who planned, set up for and participated to make the Bonfire and singing on Nov. 15th a wonderful event!
- those who helped to create the lovely reception for John and Karen Pitt's Renewal of Marriage Vows Nov. 16
- everyone helped to create the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 24th
- Madeline Haraway for meeting, greeting, and helping us provide a place for the Nepalese congregation and Pastor Gabriel to perform baptisms in our baptistry on Nov. 30.
- Marty and Darrell Hughes for the beautiful new large wreath at back of sanctuary.
- all those who set up on Saturday, Nov.30 for the Hanging of the Greens the next day.

Happy Birthday



DECEMBER

- 3rd Jordan Walton
- 4th Brenda Booth
- 6th Janice Tayoan
- 10th Dave Boger
- 12th Ty Woodard and Jacob Woodard
- 22nd Devin Bramblett
- 29th Jim Clayton
- 31st Kathy Mead

JANUARY

- 1st Kim Litton
- 4th Sharon Clayton
- 9th Susan Petri
- 19th Jan Kreuger
- 21st Judi Linville
- 23rd Raymond Sutton
- 28th Shannon Walton

CHCC Bazaar Tables at the Parents As Teachers Holiday Bazaar!

Friday, December 6, 11 am – 2 pm

Parents as Teacher National Center , 2228 Ball Dr., St. Louis, MO

This year we will have two tables and will sell both Craft/Bazaar Items and Baked Goods.

JOSH TO KENYA - My Upcoming Trip

This upcoming January I will be traveling to Kenya as part of a Travel Study Seminar with Eden Theological Seminary. Unlike other trips often associated with churches or church bodies, this will not be a "mission trip". This trip is intentionally focused on learning alongside and learning from those in Kenya. It will involve worshiping with churches within the Reformed Church of East Africa (RCEA), seeing the various ministries that the RCEA has going on, participating in various activities with the Reformed Institute of Theological Training (RITT), and many other experiences in Nairobi, Eldoret, and Turkana (all cities or towns in Kenya). It will be an exciting trip not only because of the opportunity to learn what theology looks like, sounds like, feels like, and is in another country, but exciting because I will get to reunite with old friends, meet the families of friends, and develop new friendships. I hope you all will keep me, my colleagues, and those in Kenya in prayer January 12-28 as we seek to learn from each other.

Josh Privitt

We are delighted that Josh is able to make this trip and will come back with much to share! In worship on Sunday, January 5 we will bless him on his way to Kenya!

Scripture Readings for the Sundays after Pentecost

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2013

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19
Matthew 3:1-12

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2013

Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10

Psalms 146:4-9
Matthew 11:2-11

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2013

Isaiah 7:10-16
Romans 1:1-7

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18
Matthew 1:18-25

First Sunday of Christmastide

December 29, 2013

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Psalms 147:13-21
John 1:1-18

Second Sunday of Christmastide

January 5, 2013

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Psalms 84:1-8
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 or 2:1-12

W.O.W. Worship on Wednesday

Beginning January 8, 2014, CHCC will join with Isaiah 58 Ministries in providing a service of worship every Wednesday for individuals in our community. As we seek to provide holistic care for those who come to Isaiah 58 Ministries and everyone who would like to join in worship on a weekday, we look forward to this special time together. Please join us and/or hold this new worshipping community in prayer.

Time to be announced!

found faithful: in little with much with all

One of the blessings of belonging to the Compton Heights Christian Church family is the Spirit that fills us with joy as we participate in our various ministries that extend the unconditional love and saving grace of Jesus Christ to our community and the entire world. In the season of Advent, that Spirit is just overflowing!

Over the past several months, we have had various conversations, in groups small and large, about how this ministry has moved us individually to a deeper faith in God and commitment to service. We have considered what God is calling us to become and what gifts we have--individually and collectively--to offer.

As a result, the Stewardship and Outreach Ministry has selected as the theme for our 2014 Commitment Sunday: **“Found faithful: in little, with much, with all.”** We feel that this phrase describes Compton Heights in the past and present, and points us toward our future.

As you prayerfully consider your plans for financial support of Compton Heights CC in 2014, we invite you to reflect on the following questions:

- How is God calling me to become a more faithful and generous disciple?
- Is my generous giving and faithful stewardship a visible and vibrant part of my Christian witness?
- Am I sharing unselfishly from the abundance God has given me?
- How can I improve my giving, loving and serving to be faithful with all and in all?

We will highlight our commitment to Faithful Giving during worship on Sunday, December 15. You are invited to bring your commitment card to the offering on that day, or any other Sunday in December. You also can mail your response to the church office to the attention of the Financial Secretary.

One article about giving that one of us recently read noted that “if it is to be, it is up to us.” **It** refers to our continued ministry at Compton Heights Christian Church. However, we would add God to that equation. ***If it is to be, with God’s help, it is up to us.***

The Stewardship and Outreach Ministry Group, Marsha, Norm, Steve, and Judi

May God bless you during this season of Advent and always.

With a grateful heart for God’s boundless generosity and as an expression of my Christian stewardship, I make this commitment to Christ’s church and the ministry of this congregation.

My/our commitment is: \$ _____ per week, or
 \$ _____ per month, or
 \$ _____ per year

I understand that I may adjust this estimate of giving at any time by contacting the finance secretary.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Please contact me/us regarding how to include this congregation in my/our will or estate planning.



1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Listening with Our Hearts / Compassionate Listening for Reconciliation

Skills for Reconciling Individuals and Communities in Pain and Conflict

One of the priorities we identified this fall is to work more effectively to be a healing community in the midst of racism in our neighborhood and community. One of the ways we do this is by continuing to build honest, rich, real inter-racial relationships within the congregation, working on our own racism and awareness of what it means to build and sustain relationship. As we deepen our sense of community, we are able to be a witness and healing presence for others in our wider community and world.

An essential skill that a few of us have begun to work on is *Compassionate Listening*. As we commit to become Compassionate Listeners, we learn to listen and speak from the heart. We learn to pay attention to the things that ‘trigger’ and upset us, and to bring ourselves back to our heart when we might react in destructive ways or run away from the situation. We learn to step outside the destructive triangle of Victim-Persecutor-Rescuer. We learn to ‘sit in the fire’ with each other and with those as yet unknown to us who long to be heard. It is a lifelong journey; a challenge of faith and a deepening of our intention to live as a community of healing.

A Compassionate Listening Practice Group, rooted in the The Compassionate Listening Project, will begin again in January. The Compassionate Listening Project trains people in many areas of the world to bring healing to their communities and reconciliation across wide chasms by learning to truly listen to one another’s stories. This process is used in Israel/Palestine, in Germany, in Guatemala. It has been used in Harlan County, Kentucky in a conflict over toxic waste, in Louisiana in a community that had voted for a Nazi and a Klansman, and in North Carolina to facilitate dialogue on religious intolerance towards gay and lesbian people. It has been used in Georgia to help African-American organizers reduce racial conflict and citizen apathy that was hurting campaigns for clean water, literacy, and health services. A parallel program is used in facilitating healing relationship in the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Compassionate Listening is about transforming ourselves and therefore changing our world.

We hope you will want to become a Compassionate Listener in your own life and in the wider community.

Our January meeting will be Thursday, January 16, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Will you make a once a month commitment to become a part of a CL community? Come with an open heart!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(All events at Compton Heights CC unless otherwise noted)

Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday of Advent – Hope Sunday – The Hanging of the Greens

Wednesday, December 4 – Ministry Groups – 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 5 – Prayer Shawl Ministry – 7:00 pm at Obermillers

Friday, December 6 – Happy Friday Outreach– 7:00-8:00 am

CHCC Bazaar Tables at P.A.T. Bazaar 11 am - 2 pm (see page 4)

Sunday, December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent – Peace Sunday

Choir Preparation – 9:00 am Christian Education — 10:05 -10:50 a.m.

Worship—11:00 am Coffee and refreshments – 12:00 pm

Choir Practice – 12:30 – 1:30

Tuesday, December 10 – ACT (Advent Contemplation Time) 6 – 8 pm (see page 3)

Wednesday, December 11 – Elders' Circle – 7:00 pm

Friday, December 13 – Happy Friday Outreach – 7:00 – 8:00 am

Saturday, December 14 – Reindeer Games – 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent – Joy Sunday

Choir Preparation – 9:00 am Christian Education — 10:05 -10:50 a.m.

Worship—11:00 am Coffee and refreshments – 12:00 pm

Choir Practice – 12:30 – 1:30

Tuesday, December 17 – ACT (Advent Contemplation Time) 6-8 pm

Wednesday, December 18 – Advent Prayers and Vespers – 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Friday, December 20—Happy Friday Outreach—7:00-8:00 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 21 Pastor's Christmas Open House – 5:30 – 8:30 pm at Jacque and Dave's home

Sunday, December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Sunday – Love

Choir Preparation – 9:00 am Christian Education 10:05 -10:50 am

Worship—11:00 am Coffee and refreshments – 12:00 pm

Choir Practice – 12:30 – 1:30

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship – 6:00 pm

Christmas Caroling in the Neighborhood – following worship

Wednesday, December 25 – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Friday, December 27 - Happy Friday Outreach—7:00 -8:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 29 – First Sunday of Christmastide

Choir Preparation – 9:00 am Christian Education — 10:05 -10:50 a.m.

Worship—11:00 am Coffee and refreshments – 12:00 pm

Choir Practice – 12:30 – 1:30

Wednesday, January 1 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thursday, January 2 – Prayer Shawl Group – 7:00 pm

Friday, January 3 – Happy Friday Outreach – 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Serving Schedule – DECEMBER 2013

Please get a substitute if you are unable to serve on your designated date, and inform Jacque Foster for the bulletin early in the week before. Thank you!

	Liturgist	Communion Elders	Stewardship Elders
Dec 8	Leslie Latham	Charlsi Lee	Kathy Mead
Dec 15	Charlsi Lee	Bob Lewis	Madeline Haraway
Dec 22	Dave Boger	Dennis Landon	Lisa Bast
Dec 29	Dennis James	Sarah Richardson	Charlsi Lee
Jan 5	Tina Owens	Marsha McGuire	Bob Lewis
Jan 12	Kim Litton	DebE Martin	Dennis Landon

Deacons (All will serve; the first two will prepare/clean up unless they ask others.)

Dec 8	Larry Kreuger	Darrell Hughes	Stanley Williams	Thelonius Lee
Dec 15	Darrell Hughes	Arlene Arbogast	David Martin	Larry Kreuger
Dec 22	Jan Kreuger	Darrell Hughes	Bud Obermiller	Nancy Obermiller
Dec 29	Stanley Williams	Thelonius Lee	David Martin	Larry Kreuger
Jan 5	Larry Kreuger	Arlene Arbogast	Marty Hughes	Kim Litton
Jan 12	Nancy Obermiller	Arlene Arbogast	Jan Kreuger	Darrell Hughes

Providing Communion Bread: December Arlene Arbogast **January** Thelonius Lee
In-Home Communion December - Elder: (A) Bob Lewis (B) Charlsi Lewis
January - Elder: (A) DebE Martin (B) Norm Linville

Greeter December: Jan Kreuger **January:** Larry Kreuger

Nursery Care

Dec 8	Ty Woodard
Dec 15	Brenda Booth
Dec 22	Madeline H.
Dec 29	Marsha McG.
Jan 5	Dave Boger
Jan 12	Marty Hughes

Coffee Hosts

Dec 8	Charlsi and Thelonius Lee
Dec 15	Tarde / Petri
Dec 22	Madeline Haraway
Dec 29	Bud and Nancy Obermiller
Jan 5	Norm and Judi Linville
Jan 12	Bryan and Sarah Richardson

CW&W Story / Greeter

Dec 8	Susan Petri
Dec 15	Dave Boger
Jan 5	
Jan 12	Susan Petri

Complete Children Worship & Wonder Schedule on door of Children's Worship Center

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income for December through December 1: \$3,460.58

YTD income through December 1: \$161,272.07

YTD income includes the following:

Pledges, loose and Sunday School offering, unrestricted gifts:	\$107,624.35
Outreach (Thanksgiving offering was \$442.00)	4,534.85
Tuition for Girisha and Dhanush in India:	542.00
Equal Exchange purchases:	449.50
Rent and payments of misc. expenses:	22,801.37
Interest on CCF investments received in 2013:	1,430.27
Withdrawal from CCF investment funds:	20,000.00
Transfer from Steeple Repair Gift Account:	4,000.00

Ministry Leaders

Pastor: Jacquelyn L. Foster
Moderator: Leslie Latham
Vice Moderator: Marsha McGuire
Secretary: Audrey Tarde
Treasurer: Jan Kreuger
Financial Secretary: Judi Linville
Co-Chairs of Elders: Kathy Mead
 Madeline Haraway
Chair of Deacons: Bud Obermiller

Ministry Groups:

Communications Ministry
Community Life
Faith Sharing and Teaching Ministry
Stewardship and Outreach Ministry

VISIT US ON-LINE:

www.comptonheights.com

www.i58ministries.org

Email Church: comptonheightscc@gmail.com Pastor: jleigh55@att.net

Deacons, Elders, and Trustees – 2012-2013

Diaconate: Thelonius Lee, Marty Hughes,
 Darrell Hughes, Kim Miner, Larry Kreuger
 Arlene Arbogast, Jan Kreuger, Bud Obermiller,
 Nancy Obermiller, Liz Vollmar, Dave Martin,
 Stanley Williams

Elders: Lisa Bast, Bob Lewis, DebE Martin, Sarah
 Richardson, Marsha McGuire, Madeline Haraway,
 Leslie Latham, Kathy Mead, Royce Sykes

Ordained Elders: Rev. Brenda Booth, Rev. Katherine
 Kinnamon, Rev. Dennis Landon,
 Rev. Charlsi Lewis Lee, Rev. Norm Linville,
 Rev. Karen Pitt, Rev. Millie Slack

Trustees: Liz Vollmar, Madeline Haraway, Susan Petri

Compton Heights Christian Church
 2149 S. Grand Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63104