



COMPTON HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Open and Affirming & Global Mission

Rev Dr. Jacquelyn Foster, Pastor

Ms. Vanessa Myers-Dudley

Pastoral Intern



This Month:

- One** Winter Reflections
- Two** Prayer Concerns
Happy Birthday
Winter Outreach
Winter Well-being
Neighborhood
Book Discussion
- Three** New Deacons, Elders,
and Church Officers
“Wspr” – (Weds.
Share and Prayer)
- Four** “Fearless ...
Stewardship 2015
Reading: “The New
Jim Crow”
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Winter Reflections

Winter presents me with a paradox – startling beauty and discomfort. There is much that I love about winter. Driving along I-270 coming back from BJC-West this morning were breathtaking ice formations –frozen water that had been flowing down the rock through which the road was cut. I could hardly keep my eyes on the road, they were so amazing. I was reminded of walking out on the ice formations on Lake Michigan when I was serving the church in South Bend. And that took my mind to cross country skiing through the woods and even just through Tower Grove Park on a beautiful winters day. And then, of course, there are the eagles off the river bluffs in the coldest of January as you drive down the Great River Road on the Illinois side. And everywhere we look the twisting and sweeping forms of bare deciduous trees against the winter sky. There is truly nothing like winter for stark, breathtaking beauty.

And yet ... I don't like being cold, and some days I just cannot get warm. Like many, I get that chilled to the bone feeling and just want to bundle up, nestle in and stay there. I am always concerned for those who do not have places that are warm enough, and those who are ill and don't do well in the cold. Many of our seniors are endangered in the brutal cold. Accidents on ice take lives.

So what of this paradox? Some move to warmer climes. Some stay and hibernate for the winter. I hope to continue to push the edges – to live as fully as possible in every climate. If in a blizzard, I want to touch the beauty, feel the snow on my tongue and at least at moments experience the breath-taking cold. If in a warm climate I want to wade in the water – as we did in the Bay of Bengal three November's ago in India. All to say – that I want to feel and experience what God provides. I want to be alive and filled with the awareness of the moment given to me. May we as the Church in every climate, be aware of what it means for us to be alive and attentive to God in the world! We are not to wait for another season in order to be the Church. THIS is the season, the time and the place, now and always, for us to fully embody God's love! Come on – let's teach somebody how to build a snowperson! It'll be fun! - Jacque



Celebrations and Concerns – In our Prayer

Winster Olter Royce Sykes Jim and Sharon Clayton
 Joan James and Audrey Tarde - continue healing sprains
 Kristie and Brent Welder
 Norm and Judi Linville

Happy Birthday in January /February

1/1 Kim Litton	2/18 Lynda Gamlin
1/4 Sharon Clayton	2/20 Hugh Richardson
1/7 Tina Owens	2/21 Annabelle Martin
1/9 Susan Petri	2/25 Westley Ziesemann
1/19 Jan Kreuger	2/28 Nancy Obermiller
1/21 Judi Linville	
1/23 Raymond Sutton, Sr.	



Winter Outreach – Blankets Needed

Tree of Warmth for Winter Cold

WINTER OUTREACH

We can hardly function when the temperature drops into the single digits. Those of us with heated homes, cars, warm clothes and beds with blankets find ourselves chilled and avoid going out. We take extra care – as well we should! So what must it be like on the streets when it is below 20 degrees?

“Winter Outreach” is an organization of people whose goal is very simply to keep people from dying in the cold. When the temperature drops below 20 degrees, volunteers go out to find those who are on the streets. Transportation is offered to take those who will go to a shelter for the night. For those who will not go, warm blankets, extra socks, and simple food are provided. The goal is very simply to keep each one from freezing to death overnight. Still we know that people die in the extreme cold.

If you have a warm blanket to give, you are invited to bring it to the church. (Mokabe’s Coffee House is the collection center near us. We will take them there, or you may take them yourself if you choose. The brutal cold has already hit and Winter Outreach is in full swing. If you would like to volunteer with Winter Outreach, we can connect you.

TREE OF WARMTH (above)

Jennifer and Brenda (thru Isaiah 58 Ministries) will distribute items from our Tree of Warmth for those who need them in these cold days. Thank you for all the warm items you placed on the tree this Christmas! It was covered with warm items for both adults and children. Your gifts will make a difference.

WINTER WELL-BEING CHECKS

Those who live on the streets are not the only ones in need of extra care in the winter. As temperatures dive, many in their own homes may not have enough heat. Some may be okay at home, but getting out in the cold can be dangerous to our health. Some may have treacherous steps and ice is danger. Someone who is “in for the winter” may become ill and need help but feel hesitant to let anyone know. Exertion in the severe cold to shovel or sweep can be dangerous. Please make the winter a time to reconnect and remain connected to neighbors, friends, and acquaintances! Relationship is a life-giving and life-saving gift of winter!

Community Book and Article Discussion Group – Out of recent conversations among neighborhood folks, a discussion group is arising to meet monthly to discuss racial and other issues of diversity in our neighborhood through books and articles shared. A wonderful young woman, Brittanie, is initiating this and Pastor Jacque has offered to help. If you would like to participate, watch for further information as we get started!! Will keep you posted!



Nominating Committee Slate Approved! Welcome New Elders, Deacons, and Congregational Officers

On Sunday January 4 the congregation approved the Nominating Committee's slate for 2015. **Names in bold print are those elected this year (even if doing a new term in the same role).**

BOARD OFFICERS – 2015

Moderator: **Leslie Latham**

Vice Moderator: **Kristie Welder**

Treasurer: **Tom Litton, Darrell Hughes, Kathy Mead**

Financial Secretary: **Judi Linville**

Clerk: **Marsha McGuire**

Terms Expiring December 31, 2015

Elders: **DeBE Martin, Jan Kreuger, Larry Kreuger**
Bob Lewis, Sarah Richardson

Deacons: **Bryan Richardson, Arlene Arbogast**,
Marty Renner Hughes, Darrell Hughes, Talya Perry

Trustee: Susan Petri

Terms Expiring December 31, 2016

Elders: Nancy Obermiller, Steve Randolph, Judi & Norm Linville

Deacons: Dennis James, Joan James, Carolyn Harry, Reed
Glasener, Susan Petri, Tom Litton, Kim Litton

Trustee: Larry Kreuger

Terms Expiring December 31, 2017

Elders: **Thelonius Lee, Marsha McGuire, Madeline Haraway**

Deacons: **Kathy Bradley, David Nielsen, Tina Owens**,
Jennifer Phoenix, Julie Phoenix, Stanley Williams,
Valerie Wright

Trustee: **Millie Slack**

Ordained Elders: (Ordained Ministers in the congregation are Elders by virtue of their ordination. They are either retired or actively serving in ministries beyond the congregation. Each year they each decide if they wish to serve in the regular Elder's serving schedule (indicated by * in the list below). They all graciously serve as needed and as they are available. They often share with us by preaching and caring when our pastor is away. They are:

- Rev. Brenda Booth – Exec. Director of Isaiah 58 Ministries
- Rev. Katherine Kinnamon – Serving Interim Pastorate in Troy, MO
- * Rev. Charlsi Lewis Lee – Addictions Counselor at Valley Hope
- * Rev. Norm Linville – Retired Congregational Pastor & Editor
- Rev. Bob Miner – Serving Interim Pastorate in Illinois
- Rev. Karen Pitt – Chaplain at St. Louis Psychiatric Rehabilitation Institute
- Rev. Millie Slack – Retired, Former Exec. Dir. of Isaiah 58 Min.

Wednesday Share & Prayer “Wspr”

About mid-week, many of us need to hear the *whisper* of God's presence and the *whispers* of assurance in a community of faith! So **beginning Wednesday, January 21st** we will have an every Wednesday evening gathering at 6:00 pm. We are calling it "Wednesday Share and Prayer." or its nickname – “**Wspr**” (pronounced: whisper!)

Wspr will take different forms, but will always have the two elements of Faith Sharing and Prayer. Sometimes we will discuss a topic. on Jan. 21 we will talk about the movie “SELMA” and what it raises for us!) Sometimes there will be a Vespers service (evening worship and prayer – on Jan. 28!) Others will be a Bible Study and Prayer. Sometimes a book discussion. *Always a time of connection with each other and with God; a time to renew our spirits and connect with our community mid-week!*

Wednesday Evenings are for all ages. For young children there will be Storytelling, Craft, Songs, and Play. (We need help - perhaps people willing to rotate in a schedule to lead the children's program! The good news is that we have already done Storyteller Training for a different context and it will be perfect for this weekly event. We just need folks to help make it happen!)

Adults and youth will usually experience "Share and Prayer" together. There may be times when youth break off for their own discussion or activity group depending on the topic.

On the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays of the month, Board, Ministry Groups, or Elders will begin at 7 pm, following “**Wspr.**”

We hope you will plan to add this special hour in the middle of your week to connect with your community, God, and yourself!

Listen! The still small voice is speaking! It may be a Wspr ...



“FEARLESS ...” Stewardship Emphasis and Commitment for 2015

Our Stewardship Theme this year is: **“Fearless ...”** What an appropriate theme in a time when so many are feeling fearful. It is natural to feel afraid when we are trying to deal with hard aspects of life and we are being called to look more deeply at our own lives, our own beliefs, and our world. Most of us respond out of some fear and try to hold on to what feels secure.

Yet God says **“Be not afraid!”** The wonderful good news is that when we respond out of HOPE rather than fear, we open ourselves to the new thing that God is doing with us and in us and through us to bring God’s realm on earth.

We are challenged to be Fearless in living and giving, with confidence that God is with us!

Our Stewardship Commitment Sunday has been moved out one week to January 18!

READING “THE NEW JIM CROW”

In our Mission Priority conversation in December, we talked about the how difficult it can be to talk about the concrete issues of racism when we are confronted with argument. Several expressed interest in reading and discussing **“The New Jim Crow” by Michelle Alexander. We will begin discussion of this book at our Wednesday Share and Prayer on February 4 at 6 pm.** On February 4, we will discuss the Introduction and First Chapter (the first 58 pages). Those who would like to read the book and participate in the discussion are encouraged to purchase or borrow it now. It is excellent, yet it is not a fast read!

VALENTINE-MAKING – FEB. 10 at 6:30 pm with Soup and Bread Supper!

On Tuesday Evening, February 10 – we are planning a Valentine-making event! Just a relaxed, fun evening to share a meal, and make Valentines for loved ones, church and community friends in need of a message of love, and to share on Happy Friday! Plan to come for warmth, fun, and to play with paper, glue, scissors and fun stuff.
Adults, Youth, Children – Everybody!!



If you would like to see the movie “SELMA”

**with our CHCC group, please plan to
join us on Friday, January 16
for the 6:50 showing**

at

**Ronnie’s 20 Cine on S. Lindbergh.
(We will meet at the entrance and purchase
tickets at 6:15 pm to hopefully sit together)**

**Tickets are: Adults – \$11
Seniors - \$8.25**

(Please let Jacque know if you plan to come)

**We will discuss SELMA at Wednesday Share
and Prayer at 6 pm on January 21. You may see
it at a different day or time or theater but join us
for the discussion on Wednesday evening!**

Mission and Ministry Priorities – 2015

- Continue to be open to God’s voice – create ways to listen together to God’s calling.
- Begin a faith sharing, discussion, worship, prayer gathering on Wednesday evenings.
- Continue to nurture prayer in the congregation
- Ministry with youth and children - youth led service this Spring, music with children, etc.
- More activities on the lawn – including worship
- Community meals
- Simple meals after worship on Sundays at various times
- Racial Justice/Human Justice focus in congregation and in community.
 - Anti-Racism Training
 - Community conversations
 - Read and Discuss “The New Jim Crow”
 - Activity/conversations with Liberation Christian Church
 - Find ways to continue to be Safe Space
 - Host presentation on Mental Health in the midst of protest and conflict
- Global Ministries – India trip and/or other mission with underserved communities
- Be a healing place – as some now see us
- Continue positive ministry
- Work on more accessibility in building



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(All events at Compton Heights CC unless otherwise noted)

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE: Choir Warm-Up 9:15 am Christian Educ/Nurture for All – 10 am
Worship 11 am, Community/Refreshment Time –following worship, Choir Practice 12:30**

Sunday, January 18 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Stewardship Commitment!

Sunday Afternoon Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship – 3 pm – at The Connection, UMC
6710 Virginia, 63111 (Carondelet area)

Wednesday, Jan 21 – Wspr (“Wednesday Share and Prayer”) 6:00 pm - Discuss “SELMA”

Friday, Jan 23 – Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 – 8:00 am

Sunday, January 25 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Wednesday, Jan 28 – Wspr (“Wednesday Share and Prayer”) 6:00 pm - Vespers

Friday, Jan 30 – Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 – 8:00 am

Sunday, February 1– 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Wednesday, Feb 4 – Wspr (“Wednesday Share and Prayer”) 6:00 pm Discuss “The New
- Ministry Groups 7:00 pm Jim Crow”

Thursday, Feb 5 – Prayer Shawl Knitting/Crocheting Group – 7:00 pm

Friday, Feb 6 – Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 – 8:00 am

Sunday, February 8 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Tuesday, Feb 10 – Valentine – Making with Soup Supper 6:30 pm

Wednesday, Feb 11 – Wspr (“Wednesday Share and Prayer”) 6 pm Discuss “The New
Elders’ Circle – 7:00 pm Jim Crow”

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

Sunday, February 15 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Tuesday, January 6 EPIPHANY Day

Wednesday, February 18 – Ashes to Go – 11 am – 1 pm –corner of S. Grand and Arsenal
Ecumenical ASH Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm in our sanctuary

Thursday, January 19 – Compassionate Listening Group 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Friday, January 20 – Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 – 8:00 am

Sunday, February 22 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Wednesday, Feb 25 – Wspr (“Wednesday Share and Prayer”) – 6:00 pm
Cabinet Meeting – 7:00 pm

Friday, Feb 27 – Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 – 8:00 am



SERVING SCHEDULE Please get a substitute if unable to serve on your designated date!

	Liturgist	Communion Elders	Stewardship Elders
Jan 18	Talya Perry	Nancy Obermiller	Leslie Latham
Jan 25	Dennis James	Norm Linville	Sarah Richardson
Feb 01	Charlsi Lee	Bob Lewis	Nancy Obermiller
Feb 08	Dave Martin	Madeline Haraway	Norm Linville
Feb 15	Julie Phoenix	Thelonius Lee	Charlsi Lee
Feb 22	Madeline Haraway	Marsha McGuire	Sarah Richardson

Deacons **(All will serve; the first two will prepare and clean up communion.)**

Jan 18	Marty Hughes	Stanley Williams	Kim Litton	Tom Litton
Jan 25	Bud Obermiller	Carolyn Harry	Arlene Arbogast	Reed Glasener
Feb 01	Jan Kreuger	Dave Martin	Susan Petri	Thelonius Lee
Feb 08	Darrell Hughes	Talya Perry	Arlene Arbogast	Reed Glasener
Feb 15	Kim Litton	Tom Litton	Marty Hughes	Stanley Williams
Feb 22	Dennis James	Joan James	Bud Obermiller	Carolyn Harry

Providing Communion Bread **January:** Kim Litton **February:** Talya Perry

In-Home Communion (Two Elders and one Deacon each month to take home communion)

January Elder (A) Leslie Latham **(B)** Kathy Mead **Deacon** Joan James
February Elder (A) Bob Lewis **(B)** Marsha McGuire **Deacon** Darrell Hughes
Greeter - January: Steve Randolph **February:** Tina Owens and Kathy Bradley

	Nursery Care	Coffee Hosts	Children, Worship & Wonder
Jan 18	Darrell Hughes	Marsha McGuire/Leslie Latham	Charlsi Lee
Jan 25	Kathy Mead	Darrell and Marty Hughes	Charlsi Lee
Feb 01	Marsha McGuire	DebE Martin and Kim Litton	Vanessa Myers Dudley
Feb 08	Ty Woodard	Charlsi and Thelonius Lee	Vanessa Myers Dudley
Feb 15	Madeline Haraway	Audrey& Walt Tarde/Susan Petri	Vanessa Myers Dudley
Feb 22	Marty Hughes	Mad. Haraway/Kathy Bradley/Tina O.	Dave Boger

Income for December through December 31, 2014 \$14,420.52

YTD Income through December 31, 2014 \$159,314.60

YTD Income includes the following:

Pledges, loose and Sunday School offering, gifts:	\$ 111,737.71
Outreach Special Offerings:	\$ 5,896.75
Elders Fund and Memorials:	757.25
Tuition of Girisha and Dhanush at King's School:	500.00
Offering for future India Trip:	387.31
Equal Exchange Purchases:	391.57
Fund Raising	2,167.72
Rent and contributions toward expenses:	19,985.27
CCF Investment Interest	791.02
Withdrawal of CCF Funds	14,000.00
Transfers from Steeple Account and Insurance	2,700.00



SCRIPTURE READINGS for Upcoming Weeks

Jan 18 -2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1 Sam. 3:1-20, Ps.139:1-6,13-18, 1 Cor. 6:12-20, Jn. 1:43-51

Jan 25 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Ps. 62:5-12, 1 Cor. 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

Feb 1 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Deut. 18:15-20, Psalm 111, 1 Cor. 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

Feb 8 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31, Ps. 147:1-11, 20c, 1 Cor. 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

Feb 15 – Last Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 2:1-12, Ps. 50:1-6, 2 Cor. 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

Feb 22 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1st Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

“Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.” Ps. 25:6

Contact Us Online:

www.comptonheights.com

www.isaiah58ministries.org

also check us out on fb

Email:

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Pastor: jleigh55@att.net



Ministry Leaders:

Moderator: Leslie Latham

Vice M.: Larry Kreuger

Secretary: Steve Randolph

Treasurer: Jan Kreuger

Financial Sec. Judi Linville