

Compton Heights Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

An Open & Affirming
and
Global Mission
Congregation

Sanctuary in the City



January-February
2018 VOL66•NO1

WINTER WARMING SHELTER

We have known for many months that our city would not have enough shelter when dangerously cold weather arrived. At least two people have frozen to death and others have suffered frostbite. In the face of this crisis, a number of churches have responded to provide shelter from the cold. Oak Hill Presbyterian Church was asked if they could help and they responded positively, asking us to join with them to help provide a safe, warm place to sleep with supper and breakfast.

One of the strengths of being One in Christ, is that our congregations know the joy of working together to respond to the needs of our community. We have lived this out through Isaiah 58 Ministries for many years, coming together with other congregations to serve. In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, I give thanks for this ecumenical way of doing ministry; not needing to claim acts of ministry as ours alone, but finding meaning in our shared call.

Several in our congregation have responded with generosity of time and heart. *Meredith Jackson* has taken the lead in representing CHCC in working with *Dena Roper* at Oak Hill to coordinate volunteers. In addition, *Sarah Richardson*, *Mike Hubbard*, *Brenda Booth*, *Gina Finley*, *Dave Boger*, and I have helped so far and others are on the list of those willing when possible.

This past Wednesday night, I was reminded that this is very much a ministry of presence. When Dave and I arrived at Oak Hill, a couple of men had already arrived to stay for the night. We sat and talked – about all kinds of things: their longtime membership in a nearby church and the beloved pastor we both knew. We talked about common experiences, health, the city. We laughed and told stories. I was reminded once again that **people who need shelter from the cold are us.**

It was fairly early in the evening that these two men indicated that they were tired and ready to go to sleep. Others might come in, but they were ready to get all the sleep they could. It occurred to me that it is exhausting to be out all day with nowhere to be. They told us ‘goodnight’ in case they did not see us again. They knew that it could likely be another ‘shift’ of people keeping watch over them when they awoke in the morning. Soon they slept and we dimmed

-continued on page 2

(Continued from page 1: Winter Warming Shelter)

lights and sat working on puzzle; four of us for a while until the Oak Hill members who would be there all night decided to get some sleep. As Dave and I sat in the quiet working a puzzle by lamplight, we would hear the occasional tossing and turning of one of the men whom we had learned has cancer.

There in the quiet, in a warm fellowship hall, with people on mattresses on the floor, I was grateful for this time to simply be present so that others could sleep in safety, warmth, and peace. It is that simple and that complicated. It is very simply a willingness to offer to shelter, and to remain awake, providing safety for those who sleep, while awaiting the arrival of others. It is complicated because the issue of homelessness is multi-layered, not as easily solved as anyone would like to imagine.

As a society, we have many attitudes and judgments about those who are without a place to live. Different philosophies and approaches are grounded in different assumptions about the causes of homelessness. What we know is that the causes are legion. I believe the "Housing First" approach makes most sense; that if we as a society provide safe, secure housing, then people are better able to put together the pieces to succeed in education, securing and keeping a job, caring for their health, eating well, keeping family together. Still we must acknowledge that each person is unique, and we do not get to make life decisions for others. What we can offer is support through the many circumstances that God's people face, praying that honest support and love will open the way to new life.

Therefore we work to effect policy and long-term support, while, on nights that are brutally cold like these, we sit in watch so that God's beloved ones may sleep in peace. This is what we pray for everyone in our community, in our world.

If you would like to offer your presence to help at the Warming Shelter, or if you would like to volunteer with 'Winter Outreach' to go out on very cold nights to offer help to people on the streets, please contact Meredith Jackson.

Sleep, my child, and peace attend thee, all through the night.

Blessings,
Jacque

HELPERS NEEDED TO SERVE AS HOSTS FOR ANTI-RACISM TRAINING EVENT

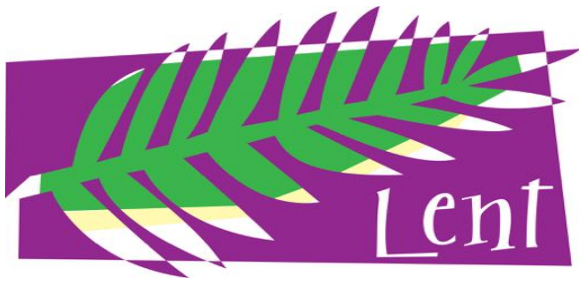
On **Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17**, our congregation is hosting an intensive 'training of trainers' event for our Region/General Church's Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racism Ministry. We will need some members of Compton Heights CC who are willing to help host.

This will involve making coffee/tea and refreshments available, setting up lunches, and various 'welcoming' tasks. We will know more details as the event approaches.

If you are available and willing to help, please let Jacque know.

WORKING TO SUPPORT EDUCATION THROUGH MCU

On Saturday, February 27, we are encouraged to join in an MCU (Metropolitan Congregations United) event "LAUNCHING OUR PATHWAY TO POWER" to take part in planning and training to continue to the work to Break the School to Prison Pipeline. The event will be from 9 am to 3 pm at Arlington United Methodist Church, 3770 McKelvey Rd. in Bridgeton. You received an email Becky Klemme Eliceiri about this event with registration link. Please talk to Becky if you would like to ask any questions about being involved!



**The Season of Lent begins on February 14!
Yes, Ashes and Hearts!
Giving of ourselves;
Confession and love!**



ASH WEDNESDAY - February 14

Ashes to Go 11:30 – 1:00 at corner of Grand and Arsenal

Ash Wednesday Community Worship 7:00 pm at Oak Hill Presbyterian

THE CUP OF OUR LIFE: A Lenten Daily Practice

Those who would like to participate in a daily practice with the option of a weekly group reflection are invited to use the book ***The Cup of Our Life* by Joyce Rupp**. Each participant will be led through a daily time of prayer and reflection using a cup to center in prayer. The six weekly themes are: The Cup of Life, The Open Cup, The Chipped Cup, The Broken Cup, The Cup of Compassion, and The Blessing Cup.

Each day's session begins with a reading by Joyce Rupp and then invites us into breathprayer, reflection with our cup, scripture, an opportunity for journaling, prayer, and an intention for the day.



The Cup of our Life

We have at least four options (you may be creative and come up others!)

One: to use this as a completely personal practice with just you and the book

Two: to do the daily practice and then gather on Wednesday evenings 6:00 – 7:00 pm to share with others in “The Cup of Our Life “ Group Gathering

Three: to do the daily practice and then connect weekly with a prayer partner to share your thoughts and discoveries

Four: to do the daily practice and share with others online (we're working out the details of this possibility!)

The cost of the book is \$12.00. We have initially ordered 15 copies. **Please let Pastor Jacque know by January 28, if you would like one.** (So we have time to order more if demand calls for it!) If you are part of a couple, you could easily share a book, and order a second copy later if desired. Please do not allow cost to prevent you from participating. We will make sure that everyone who desires a book will have one.

WORSHIP THROUGH THE SUNDAYS in LENT - February 18 – March 25

PALM SUNDAY - March 25 - “Preparing the Way” 11:00 am

MAUNDY THURSDAY – March 29 Community Worship at Compton Heights CC 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY - March 30 Plans in the making!

EASTER SUNDAY – April 1 - Celebration of the Resurrection! 11:00 am (Other Details to come!)

wandering into lent

We need time, space, simplicity in our lives –
Enough bareness to discern the outline of who we are.
Lent is a time for clarity, as when the bare boughs
of winter show us the shape of the tree in austere
beauty.

Let us clear away the clutter of our lives,
In order to see the underlying pattern. Let us
follow in the steps of our Saviour that by sharing
his pain we may also come to celebrate the joy
of resurrection.

–Ray Simpson
Liturgies from Lindisfarne

O God,
take from us cynicism, domination and Idle chatter.
Give us wholeheartedness, patience, and love.
Help us to see where we are wrong and not to judge others.
For you are the Greatest through all the ages.

Echoes a prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

**THINK! ACT! PRAY! Thoughtfully, faithfully, and
actively living into the Gospel**

Please go to www.thinkactpray.org

This is the blog of Rebecca Klemme Eliceiri which
offers so much! Becky is currently leading us
through a reading of the Psalms and this week is
moving into Proverbs. Her gentle guiding and
reflections are such a gift.

Perhaps you begin this as a Lenten practice and
then find that it has become a vital part of life!!

Psalm 130:6

My soul waits for the Lord
More than those who watch for the morning
More than those who watch for the morning

“Whoever does
the will of God is
my brother and
sister and mother.

Mark 3:35



18 Matthew Creed, Lynda Gamlin, Maddie Eliceiri
 20 Hugh Richardson
 21 Annabelle Martin
 28 Nancy Obermiller



4 Dennis Landon
 15 Mary Schumacher
 16 David French
 19 Bob Miner



We celebrate the life of **Jan Cameron** and we grieve in our loss. After her long and courageous struggle with cancer, Jan died to this life on Sunday, January 7. We hold **Diane Richardson** and all of the Richardson family and beloved friends who cared for Jan with such love. We thank Jan's dear friend **Sharon**, who along with Diane, made it possible for Jan to attend worship in recent months. We give thanks for the faith and love Jan shared with this congregation, and the gift we received in being able to share this journey with her.

We give thanks to all those who attended the funeral service on January 12 at Baue Funeral Home.

"Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live.'"

CONGRATULATIONS
 to
Becky Klemme-Eliceiri
 who has been approved
 for **Ordination to Ministry!**
Watch for date to be set!



In these days we hold each other and our wider Community, nation, and world in prayer. It is more than a turn of phrase to say that we "pray without ceasing."

This is a community grounded and centered in prayer in such a way that we hold each other and those we do not know in God's presence day and night.

If you have worshiped with this congregation on Sunday morning, you know that "The Prayers of the People" is a not only a time, but a space in which we sit with God and lay out the thanks, the hope, the longings of our hearts. Then we carry those prayers with us as community into the world.

Please pray for these in our congregation:

Mary Schumacher who is receiving hospice care at Beauvais Manor as she has been diagnosed cancer that has progressed.

Marilyn Koncen who will have surgery on Feb 23 to treat a recurrence of cancer.

Joyce Cole

Sharon Clayton and her son John Clayton. John is Dealing with the flu, resulting in delay of further treatment for his cancer.

Royce Sykes who has moved back home and is awaiting a new prosthesis.

John and Karen Pitt

Arlene Arbogast – who is using a wheelchair while going through therapy to strengthen her knee.

ALL in our congregation and community suffering with this persistent flu. The **Litton family** and **Charlsi Lewis Lee's parents, Mary Ann and Chuck** have been especially hard hit. **Chuck** is in the hospital in Louisville.

New Board Members Elected to serve in 2018

Thank you to the 2017 Nominating Committee for their great work throughout the year.

The 2018 Nominating Committee is: **Carolyn Harry, Dennis James, Susan Petri, Kim Litton, DebE Martin**

Board Officers – 2018

Moderator: **Nancy Obermiller**

Vice-Moderator: **Monte Abbott**

Treasurers: **Tom Litton and Kathy Mead**

Financial Secretaries: **Marty Renner-Hughes and Leslie Latham**

Clerk: **Marsha McGuire**

New Elders, Deacons, and Trustee - Terms Expiring in December 2020

Elders: **DebE Martin, Steve Randolph**

Deacons: **Penny Miller, Kim Litton, Tom Litton, Scott Stamper, Talya Perry**

Trustee: **Kathy Mead**

Continuing Elders, Deacons and Trustees are:

Terms Expiring December 31, 2018

Elders: **Leslie Latham, Kathy Mead, Rev. Millie Slack**

Deacons: **Heather Stout, Bud Obermiller, Audrey Tarde, Walt Tarde, David Martin (not scheduled, but willing to serve)**

Trustee: **Susan Petri**

Terms Expiring December 31, 2019

Elders: **Susan Petri, Carolyn Harry, Darrell Hughes, Amy Bertschausen**

Deacons: **Matthew Creed, Joan James, Dennis James, Masi Swanagan, Marty Renner-Hughes, Monte Abbott, Howard Miller, Morgan Clough** (scheduled for set-up, but only serving in place of regularly scheduled person since Morgan is playing organ each Sunday)

Trustee: **Leslie Latham**

Coffee hosts for 2018 - Would you like to help with our hospitality?

I am currently working on the coffee hosts list for 2018. The current list goes through the end of February. If you would like to remain on the list for 2018, if you would like to be removed from the list for 2018, or if you have not been a part of this and want to be added to the list for 2018, please contact Marsha McGuire via email marsha.mcguire@sbcglobal.net, text on cell phone 314-363-4210, or call on cell phone or house phone (314-771-5155), or talk to me a church about this.

The coffee hosts bring refreshments (cookies, fruit, raw vegetables, crackers, snack foods, juice) for fellowship time after worship service on Sunday mornings. On the Sunday, you are host you will set up and clean up the refreshments. With the current schedule, you would be host approximately 4 – 5 times per year. I also pair up individuals so there are at least 2 people who are hosting that particular day so no individual is responsible for doing it alone. I need to hear back from you **by February 1** so I can get the list compiled and sent out before March. I look forward to hearing from you. Marsha McGuire



Sunday: Choir 9:15am, Chr. Nurture 10am, Worship 11am Choir 12:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Grp 1st Thursday
Compassionate Listening - 4th Tues.

Gentle Yoga - Thurs. 9a

Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 - 8:00 am
 (f above freezing)

What's

Tues Jan 23 6:30 - 8:30
 Compassionate Listening

Wed Jan 24 - Warming Shelter at O.H.Pres. if 20 degrees or below.

Fri. Jan 26 Happy Fri 7 am
 Sun. Jan 28 - WORSHIP

Thurs. Feb 1 - Yoga 9am
 Prayer Shawl Grp 7 pm
 Fri. Feb 2 Happy Fri 7 am

Sun. Feb 4 - WORSHIP

Wed Feb 7 - Ministry Grps 7pm
 and Warming Shelter at OH if under 20 degrees.

Thurs. Feb 8 - Yoga 9 am

Happening

Fri. Jan 9 Happy Fri. 7am

Sun. Feb 11 - WORSHIP

Wed. Feb 14 - ASH WED
 Ashes to Go 11:30 - 1 at Grand and Arsenal
 Ash Wednesday Worship at Oak Hill Presby. 7 pm
 Thurs. Feb 15 - Yoga 9am

Fri Feb 16 Happy Fri 7am

Sun Feb 18 - LENT 1

Wed. Feb 21
 Lenten "Cup of Our Life" 6p
 Elders' Circle 7 pm
 Warming Shelter if under 20
 Thurs. Feb 22 - Yoga 9 am
 Fri Feb 23 Happy Fri 7am

Here

Sun Feb 25 - LENT 2

Tues Feb 27 Compassionate Listening 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Wed. Feb 28
 Lenten "Cup of our Life" 6p
 Pastor's Cabinet 7 pm
 Warming Shelter if under 20

Thurs. Mar 1 - Yoga 9 am
 Prayer Shawl Group 7 pm

Fri, Mar 2 Happy Fri 7am

Sun. Mar 4 LENT 3

Wed Mar 7 Lenten "Cup of our Life" 6 pm
 Board Mtg 7pm

Fri Mar 9 Happy Fri 7 am

SERVING SCHEDULE

Communion Bread: Feb – Marty Renner Hughes

Sanctuary Greeter: Feb - Bud Obermiller

Home Communion: Feb – **Elder:** Carolyn Harry

Mar – **Elder:** Susan Petri

March – Joan James

March – Darrell Hughes

Alt. Leslie Latham **Deacon:** Joan James

Alt. Steve Randolph **Deacon:** Walt Tarde

Jan 21 Liturgist: Darrell Hughes
Elders: Marsha McGuire (Communion)
 Leslie Latham (Stewardship)
Deacons: Penny Miller, Dennis James
 Matthew Creed, Joan James
Nursery: Darrell Hughes
Coffee Hosts: Joan and Dennis James

Jan 28 Liturgist: Dave Boger
Elders: Madeline Haraway (Communion)
 Susan Petri (Stewardship)
Deacons: Heather Stout, Morgan Clough
 Monte Abbott, Howard Miller
Nursery: Brenda Booth
Coffee Hosts: Judi and Norm Linville, Carolyn Harry

Feb 4 Liturgist Marcia Hendrix
Elders: Amy Bertschausen (Communion)
 Carolyn Harry (Stewardship)
Deacons: Bud Obermiller, Kim Litton
 Marty Hughes, Tom Litton
Nursery: Matthew Creed
Coffee Hosts: Sarah and Bryan Richardson

Feb 11 Liturgist: Charlsi Lee
Elders: Darrell Hughes (Communion)
 Millie Slack (Stewardship)
Deacons: Audrey Tarde, Scott Stamper
 Masi Swanagan, Walt Tarde
Nursery: Madeline Haraway
Coffee Hosts: Cathy and Ron Hutcherson/Leslie L.

Feb 18 Liturgist Talya Perry
Elders: Steve Randolph(Communion)
 Kathy Mead(Stewardship)
Deacons: Joan James, Matthew Creed
 Penny Miller, Dennis James
Nursery: Kathy Mead
Coffee Hosts: Marsha McGuire/ Millie Slack

Feb 25 Liturgist Howard Miller
Elders: Leslie Latham(Communion)
 DebE Martin (Stewardship)
Deacons: Howard Miller, Monte Abbott
 Heather Stout, Talya Perry/Morgan C.
Nursery: Marty Hughes
Coffee Time: Darrell and Marty Hughes

Mar 4 Liturgist Nancy Obermiller
Elders: Susan Petri (Communion)
 Amy Bertschausen (Stewardship)
Deacons: Marty Hughes, Tom Litton
 Bud Obermiller, Kim Litton
Nursery: Susan Petri
Coffee Time: (to be published in new schedule)

Mar 11 Liturgist: Steve Randolph
Elders: Carolyn Harry (Communion),
 Darrell Hughes (Stewardship)
Deacons: Masi Swanagan, Walt Tarde
 Audrey Tarde, Scott Stamper
Nursery: Marsha McGuire
Coffee Time: (to be published in new schedule)

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

Ministry Leaders

Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Foster
 Pastor

Mr. Philip Barbier
 Pastoral Intern

Ms. Nancy Obermiller
 Moderator of Congregation

Mr. Monte Abbott
 Vice Moderator

Ms. Marsha McGuire
 Clerk

Ms. Marty Hughes
 Ms. Leslie Latham
 Financial Secretaries

Ms. Kathy Mead,
 Mr. Tom Litton
 Treasurers

Contact us: 314-771-5071
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 check us out on Facebook
www.isaiah58ministries.org
 Email: comptonheightscc@gmail.com
 Pastor: jleigh55@att.net

Financial Report – Income and Expenses

Income report 1/14/2018	Expense report
Jan income \$4,418.50	Jan. expenses \$6,774.79
YTD total income \$4,418.50	YTD expenses \$6,774.79

YTD total Income details

Regular giving	\$4,160.00
Loose offering	40.50
Gift	200.00
CCF Interest	
Transfer fr. Savings	
Elder's Income	
Rent	
Fund Raising	
Outreach offerings	
India tuition	
Equal Exchange	18.00
Expense offsets	
Capital Fund	

