

Compton Heights Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

An Open & Affirming
and
Global Mission
Congregation



Summer Sabbath

Mid-May -July 2017 VOL65 • NO2

When our Board gathered on May 3rd, we reflected on Sabbath and Sabbatical. (No, we were not talking about my sabbatical; though I will have a sabbatical next year.) Instead, we talked about how we keep sabbath and take 'sabbatical' breaks in the life of the church. The words "sabbath" and "sabbatical" come from the same root. We all remember the Genesis story in which God creates the heaven and the earth and all that is within the earth in six days. At the end of each day, God saw what God had created and said "This is good!" Then God rested on the seventh day. It is in recognition of that Sabbath rest that the people Israel treated the seventh day as sacred as set it apart for rest, renewal, family, worship.

The Bible is filled with calls to rest into a different pattern of life. After 6 years of planting, the fields are to be left fallow for a year to regain their nutrients so that they may sustain crops again. After six years of payment, the law said that debts should be forgiven.

John McCall, in his reflection on sabbatical, notes that "this isn't an arbitrary act. It's rooted in the deep truth that no one can do anything 24/7/365 year after year after year, including God. Rest and reflection – a break away from the ordinary – is necessary for us to keep going . . . Resting doesn't indicate weakness or lack of commitment to our work. It's the essential ingredient that can keep us refreshed so we can keep going. So Sabbath and sabbatical are linked to the rhythms of earth and the rhythm of God."

Jesus found spaces to get away to pray, or to be in his ministry in a different way. It is helpful for us to remember that we need to create these spaces in our church life together.

Each year in the summer, we have a bit of a different schedule and experience as the choir takes summer break or we take a break from classes. This year, however, our Board of Ministry is suggesting some different and renewing patterns in our summer community life and worship! We hope that together as a congregation we will create a summer experience in which we renew and deepen our relationship with each other and with God.

I hope that our Summer Sabbath does not simply take an activity away or take a break from something, but provides a new kind of space for both church community and life in the wider community and creation. We hope that the summer changes in worship bring a sense of peace and help to revitalize us for the coming year!

You will find the Summer Schedule and opportunities in the yellow section on page 2! I have also included a wonderful excerpt from a reflection on Summer Sabbath on page 4.

Let's welcome each other into a Summer of Sabbath renewal, *Jacque*



As we create the Summer Sabbath described on the front page, we strive to create a more relaxed schedule and to approach our church life in a refreshing way. We are taking breaks from some regular activities and approaching others a bit differently this summer!

We have kicked off the Spring with an Elder-Sponsored Evening of Fun and Fellowship at Kathy Mead's home on May 12. Later in the summer, the Elders will host another gathering which will include children, youth, and adults!

Our regular Sunday Classes for children & adults will conclude on May 21.

We will have a four week study/conversation for Adults during June (Pride Month) called "TransACTION." This is an opportunity to deepen our welcome and understanding of transgender people through the lens of scripture and the church. This will be at 10 am, June 4, 11, 18 & 25. Childcare will be provided.

Children, Worship & Wonder will take a break starting June 4, Pentecost!

This summer we will seek to engage all children in sanctuary worship. (There will also be expanded Child-care during worship for ages 0 – 6 yrs. who prefer to be in that space! This will take place in the upstairs Nursery space.

The choir will take their well-deserved break after Pentecost (June 4).

This creates an opportunity for special music to be shared by others! We welcome all who might share other instrumental or vocal music to talk to David French and/or to sign up on the sheet on the choir room door!

Summer Worship, at our regular time of 11 am, will take a less formal form at times this summer. We will enjoy some more reflective styles, and engage in participation in different ways. We will share communion by intinction from June 11 into August. This will give deacons a season of rest, as we will only need 2 deacons each Sunday. (*Only two deacons will be scheduled beginning June 11*)

WSPR (Wednesday Share and Prayer) taking a summer break after May 17.
Six Weeks of Compassion, July 30 – Sept. 3. Will include care for refugees and immigrants as well as other mission priorities.

In August we will take our annual sabbatical from meetings. We will focus only on Spiritual Nurture, Mission, and Fun gatherings!

FAREWELL AND BLESSINGS

Kristie and Brent Welder have been a cherished part of the CHCC community, along with Eleanor and Janie! We pray their continued full and abundant life as they move to Kansas City to be nearer parents/grandparents. Both celebrate new jobs with law firms there, as well as Brent's continued good work in progressive political organizing. We sent them with our blessing in worship and will miss them greatly!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES! **Connor Woodard**, son of Charlsi Lewis Lee, graduates from Bayless High School on Friday, May 26. Next fall, Connor will attend college at Meramec and has received the Missouri Dept. of Education's A+ Scholarship.

Jaime van Nostrand, our Pastoral Intern last year, will graduate from Eden Theological Seminary on Friday, May 19! Jaime is still in the search and call process. Let us hold Jaime and Laura in love and prayer as they approach their wedding on May 28th!

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS



Millie Slack, Sharon Clayton, Joyce Cole, Jan Cameron, Diane Richardson, John Pitt, Royce Sykes

Scott Stamper – in grief
 Joan and Dennis James – in grief



- 14th Kathy Bradley
Heather Stout
- 15th Marty Renner-Hughes
- 16th Bryan Richardson
Kristie Blunt Welder
- 27th Sarah Hughes



- 1st John Pitt
- 2nd Sienna & Matthew Petri
- 8th Jacque Foster
Thelonius Lee
- 10th Willow Petri
Brent Welder
- 12th Jennifer Phoenix
- 13th Reed Glasener
- 14th Dennis James
- 19th Roberta Travis
- 22nd Steve Randolph
- 23rd Masi Swanagan
- 24th Cory, Marcus, & Jackson
Petri
- 26th Lucy Grace Martin
- 29th Delaney Ziesemann



- 11th Julie Phoenix
- 15th Sarah Richardson
- 20th Bronnwyn McMillin
- 29th Abi Ziesemann



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JOHN 17: 20-21a

General Assembly 2017 **Celebrate our ONEness!**

July 8 – 12

Indianapolis, Indiana

REGISTRATION for GA is now open! Go to www.disciples.org

Compton Heights CC members attending General Assembly are: **Kathy Mead, Rev. Brenda Booth and Leslie Latham, Rev. Norm Linville and Judi Linville, Rev. Jacque Foster and Dave Boger.** Our congregation's **elected voting delegates are Kathy Mead and Leslie Latham.** (Those who are ordained have automatic voting privileges.)

At this General Assembly, we will say farewell to Dr. Sharon Watkins our current General Minister and President and elect a new General Minister and President!

Meet the GMP Nominee

Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens



The General Board voted to forward the name of Rev. Teresa (Terri) Hord Owens to the 2017 General Assembly as the nominee for General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

A Disciple since young adulthood, Hord Owens is currently dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School and pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL.

Search Committee Chair Jackie Bunch reviewed the process for the General Board before the members of the board had the opportunity to meet Hord Owens in small groups and in the plenary. Of more than 40 people recommended last summer, nine were screened in accordance with the executive search process. Four were then interviewed in person in October by the search committee. Just prior to the General Board meeting, three candidates were interviewed by the Administrative Committee to determine which candidate to recommend to the board.

Rev. Owens is widely sought after as a preacher, speaker and workshop facilitator. Her ministry and intellectual interests include a theology of reconciliation, cultural intelligence, developing inclusive and multi-cultural congregations, and the mentoring of youth and young adults. She is married to Walter Owens, Jr., with whom she will soon celebrate 30 years of marriage. They are the proud parents of an adult son, W. Mitchell Owens, III.

What the search committee saw in the nominee: *“We saw in Terri that unique combination of pastoral, leadership, active presence in all expressions of the Church and administrative experience that the search committee believed was most needed,”* said Search Committee Chair Jackie Bunch. *“She has experience as a local pastor, theologian and leader. The committee particularly noted her skills in discernment, spiritual discipline and proclamation of the Word, but also as a listener.”*

Bunch continued, “The search committee recognized that leading the Church in this day and age requires a certain business acumen as well as a heart for ministry. We see that Terri brings that special mix of academic, executive and pastoral qualities that are required for leading the Disciples through this time in our North American culture. She has a background of bringing together diverse groups for dialogue that will serve the Church well.”

[Owens – vision statement](#)

[Read a short biography](#)

[Watch a short video greeting](#)

www.disciples.org



**CHURCH LIBRARY
&
RESOURCE
Renewal**

Hello Compton Heights Christian Church family,

The CHCC library is a joyful, sacred space in which a great amount of God's work in this world happens. Our library, while a physical place, is also a resource we can use to help us faithfully and thoughtfully find our way in God's realm on earth. Libraries don't necessarily maintain themselves, so one of the things that God has called me to at CHCC is to the joyful work of revitalizing our library. As the first step in this process, I (in collaboration with the Faith Sharing and Teaching ministry group) put together a survey to find out what we, as a congregation, think about our library. Please fill it out either online (see link below) or on paper (in your church bulletin) by Sunday, May 21: <https://goo.gl/forms/EvcBV3ltKwOj9H52>

Once we have survey results in and compiled, we will be able to determine the next steps to take with our library. If you have any questions about the survey or anything about this process, please feel free to talk about them with me, either in person at church, via e-mail (rebecca@biblioministry.org), or over the phone (314-922-4019). I'm excited to hear what , you think!

Thanks and blessings, Becky Klemme Eliceiri

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From “Summer Sabbath” - by Rev. Teri Daily, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Conway, Arkansas

“Sabbath helps us see the life we live and the world around us as a gift—not as something we always have to fight for, earn, make happen, or strong-arm into existence. Sabbath is a chance to stop and, with outstretched hands, simply receive the gifts of God. This doesn’t have to mean we sit and do nothing—we can read or go to the movies or bike with friends or work on crafts or play in flower beds, we can rest in silence or stand in the middle of a rock concert. And although it’s nice to set aside twenty-four hours, sabbath can take place in as little as five minutes. Just as long as we recognize life and the world around us as the gift that it is, and not something we could ever deserve or earn. Just as long as we feel the nearness of God, and not merely the burdens of the world. Just as long as we experience the giftedness that comes with being creatures, and do not mistakenly make ourselves into gods.

There is, however, one part of sabbath that I think does require a certain amount of quiet and time; there are some gifts that we can know only in this way. These are the gifts that we bring into the world with us; it is who we are at our deepest core. We are often all too ready to have our identity defined for us by our culture. But if we turn down the outside voices and listen to our soul, we find out who we are—a child of God with unique characteristics that are not only God’s gifts to us, but also our gifts to the world.

Such experiences of the soul can’t be coerced or rushed. They rarely occur in a crowd; instead, they usually take place in solitude or with a trusted friend who sees us as we truly are (a soul friend). Parker Palmer describes the conditions which have to be present in order for us to know our own soul:

In our culture, we tend to gather information in ways that do not work very well when the source is the human soul: the soul is not responsive to subpoenas or cross-examinations. At best it will stand in the dock only long enough to plead the Fifth Amendment. At worst it will jump bail and never be heard from again. The soul speaks its truth only under quiet, inviting, and trustworthy conditions.

The soul is like a wild animal—tough, resilient, savvy, self-sufficient, and yet exceedingly shy. If we want to see a wild animal, the last thing we should do is to go crashing through the woods, shouting for the creature to come out. But if we are willing to walk quietly into the woods and sit silently for an hour or two at the base of a tree, the creature we are waiting for may well emerge, and out of the corner of an eye we will catch a glimpse of the wildness we seek.

(Parker J. Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000) 7-8.)

To know our true selves, to know what is ours to bring to the world requires time, space, reflection, and quiet; it requires sabbath.”

Celebrating NBA's 130 Years of Ministry!

Saturday, June 10, 2017

2 – 5 pm

The legacy and history of the National Benevolent Association is filled with the healing care and faithful commitment to service of many “clouds of witnesses.” In 2017, the NBA is blessed and humbled to celebrate 130 years of health and social service ministry with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)!

Throughout these 130 years, the NBA has been a ministry that responds to the health, social service, and justice needs of the day — [ministry starting with our six founding women in a prayer circle](#). From these humble beginnings, Disciples churches and leaders helped build an expansive network of direct service providers and residential facilities. The NBA today continues in this founding vision of “creating communities of compassion and care” through collaborative partnerships, peer networks, issue-based affinity groups, support for emerging ministries, and a young adult Disciples service-learning residency program.

During this commemorative time and beyond, we are striving to build a “living history” — one that incorporates a variety of voices from across our Disciples ministry partners and the denomination, deepens NBA’s relationships throughout the life of the church, and continues to connect our foundation to our future.

Save-the-Date: On Saturday, June 10, the NBA will host a late afternoon reception and program in celebration of 130 years of health and social service ministry with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)!

With Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty, former NBA VP of Program Planning and Evaluation, as the emcee, we will gather with a special group of storytellers who will help us to honor and celebrate this 130th anniversary year. We hope you'll join us!

- WHO: You! NBA staff, board members, partners, and local Disciples
- WHAT: The NBA Story: 130 Years of Ministry
- WHEN: Saturday, June 10, 2017, from 2:00-5:00pm (2-4pm program, 4-5pm reception)
- WHERE: Union Avenue Christian Church and the NBA St. Louis Office
- WHY: To celebrate the NBA's 130 years of ministry - past, present, and future!

If you would like to attend, please RSVP at www.nbacaes.org/events/130-years

“As people of faith, we understand that no one person can help everyone — we are called to act together for the care and well-being of all humanity.”

- Mark D. Anderson, NBA President and CEO
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PRIDEFEST 2017

June 23 – 25, 2017

Soldiers Memorial Park, Downtown

If you would like to help plan this year’s CHCC Pride Booth, please let Kathy Mead or Leslie Latham know!

PLAN TO SHARE CHCC at Pride!

INTERGENERATIONAL CAMP at Camp MOVAL June 15 – 18

The Mid-America Region offers many different summer church camp and event opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Once again this year, Darrell Hughes and Brenda Booth of our congregation will be directing the INTERGENERATIONAL CAMP at MOVAL. If you have not yet registered, you may still do so as soon as possible at:

<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/CCMA#/selectSessions/1767303/filter/location=919504>

SUMMER

Worship 11 AM
Sunday

Prayer Shawl Grp 1st
Thursday

Compassionate
Listening - 4th Tues.

Happy Friday Outreach
7:00 - 8:00 am

What's

May 14 5th Sun of Easter
May 16 Tuesday - 6:30
Compassionate Listening

May 17 WSPR 6 pm

May 19 Happy Friday
7 am - 8 am

May 21 6th Sun. of Easter

May 26 Happy Friday 7am

May 28 7th Sun. of Easter

May 29 Memorial Day

June 1 Prayer Shawl
Group 7 pm

June 2 Happy Friday 7am

June 4 Pentecost Sunday

June 7 Ministry Groups 7

Happening

June 9 Happy Friday 7-8 am
June 11 Sunday - 1st Sun.
after Pentecost

June 14 Wed. Elders

June 15-18 Camp at Moval

June 16 Happy Friday 7-8 a

June 18 2nd Sun. aft Pente.

June 20 Becky K-E's Ord.
Nurture Team 5:30

June 23 Happy Friday 7-8 a

June 25 3rd Sun. aft Pente.

June 27 Compassionate
Listening 6:30 - 8:30

June 28 Pastor's Cabinet

June 30 Happy Friday 7am

Here

July 2 4th Sun aft Pentecost
July 4 Independence Day

July 5 Board Meeting 7 pm

July 6 Prayer Shawl Grp 7p

July 7 Happy Friday 7 am

July 8 -12 General Assembly

July 9 5th Sun. aft Pente.

July 12 Elders' Circle 7 pm

July 14 Happy Friday 7 am

July 16 6th Sun. aft Pente.

July 18 Becky K-E Ord.
Nurture Team 5:30

July 21 Happy Friday 7am

July 23 7th Sun aft Pente.

July 25 Compassionate
Listening 6:30 - 8:30

SERVING SCHEDULE

Bread: May – Masi June - Monte July - Bud

Sanctuary Greeter: May- Darrell June- Dave B. July – Leslie

May 21 Liturgist: Ron Hutcherson
Elders: Leslie Latham(Communion)
Kathy Mead (Stewardship)
Deacons: Monte Abbott, Howard Miller
Heather Stout, Morgan Clough
Nursery: Marty Hughes
Coffee Hosts: Madeline H., Kathy B., Tina O.

May 28 Liturgist: Darrell Hughes
Elders: Susan Petri (Communion)
Madeline Haraway (Stewardship)
Deacons: Marty Hughes, Julie Phoenix
Bud Obermiller, Jennifer Phoenix
Nursery: Matthew Creed
Coffee Hosts: Bud and Nancy Obermiller

June 4 PENTECOST SUNDAY
Liturgist Marty Hughes
Elders: Carolyn Harry (Communion)
Amy Bertschausen (Stewardship)
Deacons: Masi Swanagan, Walt Tarde
Audrey Tarde, _____
Nursery: Darrell Hughes
Coffee Hosts: Joan and Dennis James

June 11 Liturgist: Bob Lewis
Elders: Millie Slack Communion)
Darrell Hughes (Stewardship)
Deacons: Dennis James, Joan James
Nursery: Marsha McGuire
Coffee Hosts: Judi & Norm Linville/Carolyn H.

June 18 Liturgist: Carolyn Harry
Elders: Kathy Mead (Communion)
Brenda Booth (Stewardship)
Deacons: Heather Stout, Morgan Clough
Nursery: Madeline Haraway
Coffee Hosts: Sarah & Bryan Richardson

June 25 Liturgist: Matthew Creed
Elders: Marsha McGuire (Communion)
Leslie Latham (Stewardship)
Deacons: Bud Obermiller, Jennifer Phoenix
Nursery: Kathy Mead
Coffee Hosts: Cathy & Ron H., Leslie L.

July 2 Liturgist: Nancy Obermiller
Elders: Madeline Haraway(Communion)
Susan Petri (Stewardship)
Deacons: Audrey Tarde, Walt Tarde
Nursery: Brenda Booth
Coffee Time: Marsha McG., Millie Slack

July 9 Liturgist: Cathy Hutcherson
Elders: Madeline Haraway (Communion)
Susan Petri (Stewardship)
Deacons: Joan James, Matthew Creed
Nursery: DebE Martin
Coffee Time: Darrell & Marty Hughes

July 16 Liturgist: DebE Martin
Elders: Darrell Hughes (Communion)
Millie Slack (Stewardship)
Deacons: Howard Miller, Monte Abbott
Nursery: Susan Petri
Coffee Time: DebE Martin and Kim Miner

July 23 Liturgist: Kim Litton
Elders: Brenda Booth (Communion)
Kathy Mead (Stewardship)
Deacons: Marty Hughes, Julie Phoenix
Nursery: Dave Boger
Coffee Hosts: Charlsi and Thelonius Lee

July 30 Liturgist: Charlsi Lee
Elders: Leslie Latham
Marsha McGuire
Deacons: Masi Swanagan, Walt Tarde
Nursery: Marty Hughes
Coffee Time: Audrey & Walt Tarde, Susan Petri

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

Ministry Leaders

Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Foster
 Pastor

Ms. Nancy Obermiller
 Moderator of Congregation

Ms. Kristie Welder
 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
www.comptonheights.wordpress.com
 check us out on Facebook
www.isaiah58ministries.org
 Email: comptonheightscc@gmail.com
 Pastor: jleigh55@att.net

Financial Report – Income and Expenses

Income report 5/07/2017
 May income \$3,107.54
 YTD total income \$58,608.60

Expense report
 May expenses \$7,925.43
 YTD expenses \$50,192.36

YTD total Income details

Regular giving	\$47,008.55
Loose offering	530.94
New and gifts	95.00
CCF Interest	47.54
Rent	2460.00
Fund Raising	241.20
Outreach offerings	2180.69*
India tuition	148.25
Equal Exchange	418.65
Expense offsets	2921.67
Capital Fund	2504.00
Other	68.34

* Easter Offering (included here) thus far: \$980.00

