

CROSSROADS

Wyoming Presbyterian
Church

May 2011

George Hufford Receives Worker Justice Award

As reported in the CinNews of the Presbytery of Cincinnati:

George Hufford, the Presbytery's retired Coordinator of Hunger, Health, and Housing Concerns, has received the Joe Peschel, S.J., Award from the Cincinnati Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice.

The award is given annually to someone from the Greater Cincinnati Area whose efforts on behalf of worker justice deserve recognition and commendation.



2 ways YOU can serve on Saturdays in May



- WHAT: Hamilton County Special Olympics Spring Games
- WHEN: Saturday, May 7
- WHERE: Lockland Stadium, 120 Anna Street
- TIME: 8:15 am. (Volunteer registration) to 1:00

SSSS May 14th



Join us at PCW at 9 am to clean-up and spread mulch. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Please bring your tools for weeding, pruning, edging and general landscaping, bucket, rakes, etc. Any time you can give will be appreciated!

If you have questions, please contact Suzie Jacob at 821-2904.



Few things measure up to the feeling one receives when the journey is completed. Having hiked to the summits of many mountains as I grew up in Colorado, I know the feeling of getting to the top of the climb and being able to look down and see all we have been through to this point.

We have closed our climb through the book of Luke. Like any other climb, there were a few trickier points along the way, some points where the climb leveled out and was very comfortable, some points where we had to push a bit harder to get through, and we have now come to the conclusion of this story and this journey.

It also coincides with the conclusion of the season of Lent, where we began with the ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday and celebrated with the shouts of “Christ is risen!” on Easter Sunday.

I have heard from many who said that they were richly blessed by the daily readings and the opportunity to work through the whole book of Luke. The small groups that took place also had some wonderful conversations and insights. My experience was similar – it was a blessing to journey through this book.

Luke, however, doesn’t have a “normal” ending. It’s not a “happily ever after” type of ending, where every loose end is tied up and question answered. Instead it simply finishes with these words, “Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.”

Luke ends this way because the story is not finished. In fact, for the author, he had another whole volume ahead – the story of Acts (the 5th book in our New Testament). The story is not finished because the story of Jesus lays the foundation for what comes next – the story of what the people do in the power of God and in the sharing of God in the world.

Whenever I finished a hike or a climb as I grew up, I admit my next thought on the summit was often about what the next summit was going to be. I remember climbing one of the “collegiate peaks” near Salida, Colorado, and looking over to one of the others and thinking about what the next summit was going to be like.

Luke gives us a similar sense. We have completed a wonderful journey to this point, but the story is not finished, neither in the pages of the Bible nor in our lives. The story of Acts is our story – the movement of God through God’s people and how they lived out their faith in the world. While Acts is already completed, the story of Christ’s church is not yet completed. It continues to be written whether it is here in Wyoming, Ohio, or places far from here. God continues to work in and through us and continues to write a beautiful and life-changing story.

Peace,

ED

PROFOUND MYSTERY

This past Thanksgiving my son-in-law Josh and I taken responsibility for making the dinner rolls that go along with the rest of our delicious meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, and all the other stuff that I love to eat. Now those that know me well are probably a little skeptical of my statement that “my son-in-law and I” took responsibility for making dinner rolls. “Don’t you mean Josh prepared and baked those rolls and you cheered him on?” In other words, most people know I am not a cook. And that is true. But Josh is not only a good cook; he is also a good teacher. So I was really an apprentice in creating our dinner rolls. I have to say that this whole process of preparing the dough and baking the rolls took a lot longer than I expected, in large part, because after we made up the dough we had to let it “rise”. I was sure we didn’t make up enough; but Josh convinced me that once the yeast started to work, we would have more than enough rolls to satisfy me – I was looking for leftovers too. Anyway, sure enough, the dough we made up seemed to double in size once the yeast had time to do its work. I don’t know how it does that, but it sure made some big changes.



In her book, The School of Charity, Evelyn Underhill compares the transforming action of yeast to the work of God’s Holy Spirit. Here is what she says,

“The leavening of yeast must have seemed to ancient men a profound mystery, and yet something on which they could always depend. Just so does the supernatural enter our natural life, working in the hiddenness, forcing the new life into every corner and making the dough expand.

“If the dough were endowed with consciousness, it would not feel very comfortable while the yeast was working. Nor, as a rule, does our human nature feel very comfortable under the transforming action of God, steadily turning one kind of love into another kind of love--desire into charity, clutch into generosity, Eros into Agape.

“Creation is change, and change is often painful and mysterious to us. Spiritual creation means a series of changes, which at last produce a Holiness, God's aim for us.”

A dinner roll doesn’t become a dinner roll until it changes in shape and is baked in an oven. God is continually re-creating us in His image, and in my experience this re-creation is most often experienced in the challenges of life – in the heat of life. I really wish that were not the case. I would prefer to have “my” changes take place comfortably. But whether comfortably or uncomfortably, the promise of God seems pretty clear. Once we have said yes to Christ, the yeast begins to do its work. Once we have asked Christ into our lives, recreation will begin.

2 Corinthians 3:18: “So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.”

Your partner and pastor,

DAZ



Singer's



As the summer months rapidly approach, we are inviting the young members of this church to participate in all of our worship services in a special way. We have many talented children and youth in our midst, so we would like to give them the opportunity to share their gifts. Whether it is playing an instrumental solo or singing, or perhaps a poem being read, or a scene being acted or danced, if you have a talent that will enhance the spirituality of the service, we want to invite you to share it.

Contact Bill Seale at 821-8982 or sealejw@ucmail.uc.edu if you have any questions or would like to sign up. Phone or email before June 2011 and we can bring our talented young people into our services.

The Who, What, Where Page



There are a number of 'items' in the church that were gifts from parishioners. The history/ background of some of these is vague or confusing, so we are asking you to let us know what you remember about the circumstances of these gifts. A who, what and where kind of thing. Items will appear in each Crossroads. Thank you for your help. You may contact Sherry Sheffield at 821-5866 or leave a written note in her mailbox in the office.





Welcome to the World of Overseas Ministries:

As many of you know, our church has partnered with the ministries of Scott & Jennifer Myhre and Tim & Marjie Benadum for many years. Their medical ministries in Africa and Cambodia may feel like a world away, but our wonderful advances in technology have made it easy to share their journey of faith. Your prayers, encouragement and financial support are always welcomed.

I invite you to learn more about the Myhre and Benadum families' journey of sharing God's Love with the world's underserved populations by viewing their videos on our Presbyterian Church of Wyoming's Mission Partners website at:



<http://pcwyoming.org/ministries/mission/mission-partners/>

More information about these ministries is available in the Missions Kiosk currently located outside of the Great Room and on their missions websites:

<http://paradoxuganda.blogspot.com/>

<http://mercymedcambodia.org/?bf404910>

Periodic updates on each of these ministries will be included in future editions of Crossroads.

The Presbyterian Church of Wyoming is currently in the process of planning Adult Mission Trips to work with Mercy Medical Center Cambodia for November of 2011 and April of 2012. If you would like to explore whether one of these trips may be a fit for your own faith journey, please contact Claudia Streeter at s_streeter@fuse.net.

If I may support your exploration of these ministries, or your potential role in their support, please contact me at Christine.Graeter@gmail.com.

Thanks for your consideration of this opportunity.

Grace and Peace,

Christi

NOTES FROM THE BENADUMS:

Ministry Highlight: Bun Ly

Bun Ly recently died of liver cancer. But his funeral was like none other ever seen in his village in Preah Vihear Province. Because Bun Ly died in peace, and even with joy! He knew for certain that he was going to heaven: no fear of an unknown destination or future in a spiritual world of torment. No wondering if his family would make enough offerings to keep him out of the deepest hell of the spirit realm. No fear of a reincarnation into another life of misery, or even worse.

Bun Ly had heard the gospel message before, from the few Christians in his area, but it was not until he became sick that he opened his heart to the living God. He was referred to MMC, where he was diagnosed with the cancer, AND where he heard the news of eternal redemption in Jesus Christ and wholeheartedly received forgiveness. His was the first Christian funeral in his village, and an amazing testimony to all who were there.

At MMC, we have the wonderful opportunity to demonstrate God's compassion and love through physical healing every day, but our ultimate hope is in spiritual healing for eternity.

(Watch for the MMC News for more stories of the MMC Ministry!)

Reflection: "I'm OK"

"So how are you doing with leaving the kids?" As we prepared to return to Cambodia, this was the question often asked of us. Maybe you are one of the people who asked it. My default answer became " We are OK.....all the kids are doing well. They love God, they have a great support system, etc etc." But as the day approached, and the dreaded goodbyes were upon us, I was confronted with the fact that this answer was wrong. Am I really Ok because my kids are doing well? What if they were not? Would I be OK?

How convicting! The very truth that I have casually shared with others- "your happiness should not depend on your circumstances, but on God Himself", I was ignoring!

The more I believe that my circumstances make me happy, the more I will try to control them and the less I depend on God. In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he tells of how, in the Province of Asia, he and Timothy experienced such oppression and affliction that they "despaired even of life"! He goes on to say, "...but that was to keep us from depending on and trusting in ourselves, instead of God, who raises the Dead." 2 Cor. 1: 8-9. God...who raises the dead! Pause and think of that!

I am also reminded of the famous hymn, It is Well With my Soul. Horatio Spafford wrote this hymn after his 4 daughters had drowned in a shipwreck. He KNEW that God was still who He says He is, and because of that alone, it was well with his soul.

I praise God for His word and His Holy Spirit: that re-orient me to the reality of His truth.

So if you are one of those people to whom I gave the above reply, I was wrong. I am OK- but because God is good, just, loving, sovereign, all knowing and all powerful. In fact I am better than OK. Because of who He is, I have the opportunity to live free from fear of anything. Praise GOD!

Work Update: Home Assignment

The flight back to our home in Asia was an opportunity to reflect on our time at home in the US: seven months of great encouragement, which God used to solidify our conviction for the mission here in Cambodia! He used many people, old friends and some new ones, to lift us up in many ways.

Last July, we landed in Columbus having no idea how He would provide for the needs of Mercy Medical Center in Cambodia. And when we left in February, an amazing team of 30 volunteer workers had enthusiastically taken on most of the tasks we were trying to accomplish on our own. With these burdens relieved, we have been able to return and focus on ministering to and with the Cambodian staff and fellow missionaries of MMC.

FROM THE BENADUMS:



Family News!

We are happy to announce the engagement of our oldest son, Josh! He and Meri Lowery will be married this summer. They met while working side by side in the college ministry of our home church, Xenos Christian Fellowship. Meri is an answer to our many prayers, that began when Josh was an infant, that God would provide a godly woman for our son. We praise God for His faithfulness!

Caleb is still planning to study International Human Rights Law. By mid April, he will have all the information he needs to make a final decision about which school he will attend. Abbi is in her second year of study in digital design. She and her friend will spend next fall quarter doing internships here in Cambodia. They will be helping various ministries here with communication and promotional materials. And Hannah will complete her first year of college at Ohio State in June. She also hopes to visit "home" in the next year.



Thanks for Praying!

Ministry:

Please pray for us as we have many decisions to make concerning the transition to the permanent facility of MMC.

Pray for the ongoing ministry to the poor.

Pray that the funds continue to come in.

Pray for God's discernment and wisdom in leadership.

Pray for the Strategic Partners Program of MMC; a key to long-term investment in the ministry from many people worldwide.

Pray for the MMC team of workers in the US.

Personal:

Pray for our kids in the US; for their protection and spiritual well being.

Pray for Josh and Meri as they begin their life together.

Pray that we would find a hassle free house situation near the MMC site.

Mostly, pray that we would keep our eyes fixed on HIM.



Thank You for a Fantastic School Year!

God calls each person to use the gifts that he/she has been given. Please take a moment to thank the teachers, leaders, and parents who have used their gifts to further God's Kingdom by educating and leading our children and youth. These fine individuals gave of themselves during the 2010-2011 school year. Our Christian Education program would not be such a success if it weren't for their assistance and personal participation.

The last day of Sunday School is May 22nd

Sunday School Children's and Youth Teachers:

Preschool – Kindergarten: Phoebe Brown & Dana Bronner

1st & 2nd Grade: Marla Waldron, Sandy Vanatsky, and Julie King

Tweens: Craig & Peggy Theile, Randy Nocks, and Stephanie Togneri

Jr. High: Catherine Burke, Kipper Burke, and Graydon Gorby

Bible Discovery:

Preschool and Kindergarteners: Stephanie Togneri, Kristin Van Fossen, Alex Van Fossen, and Amy Snow

Adult Classes:

Parenting Class: Jim Falkenstine

Founder's Room: Various Presenters and Committee members

Super Wednesday Luke Series: Stuart Schaffer, Ed Goode, and David Zuidema

Jr. High Ministry: Mandy Rice, Bill Rice, and Stephanie Togneri

Sr. High Ministry: Bill Morley, Anne Fischer, and Matt Fischer

Sunday School Offerings

PCW Children have been making their change count this school year. Their goal was to make their change make a change in our community, and they have done just that!

In the Fall the change fed 10 families at Thanksgiving.

In December the change went to Valley Interfaith to help bring gifts to children for the holidays.

In January & February the change added up with help from some special friends to purchase a whole heifer, geese, rabbits, and bees for the Heifer International for people on the other side of the world.

In March the change joined with PCW's Senior Guild to purchase undies and diapers for local children through the help of Bethany House and Crayons to Computers.

In April the children are collecting their change in the fish boxes for One Great Hour of Sharing.

And in May the change will go for scholarships for children who may not be able to attend our VBS this summer without a little help!

What a change they have made this year with their change! We prayed each week that God would use our coins and dollars to make a better place in the world.

We see God did!

Vacation Bible School is Only 1 Month Away!

Make your reservations soon!

PCW, Wyoming Baptist Church, and Ascension and Holy Trinity are cooking up a summer sensation for Vacation Bible School! This summer kids and chefs (adults) plan to explore the Bible as a cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's Word! We will feast on a five-course meal each day that includes heaping helpings of Bible fun and special servings of creative crafts, hands-on mission work, food science, and great music! We'll also take a closer look at some of the major biblical festivals that reveal the true ingredients for being followers of God.



Beginning May 1st you'll want to make your reservations for this exciting week!

Visit PCW's website: www.pcwyoming.org or stop by the PCW church office.

Date: Monday, June 13, through Friday, June 17th

Time: 9 a.m. to noon

Location: Presbyterian Church of Wyoming

Cost: \$15 per child, \$35 per family

Age: Preschool to 5th Grade of the current 2010-2011 school year

VBS Volunteer Help Needed!



VBS isn't just for kids! Adults have a blast too! Teachers and helpers are still needed to join our exceptional Shake It Up Staff! Our Head Cooks are in place but we need additional hands on in the kitchen, craft room, main dining room, and around the café. There are even jobs behind the scenes too. You can spend as many hours or days here as you want. There is a sign-up poster in the Welcome Area for volunteers.

We will need lots of help in the café this summer to make this week as sweet tasting as possible! The next VBS planning meeting is May 2nd at 7:15 p.m.



In March, another teacher and I from LLCP went to a Silent Mindful Meditation Retreat at an Inn in Tennessee. We spent the weekend in complete silence and alternated between sitting meditation, walking meditation, Tai Chi, Yoga and walking a labyrinth located on the property. This is our second visit to this annual retreat, and one of our hopes each time we go is to bring a part of the experience back to the children in the classroom. Both last year and this year our favorite part of the retreat was walking Rachel's Labyrinth, a circular pathway 60 feet in diameter laid out in local fieldstone in one of the Inn's meadows. It is one of the largest meditation



labyrinths in the United States, and it lies at the base of the Smoky Mountains. As we drove home this year, we discussed what a perfect opportunity the Bear's project would be to share labyrinths with the students! But, we weren't sure how to make it happen. As I was telling Stephanie Togneri about the trip, she told me that she had access to a portable labyrinth! Arrangements were made, and the students got to walk a labyrinth right here in the gathering area of the preschool!

The students first did an observational drawing of the labyrinth in their drawing books and then followed the path and walked the labyrinth. I invited them to let their mouths rest and be silent as they walked the path. I asked them- "What did you notice about the labyrinth?" Here are some of their reactions...



"You can't follow someone on the labyrinth, you just have to follow your own path."

"There are no stops!"

"No dead ends?"

"Let's all hold hands in the center and make a wish."

"The center is special because it's a flower."

Project work is strengthened through experience, community and collaboration.

Stacy Akers, Director

SENIOR HIGH NEWS

Please contact Anne Fischer for information regarding Sr. High activities

Avfischer@aol.com

May 1st—Decision Making

May 8th —Existence of God

May 15th—Racism

May 22nd—Meditation/Yoga

May 29th—Heaven/Eternal Life

JR. HIGH HAPPENINGS

Don't let final projects and tests stress you out or make you mad! With only weeks left until school is out, plan to spend Sunday night with your friends at church. It will be a time to let your zanier side hang out! All 7th & 8th Graders are invited to meet at the church for an evening of fun and games.

Sunday, May 1st 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. May Madness at PCW

Sunday, May 15th 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. May Madness at PCW

Sunday, May 22nd 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. VBS Kick Off Shake Off for those who are volunteering!

Tween News

Fun-Filled Friday for Tweens!

Friday, May 6th: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

All Tweens are invited to church for a fun Friday evening!

We'll play games, hang out, and talk about our mission trip in June.



Presbyterian Church of Wyoming

225 Wyoming Avenue
Wyoming, OH 45215

Address service requested

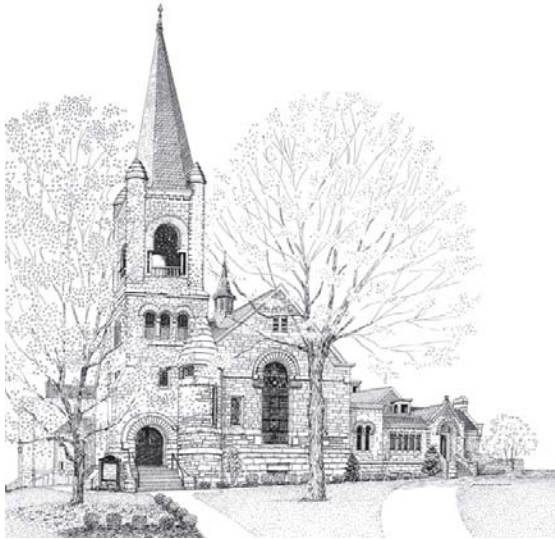
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Debbie McConnaughey
Maintenance Manager/
Custodian

Stacy Akers
Lads & Lassies Director

Jenny Whaley
Children's, Youth &
Preschool Office Manager

May

May 1—Valley Concert
May 8—Tween Bake Sale
May 10 ---Crossroads Deadline
May 15—Graduation Sunday
May 18—L&LCP last day
May 22-Ordination/Installation
Sunday
May 22—Bill Seale's
Studio Recital
May 23—Mission Meeting
May 30-Memorial Day
