

AUGUST 2009

Chronicles

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1400 HIGHLAND PIKE, COVINGTON, KY 41011
WWW.COFNKY.ORG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Flip Side

Centuries ago, the Chinese came up with this really neat curse. "May you live in interesting times." I suppose that means that such times may be interesting to the casual observer are horrifying to those who must undergo the experience of the "interesting times."

When I entered seminary it never entered my mind to be anything other than a parish pastor and I focused my elective courses on the things I perceived such a person should know. I tried to learn as much about the Bible as I could. I believed that preaching and leading

in worship were important. I took a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, so I could find my way around a hospital and learn to help others face the often terrifying issues that bring them there.

What I didn't know was that every aspect of the things I regarded as important during seminary had a flip side and as long as I failed to address the flip side, my education was incomplete. Most of us kids were like that right out of seminary. But the flip side consisted of learning as we observed. Instead of teaching the Bible, being taught the Bible.

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Instead of preaching and leading worship, listening to the preacher and allowing myself to be led through worship. And all of that is easily rectified by going to Bible studies and other worship opportunities.

But it is not all that way. About two weeks ago I found myself sitting in a functionally appointed room at a place called The Breast Center at St. Elizabeth Hospital. I was not there to counsel, or to offer hope, or to share the suffering of another. I could only have wished that to be the case. For the first time I found myself on the flip side and someone was trying to help me process (for want of a better word) the fact that a second mass had been discovered in Patti's breast, by offering comfort and hope.

As cancer goes these were no big deal compared to some of those I have seen others battle. And, from the observers point of view everything went according to Hoyle. The double lumpectomy was quick and clean and initially showed no lymph node involvement. But I was not an observer; I was on the flip side for the first time in my life and despite assurances

from the surgeon and the incredible witness of dozens of women who had gone through similar, and far more difficult related procedures, I was scared. I didn't know how scared I was until I walked out of another room at St. Elizabeth's where Patti's surgeon told me that everything went as expected.

There will be follow up radiation to knock off any microscopic tumor "wannabes", but at this point the news is very good. As I walked toward the waiting area, the sense of joy was almost physical. Later on I thought, "What if the news had not been so good? Would the sense of sorrow, futility and hopelessness have been equally as physical?"

So I decided that if I have to live on the flip side, it isn't so bad as long as the news is good. But after reflecting on all of the good wishes, love, and caring, that we were given, I have learned in a new way the value of Christian community and it's importance and how we are together through joy and sorrow.

Please update your directory,
Dot Thomsen's e-mail address is DottyThomsen@yahoo.com
Jennifer Beach's new e-mail is Jennifer.Beach@kentonlibrary.org

IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS




Henry Wallace, Robert & KC Clarke, The Kreicker Family, Pete Beckett, Nita Kleier, The Moore Family, Eileen Hastings, Patti Smith, and Bert Summerell. Please remember our nursing home residents and shut ins: Ruth Comisar, and Evelyn Wallace.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Derek Beach	3rd	Margaret Meyer	16th
Dolores Gaddis	4th	Mary Lee Harrison	18th
Betty Bickers	7th	Maynard Cook	20th
Ronald Carlin	8th	Cole Francis	20th
Edith Waite	9th	Jenni Francis	21st
Jessica Owen	11th	Pearl Sandmann	24th
Matthew Hastings	12th	Kittie Dupps	27th
Alicia Beach	13th	Ruth Roeber	28th
Luke VanAlstine	13th	Dan Farwick	29th
Katie Hamilton	14th	Bill Dupps	30th
Marion Acree	16th	Gillian Bales	31st
Floyd Hastings	16th		

Happy belated birthday to Betty Murphy.
 She celebrated her  birthday on July 20th.

FROM OUR TREASURER

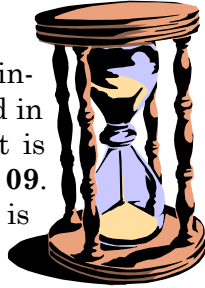
GARY WILLIS

<u>2009</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Yr-to-Date</u>
Beginning Balance	20,447	26,180
Income	7,913	47,835
Expense	<u>9,838</u>	<u>55,493</u>
Ending Balance	18,522	18,522

MISSION AT WORK

BY: JACK KLEIER

A gathering of Presbyterians interested in mission will be held in Cincinnati this October. It is called **Mission Celebration 09**. The date for the celebration is Oct. 22-24, 2009 and it will be held at the Hyatt Hotel.



This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the mission work of the Presbyterian Church and also why we should support the mission effort of the church. There will be workers, representatives, mission workers from other countries and people involved in the work of mission here in the USA.

There are a number of opportunities for members of our local congregations to volunteer to help host this event here in our area. Much like when the General Assembly met here and a number of people volunteered to help. It was a rewarding experience for those that offered their help. The Presbytery Office will let you know what kind of help is needed, you can reach them at 513-221-4850.

There is also an opportunity to host a visitors to our area from Mexico. Four men will be attending and they are looking for someone to host them from Oct 21-25. They are willing to stay two to a room. They will need transportation to and from the Hyatt. Perhaps a team could undertake this, with some-

one providing lodging and others helping with the transportation. Anyone interested in helping can contact: Marisa at marisa.bustamante@pcusa.org.

There will be information posted in the church about this event and the workshops, tours, and registration information to attend for those interested. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about some of the exciting things that our denomination is involved in. It will also be a great way to meet people who represent us in God's mission work in the world.

I am also trying to get a booth for CAM at this event. We will have the crafts of the Appalachian Region available for people to purchase. If anyone is interested in helping in such a booth let me know.

There will be worship services with a global perspective, opportunities to learn what is going on in mission and a wonderful opportunity to meet people from all over this nation as well as the world. We will have bulletin inserts from time to time to keep you informed. It is not too soon to mark your calendar and think about helping make this event a success.

FILM CAPSULES

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Rated R Director David Yates. Warner Brothers. Running Time: 2 hours 30 min.

Although they have left out the climactic battle that concluded the novel, most of the other plot developments are included in this darkest of the Harry Potter films. David Yates, who ably directed the fifth Potter film, returns, along with the cast we have come to love. Michael Gambon proves that he was a good choice to replace the deceased Richard Harris as Professor Dumbledore. Our three heroes become enmeshed in their teenage romantic entanglements, and Severus Snape and Draco Malfoy show which side they are on in the sad event in Hogworth's Astronomy Tower, a dark deed which Harry proves helpless to prevent. Without the climax of the novel, this film becomes more of a bridge or preparation for the two films to follow. Yes, I wrote *two*, the filmmakers wisely deciding to break the last novel into the films.



BY: ED MCNULTY

Public Enemies

Rated R. Proverbs 4:14-17

In his very well made crime thriller director Michael Mann gives a romanticized take on bank robber John Dillinger (Johnny Depp) and the FBI agent in pursuit of him Melvin Purvis (Christian Bale)--though in truth, the emphasis is upon the crook, as we see nothing of the lawman's personal life. For the most part the script stays close to the facts, although it does not include Dillinger's second girlfriend, whom he acquired after the capture and imprisonment of his first love, Billie Frechette. Of interest is how the killers (the plural in the title refers to Baby Face Nelson and other members of the Dillinger gang) became folk heroes in the eyes of many of the public. As now, during the Depression era banks and bankers were held in low esteem, back then because they had wiped out the savings of so many depositors and foreclosed on the homes of so many. The public also admired the canny way in which Dillinger eluded capture, or when he was apprehended, how he was able to break free. Nonetheless, the screen robber, like the real one shoots down in a hail of bullets far too many lawmen unfortunate enough to cross his path.

FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED**BY: ED McNULTY****Moon**

Rated R. Psalm 25:16-18a.

At last, a science fiction film not filled with deep space battle scenes and black holes, evil aliens attacking noble humans, or a hurtling planet, asteroid or sun flare rushing to destroy Earth. Sam Rockwell, his character also named Sam, is outstanding as the lone engineer tending a mining operation on the other side of the moon--his role is similar to Tom Hanks' in *Castaway*. Well, Sam is not quite alone, as there is a mobile computer dubbed Gerty that tends to both his human needs and those of the base and mining operations. Sam is nearing completion of his three year term, eager to return to his wife and baby daughter, when he makes a shocking discovery. There is an accident with one of the moon rovers and a huge digging machine, and inside the damaged rover there is --a man! Where did he come from, and more puzzling, why does he look like Sam? Quite a mystery, followed by some challenging questions about the power of a conglomerate (the film opens with a good "Infomercial" about the mining company that is much like those of chemical companies that promise us "Better living through chemistry"--or oil, or electricity) and the use of science by profit-making groups.

Whatever Works

Rated PG-13. Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

It is great to report that Woody Allen has found his "groove" again, after such a long string of so-so films (with one or two exceptions) since the golden years of *Hannah and Her Sisters* and *Crimes and Misdemeanors*. He returns to his beloved Manhattan and again stays behind the camera, with actor Larry David playing the usual Allen neurotic. However David's Boris Yellnikoff, a retired Columbia professor who tells everyone that he had been close to winning a Nobel Prize for Quantum Mechanics, is so misanthropic and convinced that the universe is pointless that he makes the protagonists of previous Allen films seem like Pollyannas! Much of the humor comes into play when the innocent Melody St. Ann Augustine (Evan Rachel Wood), a naïf from New Orleans, moves in with him (much against his loud objections), takes his metaphorical criticisms of the world and of herself literally, and then begins to mouth his nihilistic philosophy. Imagine that the writer of the biblical book of Ecclesiastes (Vanity of vanities...!) were to make a film: this would be it.

FILM CAPSULES , CONTINUED

Away We Go

Rated R. Psalm 10:1

British theater director Sam Mendes, who gave us *American Beauty* and *Revolutionary Road*, provides us with another look of askance at our society in this road film about an expectant couple searching for a suitable place to raise their child. They leave their Colorado home because his parents, whom they expected to be of great help, have suddenly decided that they are

BY: ED McNULTY

going to live in Belgium. The pair visit an assortment of relatives and friends in such places as Phoenix, Tucson, Montreal, and Miami, but for an assortment of reasons--some funny, and at least one poignantly sad--they soon depart for another city. Their journey leads them into all sorts of reflection, upon marriage (he wants to marry, she asks "What's the point?"), ways of raising children, and where and what is home. A somewhat chaotic film, but far better than most of the cineplex drech.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE UMBRELLA BY: JOANNA BAILEY

Thanks to the many volunteers our flea market was a great success. Not only did we make good money, but we also made some good contacts in the community. Becky Lindsay greeted folks as they arrived , handing out church pencils and information about our faith community. Thanks to all who contributed items, time and who purchased items.

Coming up next is our annual ice cream social (see more page 8). We need many volunteers to make this a success also. So check out the list of jobs and sign up in the narthex. One of the things we would like to do is to sell some crafts. Many of you have talents in this area. Please consider creating some nice crafts to be sold. If you have a craft that others can help with , bring materials to church on Aug. 1st . We'll make crafts while the ice cream is freezing. Or join jewelry makers that day creating beautiful things to be sold (materials available)

Watch for other opportunities for fellowship at COF:

Aug. 9- in the afternoon- Daesik's farewell concert

Labor Day weekend- Riverfest on the back patio, beautiful fireworks, good food, good friends

In **September-** eggplant feast at the Lindsay's, all are invited

A **fall festival** with a possible chili cook off.

Please plan to be a part of all our opportunities to fellowship and make a concerted effort to invite others to join us. We have a wonderful thing going at our church- let's share it.

The Congregational Care umbrella wants your input. Please drop in our suggestion box or give to a session member any ideas that you would like to share for ways that COF can make your church experience more meaningful.

**COMMUNITY OF FAITH'S
ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL & FUND RAISER
BATTERY HOOPER DAYS AT
JAMES A. RAMAGE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM**

AUGUST 22ND 11:00AM—6:00PM

AUGUST 23RD 1:00PM—5:00PM

**IN ADDITION TO HOMEMADE ICE CREAM AND COOKIES
THERE WILL BE HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, BBQ AND DRINKS**



**HOMEMADE CRAFTS & JEWELRY
WILL ALSO BE FOR SALE**

We need volunteers to help with set up on August 22nd and clean up on the 23rd. We also need ice cream dippers, food servers, table cleaners and cashiers during the ice cream social. Call the church or sign up in narthex.

What would our annual social be without your homemade cookies, brownies, cupcakes, muffins and every other type of bar style treats? Not as good, that's what! It would be helpful if you could place 2—3 small size or 1 large treat in individual sandwich bags. And lastly...

We need people to socialize, buy ice cream, cookies and crafts. Spread the word to all of your friends, relatives and neighbors, please.

A PARTING PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD - APRIL 22, 2009

God our Maker, whose presence within and among us is wisdom and grace, forgiveness and love - thanks and praise to you for all we have been and all we have done together. Be with us as we walk in new directions; give us the assurance of your guidance so that what we do is good and right.

Be with each person and congregation in this time of change and uncertainty. Help us to remember the bounty with which we live, even in the midst of loss. As the world's financial crisis continues, make us generous, grateful and content.

While the church we knew as children faces challenges to live and grow, may we see opportunities and welcome changes that will bring others to know the Good News. Open our hearts and minds to receive the friend and the stranger alike, and to see your face in one another.

Make us truly one in Christ, for our lives depend on it. Move us to put aside anything that divides us, so that we are a single witness to the love you give so prodigally. Help all to understand that separation means isolated interests, false and incomplete success, misunderstandings that become fact and loss of community.

Bring the many parts of this synod together in your name, O God - the snow-filled culverts of the homeless in the Upper Peninsula, the beautiful gardens of Holland, the ravaged neighborhoods of downtown Detroit, the wide shores of the Great Lakes, the Appalachian hills of southern Ohio, and all other places where the family of faith lives and gathers for worship.

May our lives, our hearts and our wills be filled with grace and gratitude. I pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

Marie T. Cross
Retiring Synod Executive

Our sympathy to Marilyn Gordon on the death of her son, Jack Jones.

Sympathy to Dr. and Mrs. Richard Grover on the death of his mother, Alvena Grover on June 11th

Also, sympathy to Keith and Jennifer Bales on the death of Jennifer's grandmother

GOLD AWARD GOES GREEN

Julia Mead is organizing a denim drive for her Girl Scout Gold Award. All of the donated jeans will be recycled into eco-friendly insulation for Habitat for Humanity houses. Her goal is to get 500 pair of jeans, which provide enough insulation for a 1600 square foot house.

An environmentalist, Julia got the idea when she attended last fall's UK environmental showcase "Big Blue Goes Green." The College of Design displayed 'green' building materials. "I felt like most people have jeans that are too small, too big, or too old piling up on their closet floors and it would be better to use the material to insulate somebody's house, than take up space in people's closets," Julia explained.

Jeans may be brought to the church for Jennifer Beach any time before August 10th. Jennifer will make sure they get where they need to go.

Thank you!

It may be
that your sole purpose in life
is simply
to be kind to others.



You can now receive the newsletter via e-mail! Please send us your e-mail address. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES !

David Harrison, grandson of Mary Lee Harrison, graduated from the University of Kentucky and will be attending Law School at University of Kentucky in the fall.

Jessica Owen, daughter of Jeff and Donna Owen and granddaughter of Charlotte Owen, graduated from Morehead University on May 9, earning the degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She hopes to pursue a career in pediatric oncology.

Courtney Brown, daughter of Terri and Cliff Brown granddaughter of Jean Jennings, graduated in May from the University of Kentucky, cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management.

Adam Wise, son of Glen & Cindy Wise and Grandson of Howard Story, received his Master's Degree in Education and Special Education from Northern Kentucky University. He has been teaching at Newport Middle School for 5 years.

Zachary Story, Grandson of Howard Story, graduated from Charlotte High School in Charlotte, Michigan. He will be attending Michigan State University in the fall.

HOUSING FOR MISSION CO-WORKERS

On October 24—26 Presbyterian mission co-workers from around the world are gathering in Cincinnati. They will be attending General Assembly's Mission Roundtable Event being held at the Convention Center and downtown Hyatt Hotel.

Many of them will be looking for alternative housing.

If you would like to host some, please contact a member of the local hospitality committee.

William Westmoreland at wilsonmemorial@fuse.net or wllswtmrl8@aol.com or Carol Winkler at winksmama@insightbb.com





Community of Faith
Presbyterian Church
1400 Highland Pike
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ICE CREAM SOCIAL
AUGUST 22ND & 23RD

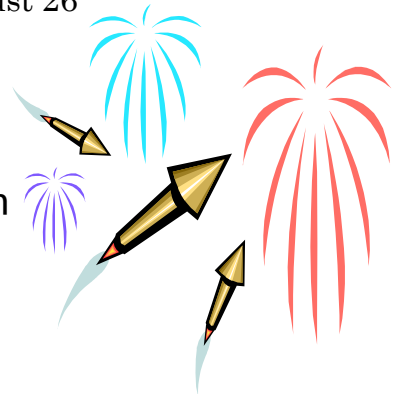


UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Bible Study 11:00am	August 5
Daesik's farewell concert - Afternoon	August 9
Wednesday Bible Study 11:00am	August 12
Trustees 6:30pm	August 13
Session 7:00pm	August 13
No Bible Study	August 19
Ice Cream Social	August 22—23
Wednesday Bible Study 11:00am	August 26

Fireworks Party

7:00pm on Sunday, September 6th
Picnic Food and Homemade Ice Cream
Ample parking! No alcohol, please.



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