

Community of Christ

Forest Hills Happenings

VALENTINE'S DAY

February 2009

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Feb 4 – Pre-budget Meeting to consider the 2009 budget held following the Fireside Meal at 6:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday, Feb 7-8 – Work Days At Glenn Wood Hills to paint the dorm

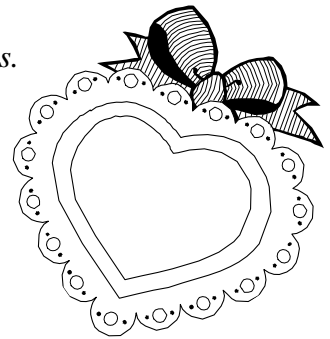
Saturday, Feb 14 – Valentine's Dinner at the church sponsored by the Youth to raise funds to IYF/Spectacular. See Jay Rogers for details.

Sunday, Feb 15 – 2009 Budget Meeting following Potluck after church

Wednesday, March 4 - Fireside meal at 6:30 pm, followed by a Worship service to prepare to enter the season of Lent and Easter

March 13-15 - Missional Transformation activity,
"Theology and Mission in the Community of Christ"
with Don Compier, Dean of the Community of Christ Seminary.

Saturday, March 21 – Word Day at Glenn Wood Hills to prepare for the camping season.



I Just Love “ _____ ”

I have said it so often. *I just love _____*. Jay and the boys are the obvious fill-in-the-blank, with my brand-new nephew coming in a close third. When I'm feeling materialistic (which is a lot of the time) I add: *O Magazine*, my Pampered Chef Santoku knife, my video Ipod, hand-knit scarf, and on and on.

But I'm finding these days that what touches my heart is something untouchable. It's the daily circumstance that takes me by surprise and gives me a 10-second surge of pure JOY. It's the unsolicited hug around my waist (or knees) when I'm elbow-deep in a hot skillet that's late for dinner. It's hearing for the seventh time in a week, "It's a beautiful day, Mommy," – even when the world is frigid and gray. It's realizing my latest greatest mistake was discovered – and then disregarded – by the ones I love the most for that very reason. It's that moment of clarity in a spontaneous talk with one of my boys leaning over their beds in the dark after their prayers. It's happening upon thirty minutes of no one desperately needing me when I can quietly play piano, read a book, pray, and on and on.

These are the things I'm in love with, yet never see coming. They are moments of grace when I know God is near. They are His valentine to me. – Sanna Rogers





FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Reflections on Love

Ephesians 3: I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

I had the opportunity to share with the Bethel Park Congregation in Pittsburg this past weekend. This congregation is asking some of the same questions Forest Hills is asking. What does it mean to be a disciple and what does it mean to be the church in a changing world? These are the questions Christians have been asking for centuries and must always ask if they seek to be a prophetic voice and transformative presence in the modern world.

For millions of Christians, Christianity is primarily about personal salvation, going to church, and occasionally giving some money to a good cause. For Community of Christ there is much more at stake than achieving a level of personal moral purity so one can be considered acceptable to dwell with God in eternity. Jesus constantly called his followers to engage with the culture around them and see and respond to human need and suffering. He spent little time in synagogues and engaged with people in their context. Jesus invited people to live according to a different set of principles that were not yet visible but if embraced would bring reconciliation and wholeness to all dimensions of life.

From time to time we experience glimpses of what it means to be the church in a culture that has such an abundance of resources. I was powerfully reminded of this last week as I observed many in the Forest Hills Congregation responding to the needs of Tina, Christian, and Joshua. Several weeks ago these three individuals were strangers to the Forest Hills Congregation. A connection with the Tri-City Congregation in western Kentucky created the awareness of Christian's serious health challenges and Tina's significant needs for support.

We did not ask them to come to church. We went to them and surrounded them with a sacred community of love and support in a place strange and foreign to them. Tina has recently turned from some destructive practices in her life and decided to follow Jesus. In the midst of that new journey, her son struggles to overcome cancer.

As I shared with Bethel Park this past Sunday, I confessed that I have far more questions than answers. I know my understanding and attempts at discipleship are feeble at best. In the midst of that uncertainty at times I was able to bear witness that God is present in some of the most unlikely places. As I began to share Tina's story I was made aware of how the Kingdom of God has come near to her as a group of strangers now friends have surrounded her in a community of support and love. I was overcome with the Holy Spirit bearing witness of God's call to us to offer this incredible gift of sacred community not just to those who will walk through our doors but those who find themselves in places they would have never imagined.

So what does it mean to be a disciple and what does it mean to be the church? As we enter the neighborhoods, lives, and experiences of real people we will find that God is up to something in the midst of their joys and struggles. People are longing to be surrounded by a community of unconditional love that surprises the lonely, forgotten, and suffering by bringing hope and love to them in places neither of us could have ever imagined.

"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love." May our grounding in the love of Christ stir us to be the church in unfamiliar places. -- Submitted by Ron Harmon



OUTREACH HAPPENINGS

"We love each other, because he loved us first" I John 4:19

QUILTERS

The Forest Hills quilters accepted a new project in December of 2007. Marty Sherrard, Linda Ayre and Imogene Lance have collaborated with Channin Daugherty to make memory quilts for Kosair Children's Hospital. The program at Kosair is called the "Hearts & Hands" project.

All year we have made small sized quilts & have donated a total of 28 very colorful pieces to the project. They are matched to the families & sent from Kosair "Hearts & Hands". The description on the back of each piece states that it was made by the Forest Hills Quilters, Community of Christ.

We have each enjoyed the time & efforts involved, and we will continue into 2009. Sore fingers make warm hearts. -- Imogene Phelps

OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL – "Change For Change"

Remember the third Sunday of the month is set aside to collect change for change. Save all your loose coins and bring them on February 15th to donate to Outreach International.

FOOD BANK

Since 2003, there has been a gradual increase in our donations to Jeffersontown Area Ministries. Practice is making perfect.

The largest number one food item was corn with 38 cans. The second was soups with tuna coming in third. For personal items, it was toothbrushes as number one with toothpaste, razors and soap following. There were no combs or brushes donated but everything else was accounted for on the list. There were also several stocking caps and socks.

The youth & their leaders continued with their Hunger Challenge and they collected food throughout the Forest Hills community. They donated 150 pounds of food to JAM. They witnessed throughout our neighborhood their concern for those in need. Great Job, Youth!!

Our oblation offering on the 1st Sunday of every month continue to be our signal donation date to include bringing canned goods. Any item, anytime, is appreciated.

We have donated 5 large food baskets throughout 2008. If you know of families in need, notify Barb or myself. Food is plentiful for most but may need to be redistributed to others.

This past Christmas our adopted family was through Sarah Runyon. Ask Sarah how our response was for 2 boys and one girl.

Our economy has certainly taken a down spiral. Many will be in a crisis situation balancing heat, food, medicines, gasoline & housing. Our community resources reach far beyond our food pantry. Our community needs stretch way out in many areas. Lets continue stretching our giving as much as possible. Our congregation donated 200 pounds of items to JAM above the youth donation of 150 pounds. There are still several cans of food in our pantry.

The goal for 2008 was 608. We exceeded that by 12, for a total of 620. I have counted each total since 2003 only to show our growth in our commitment. We have steadily increased each year. Keep up the good works. Your efforts are never wasted and they are increased whenever we help even the least of these, our brothers & sisters. -- Imogene Phelps

February – Corn & Paper Towels
March - Soups, Combs, Brushes

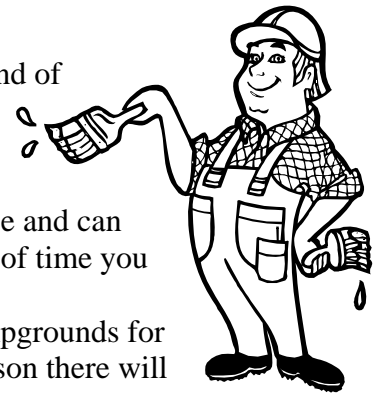
MISSION STATEMENT

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace.

Glenn Wood Hills WORK DAYS

Dorm Painting - There is going to be a painting prep activity at GWH on the weekend of February 7th and 8th. The plan is to prepare the hall and Nurse's station in the dorm for painting. Cindy will have all paint and supplies. The plan is to clean by washing down the walls, taping off doorways and whatever else needs to be done to prepare the areas for painting. Then paint those designated areas. If you are available and can provide your time and talents, please contact the Mission Center office. Any amount of time you can donate to help would be appreciated.

Camping Season Preparation – March 21st will be the work day to prepare the campgrounds for the summer camping season. The more hands there are to help, the less work per person there will be to do. Any help at all will be greatly appreciated.



What's Happening In Your Group?

“Love your neighbor as yourself” Matthew 19:19

Young Adults - Weekly Gatherings

The Metro young adult group have begun a study of the Book of Revelation. We continue to meet weekly, building lifelong bonds of friendship. We meet at the New Albany church every Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. If you would like more information, please talk to Mike Hoffman or Karen Mercer.

Group Study

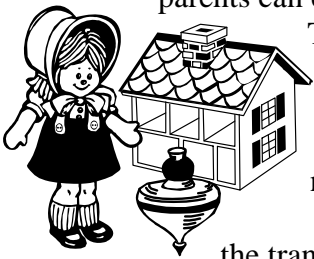
Spiritual Formation and Prayer are important to our experience as Christian disciples. In order to encourage our growth as disciples and to deepen our experience of community, we would invite you to participate in a small group. Three groups will be forming that will meet in various locations and times. If you are interested in participating in a small group that meets during the day, please contact Linda Ayre or Sanna Rogers. If you are interested in participating in a small group that meets in the evening in Louisville, please contact Kathleen Yager-Rosenbarger. If you are interested in participating in an evening group in Southern Indiana, please contact Leah Fredrickson or Barb Harmon. Times, locations, and study materials will be determined by group members.

Nursery

The nursery has been provided for the congregation for many years. The little ones play and the parents can enjoy & participate in the services. The ages are until the child reaches his/her 6th birthday. They are encouraged to learn to participate in the congregational activities of singing, praying & listening. It is a special time of family worship.

There is a nursery scheduled for each Sunday. If you are unable to stay for your time, please trade or ask someone to take your turn. Please pick up the toys & arrange the nursery furniture in a pleasing atmosphere for its next use.

We will try to provide books, crayons, and paper for the younger children as they make the transition from the nursery age to the family worship. – Imogene Phelps



Missional Transformation Activity

Please mark your calendar for *Friday, March 13 – Sunday, March 15* for a Missional Transformation activity, "Theology and Mission in the Community of Christ" with Don Compier, Dean of the Community of Christ Seminary. Friday evening will be a Coffee House to get to know Don. Saturday will be a workshop type experience, with times to be announced (to hopefully not conflict with any potential "March Madness" games!). Sunday morning, Don will meet with the Youth during Sunday School, and Don and Larry McGuire will lead our 11:00 am worship.

Fun Tidbits, Birthdays & Other Happenings

"Anyone who loves another brother or sister is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble" I John 2:10

Happy Birthday!!

| | | | |
|----------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Paul Ross | 2/2 | Richard Nash | 2/3 |
| Mikaela Mercer | 2/3 | Rachel Busto | 2/4 |
| Cecelia Beeler | 2/5 | Alan Leichhardt | 2/13 |
| Linda Ayre | 2/14 | Martha Sherrard | 2/14 |
| Thomas Fryer | 2/14 | Konner Heil | 2/14 |
| Brian Sampson | 2/19 | Allisa Jones | 2/21 |
| David Blair | 2/22 | Kimberly McGaha | 2/27 |
| Donna Lansing | 2/28 | Sherlon Simons | 2/28 |
| Brianna Shanks | 2/28 | | |

Things We Love

The Lists

Joyce is the love of my life. I began courting Joyce in grad school when she was an undergrad, but for some strange reason she was difficult to win. From time to time Joyce would resolve to end our relationship. My response was always the same. I would say - "We have too much invested in this relationship to end it without talking it out." You have to understand that "talking it out" to me meant us sitting in my car in the dark in her dorm parking lot while I kissed her concerns away. One night the romantic mood was seriously dented when in the pitch dark I reached for her face and accidentally stuck one of my fingers up her left nostril as I told her I loved her. It's amazing how quickly something like that can dampen a romantic moment.

I asked her one night - "Why are you giving me so much trouble? What do find that's wrong with me, anyway?" A word of advice to young men - never ask that question! Women are detail persons and really enjoy analyzing and nit picking a guy's faults. The next night that we got together she had given serious thought to my questions and had a written list of about twenty faults that I needed to correct.

After working hard and correcting everything on the list, I very proudly approached Joyce and informed her I had completed the list. However, instead of praise, she informed me that she had given the subject more thought and realized that the list she had given me only listed shallow unimportant things and that she had come up with a second list of more serious character flaws. Needless to say, I had no idea I was such a flawed person and expressed my appreciation for her taking the time to root out these hidden insidious shortcomings. Not! In reality, I grumbled and shuffled off to work on this new list. After finishing this list, Joyce finally decided I was worthy of her at least tolerating me.



Dave Blair

Farm Boy

Whenever I think about the places I love, my mind wanders back to when I was a kid on our family farm in Kansas. In the summertime, my day would start with Grandma making us a breakfast of bacon, toast, cereal, milk and basted eggs. If you've never had basted eggs, then you haven't lived. Grandma would fry up a cast iron skillet full of bacon, and she would save about an inch of hot grease in it. Then, she would crack several eggs and drop them in the hot grease. Taking a tablespoon, she would ladle hot grease over the eggs until they were cooked on top and bottom. My mouth is watering just writing about it!

After eating, I would practically break the screen door down getting out of the house. I'd grab my fishing pole and a spade from the smokehouse, then head off to the cow lot. Using the spade, I would dig under some cow pies and get an old soup can filled up with fat earthworms to use for bait. Sometimes I would catch a big grasshopper, put a saddle on him, and ride him up to one of our ponds. (We have really big grasshoppers back in Kansas!)

Once I had "exercised" a bunch of bass in the pond, it would be time to head to the creek for some craw-dad hunting. The way to hunt craw-dads is to turn over a big rock in the creek, in a way that the current carries the silt downstream quickly. The dumbfounded craw-dads will hang out for a moment or two before realizing that they've been exposed, and you can snatch them up if you're quick enough. Every now and then you'll get a big one that will get a good grip on your finger with his claw, nothing's fun if it's not risky!

Around lunch time, I would hear my Grandma honking the car horn from the house. Off I would go at a dead run back to the house, stopping at the well to wash the mud off of my feet and hands. Lunch would be sweet corn, green beans and okra from our garden, plus a roast, sweet tea and cornbread, topped off with fresh strawberries on shortcake with real cream.

As soon as I was done eating, it was back to another adventure. I would climb into the barn loft for a mock battle among the hay bales, which would leave me sweaty and itching. That's when it would always occur to me that I could make my own swimming hole if only I could figure out how to dam up the creek. I would then drag a bunch of old boards to the creek, and start working on my dam. By late afternoon, there would be a nice pool of water backed up that was perfect for a cool swim. Eventually, a big snake would swim out into the water, and that would be the end of the pool experiment!

Dinner would always be more of the same farm food. In the evenings, I would sit outside with Grandpa and listen to the KC Royals play baseball on the radio. By the 7th inning, my eyes would be getting heavy, and I'd have to go inside for a bath. After cleaning up and pulling off the day's harvest of ticks, it was off to bed. Grandma's old spring mattress was lumpy, but oh so comfortable. There would be a cool westerly breeze coming in the window, and I'd slide off to sleep.

Just writing this makes me want to go back there right now!!! -- Jay Rogers

Who Am I?

Last month's "Who Am I" was Ron Sherrard.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>What is your pet peeve?</i> | Grumpy People |
| <i>What do you do for a living?</i> | Teacher |
| <i>How many children/grandchildren do you have?</i> | Seven |
| <i>How many pets do you have?</i> | 2 Dogs |
| <i>What is your favorite sport?</i> | Volleyball |
| <i>How long have you lived in the Louisville area?</i> | 45 Years |
| <i>What is a fact about yourself that most people don't know?</i> | I used to be able to shoot 8 out of 10 free-throws. |

This person's identity will be revealed in March's Forest Hills Happenings

"Who Am I" is put together by Ashley and Marty Sherrard.



February

| February 2009 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Fireside Meal 6:30 pm 2009 Pre- budget Mtg after the Fireside Meal | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 F | 12 | 13 | 14 Happy Valentines Day Valentines Dinner, 7 pm, by reservation |
| 15 Congregational Potluck 2009 Budget Mtg following Potluck after church | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Priesthood Gathering 7:00 pm | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | | | | | |

EDITOR'S NOTE

I appreciate all of the article I received this month. Thank you to all my authors!

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Community of Christ

Come Worship With Us

Wednesday Night 7:00 pm Prayer & Testimony Service
Sunday Schedule 9:30 am Congregational Breakfast & fellowship
10:00 am Sunday School for ALL Ages
11:00 am Morning Worship in the Sanctuary



Fully Staffed Nursery Provided Every Sunday for Morning Worship

Church Building is All One Level and Mostly Handicap Accessible



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