



The Chimes

GREENHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN

WHERE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF GOD'S CHILDREN IS WELCOME

Volume 69, Issue 10

November, 2009

Inside this issue:

From the Session	1
Gifts of the Spirit Bazaar	2
Request from Worship	2
Mission / Outreach news	3
Stewardship Report	4
Birthdays and Anniversaries	5
Advent Event	5
A Thank-you Note	5
"The Door Is Open" - Pastor's view	6
Youth News	7
Calendar	Insert

“WE ARE ALIVE and the FUTURE IS OURS!”

by Chris Newcomer

The Session

Fall has finally come with all of its beauty of various hues of brown, red and gold. The changing colors of fall are a gentle reminder of the tasks ahead for our church. The changing seasons give us a new sense of urgency and a desire to get on with the renewal process we must go through before we are made whole again as one Body in Christ.

Our discussions at the Session meeting on October 26 helped bring into focus what still needs to be done before a new pastor is brought into our fold. But we have not been standing still. As the reports of the various ministries and committees were given it was exciting to hear about the numerous activities the church has been involved in lately, currently has underway or has planned for in the near future. If you haven't been involved NOW IS THE TIME.

A need to fill vacancies in various ministries and boards was brought to the attention of the Session. A motion was made and passed to hold a congregational meeting on November 15 to elect a new deacon. A staff review is underway for both Marsha Webster and Bill Jenne.

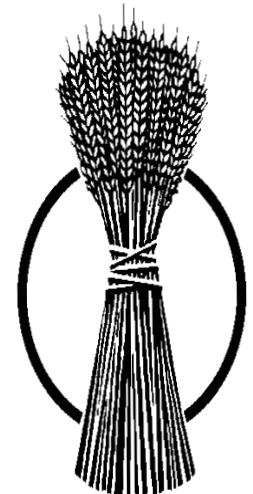
Have you noticed the changes in our Sunday worship format? The Worship ministry is trying to be responsive to congregational needs and requests. Our youth have been making suggestions. We need your feedback - how are we doing?

It is worth noting that pledge income is at 103 percent of budget, with only 83 percent of the year past. Paying attention to the cost of running the church has paid off in reduced overall expenses. Fund raisers have made major contributions. However, monetary value can not be placed on the hundreds of

volunteer hours used to man the office, make repairs to the church facility, run fund raisers, and provide community service projects such as Habitat and supporting the spiritual needs of places such as Winton House.

A formal decision was made to again support offerings for SOUL Christmas gift certificates (November 22–December 6), West Cincinnati Mitten Tree and Chicken-in-Every-Basket (November 29–December 13), the Christmas Offering will be received December 13-20. Because new needs arise and others diminish, a motion was made and passed that all offerings be re-evaluated each year.

As noted in the title to this months Session report- “WE ARE ALIVE and the FUTURE IS OURS”. But there is still MUCH WE ALL MUST DO TOGETHER to prepare for our future. A motion was made and joyfully passed that by January 15, 2010 in preparation for announcement to the congregation at the Annual Meeting, that (1) all Task Force Reports will be completed, and (2) a timetable will be ready to include dates (a) for choosing the *Pastor Nominating Committee* and (b) for completing the *Church Information Form* (required for recruiting a new pastor). Marsha reminded the Session members that in order to achieve those goals there is still much to be done by the congregation as a whole. Greenhills Community Church Presbyterian is OUR church and before we can seriously think of a new pastor, the congregation (that is you and me- all of us) must determine, as Gods children, who we are and how this church is going to carryout its ministry. ARE YOU READY TO COMPLETE THE TASK OF RENEWAL? You will be asked to participate. The next several weeks are critical- GET INVOLVED, IT IS YOUR CHURCH.



OUR "GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT" HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Once again we are making all the final preparations for the holiday bazaar. Thanks to all of you who have been so diligently working these past months

planning, encouraging, supporting and producing quality handcrafts for this year's bazaar. Within the first two weeks of November, all the final

touches need to be accomplished. Please find a place where you can help

– THERE IS A JOB FOR EVERYONE!

OPPORTUNITIES - A FINAL CALL FOR HELPERS!

Just like the elections, soon we will stop badgering you for your help and your lives can go back to other things. However, for the next two weeks we still need your attention. Whether you have been spending all your spare time crafting and making things for the bazaar since March or have not had time to do anything for the bazaar

to date, we do need your help now in preparation for and during the bazaar, to make it a success. There are many details that have to be covered during these last two weeks. Sissy Simons and Karen Cramer are asking for you to sign-up and pitch in and help in any way you can with counting, pricing, tagging, preparing shopping bags,

baking, setting up tables, working the sales tables (we would like two people working each table) checking people out and cleaning up after the bazaar. Remember, this bazaar is for the benefit of all of us and the programs and missions of our church – not for fellowship!

COUNTDOWN TIMELINE:

- 1) **Buy & sell your raffle tickets for the beautiful "Butterfly Ballet" quilt, created by Sharon Bailey, \$1.00 per ticket or 6 for \$5.00.**
- 2) **For all who have or are making items to be sold at the bazaar, please bring all sale items to the church by Sunday, November 8. We need to inventory and price each item.**
- 3) **For everyone selling quilt raffle tickets, please sell your tickets and ask for more if you can sell more prior to the bazaar. Turn in your money and/or unsold tickets, Friday, November 13.**
- 4) **We will need lots of help with set-up, Bazaar Sales and/or clean-up on November 13th and 14th, starting at 9:00 AM Friday morning.**
- 5) **The quilt raffle drawing will be held Sunday morning, November 15, after church. The winner does not need to be there.**

continued on page 3

A Request From Your Worship Committee –

There have been some changes in worship at GCCP this fall, and we would like to hear from you about whether these changes are desirable or not.

In response to several adult suggestions, and a youth-group suggestion, we are attempting to inject more energy into our services through the use of an upbeat, gathering song. These songs, mostly from our "Songs for Praise and Worship" books are often more amenable to piano and string accompaniment (as opposed to organ), so you have been hearing more from the String Group (Ron Jandacek, Ed Steele, Paul Odegard, Jim Zeller, and Bob Sanders). Another suggestion from both adults and youth was to have international songs featured perhaps once per month. On October 4 we featured three African songs during worship, along with a Jamaican response, and we have plans for in-

ternational music at the Nov 1 service. The youth group has agreed to remain in worship for the entire service on these 1st Sundays of the month. Whether we can continue to come up with international songs depends on whether Ron Jandacek can keep coming up with suggestions! Another youth-group suggestion was to provide more percussion with these praise and international songs. We have not done very well in accommodating this request so far, and if you are willing to play a conga drum, tambourine, etc. for our praise songs, please let us know.

We would like to have feedback from you on these changes, and any other aspects of worship. Please talk to me or any other member of the worship committee: Jeanne Davis, Dot Keith, Jean Wiggins, Lee Sanders, Jim Hadley, Bill Jenne, and Marsha Webster.

from page 2

COME DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

Saturday, November 14, 2009

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Light soup lunch will be available.

Bring family, friends and neighbors and your gift lists!

Start & finish your holiday shopping in one easy day and benefit the programs & missions of our church!

Come select from a wide variety of high quality handcrafted items, such as:

- **New products and surprises introduced this year, along with some of last year's favorites**
- **Numerous original gifts and stocking stuffers**
- **Holiday Decorations & Home Accessories for both Thanksgiving & Christmas**
- **Beautiful table accessories**
- **Unique handcrafted holiday cards, tags, gift bags, notes**
- **Christmas ornaments – personalization available on the spot**
- **Original Theme Baskets for all your “hard to chose for” relatives**
- **Delicious baked goods for the holidays and MUCH, MUCH MORE!**

The “Butterfly Ballet” quilt will be on display at the bazaar with raffle sales continuing throughout the day.

SEE YOU THERE!

Mission/Outreach News

by Karen Cramer

Chris Newcomer and Karen Cramer are working together to provide a Mission/Outreach Ministry team. We are in need of additional members and would like to include more members and friends of the church in the planning of this vital church work. Call or speak with one of us and we'll help you get involved.

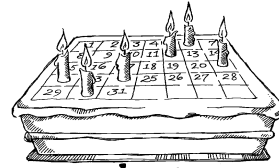
October offered us many opportunities to reach out to others, including:

- Habitat Work Week provided us with many opportunities – 7 days of work were donated by a crew of 10 to build a home on Wilson St.
- Habitat Fund Raising Spaghetti Dinner - \$958 was raised in support of a future home. Many hands helped to prepare and serve the meal, including our youth and Winton Woods High School Key Club members.
- Peace Offering - \$323 was collected. 75% goes to support Presbytery peace initiatives. The remaining 25% will be donated to a peace initiative to be decided by the Mission/Outreach Ministry.
- Weekly drivers provided rides to Kroger for Winton House Residents. This ministry has been ongoing for 30 years.
- Halloween treats were provided in the Sunday School Hallway to pre-school trick-or-treaters with invites to Church/Sunday School.
- Halloween treats with church invites were provided at the edge of the parking lot to trick-or-treaters on Halloween.
- Excess medical equipment was donated to St. Vincent DePaul Society.

--continued on page 4

November Birthdays. . .

Rob Scott	1	Bob Scott	19
Jon Seymour	2	Allison Hadley	20
Mary Moran	8	Mick Acus	21
Sylvia Abu-Gyamfl	11	Meredith Barker	25
Amy Newcomer	14	Jim Schad	26
Tom Hadley	17	Dot France	28



**Birthdays
This Month**

FROM THE EDITOR:

The deadline for articles for the December Chimes is **Tuesday, November 20th**. Articles can be submitted electronically to Jim Hadley at jhadley2@cinci.rr.com. I can use documents in Microsoft Word, Works Word Processor, Publisher, or Word Perfect. Or just write or type up your article and place it in the CHIMES mailbox slot in the church office.

. . .And Anniversaries

John and Barb Lavash	21
Tod and Olga Steinway	29



**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!**



Mark Your Calendars now for Christmas yet to come!

On Sunday, December 20, at 4 PM, in our sanctuary, Friends of the Groom will perform a Christmas Program.

Invite your friends and neighbors or the whole community, to join us for an early evening of skits and carols by this popular local group of thespians who will brighten our spirits and warm our hearts.



A Thank-you note from some friends

Dear friends,

We are blessed to have recently received your donation for Nast Trinity UMC.

We promise to be good stewards of each financial gift we receive.

Thank you, as a partnering congregation, in fulfilling God's mission and ministry in serving the people of Over-the-Rhine.

Your generous gift is making a difference in transforming lives.

God bless you,

The members of Nast Trinity

"The Door Is Open!"

Greetings, People of God,

The next steps in the Interim Tasks are on their way! The Missional Church Task Team is the last to start its work, which will be two-fold.

The first is to offer an Adult Education class to equip your thinking about the world of the church of which Greenhills will be a part in the next decades. I will lead that class on the last 4 Sundays of November, the 8th through the 29th, using ideas from the book, *Missional Church: a Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*, edited by Darrell L. Gruder. There will be a sign-up sheet on November 1st to indicate your interest, and whether Sunday morning or evening would work best for you, as well as a bibliography if you want to look at this or other titles.

The second part of this Task Team's work is to enlist all of us to be part of small groups that will be forming, for four purposes for the Interim Tasks process.

- To create groups where we feel free to speak up as we consider together next steps in this congregation's life. Each time the groups meet, they will begin with a short Bible reflection, sharing, and prayer with each other, to help form each group into a working unit.
- To have all of those groups meet together for presentations of reports and information from the Interim Tasks Teams, then to share responses and insights in separate groups. Each group would have a report form to save your insights from each of those presentations.
- To have many more people involved in the process of collecting, reflecting on and preserving the information available for deciding how to proceed as a church. This is instead of one smaller group doing all of that work and presenting their conclusions to you at a single meeting.
- All of this reflecting will inform choices to be made about what sort of person to seek for your next installed pastor.

As far as a timeline goes, those small groups will work

at least twice a month through January and February, listening and reflecting. Toward the end of their work, no doubt each group will have begun to have some ideas of who among themselves might make good members for the Pulpit Nominating Committee (PNC). That group should rightfully be elected by early March, in time to participate in the final reflections from all the collected information and responses. They are the group which will take all of that information to use in completing the Church Information Form (CIF), which serves as this congregation's resume in the pastor search process.

Searching for and calling a new pastor is a joint effort of the congregation along with the Presbytery, represented by a liaison appointed by the Committee on Ministry (COM) to work with the PNC (see above for what those initials represent! We'll use lots of initials in the coming months!!) All ministers in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) are members of the Presbytery, not the congregations where they serve, and the Presbytery has a hand in this church's welfare, sometimes doing a better job of that than other times. We are in a period when the Presbytery of Cincinnati is intent on helping congregations become more vital, though Presbytery leaders are themselves in a steep learning curve about how to go about doing that. We are learning next steps together, and COM (see above for initials) will be a partner in those steps. Once they have had a chance to look at the CIF (see above for initials) it will be posted online through our General Assembly offices matching process, and the committee will begin to receive and consider applications, probably by late spring.

That's the goal, and the way we will get there is with your participation in the Missional Church Adult Education class this month, and small reflection groups in January and February.

Yours in Christ,

Marsha



Calling all Youth. . .

by Lesly Walters

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – We have set a goal this year of 15 boxes for our global outreach to boys and girls, infant through 18 years, home and abroad. This is one of many programs run by Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse organization. (I highly encourage you to visit their website www.SamaritansPurse.org to see more of their wonderful mission work.) Our deadline for turning in donations is November 15. Here is a list of suggested items to fit in a standard size shoebox. We are also asked to include \$7.00 per box donated to help cover shipping costs. (Please make note of the items that we CANNOT include). Thank you for your donations and prayers!

DO:

Personal & Hygiene: brushes, combs, hair decorations, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, socks, underwear, slippers, hats, gloves, mittens

School Supplies: pens, pencils, markers, crayons, rulers, glue sticks, scissors, tape, dictionary, note pads, post it notes, index cards, solar calculators, colored pencils

Toys & Candy: Etch-a-sketch, slinky, yo-yo, small cars, dolls, stickers, dominoes, cards, electronic games and batteries, coloring books and crayons, journals, small lego sets, balls, nerf toys, stuffed animals, small Frisbees gum, hard candy, lollipops

DON'T:

Military toys (including figures, guns, vehicles), glass or other breakables, liquid of any kind (including glue), medicine of any kind, aerosol items, chocolate or other melting candy, outdated candy, used toys

YOUTH BUCKHORN CHRISTMAS! Hopefully you have been following the ongoing mission partner project the Youth have taken on with our "Buckhorn Brothers" in Columbus. Since spending our summer mission trip working at their facility in June, we have sent homemade birthday cards, helped revive their art therapy program (with a generous grant from the CYM fund!) and are gearing up for our fund raiser to send them Christmas gifts and home made cards. You can help by purchasing LITTLE CAESAR'S items from any of the youth from November 1-15. They will have flyers in church beginning November 1. You will be able choose from several pizza kits, bread, cookies, and even pies! All of these goodies come ready to assemble and bake but can also be frozen for later use. Items will be available for pickup on Tuesday, November 24 after 7pm - Just in time for Thanksgiving and all that hungry company!! Thank you for supporting our youth mission work!

YOUTH CALENDAR CLIPS

After a very busy October, we are gearing up for more mission work and other fun over the next couple of months. Mark your calendar for these upcoming events and stop by the youth Facebook page for details and any last minute changes!

November 1 - Work on mosaic birdbaths for Bazaar. Menu: Bagel bites, pizza rolls

November 8 - Finish Bazaar crafts. Menu: spaghetti, garlic bread

November 15 - Serendipity! (Curious? Join us & find out!) Menu: sub sandwiches, brownies

November 21 - Overnite Dr. Seuss retreat at church. Sat. 4:30 - Sun. 11:00

November 24 - Pizza Delivery - we'll need everyone's help to sort orders! 6:00pm

Looking ahead: Winter Retreat (January)

**GREENHILLS COMMUNITY
CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN**

21 Cromwell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45218

Phone: 513-825-8400
Email: gccpsecretary@fuse.net

Rev. Marsha Webster, Interim Pastor
gccppastor@fuse.net

Need a prayer?
www.prayersfortoday.blogspot.com

Devotionals:
www.occasionalsightings.blogspot.com

We're on the Web!
www.ghccp.org

***WHERE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF
GOD'S CHILDREN IS WELCOME***

First Class Mail

To:

The Chimes
November 2009

