

THE MESSENGER

A Publication of Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church (khpesharon@fuse.net)
6312 Kennedy Avenue Cincinnati OH 45213 (513) 631-1114

*Our mission is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all people
as a racially diverse congregation, through worship, service, education, and fellowship.*

JULY, 2011

From Pastor Hart Edmonds, Interim:

"Sowing Seeds of God's Vision"

(a report from the Joint Vision Retreat held June 10-11)

"If you want to go fast go alone; if you want to go far, go together."

African proverb

"God's entire gifted community is called to participate in shaping a God-sized vision for the church." That was one of many challenging and inspiring thoughts shared at the Joint Vision Retreat held recently at Hueston Woods State Park for 5 congregations in our presbytery who have joined together in a Journey of Transformation; including Mount Auburn, Kennedy Heights, Grace Community, Montgomery, and Reading/Lockland in this presbytery along with Slifers Presbyterian Church in the Dayton area. Imagine that! Varied churches with distinctive gifts and varied spiritual commitments joined together to ask what new thing God is calling us to be and do in proclaiming good news about Jesus for today. **"Is God's vision our vision? Is our vision God's vision?"** Those arresting questions were presented to us by retreat co-leaders Dale Ziemer and Jill Sanders from the Center for Parish Development in Chicago, which is the church leadership group supporting our Journey experience.

Our central guiding scriptural theme for the week-end retreat came from Mark 4, in which Jesus tells the **parable of the Sower and the Seed**. The seed is God's word that we receive into our lives and that germinates and then produces the fruit of the Spirit and faithful lives. Our own Mary Kamp directed an energetic drama with at least a dozen retreat participants who acted out this parable in a lively manner, with Christopher Sheridan-Bebeau acting the part of the adversary trying to steal the seed being sown. It was a huge hit! Janet Langhorst led us all in singing a powerful song titled: "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil."

"Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood."

Hearing that beautiful song with the voices of over 120 retreat members present sent a message deep into our hearts. **"When my heart is hard, break the stone away; When my heart is cold, warm it with the day....Lord, let my heart be good soil."**

Early in the retreat at Hueston Woods, Dale Ziemer and Jill Sanders invited us to consider our purpose together: "We come with open hands, seeking God with all our heart, for---

- **The church exists because of God's initiative, not ours.** The mission of the church is to discern and to participate in God's mission in the world.
- The church does not invent its own vision of the future, but must discern and express God's vision, which sets our agenda, direction, and priorities.
- The God who is always doing a "new thing" (Is. 43:19) calls the church to renew itself in each new generation to meet changing historical and social circumstances.
- **Discerning God's vision is central to the life and ministry of the church and must be ongoing and continuous if the church is to be faithful as God's people in this changing world.**

During the course of the retreat, members from the 5 churches were intentionally spread among a dozen small groups around tables for bible study and discussion around three themes: **The Church as Foretaste of the Reign of God, The Church as Sign of the Reign of God, and The Church as Instrument of the Reign of God.** My own table group included members of all 5 churches as we discussed the theme of “Church as Foretaste of the Reign of God.” We read and discussed Colossians 3:12 and Romans 12: 1-21. We used the image of church as a family where a feast is being prepared and smells drift throughout the entire house.

A foretaste is like an appetizer of the great feast to come and indicates that this will be a meal worth sharing and inviting others to join. Are we that kind of community? Are others drawn to our church because it promises a banquet of love, forgiveness, hope, and joy? Are we inviting others to join in this feast with us? Using the scripture readings above, we discussed the question, “If our church were being a more flavorful foretaste of the reign of God....

- What would be going on?
- What would be different?
- What would people be doing?
- What would they not be doing?
- How would they be relating to one another?
- What does it mean for our church to be a **foretaste** of the reign of God?

Imagine our church being a people and a place where “holy conversations” took place regularly and often in response to the questions above as we studied scripture together. That is a vital part of the ongoing prayerful conversation that we engage in order to “discern God’s vision.” Around the dozen or so tables at Hueston Woods, with participants from 5 congregations in our Presbytery, the conversations were lively and responsive to the depths of the word sown by God’s Spirit. ***Below is a portion of a prayer that matches the theme scripture from Mark 4. Use it to pray for yourself and Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church this summer.***

When we wonder why life is the way it seems to be, you teach us how to live for others, O God. When worries and doubts peck away at our souls like hungry birds, you shoo them away with words of consolation and hope. When we are convinced we are only barren soil, you plant seeds of grace deep within us. When our souls are as parched as arid deserts, you refresh us with the waters of goodness and mercy. When we feel overwhelmed with life, and the pressures of the world grasp at us, like weeds choking the joy out of us, you help us to see the way out of the brambles into your liberating love. Story Teller, fill our hearts with your words. Make of us welcome soil where your vision may take root and grow. Amen.

Pastor Hart Edmonds

Session Meeting

May 3, 2011

Present: D. Herring, M. Highsmith, D. Ziedses des Plantes, B. Rankin, M. Kamp, B. Young, S. Roerdanz, C. Sheridan-Bebeau, J. Goings, Moderator, H. Edmonds, Clerk, S. Imhausen

Excused/Absent: L. Battle, W. Swormstedt

Call to Order and Opening: A Litany of Abundance in Community.

A quorum was declared.

Adoption of the Agenda. Additions, request for action items from committees, Building and Grounds, Discipleship, Worship.

Clerk's Report: Minutes from regular Session Meeting April 5 and Special Meeting on April 10 presented for approval. Approved with one correction.

Business: Preparing for COM visit May 18. We need to keep a positive attitude, looking forward to a positive relationship with the Presbytery, a constructive partner. Are we ready to call a Pastor Nominating Committee? We are growing closer to discernment. We feel we will know when and are steadily moving in that direction, growing in that direction with confidence, approaching the goal.

Joint Vision Retreat: Jan Goings has agreed to be on the planning committee. Retreat will be Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11 at Hueston Woods State Park near Oxford. Participants may stay overnight or attend one or both sessions. Session approved the Memorandum of Agreement for participating in the Joint Vision Retreat. Motion was approved by consent. **Committee Reports:** Nominating Committee: a chair has been named, Lydia Morgan and the group has made some initial progress.

Building and Grounds: Bob Rankin moved to go forward with roofing repair with Maloy Roofing bid of \$22,000. Seeking to negotiate best terms possible. The motion was seconded by Sue Roerdanz. The motion was approved.

Worship: Sue Imhausen asked to change the date of the December Home Communion from Christmas week to December 4. Approved by consensus.

Communication/Evangelism: the website is up and running. E-news will include retreat news and progress on roof repair.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Kamp is calling for the Finance Committee to meet on Wednesday, May 18 at 1 p.m. to review our financial status. The Gifts Policy was submitted but never approved. Changes or recommendations need to be made and the policy adopted in the near future.

Other Business: None.

Closing prayers for immediate needs and the world.

Next meeting date proposed to be July 5 in view of the June Vision Retreat.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Imhausen, Clerk



**JULY 2011
SUMMER SCHEDULE**

Here is our schedule for summer music, as of press time. Leanne and Joel Greenberg will be playing for some of the summer Sundays, but those dates are not yet set.

JULY 3—Duane Holm will be our guest minister this morning—Hart is out of town.

JULY 10—Communion—Summer Family Choir--all are welcome for as 9:30 a.m. rehearsal in the sanctuary. Communion will be celebrated.

JULY 17—TBA

JULY 24—TBA

JULY 31—TBA

AUGUST 7—Summer Family Choir will be singing—all are welcome for as 9:30 a.m. rehearsal in the sanctuary. Communion will be celebrated.

AUGUST 14—Worship in the Park The Brass Choir will be playing.

AUGUST 21—There will be gospel anthems this morning for special music—see below!!

AUGUST 28—TBA

SEPTEMBER 5—Communion will be celebrated this Sunday. Janet will be out of town.

GOSPEL CHOIR—Several people have expressed interest in doing this for a Sunday in the summer, so here are the details:

Saturday, August 20 Rehearsal at 10:00 a.m. in the choir room.

Sunday, August 21 Sing for morning worship.

Please let me know ASAP to confirm your participation—especially if you have conflicts with the rehearsal dates/times. 793-6232, or janghorst@cinci.rr.com.



KEEPING THE DOOR OPEN AT KHPC **CELEBRATING THE GOOD STUFF**

“Celebrate God all day, every day.....Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.”
(The Message Bible--Philippians 4: 4, 8-9)

RECENT “GOOD NEWS EVENTS”:

- We had a fabulous Visioning Retreat at Hueston Woods on June 10-11. We were joined by 4 other churches and had 28 participants from KHPC. It was a great beginning to the visioning part of our Journey of Transformation.
- We are growing our total for Pennies for Peace. Our original goal was \$180, which would cover a teacher’s pay for the length of an American school year. We have now collected **\$265**, as we focus on our next goal, which is to get to \$365 and fund a teacher every day for a year. Thanks for your continued support and keep bringing your pennies!!
- We elected new leaders for our Session! Returning for partial terms are Lynwood Battle, Bob Rankin, Sue Roerdanz and Wade Swarmstedt. Gary Langhorst will be installed for a two year term and Janet Langhorst and Jonathan Simmons (youth elder) will be ordained and installed.
- We also continue to celebrate our church’s strong commitment to children and education with our VBS 2011—“Shake It Up!—Where Kids Create God’s Recipes” A great time was had by all.
- Lynwood Battle was honored by the Charter Committee on June 16. A donation was given Children’s Hospital Medical Center in honor of Lyn.
- Lydia Morgan once again led the Juneteenth Festival, which celebrated its 24th consecutive event on June 18-19. Onward to the silver anniversary next year!

WANT TO HELP KEEP THE GOOD NEWS COMING??? VISIT THE MISSION TABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP. ALSO, BE SURE AND SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS. (OR ANYONE ELSE’S 😊)

DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT

We had a great week at our “Shake It Up Café” Bible School. Each night the group learned how to apply lessons from the Bible to their lives today. With our Bible storyteller (Brenda Wallace) they traveled back to Jesus’ time. They learned about the festivals from an Israeli teen (Kristen Scott) and learned about living water and the bread of life from Jesus (Jonathan Simmons). The mascot was a raccoon chef named scraps. He taught about healthy eating keeping a healthy heart for God (voice of Ben Langhorst).

The children, teen helpers, and adults participating felt the tie between the Bible lessons, science experiments (Jim Walker) and their snacks and mission story. The music and craft projects continued the theme.

On Friday we had a very successful family night. A hot dog and salad supper was followed by a wonderful concert and distribution of Bible verse keychains and all their projects and momentous.

We especially thank Mr. Jerry Weiper for his ongoing contributions to fund this and other worthwhile programs.



REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

WITH LOVE AND PRAYERS,
CARDS, CALLS, AND VISITS

Fay Bach, Priscilla Burroughs, Lena Freudenberg,
Arcenia Mason, Lorene Robbins, Beulah Wepler.

DIRECTORY CHANGES:

Hoda Mabrey
4546 Linden Avenue #3
Norwood, OH 45212

ANNOUNCEMENTS:



W. O. K. & NAOMI CIRCLE:

The Women of Kennedy and Naomi Circle will have a business meeting on Monday, July 18, 2011 at 12 noon in Room A. Please bring your brown bag lunch.



WISE WOMEN BOOK CLUB:

Wise Women Book Club, will meet on Saturday July 23, 2011 at home of Sue Imhausen. Please R. S. V. P. to the host at 531-2532.

Book: The Color of Lightning
Author: Paulette Jiles



UPDATING OUR PRAYER LIST:

The Worship Ministry will be updating our bulletin prayer listings to make them more easier to read. In the process, the following changes will be made in the next few weeks:

1. The descriptions of illness will no longer be printed. This is new to preserve a person's privacy. Friend's names of non-members will be listed for you to keep in touch about an ill person. Bereavements, hospitalizations, hospice care and celebrations will be listed as needed.
2. Names will be automatically removed from the prayer list at the beginning of each month. Names will be listed for one month starting at the beginning of each month. You are asked to call the office or submit a new card at the beginning of each month. Persons in long term care facilities will be listed by the facility and always appear in the bulletin.

We hope these procedures will make the prayer list easier to read and more up-to-date. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact a member of the Worship Ministry –Sue Imhausen, Janet Langhorst, Mary Kamp, Sue Kitchen, Edith Patton or Donna Ziedses des Plantes.

Thank You!

In appreciation for your thoughtfulness and kindness. - *Lorene Robbins*

I am very grateful for the generous gifts from my church family. I have always known and always will know that my church family will be there for me no matter how far I go. I will make sure to always keep in touch! - *Jonathan Simmons*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the card, the bible, and the gift. I know the gift will certainly help with college expenses and such. Thank you so much for everyone's continued support over the years. The church is and always will be my family. Thank you so much! - *Ben Langhorst*



BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

- 1 Patricia Keyes
Steve Larkin
Christopher Sheridan-Bebeau
Ron Slone
Dave Swarmstedt
- 4 Karen Brown
- 5 Jonathan Simmons
- 10 Gloria Manggrum
- 12 Bianca Clardy
- 13 Alexis Marissa Clardy
Bobby Rankin
Mary Ward
- 14 Megan Swarmstedt
- 20 Dylan Swarmstedt
- 29 Mary Jean Firestone
- 30 Carl Schrof
Ted Ziedses des Plantes

CHILDREN BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

- 17 Dominique Jordan Sherwood



PARKING LOT FOR JULY

- 3 David Singleton
- 10 Bob Kamp
- 17 Bruce Kitchen
- 24 Clarence Leatherwood
- 31 Henry Morgan

USHERS & GREETERS

FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

- 3 Karen Brown, Captain, Sue Imhausen,
Bob Kamp, Kristen Scott
 - 10 Bill Brown, Captain, Gary Langhorst,
Christopher & Rose Che
 - 17 Janet Berger, Captain, Carmen Hull,
Sue Roerdanz, Harry Stebbins
 - 24 Joyce & Jack Drake, Captains,
Mary Shea, Cassy Simmons
 - 31 Susan Stebbins, Captain, Don Lane,
Gloria Manggrum, Tracy Sheridan
- (please call Bob Kamp, 631-4924 if unable to Usher or Greet)

LITURGIST FOR JULY

- 3 Bob Young
- 10 Sue Imhausen
- 17 Jim Walker
- 24 Melba Morgan
- 31 John Lane

COMMUNION SERVERS

- 10 Sue Imhausen (liturgist)
Marcia Lane
Bob Rankin
Jim Walker

BEADLES FOR JULY

- 3 Cassy Simmons
- 10 Rachel Smith
- 17 Anthony Wallace
- 24 Carrie Wallace
- 31 Jonathan Simmons

COFFEE HOUR

- 3 Youth Group
- 10 Sue Roerdanz
- 17 Lyn Battle
- 24 Donna Ziedses des Plantes
- 31 Don Lane

(if you can't make your Sunday for Coffee Hour in July,
please call Carrie Wallace & Cassy Simmons 772-5620)



SUNDAY MONDAY TUES. WEDS. THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



JULY, 2011

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| | | | | | | 1 (office closed) | 2 |
| <p><i>14th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 3</p> <p>0:30 Worship</p> <p>Children's Church lower level</p> <p><i>Lectionary Text: Gen. 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Ps. 45: 10-17 or S. of Sol. 2: 8-13; Rom. 7: 15-25a; Matt. 11: 16-19, 25-30</i></p> | <p>"Independence Day"</p> <p>(office closed)</p> | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 (office closed) | 9 | |
| <p><i>15th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 10</p> <p>10:30 Worship - Communion</p> <p>Children's Church lower level</p> <p><i>Lectionary Text: Gen. 25: 19-34; Ps. 119: 105-112; Rom. 8: 1-11; Matt. 13: 1-9, 18-23</i></p> | 11 5:30 W.H.W. in Room 7 7:20 Caring Place Meeting | 12 7:30 AA in Room A | 13 | 14 | 15 (office closed) | 16 | |
| <p><i>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 17</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>Children's Church lower level</p> <p><i>Lectionary Text: Gen. 28: 10-19a; Ps. 139: 1-12, 23-24; Rom. 8: 12-25; Matt. 13: 24-30, 36-43</i></p> | 18 12:00 W.O.K. & Naomi Circle business meeting / brown bag in Room A 5:30 W.H.W. in Room 7 | 19 7:30 AA in Room A 7:30 KHCC in Fellowship Hall | 20 <i>Messenger Deadline</i> | 21 | 22 (office closed) | 23 7:00 Wise Women Book @ Sue Imhausen | |
| <p><i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 24</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>Children's Church lower level</p> <p><i>Lectionary Text: Gen. 29: 15-28; Ps. 105: 1-11, 45b or Ps. 128; Rom. 8: 26-39; Matt. 13: 31-33, 44-52</i></p> | 25 5:30 W. H. W. in Room 7 | 26 7:30 AA in Room A | 27 | 28 | 29 (office closed) | 30 | |
| <p><i>18th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 31</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>Children's Church lower level</p> <p><i>Lectionary Text: Gen. 32: 22-31; Ps. 17: 1-7, 15; Rom. 9: 1-5; Matt. 14: 13-21</i></p> | | | | | | | |



**"Happy Independence Day"
July 4, 2011**

KENNEDY HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6312 KENNEDY AVENUE
CINCINNATI OH 45213