

BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – JUNE THRU SEPT., 2023

513.541.5676 | 5742 Hamilton Ave. | Cincinnati, OH 45224 | chpc.org

TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

—Attrib. to Mark Twain

In the mid-1800's, Mark Twain, writer, adventurer, and creative social critic born Samuel Clemens, wrote about travels nearby (*Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn*), further away (*The Celebrated Jumping Frog of California*), and even overseas (*Innocents Abroad*). While Twain was far from a saint, his words continue to inspire millions worldwide to move outside their comfort zones, seek adventure, and chronicle what they experience and learn.

Well before Jesus' Great Commission, he said to his apprentices: "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21). In the next verse he provided the ultimate travel guide: "Receive the Holy Spirit." We may be

miss the work that God is doing in those who commit to be sent.

In 400 AD, a father of the faith, St. Augustine of Hippo, wrote, "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page." Mark Twain added: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, discrimination and narrow-mindedness." Today's leading travel activist, writer, and TV personality Rick Steves (a Christian) encourages people to explore less-touristy areas and to become

immersed in the local people's way of life. His book *Travel as a Political Act* is an excellent resource on "changing the world one trip at a time."

This *Bell Tower News* is a sampler of writings and photos from those sent out from CHPC recently. It is a witness to the faith, prayer, and sacrificial financial support of God's people who enabled those who can travel to reflect God's love and be formed and transformed by

people and experiences along *the Way*. Read on.



tempted to think that God's sending is "for the benefit of others" and

KENYA, EAST AFRICA

The Hope Community Centre came into existence when a young, college-educated woman named Lucy found a homeless orphan wandering the streets of her neighborhood in Kenya and took him into her own apartment. Before long, that first child brought his friends to Lucy. And they brought their friends.

Eventually, "Mama Lucy" decided to buy a piece of property near the village of North Kinangop, Kenya. She put up some very meager sheet-metal structures as a home for her burgeoning scores of children. She named her settlement the Hope Community Centre because of the promise in Jeremiah 29:11 that says, "I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

After several years of day-to-day subsistence, through a set of circumstances that can only be described as providential, Lucy traveled to Cincinnati to visit her brother, who was in nursing school, and during some free time, she happened to drop in unannounced on a ladies' Bible study group at a local church. When the ladies in that group heard Lucy's story, they realized first of all, that Lucy is a person of exceptional holiness. And as William Barclay once noted, they also recognized that "because the Gospel offers so much to the poor and demands so much from the rich, it is the poor who are so often swept first into the Kingdom."

[HTTP://PARTNERSFORHOPE.WEEBLY.COM](http://PARTNERSFORHOPE.WEEBLY.COM)



BY MARK MURPHY

Ellen and I were part of a team of lay people and pastors who went to Kenya



May 22-June 6 to experience "Hope Children's Centre," and "hope" is exactly what happened.

To be honest, I wasn't sure what to expect when we got to Kenya. I had never been to Africa. My only experience with a mission trip was over 30 years ago.

The poverty in that country far exceeds anything I have seen in the USA. It is not just in the rural setting or a few homeless folks living under a bridge. The impoverished here in America would be rich in Kenya.

Nairobi is a crowded city of over 6 million people. The buildings are poorly maintained and much of the population lives on the side of the road in shacks made of sticks, cinder blocks, and corrugated steel. The look was of unoccupied structures left to rot, but they were the homes of people living in the city, sometimes with herds of farm animals as well.

Hope Community Centre is a couple of hours drive north of Nairobi, near a town less well off than the capital city. With God's help, Mama Lucy Wangechi Gacheru has carved out a small haven for around 300 kids where they enjoy three meals a day, education, vocational training, and a staff that loves and cares for them. Most of the children are orphans or products of failed abortions.

They are given hope through the

grace of God, and the love of Lucy and the rest of the center's staff. Before each meal they all attend devotions where they learn or are reminded of God's faithfulness. We had the privilege of leading devotions at each lunch and dinner.

Sunday worship was a time for the kids to share some of what they had learned and to dance for God. I helped with a group of kids, teaching about Jesus feeding the 5000, and walking on water.



THEY PERFORMED A SKIT OF THAT BIBLE STORY. (I'M THE COACH ON THE BENCH.)

We served meals, went on field trips, distributed food, and interacted with the kids.

During one session, the men in our group talked to the young men, and the women talked to the young women. The conversation with the young men centered around questions they had about how to be Godly men. It was a good discussion with lots of questions. I was happy to be in the group with two pastors because many of the questions were very deep and theologically difficult. The kids showed a lot of spiritual and personal maturity.

Momma Lucy truly has a great love for her children and for her Lord, and she passes that love on every day at Hope Community Centre.

Watch for info: Kenya Mission 2024.

“God’s fingerprints are all over Scotland,

even if many natives have forgotten how to see them.”

Quote from Rev. Jennifer Cronk, 2023 Scotland Team



TEAM SUMMARY BY PAM DOLLARD

What a master multi-tasker our God is! How often have we found that when we thought God was doing one thing, he was doing many others simultaneously! The mission trip to Scotland was no exception to this rule.

Outwardly, a team of nine, led by Jennifer Cronk and Samuel Mock, was called to Scotland to encourage and support a couple from the U.S.— Caleb and Summer Shocklie and their baby Hezekiah—as they work to plant an ECO church in Edinburgh, Scotland. We traveled from Columbus and Cincinnati to Boston, where we joined together for the long overnight flight to Edinburgh and the beginning of a week of learning, prayer, conversation, and exploration of all things Scottish!

During our first day’s prayer walk, tired and jet-lagged, we were encouraged by Ezekiel 37’s vision of the resurrection of dry bones into living flesh. Nothing is too dead for God!

With that thought we began a series of interactions with the people God brought our way.

We had a good number of positive interactions through a



FIRST DAY PRAYER WALK IN THE HEART OF THE CITY ON THE ROYAL MILE

dog park event (nothing like a dog to break the ice!). Otherwise, the majority of people we encountered expressed indifference or occasional hostility toward our attempts to engage them.

“Edinburghers” can be a frosty lot, not given to interacting with strangers—dry bones indeed.

But sprinkled here and there were the gems of receptive hearts, evidence of God’s going ahead

of us and preparing the way for life-changing spiritual conversations as he continued his work in these individuals. These precious souls were wounded but tender; disappointed but almost daring to be a little hopeful; wandering but yearning to return to faith; bitter but willing to begin letting go of that bitterness.

We gained perspective into the chilly spiritual climate of Scotland through Caleb, Summer, and Henry, our guide through the Highlands. Many churches are closed and re-purposed. A few vibrant churches exist among many that are tradition-bound and tepid. But there are believing Christians in the midst

who are passionate about seeing revival and the name of Jesus lifted up! There is much reason for hope, but the task is a steep uphill climb, much like Edinburgh.



CALEB SHOCKLIE DOES A “SELFIE” OF THE SCOTLAND TEAM

FRONT LEFT TO RIGHT (Columbus) JENNIFER CRONK; (Cincinnati) PAM DOLLARD, JILL & MICHAEL GAINES — SUMMER SHOCKLIE— CLAIRE SNYDER, SAMUEL & ELIZABETH MOCK; (Columbus) JERRY HESKETT AND SHEENA ORR.

I am beginning now to see our trip as a sort of pilgrimage. Although we were well-fed and comfortable, we did travel far and there was a good bit of walking on the cobbled

(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE)



FROM A DISTANCE EDINBURGH LOOKS DECEPTIVELY FLAT- IT IS NOT. IT’S A PLACE IN NEED OF REVIVAL: OLD CITY, NEW CITY, THE “FIRTH OF FORTH” AND THE HIGHLANDS BEYOND.

FLAG OF SCOTLAND —When Saint Andrew was being crucified by the Romans in A.D. 60, it is said that he believed himself unworthy to be crucified on a cross like that of Christ. He met his end on a “saltire,” or X-shaped cross (St. Andrew’s cross).

SCOTLAND TEAM'S REPORT

(CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE)

streets of old Edinburgh, as well as the pavement of the target neighborhood and other parts of the city. This pilgrimage was more one of the heart, as we left our normal settings and schedules and moved forward into the adventure God set out for us. It was abundantly clear that we were completely dependent on the Spirit for any spiritual fruit, both in the Scots and in us.

Pilgrimage is a symbol of spiritual growth, and much like our physical travels, there are wrong turns, missed signs, retracing of steps, and pauses for rest along the way. We journey toward what God has promised: joy, peace, full surrender, belief, union with Christ. Some of us take paths that are more twisted and convoluted; some are more direct. But we all must make the journey – those who go overseas and those who stay home.

One of our team, Michael Gaines, put it this way: "Praise God! We had a successful missions trip to Scotland! We went to support Caleb and Summer in any way that they needed. By going, God multiplied their 3 (can't forget the baby) to 12 with the 9 of us."

We were able to canvass the Shock-lies' "parish" area, do a prayer walk, share the love of Jesus at the dog park, get needed information about people's interest in Christ and a new church, pray with people, and pray for others. We learned that God is alive in Scotland. There is so much more "harvest" ready and many harvesters are needed. We had personal challenges: some

were physical, others emotional, and still others dealt with our own hearts. Our insecurities were touched, our fears tapped into, and our faith tested.

We worked to gel as a team, to connect and to be a unit. These are all normal group dynamics. We had to be flexible. We had to change our plan to fit the realities on the ground. We adapted to be caring of ourselves and to respect the boundaries of local businesses and traditions. We planted seeds and watered seeds, and now we must trust God for the increase.

We were not sent to Scotland to work a plan. We were sent to do what we were given grace to accomplish. We may not ever know the total story of what God has done through us in Scotland. However, we can lean into him and ask and see what he has done in us as a result of going.

Let's not let this fire be extinguished as we return to the normalcy of life. Opportunities for missions are all around us. Go and make disciples!!

ENJOY THESE PHOTOS FROM THE TEAM'S SCRAPBOOK



WE HAD PLANNED FOR MONTHS. WE WERE SO GLAD TO FINALLY GET TO SCOTLAND.



HOLYROOD PALACE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ROYAL MILE IS KING CHARLES' EDINBURGH RESIDENCE & THE SCOTTISH ROYAL HOME.



MIDWAY ON THE ROYAL MILE ARE TWO CLUES TO EDINBURGH TODAY. ON THE LEFT IS A HUGE STATUE OF ENLIGHTENMENT PHILOSOPHER DAVID HUME (1711-76), WHO DENIED GOD'S EXISTENCE. ON THE RIGHT IS ST. GILES CATHEDRAL WITH ITS FAMED CROWN SPIRE.

IN THE MID-1550s, ST. GILES WAS THE HOME OF REFORMER JOHN KNOX, A DISCIPLE OF JOHN CALVIN OF GENEVA. KNOX FOUNDED THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND THAT GAVE BIRTH TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.



THE TEAM VISITED KNOX'S MEMORIAL AT ST. GILES. HIS BURIAL PLOT IS UNDER THE PARKING LOT.



EACH OF THE TEAM WERE BLESSED TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT CONVERSATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. PAM DOLLARD IS PICTURED WITH IAN AND HIS BIG MUSTACHE AND TENDER HEART. HE EXPRESSED

INTEREST IN A NEW CHURCH AND SHARED HIS STORY OF PAST PAIN.



OUR HIGHLAND TOUR GUIDE HENRY (IN THE WHITE SHIRT AND KILT) IS AN OUTSPOKEN CHRISTIAN WHO IMPACTS CLIENTS AND PEERS. HE IS HOPEFUL THAT REVIVAL IS COMING TO SCOTLAND.

“DOGS DO SPEAK, BUT ONLY TO THOSE WHO KNOW HOW TO LISTEN.”

THE TEAM LISTENED, WATCHED AND LEARNED.



EVERY DAY WAS FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO KEEP DIVINE APPOINTMENTS. WE WERE CALLED TO SHARE CHRIST EVEN WHEN ONE OF THEM WAS WITH A LOOK-ALIKE FOR “BRAVEHEART” KING WILLIAM WALLACE.



Pastor's Perspective

BY JENNIFER CRONK

Pastor Drew Smith asked the Scotland Team to answer a series of questions about the mission trip. Here are a few of my replies:

How did you experience the presence of God?

Where did you see clearly the work of Jesus?

I experienced God's presence throughout our trip—from our prayer times, to our outreaches, to our times of worship, and even while enjoying and exploring His beautiful creation. God's fingerprints are all over Scotland, even if many natives have forgotten how to see them.

What did you learn about your culture and their culture?

Though I theoretically already knew this, it was different to know it experientially. Scotland is largely where America is headed—from a post-Christian culture (little to no spiritual knowledge, experience, or desire) to even their attitude and treatment of pets.

We planned our dog-park outreach somewhat as a "lark," knowing there were several on our team who love dogs. I was surprised to find out that many Scots are delaying having children or even skipping it altogether and, instead, becoming "dog parents." As such, they ADORE their dogs. I was amazed at how open people were to me talking to, petting, holding, and even taking pictures with their dogs. They love to see others loving their dogs, much like parents love to see others (appropriately) loving and doting on their children. As American culture makes this shift as well (evident in dog strollers, a sharp increase in therapy dogs, and the vast number of dogs with their own Instagram accounts), we need to start exploring some of these avenues of outreach to reach folks for Jesus. The U.S. pet industry is worth \$76.8 billion. Yes, that's billion with a "b." As Jesus says, "Where your money is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

What is one change you would like to make in your life because of this trip?

To be more aware of the needs of others around me and to always be ready and willing to share the reason for the hope that I have (1 Peter 3:15). With an increase in depression and suicide in both Scotland and the U.S., people need hope more than ever. I need to be prepared to share MY reason for hope in natural, genuine, and winsome ways. More than ever, I need to ask Jesus to give me the same compassion He had as He looked out on His own people and saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd.

Jennifer Cronk, Associate Pastor, Bethelpres.org

TRAVELING IN COLLEGE HILL

“WITH EYES WIDE OPEN TO THE MERCIES OF GOD” - ROMANS 12:1

“Stay-cations” and everyday life can provide many opportunities to interact with people from around the world...when our eyes are open to “see” them.

BY CINDY CARLSON

As I was driving past Aiken High School on Belmont Avenue, a huge plastic jug rolled into the street in front of my car. I couldn't avoid it and it lodged under my car's bumper. I pulled over into the Belwood parking lot at Llanfair Retirement Community.

A minute later a young man was beside the car and he asked, “Can I help you?” His name was Victor, an 8th-grade student at Aiken. He was a new refugee from Burundi via Zambia brought to Cincinnati by Catholic Charities. We talked a little bit. Then he got the bottle out from under the car and said he would throw it away.

Shortly after he left, I told Kathy Angi who lives in Belwood how Victor was so kind to see my predicament and offer to help me. Kathy suggested that I contact the principal at Aiken and tell her about Victor. The next day I called the school and talked with Principal Votaw. She was impressed by Victor “doing the right thing” and said she wanted to give him an “Aiken hoodie.” She



“WELCOME TO CINCY” DINNER

HOSTED BY CINDY CARLSON WITH MARY SUE & PAUL VERHAGEN. HONORED GUESTS WERE VICTOR, HIS MOTHER AND HIS SISTER.

called Victor to the office and they called me at home. I was able to tell Victor how much his kindness and consideration meant to me.

Mrs. Votaw asked Victor to give me a tour of the school and Aiken's farm. Aiken is one of two Cincinnati Public Schools with a focus on English as a Second Language students. Sixty different countries and forty languages are represented in Aiken's student body.

A week later Victor showed me around the farm located behind the school. The students and their teacher, Mr. Parker, care for a cow, a donkey, goats, alpacas, rabbits,

ducks, chickens, and many raised beds for planting vegetables. Victor is a member of Future Farmers of America. Quite a number of the Aiken students care for the farm animals and the vegetables that are grown. I invited Victor to attend the youth group at church.

I wanted to meet Victor's whole family, so I invited them for dinner, along with Mary Sue and Paul Verhagen. It was very touching when the mom made a speech (which her daughter translated) about how the family was not treated well when they were refugees in Zambia. But they were happy to be invited into

an American home. She said they will call me “Mom”....what a privilege to be considered as family by them.

It was clear from the moment I met Victor that God had a purpose in rolling that plastic jug into the street, in part so I could meet and welcome his family to Cincinnati. My prayer is, “Lord, fulfill all your plans and purposes for each member of the family as you have relocated them to Cincinnati. Thank you that they already know and worship you. Build our friendship. You place us in families, some by blood and others by faith. Your will be done in our lives....in Jesus' name....Amen.”

SONLIGHT POWER

“THE PREFERRED PARTNER FOR SOLAR POWER AMONG CHURCHES AND MISSION ORGANIZATIONS.”

Imagine a non-profit community center that serves as a safe space for vulnerable families and children. Now imagine that center limited by power outages, with no ability to print worksheets for students or even run a refrigerator to preserve food.

SonLight Power is known for mobilizing mission trips, but another core outreach is coming alongside other effective missions to install solar panels for nonprofit organizations that operate facilities like this community center. SonLight Power recently partnered with Back2Back Ministries for such a project.

Back2Back offers family and orphan care through their nine campuses around the world. The Back2Back site outside Cancun, Mexico operates as a center for their Strong Families Program, which focuses on community development and family preservation.

SonLight Power equipped the Back2Back Cancun site with a new solar-power system to keep that program running strong.



ROOFTOP SOLAR PROVIDES POWER FOR THE CANCUN COMMUNITY CENTER



SONLIGHT POWER'S PARTNERSHIP AT WORK

What makes a partnership between SonLight Power and Back2Back work? Like-mindedness for starters. Two Back2Back staff members recently shared the short and long-term impact donors are making through the solar project in Cancun.

“We share faith, we share values, we share a lot of things that make communication and connection very simple,” said

Steve Ross, the U.S. Director of Back2Back’s for four Mexican sites.

The Cancun installation marks the fourth time the two nonprofit organizations have joined forces. SonLight Power previously partnered on solar projects with Back2Back twice in Haiti and once at the Mazatlán, Mexico site.

CANCUN, CONGO,
HONDURAS AND BEYOND
PLUS USA SOLAR
POWER CREDITS!

SonLight Power multiplies its impact by equipping the saints (Ephesians 4:12). It partners with churches and other mission organizations to train, mentor, and ultimately empower them to deliver solar solutions to many more people than it could reach on its own.

Tell others about SonLight Power as a solar-energy partner in making churches or missions more resilient.

Looking to reduce utility and operational expenses on facilities? Sonlight Power can help you. In these challenging times, non-profits are looking for ways to operate facilities more sustainably through solar power but are excluded from U.S. tax incentives. A SonLight Power partnership with U.S. groups reduces the payback period on their solar investment. For U.S. church case studies, see Campton Baptist Church in Campton, Kentucky and New Prospect Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio at <https://www.sonlightpower.org/equip-your-mission>.

Deadline for *Bell Tower News* submissions is the 15th of the month to Sam Stare starecvg@aol.com.

JOIN US IN A LIFETIME OVERSEAS

BY LUKE AND MOLLY VERHAGEN

We are headed to Papua New Guinea and would love to share more about it with you personally!

This past year has been tumultuous, to say the least. We moved, got a dog, had a job change, started with Wycliffe Bible Translators with an assignment in mind and lost the assignment, faced a potentially dangerous pregnancy complication, had a baby, and then we got a better assignment. God has been in the midst of it all.

We joined Wycliffe with a purpose and a calling. We were headed to Indonesia, where Luke's grandmother and grandfather met. Molly was going to work with an experienced ethno-musicologist, and Luke was going to try something completely new, Scripture Engagement. This all felt just okay.

Wycliffe was sure. We felt called into missions; we knew that was what God had for us. But Luke was going out into something new. In all honesty, he wasn't overly passionate about it. If you know Luke, passion is one of the things that radiates off

him, so this was unusual.

In one of our first meetings with our Wycliffe "Launch Coordinator," he asked about our experience, education, and our preferred location. When we explained that Luke did not have a college degree and we were planning to go to Indonesia, he looked at us with surprise. That was not going to be possible. This started a long string of meetings—for introductions, for connections, and for brainstorming with our expected supervisor in Indonesia.

Should Luke get his degree? Should we leave Wycliffe? Should Luke pursue a different job? All these questions needed to be answered. God kept working. Eventually, God led us to Papua New Guinea. (See the map below. The black dot at the base of the flag is our future home.)

In some of our initial meetings, Luke explained he was looking into doing Scripture Engagement. The personnel manager responded, saying that Luke did not really have



LUKE, MOLLY (BROWN), AND ZIMRI VERHAGEN

the experience needed for that position, and honestly, they had enough Scripture Engagement people.

Then he looked at Luke with a slight smile and said, "If you're open to it, what we really need is people with your experience and skill set." He explained that in the small Wycliffe village called Ukarumpa, they desperately needed people to help maintain the infrastructure. They were looking for mechanics, electricians, and people with experience in solar energy. They were looking for someone just like Luke.

This was an answer to prayer: something that Luke had been looking for during the past year. He wanted to go where he was needed. As they discussed options for Molly, they sent her a worried look as they explained there was no one available to teach her how to become an ethno-arts specialist. Typically, she would have someone to show her the ropes—teach her how to become a facilitator. This will not be the case in Papua New Guinea.

With a healthy dose of trepidation, Molly agreed to begin an ethno-arts program in Ukarumpa. There she will invite people to express the way God is working in their lives and communities through music. This



project will take a lifetime, especially with babies running around.

So it was agreed, Molly will work to start the first long-term entho-arts project in Papua New Guinea, and Luke will work in construction and maintenance to help maintain the infrastructure there.

We will move our family 8,600 miles away. It takes about 60 hours to travel there. We will get to learn a new language called Tok Pisin to communicate with the locals! We will live in a small village of expats called Ukarumpa. Our son will attend an international school, and we will learn how to live without easy access to wifi or the internet. We will also learn to live without easy access to our friends and family, which might be the hardest part.

We go where God calls us—and we can't go alone. This work that God is calling us to do will be supported by "our partners." These are the people who partnered with our Wycliffe Ministry to sustain our family—both financially and prayerfully. God has called us into this life, not to do it alone, but to share the work that he is doing around the world with others. This includes readers of this *Bell Tower News*.

Will you prayerfully consider investing in Bible translation by partnering financially in our Wycliffe ministry? Thus far, God has provided partnerships that range from \$25 to \$200 per month based on what God has given people to steward. We would love to connect with you and share a bit more about our ministry, and how you can be a WordGiver to people without God's Word in their own language.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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ABOUT WYCLIFFE YESTERDAY AND TODAY

WHO WAS WYCLIFFE?

John Wycliffe of the University of Oxford was an English theologian, priest, philosopher, church reformer, and promoter of the first complete translation of the Bible into English. Over a period from approximately 1382 to 1395, a group completed "Middle English" Bible translations under his direction. These represent the first known translations of the entire Bible into English. A 15th Century source said Wycliffe "devised a plan of translation of the Holy Scriptures into the mother tongue".

As relatively few people could read unfamiliar Latin passages, and many could read Middle English more adequately, Wycliffe supported vernacular translations, saying:

"It helpeth Christian men to study the Gospel in that tongue in which they know best Christ's sentence."

Wycliffe died a natural death in 1384, but the Papal Council of Constance declared him a heretic on May 4, 1415, and banned his writings. He was excommunicated retroactively, making him an early forerunner of the Protestant Reformation. The Council decreed that Wycliffe's bodily remains be removed from consecrated ground.

A century later, William Tyndale, another English priest, was the first person to produce an English translation of the Bible directly from the Hebrew and Greek texts. The work served as the basis of the King James Authorized Bible. Tyndale was burned at the stake for his heresy.

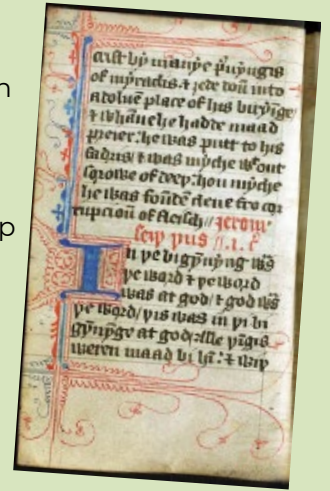
WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS U.S.A.

Named after John Wycliffe, it was founded in 1942 by William Cameron Townsend. It led to the founding of many similar organizations around the world, with separate Wycliffe organizations in over 60 countries within the Wycliffe Global Alliance. Per the Wycliff.com website, there are 3,177 U.S.A. staff in 57 countries.

As of November 2020, translations of either portions of the Bible, the New Testament, or the whole Bible exist in over 3,400 of the 7,300 languages used on Earth. Wycliffe has translated the Bible into more than 700 languages.

WORDGIVERS

Help unleash the life-transforming power of God's Word around the world. When you join the WordGivers community of more than 2,000 Wycliffe donors, you'll get exclusive reports on how your monthly gifts are bringing hope to people around the world through translated Scripture. You'll receive updates on specific Bible translation projects, including project milestones and prayer requests.



SPEAK UP COLLEGE HILL!

(SEE MORE ON PAGE 12)



THE COLLEGE HILL BUSINESS DISTRICT RUNS FROM WITTLLOU AVE. SOUTH TO CHPC. HAMILTON AVE. AND NORTH BEND ROAD IS THE MAJOR NORTH INTERSECTION.

The survey (see page 12) is anonymous, easy, and important. Many responses are multiple choice. Here's a sample

How familiar are you with the College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (CHCURC)?

- Not familiar at all
- I've heard of it, but I'm not very familiar
- I've heard of it, and I'm somewhat familiar
- I've heard of it, and I'm extremely familiar

Please indicate how much you agree with the following statement: The CH Business District... (scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree for each listed) ...is safe; is family friendly; has appropriate night-life; is clean; has sufficient affordable housing; is growing in the right direction; is representative of the community; is welcoming; is diverse/inclusive.

What is one thing you would change about the business district? [your reply]

What is your primary source of information about the neighborhood? [choices]

Survey Link:

chcurc.com/communitysurvey/
Intended to take 5-10 minutes.

PRAY FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Learn what's going on. Send your name and email to CHCurrents@gmail.com to receive the easy-to-read CH Forum's "Currents," edited by Gail Finke. Here's a few excerpts:



KIKI CHEF/OWNER HIDEKI HARADA ON NATIONAL TV WITH GUY FIERI!

Kiki restaurant in College Hill (5932 Hamilton Avenue) was recently featured on The Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." Appearing on the show starring Guy Fieri is a coup for restaurant owners and a draw for diners around the country.

College Hill Business District Awards given at *The Avenue Experience*:

- Kiki College Hill was named best new restaurant by both *City Beat* and *Cincinnati Magazine* in 2023. Hideki and Yuko Harada were also James Beard Award semifinalists.

- Schwartz Jewelers, with more than 85 years of dedicated service, is an integral part of our community—and, as the region's premier jeweler, has brought tens of thousands of visitors to CollegeHill.

- Set the Vibe is a balloon and party business brought to the district by owner Erika Standifer through the first "OurShop" project. It has added value and brought a spark of joy to the neighborhood.

- Tina Stoeberl was honored for her 17 years owning College Hill Coffee Co. and being a prominent advocate for the entire business district.

CUT OUT AND SAVE ✂

Distributed at the College Hill Forum — Jim Bodmer



New 24/7 Connection to City Customer Service

311Cincy is the City of Cincinnati's overall non-emergency, customer service system. This includes the city's 311-call center, online service request system, mobile app, and public alerting systems. It offers new ways for the public to connect with their city services.

911 IS FOR MEDICAL, FIRE, AND POLICE EMERGENCIES ONLY.

COMMON REQUESTS

- Fix a pothole
 - Remove graffiti
 - Request trash pickup
 - Repair street light
 - Watermain break
 - Sidewalk repair
 - Recycling-related requests
 - Police non-emergencies
- Contact city services from outside the city? Call (513) 765-1212.



NEED PRAYER?

type "prayer" to 513-854-1604
or visit www.chpc.org/prayer

TAKE A MOMENT and visit the church's website: **CHPC.org**. It is designed to provide you with resources like PRAYER. For example, you can request prayer for yourself, others, God's work in the world, etc. You can sign up to be added to the **CHPC ePrayers List** to receive regular emails about prayer needs of others. Celebrate as prayers are answered, "*rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn.*"

You also can find the current or past Sundays' sermons at **chpc.org/sermons/video** and sign-up for a Growth Group, events and fall fun. **CHECK IT OUT!** There's lots online.



As Presbyterians, we have the opportunity to recommend fellow covenant partners (members) to guide and serve our church as we "honor God by growing a diverse community of Jesus followers."

At the Sunday, October 29th Congregational Meeting between worship services, members will elect Elders, Deacons, a Trustee Administrator, and a Congregational Nominating Committee

TRAVELING COMMUNION

Communion has always been a vital time in the life of the Church. "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again" (1 Cor. 11:26).

The ruling body of the church, the Session, has reaffirmed the importance of bringing communion to those unable to come to church. "Disapora Communion," that some refer to as "Über* Communion") is CHPC's way to provide *The Lord's Supper* to those who are home-bound, have special needs, or are hospitalized.

To request communion, contact Care Director Joanne Cornelius at jcornelius@chpc.org, or phone Elder Janet Johnson at (513) 324-7412.

*Über is German for "above all the rest."



(CNC) for 2024.

This year's CNC includes Elders Dan Ott (Chair) and Barry Stare; Congregational Reps.—Anne Clippard, Ken Elu, Mark Murphy, Victor Onyegbulam; and Deacon Rep.—Karen Peacock.

Many thanks all who recommended candidates. God used YOUR input, wisdom, and discernment, and the CNC's private interviews with each person recommended to develop a slate of nominees for the congregation's vote.

For questions: Dan Ott, Chair, (513) 470-0758, darkhorsedan@gmail.com.



BY CHRISTY ROEDIGER

How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! Luke 11:13b (NIV)

Yet not as I will, but as You will. Matthew 26:39b (NIV)

This summer many from CHPC traveled on some type of global mission journey. They visited Miss Lucy's Orphanage, a partner for years; supported church plants in an "un-churched" culture; partnered with a sister Christian organization; got to know some new global ministry partners; and welcomed strangers in Christ's name.

How exciting to participate in what God is doing nearby and in faraway places through prayer! As CHPers GO, they often ask for prayer support. Aren't we excited to provide it as they step out? But what do we pray on behalf of people and ministries we may not know well or at all? I've found two prayers that never fail and seem to work in every situation:

- Pray for "More of You, Holy Spirit!"
- Pray for God's will to be done!

Here's an example: "Almighty God, whenever my brothers and sisters GO in Jesus' name to serve as his hands and feet in places unfamiliar to me, I thank you for going with them and ministering through them. Send your Holy Spirit to guard and guide them in their travels and their work. In all things may your will be done and your name glorified. I ask in Jesus' powerful and faithful name. Amen!"

SPEAK UP COLLEGE HILL!

AN INVITATION FROM KATE GREENE, CEO CHCURC
(COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY URBAN REDEVELOPMENT CORP.)

Hello, Neighbor!

Thank you for taking time to provide your thoughts on College Hill. This survey is intended to help the College Hill CURC understand community perceptions, needs, and vision.

Goals of the survey include:

1. Develop a baseline for current perceptions of College Hill and College Hill CURC.
2. Develop a sense of residents' current level of community engagement.
3. Develop a sense of community vision for the future of the College Hill Business District.
4. Identify ways College Hill CURC can improve outreach and involvement.
5. Identify gaps in communication strategy.

6. Ensure that we're hearing all voices in our community.

We ask for your support in spreading awareness and helping us collect as many responses as possible.

Online Survey Link:
chcurc.com/communitysurvey/
(Intended to take 5-10 minutes)

If you would prefer a physical copy for yourself or your organization or group to complete, let us know! We are happy to provide them. Your support means a lot to us.

Thank you for your involvement.

Best, Kate

CONTACT CHCURC
6107 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45224; Phone: (513) 681-1551

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 with
SAMPLE SURVEY QUESTIONS)

RSVP

SAT. OCT. 7, 2023

2:30-4:00 PM

Cincinnati Woman's Club
330 Lafayette Ave., 45220



Delivering Dignity



FROM "PERIOD POVERTY" TO DELIVERING DIGNITY and HOPE

Two years ago, few knew much about *period poverty*. Some couldn't talk about feminine care products outside the home. Today, states like Ohio have mandated that schools provide products for girls. Procter & Gamble and other corporations are out to erase period poverty in the U.S.A. Millions are in need worldwide.

In 2021, with the help of the CHPC Endowment Fund, Jacky Kalubi, Jan Osborn, and Sam Stare partnered with the *Delivering Dignity* movement in Kenya—which has a track record of transforming the lives of girls, women, and communities for as little as \$10 (a Big Mac Value Meal).

A "FRIEND-RAISING" EVENT
"Come and hear." "Go and share."
Bring others with you—women—teens, adults & seniors. Hear success stories from the founder of *Delivering Dignity* and team members who served in Kenya and the Congo this summer. MORE INFO at

www.Delivering-Dignity.com

RSVP to starecvg@aol.com
or call 513-382-5902.

CHOIR RETURNS SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

Buckle your seatbelts! It's a special day.

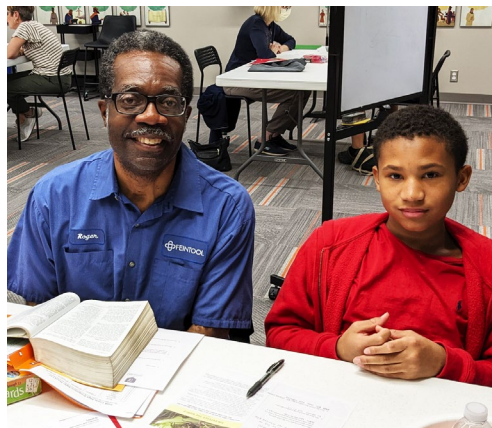
1. The choir will sing some of its worship favorites.
2. It will be "Carol Baker Day." She's



been singing in the choir for 70 years!

3. To sing in the choir, guests need to rehearse with us on Thursday, Sept. 21, at 7 PM, and arrive by 8 AM on Sunday.

INFO? Kevin Moser 513-763-6521



WHIZ KID TUTORS, SUBSTITUTES,
and DRIVERS make a huge
difference in STUDENTS' LIVES

Tuesdays, 5-6 PM at CHPC

Contact Colleen Scheid
whizkids@chpc.org.