

# BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – September 2021

513.541.5676 | 5742 Hamilton Ave. | Cincinnati, OH 45224 | [chpc.org](http://chpc.org)



## FROM PASTOR DREW'S DESK...

Experience Church-Wide Growth Groups  
September 26 – October 31

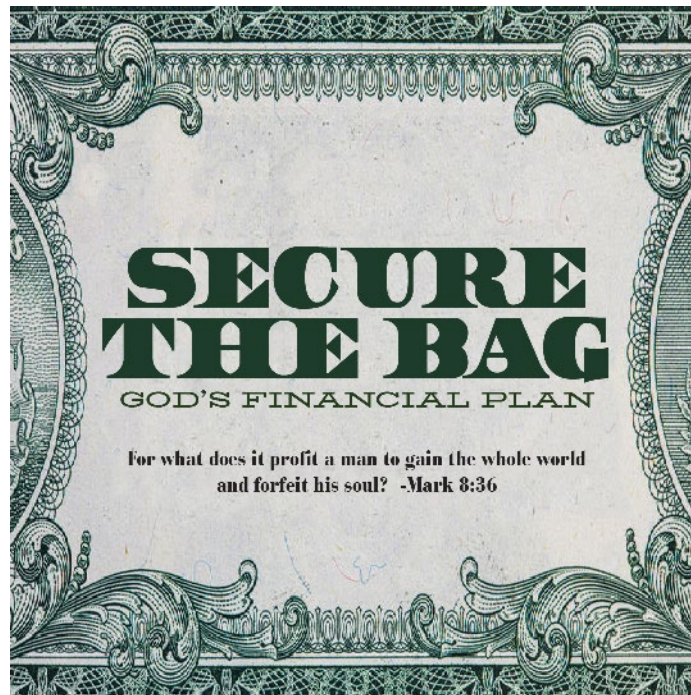
We all long for meaningful relationships that will support and help one another in our Christian growth. According to the recent *CHPC Church Pulse Survey* that all were invited to take, two of the top three needs in our congregation are relationships and spiritual formation. Growth Groups meet both of those needs. *So, I am inviting the whole church to experience Growth Groups for six weeks.*

Growth Groups at CHPC provide a safe place for people to gather, exploring how God's Word relates to their everyday lives. We believe that most of our lives in Christ are lived out in the context of community, not just in once-a-week worship services or individual quiet times. Growth Groups provide an intentional place within our church for discipleship to happen. Discipleship is a natural product of us loving God and loving

others. Growth Groups are not just a Bible study. Growth Groups are not just fellowship. Growth Groups are a unique combination of the two; they offer a safe place for our lives to be shared with other believers so that we grow in our obedience to Jesus.

Every week during the *Secure the Bag: God's Financial Plan* sermon series, Growth Groups will meet to discuss the Bible passages used

our lives. Don't be put off by title of the sermon series. Jesus talked about this subject a whole lot. We trust that the Holy Spirit will use these conversations to transform us. Questions designed for these Scriptures will be explored with specific life application being the goal. The groups will aid and support one another in fulfilling the aspiration that each person wants to do in the upcoming week.



Each person commits to showing up, praying for the other group members, and connecting with open hearts and minds. Growth Groups provide a necessary component for us at CHPC to grow in our discipleship of obeying Jesus' commands. *You will have an opportunity to sign up for a Growth Group this month.* Give it a try for the six weeks and see how much it will encourage you to grow and change together, for Christ.

Some of you are currently in an active group. You may sign up as a group to be a Growth Group for these six weeks. We will send you the necessary material.

in that Sunday's sermon. While we study God's Word together, we listen to others' insights and get a fuller picture of Christ's desires for

Many existing ministries – Band of Brothers, Ignite Men's ministry, and Young Adults will be using this same material during these weeks.



COLLEGE HILL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# "PICTURE" THE OPEN HOUSE

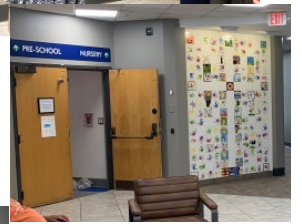
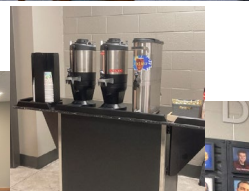
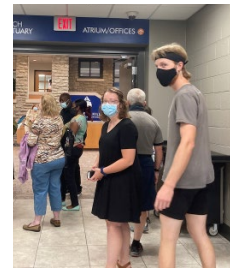
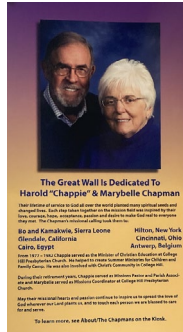
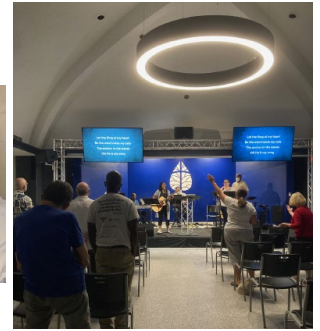
A PHOTO ESSAY ON TOURING  
CHPC's RENEWED CAMPUS  
on SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021

PHOTOGRAPHERS: MARK EVANS,  
BARRY & SAM STARE, AND  
KELLY HIBBETT

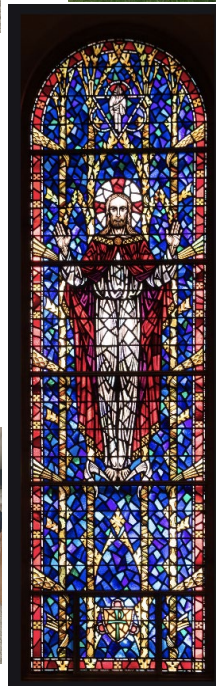
In 2016, the Jesus followers at College Hill Presbyterian Church, asked, "How will we and the generations to come share God's mission? What roles do buildings and other resources play in God's unique vision for CHPC?" We knew that British leader Winston Churchill had said, "We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us." Our response was a multi-faceted fundraising effort entitled *regeneration*. It allowed anyone to participate—donors who loved "bricks and mortar" and those with a vision of ministry "beyond the walls."

The August 15, 2021 campus-wide Open House was the first formal look at the first fruits of God's Spirit at work in our midst. Giving was a response to Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for the salvation of the whole world. May the buildings be used to attract people outside the church in ways they can understand so that they will know the love of Christ eternally.

This month, BTN will do a photo essay. Next month, we'll add more photos and elaborate on special features. For a few reactions to the Open House, go to page 5.



regeneration





# PLEASANT HILL ACADEMY WHERE GOD'S GLORY IS SHINING

BY KELLY HIBBETT, BTN REPORTER

The partnership between CHPC and Pleasant Hill Academy (PHA) continues to bear good fruit. This past summer, CHPC volunteers tutored students and led enrichment classes for the school's Summer Scholars program. Originally 40 children signed up to attend. However, on the first day 120 students showed up. Their families were eager for them to catch up after a challenging year of blended and remote learning. The program was an overwhelming success!



The church's involvement with PHA continues to be fostered by the *Friends of PHA*, a group of CHPCers led by Elder Janet Dumford. The group provides teacher appreciation events and general support to the staff, students, and families of the school.

Volunteers work in partnership with the Whiz Kids/ Treehouse tutoring programs under the direction of Coleen Scheid (photo). The group provides a meal each semester; organizes a few staff appreciation events; sends personal thank-you notes, gift cards, and Valentine's Day gift bags; and seeks to provide items when the principal requests them, i.e., 2-liter bottles for science class, backpacks, etc.



When the school closed because

of the pandemic, members of the *Friends of PHA* helped with food distribution, tended the school's garden when the staff that was on a short vacation, and spread cheer through events like a s'mores gift-bag giveaways. In addition to having several people tutoring and leading student enrichment activities at the Summer Scholars program, *Friends of PHA* built bookshelves and garden boxes.

Last month, the group staged a celebratory welcome-back luncheon



for the teachers. A mouth-watering meal from Tortilleria Garcia was served. Colorful gift bags were presented, a prayer room

staffed, and a prayer walk organized. The walk was through the building and focused on seeking God's blessings on all in the school.

PHA's Principal Shauna McDonald recently expressed her gratitude for CHPC's partnership with her school: "I can't thank you enough for the love CHPC has always shown to Pleasant Hill Academy and me. I thank God for the heart you have for ensuring the staff feels appreciated. You may not realize it, but your actions have a special way of changing the atmosphere at Pleasant Hill. I pray God's continued blessings on



each of you. I'm looking for and believing in a supernatural school year for the students

and staff. I trust that God is going to equip the staff to give the students what they need to be great in life!"

What a treat to realize that a new member of PHA's Staff is CHPC's Elizabeth (Snyder) Mock (pictured).



*Friends of PHA* is now branching out and inviting anyone from the College Hill community to join. For

more information, contact Janet Dumford at [jdumford@chpc.org](mailto:jdumford@chpc.org) .

Watch for more ways you can get involved with PHA. Whiz Kids and Treehouse, will be starting back up this month. There will be excellent materials and training for tutors. Next month tutors will be introduced to their assigned students. Interested and want to know more? Contact Colleen Scheid, [scheidison@gmail.com](mailto:scheidison@gmail.com).

# QUOTES FROM THE OPEN HOUSE

BY KELLY HIBBETT

"The sofa and video game area for Youth Group has been amazing. One boy came for the games and then said, 'I'm staying for Youth Group every time.'" *SAM MOCK*

We liked "the kids' area—new and refreshed, bright colors, wall art. Plus, the toys are out in the open and easy for the kids to access." (It was all I could do to keep Barb and Steve from crawling into the *book nook* upstairs!) *TELESCANS*

The wall of pictures of the books of the Bible captured the *MARIHUGH'S* hearts—so much to learn and love.

The Sunday School rooms "look like classrooms. The toys, books, games, play kitchen, wall art—all good for visual diversion." *BRENDA CLARK*

Many commented on the brightness of the lighting in all of the buildings. Lights were replaced with LED ones known for their low heat/ maintenance/operating costs and auto-dim features. Light and sound in Fellowship Hall/Worship Area is awesome.

"I can remember when Barnabas was originally built—we wrote scriptures on the walls before they were painted. Looking at it now and seeing how it is being loved and cared for is beautiful. It really shows God's faithfulness." *BONNIE MACK*

Barb Enderly's father-in-law, Gus Linder, originally built the [Barnabas] "Learning Center." She still has pictures of her children wearing hard-hats at the work site. "Looking from where we started to now and thinking about all of the family connections" was very emotional for Barb. *MIKE & BARB (LINDER) ENDERLY*

"I appreciate the color, whimsy, and joyfulness in the nursery and 3C's area. It's the kid in me." *BART SAUER*

"The carpeted walls are gone, floor treatments are easy care, everything is renewed. It's a great place to work, to plan for and to welcome the new generations God calls." *THE STAFF*

# FAMILY FAITH FORWARD

FROM REV. JENNIFER CRONK, PASTOR TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CUT OUT FOR FAMILY FUN ✂

**FAITH FORWARD** SEPTEMBER

**I WILL CALL TO YOU WHENEVER I'M IN TROUBLE, AND YOU WILL ANSWER ME. PSALM 32:11**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 Tell God what you enjoyed today and thank Him.	6 Ask God to help you be brave with something that scares you.	7 Talk to God about something that bothers or worries you.	1 Ask God to help you with something that is hard.	2 Ask your mom or dad if you can pray for them.	3 Tell God what's cool and interesting about your favorite animal.	4 Tell God something that made you laugh and smile today.
12 Thank God for protecting you and your family.	13 Thank God for being with you each and every moment.	14 Pray for the doctors & nurses taking care of sick people.	8 Before you eat, ask your family if you can pray and thank God for the food.	9 Ask God to make you more aware of His presence in your life.	10 Pray for the leaders of your church.	11 Pray for someone whose name starts with the letter S.
19 Tell God 10 things you love about your family.	20 Pray from a place where you haven't prayed before. (Kitchen, trampoline, under your bed, tree branch).	21 Go outside and thank God for the things you see in His creation.	15 Praise God for being your Provider!	16 Read Philippians 4:6 & talk to God about that verse.	17 Ask God to give you an open door to share the Gospel today. - Colossians 4:3	18 Pray for someone who has been unkind to you.
26 Ask God to remind you of anything that you need to make right.	27 Close your eyes and sing your favorite praise song to God.	28 Pray for your family members, each by name.	22 Thank God for the talents He's given you.	23 Eat something yummy and thank God for it while you do.	24 Tell God something you need right now.	25 Thank God for your teachers from church.
			29 Make a list of the people you miss. Pray for them by name.	30 Wait until it is dark outside and the stars are out. Tell God thank you for keeping all His promises - as many as the stars in the sky.		

# WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH \$20 AND A BOX OF CRAYONS?



The simple answer is you can bless over 17,000 students whose families often live below the “poverty line.” The students attend 37 schools that receive the supplies from Tools For Schools (TFS) and distribute them on an “as needed” basis. The annual TFS ministry is made possible through donations, grants, and the service of collection and distributions teams.

This year six supplies were offered— 2-pocket folders with prongs (25,000); pens (12,000) #2 pencils (38,000); safety scissors (10,500), washable glue sticks (18,100), and boxes of crayons. TFS supporters in two churches collected 1317 boxes this year, triple previous years. However, 6270 were requested.



August 9th was the TFS 2021 Distribution Day. Bev Graves (pictured) and Barry Stare had created the list of schools and items needed. About 9 AM, 27 team members from CHPC and the Evangelical Community Church began allocating supplies by school.



GABBY HALLUMS AND BILL SCHEID HELP LOAD SUPPLIES FOR A TEACHER



LINDA WILLIAMS AND CYBELE RISMA COLLECT SUPPLIES FOR THEIR SCHOOLS

SUSAN KOCH FROM CHPC AND SUE KOENIG OF ECC TEAM UP TO SERVE CHILDREN IN NEED



The final step in the loading process was to ask the school representative, “May we pray for you and your school?” All said, “YES!”

JOHN WENDT AND DAVID WELCH WITH A DELIVERY



GLUE STICKS AND SCISSORS BOUGHT IN BULK ARE REPACKED IN ADVANCE FOR EASE OF DISTRIBUTION

By 10:30 AM, people from the schools started arriving to pick up their supplies. That’s when the loading began!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PART IN TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS 2021

Just when “heavy lifting” was needed, God provided a group of energetic teenage helpers: two guys and three Whiz Kid girls.

JEREMY & JOEL MSWAIN, KORNEY MACE, NIARAH DESIR & GABBY HALLUMS



Tax deductible monetary donations may still be sent to “Feast of Love/ Tools for Schools” 5742 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati OH 45224.



## GLIMPSES FROM JOERG SCHMIDT (MORE INFO ON PAGE 8)

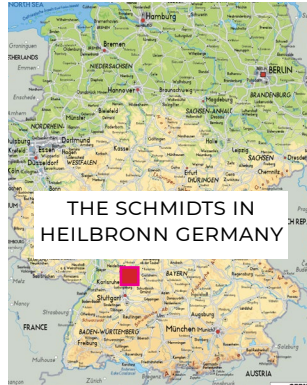
Arab Muslims often associate compassion, forgiveness, tolerance and love with Christians. *All believers worldwide should be aware of this perception* (however false or true it is) and the expectations that come



JOERG WITH ARAB IMMIGRANTS STUDYING AT THE XENOS CHURCH

with it. The more Christians are able to live up to those expectations in obedience to Christ, the more Arabs will be able to maintain this positive perception and build relationships. Our OM team in Germany empha-

sizes two different tracks to make God's Glory known amongst Middle Eastern and African immigrants. First, we are always ready to help with practical issues: assisting with lawyer or doctor visits, teaching German, or finding housing or employment. We serve people regardless of how interested someone is in the Gospel. Second, for those who are interested, we are ready to teach them to study the Bible, to provide ways for them to worship, to help them grow as Christ's disciples and serve others in Christ's name.



We are thankful for the many opportunities the Lord has given us to minister through the support of CHPC. Contact us and join our prayer list: [jls4jc@swissmail.org](mailto:jls4jc@swissmail.org)

## TWO STAFF UPDATES

On Sept 1st, Heather Lethander's job title was changed to *Director of Op-*



*erations* to more accurately reflect the breadth of her work. Heather will be overseeing the finances and the human resources of CHPC, and the functioning of

the facilities. She is responsible for building and equipment scheduling, maintenance and care. She will work closely with staff to be sure the work environment supports the staffs' and the church's ability to fulfill God's calling. She will continue to develop a team to oversee the wise use and ordering of the financial resources of CHPC. We are thankful to God for Heather's skill and commitment to these vital tasks.

On July 15th, Joanne (Samad) Cornelius became the *Coordinator of Care Ministries*. Her calling



is to organize and support the congregation in caring for one another. She is developing a team of those gifted and called to ministries of care and compassion, especially for those who are unable to care for themselves because of illness, life's challenges, and physical limitations. Joanne will be continue to facilitate the ePrayer e-mail announcements. These are vital links within the congregation. ePrayers keep staff and members aware of needs to bring before God. Joanne's former work with the Pure Hope Ministry has uniquely prepared her for this new role on staff.

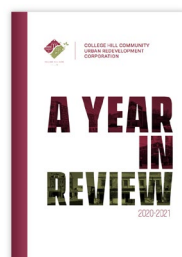
Want to receive the weekly ePrayer e-mails or add a prayer request? Go to [www.chpc.org/prayer](http://www.chpc.org/prayer)



RESERVE THE DATE  
SUNDAY, OCT. 24

## CHPC'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please pray for the CHPC Officer Nominating Committee. Potential candidates are being interviewed. Pray for discernment for all involved. May the process go smoothly.



## LEARN WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COLLEGE HILL

ONLINE [CHCURC.COM/ YEARINREVIEW/](http://CHCURC.COM/YEARINREVIEW/)

BUILDING NEW HOUSING & RETAIL SPACE, RESTAURANTS & BUSINESS, UPCOMING EVENTS, G COMMUNITY

Deadline for *Bell Tower News* submissions is the 15th of each MONTH to

## WELCOME JÖRG & LISA SCHMIDT SUN., SEPT. 19

*This month's edition of the Bell Tower News introduces you to the Schmidts, global mission workers in Heilbronn, Germany. JÖRG (Joerg) and Lisa have lived and worked among Arab Muslim immigrants in a number of countries. Over 2 million Arab Muslims live in the USA. Learn more about serving God among Arab Muslim immigrants across the street and around the world.*

- On Sept. 19th, the Schmidts will bring greetings in the 9:00 and 10:30 AM worship services.
- 12 PM to 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall, they will speak about how their own visions of ministries have changed over the years and some effects of the world pandemic.
- For a more personal update, at 12:45 PM join the Outreach Lunch Bunch at Krimmer's Restaurant (1704 Galbraith Rd., west of Hamilton Ave.). NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED.

### GLIMPSES FROM JOERG:

From the early 1980's onwards my wife Lisa and I have served Arab people in various ways. We married in 1987 in Cincinnati, and CHPC commissioned us in 1988 to continue our ministry with Operation Mobilization (OM), our mission organization. Since that



time we have been partners with CHPC in Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan as we evangelized, attempted to plant churches and trained others to do so. For a number of years Lisa worked in Social Development. However in 2013 due to our chronic health issues and aging parents, we returned to Germany. We joined an OM team ministering among many immigrants, including Arabs.

Throughout the years of working and living with Arab people, we were looking for a key to unlock their hearts for the Gospel. Though we haven't found a key that would unlock the hearts of the Arab masses, there seems to be a common theme in the conversion process of those Muslim believers who have come to faith in Christ through our ministry in Heilbronn, Germany (near Stuttgart).

*They are seeking a religion that enables them to live a moral life of love, forgiveness, and justice.*

They are fascinated by the Christian teaching to even love one's enemies (Luke 6:27). Western culture is still perceived as "Christian" and judged on the one hand as corrupt, but at the same time it is perceived as a place where human rights and the *rule of law* exist. Christianity is perceived as a religion of compassion, forgiveness, tolerance and love.

(READ MORE ON PAGE 7)



2018—DREW & CATHY SMITH AT TEA WITH THE SCHMIDTS AND THEIR ARAB FRIENDS.



BY PASTOR DREW SMITH

Last spring, many at CHPC set personal faith goals for this year—to invite others to church, serve in our community, and spend time with God in prayer and reading Scripture. The objective was to encourage one another to *make a plan* for serving God and growing in Christ. "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps" (Prov. 16:9)

Fall is the time we set to assess these goals. I know some of you have been keeping a tally over the last several months (at least one of you has an Excel spreadsheet). Some of you may just now be remembering your goals and have to rely totally on your memory. Ha! That's OK – grace abounds. There is no better time than the present to rekindle those heartfelt plans to grow in service to God and others.

If you completed the online *Goals Form*, check your old emails (Feb. to April) for one from CHPC about goals. Your particular goals were anonymous. Even if you didn't complete a goal card but still fulfilled some of the goals, you can still share that information for the comprehensive compilation that will be presented at the October Congregational Meeting. We'll celebrate what God has done in and through CHPC. What a great way to see more clearly how God's love for world is reflected through you and me.

By early October, we will have a new Goals Form online. Input your totals from Spring and make new goals for this year. Missed doing Goals before? Join in and keep a copy of your Goals!