

# BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – SEPTEMBER 2025

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



***“Stewardship isn’t a subcategory of the Christian Life. Stewardship is the Christian Life. After all, what is Stewardship except that God has entrusted to us life, time, talents, money, possessions, family, and His Grace? In each case, He evaluates how we regard what He has entrusted to us and what we do with it.” — Randy Alcorn***

The FALL SERMON SERIES:  
“MORE THAN MINE”

**Time, Treasure, Talents, & Tik-Tok** speaks to our being transformed by the renewing of our minds and empowered by the Holy Spirit to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

(MORE DETAILS ON THE BACK COVER)

## STEWARDSHIP IS AN ACTION WORD!

Randy Alcorn is a *New York Times* bestselling author of more than 60 books including *Heaven* and *The Treasure Principle*, and the founder and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM). He says, “When we take our cues from the world, it’s easy to develop a flawed perspective” —on life and stewardship. However, Romans 12:2 calls us to *be transformed by the renewing of our minds*. That transformation begins with the first principle:

**God owns everything, and I am his steward.**

If everything belongs to God, we, as wise overseers, must ask God what he wants us to do with what he has entrusted to us. Thankfully, he has provided clear guidance in his Word, the Bible:

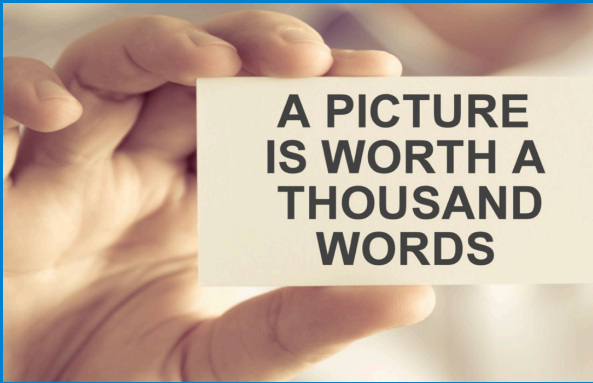
*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.* 2 Tim 3:16-17 NIV

Randy uses this example: “Imagine borrowing a pencil from someone and then breaking it in half. If the pencil belonged to you, that wouldn’t be a big deal. But if it belonged to someone else, breaking it without permission would be wrong.” When we recognize that all we have belongs to God, it changes *how* we use it, *why* we use it, and the purpose for which it’s used. ■



COLLEGE HILL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





THE BELL TOWER NEWS MID-SUMMER EDITION DEMONSTRATED THAT A *PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS*. IT CONTAINED PICTURES FROM THE FAMILY MINISTRIES SUMMER EVENTS. THIS ISSUE INCLUDES MORE CHPC LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES FROM



## CHPC 3CS CAMP July 28-31, 9:30 AM-12 PM

BY SHANNON CATON,  
DIRECTOR 3 C'S PRESCHOOL  
AND KINDERGARTEN

The Christian Cooperative Community School (3 Cs) was founded in 1968. It provides students with an excellent foundation for both school and life. Not only is it an excellent preschool and kindergarten for the student, but it is also a community like no other. It is a family environment where parents and teachers support one another.

This summer, 3CS put on the 10th annual summer camp for children ages 2-9. There were 65

campers, 15 junior helpers (many 3CS alumni), and 5 teachers helping to run the camp. There were ocean-themed crafts, games, songs, and more. As always, the children and adults had a great deal of fun. It's always great to spread God's love and have a blast doing it.

There was "water, water everywhere" inside and outside. The Goldfish could be eaten and paper ones caught. Fishes decorated plates and posed for art—







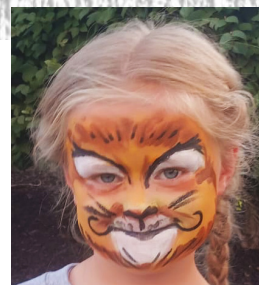
water-color portraits. Campers rocked the wooden boats, joined in group games, and experienced how water could make window washing into "oceans" of fun and messy.



Watch for the 2026 camp dates. Campers will learn about God's handi-work in Science.



CELEBRATE  
SUMMER  
OUTREACH AT  
PATRICK'S PARK  
AUG 8, 2025

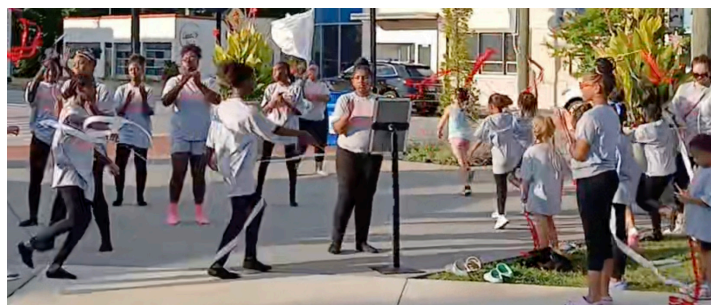


The weather was perfect. PEOPLE CAME, stopped by the information desk, registered, and and got a ticket for free yummy ice cream. Adults

kids enjoyed the face-painting and playing the games. They stepped up to line-dance, and celebrated as the Jesus University dancers praised the Lord. Such great FUN for ALL!



LINE DANCING AND JESUS UNIVERSITY





# FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT: A Different Kind of “Over-Seas” Ministry

## ANSWERING GOD’S CALL — IN THE POOL AND OUT

BY JANET SCHEYER, CHPC MEMBER

I wanted to share how God’s answer to a simple prayer led me to a joyful volunteer experience.

### A WHISPER IN PRAYER

It all began with a prayer sometime in the spring: “Lord, what do you want me to do this summer?”

I own a travel agency, and I typically take a summer vacation or two. Not so this year. As a Travel Advisor, in addition to taking care of my clients, there’s also travel preparation, which consumes a significant amount of my time. With nothing planned for myself, I knew I would have time on my hands.

The Holy Spirit began dropping two words into my thoughts: swimming ministry. I’d never even considered teaching swimming lessons, so I KNEW it couldn’t mean that! But after four or five times, I finally got a clue, and the nudge became clearer.

### SEEKING WISDOM—AND SAYING “YES”

I reached out to my dear friend, Sam Stare, expecting paperwork duties. Instead, she described teaching children to swim—and it sounded like pure joy.

### POOLSIDE BLESSINGS

Since I’m self-employed, I set my own hours and relish the freedom to follow God’s lead. He had never led me in this direction before. I asked, and God answered, so I signed up to teach for three weeks, which ended up stretching into five weeks. So, for five days a week for five weeks this summer, I jumped into the

coolest water with the most adorable swimmers you’ve ever seen. Their smiles, splashes, and eagerness

reminded me that serving can be simply delightful. Looking back, I’ve had an adventure I never anticipated. My swimmers ranged from 5 to 81 years old. Quite a spread! I learned to teach level #1 and then was assigned to level #3 (out of 6), something I did not feel prepared to do.

The weather ranged from stifling heat in June to cold with thunderstorms during the final week of swimming, July 28-Aug 1..

My ongoing prayer was, please don’t let me mess up anyone’s kid. My deepest desire and prayer were to be his love to my swimmers and to know that GOD would be glorified.

### LESSONS I LEARNED • God

often calls us beyond our comfort zones.

- My “Yes” opened doors to unexpected blessings.
- Small acts of service—and early planning—make a big impact.

**A SMALL REMINDER** I recently helped some clients secure their preferred cruise for 2026 right before all the staterooms were booked. It was a gentle reminder to consider what’s on our hearts and to *be available* to embrace opportunities when they appear.



JAN SCHEYER (RIGHT, WITH THE HAT) WAS PART OF A TEAM WHO WORKED WITH A FEARFUL TEEN WHO HAD NEVER BEEN IN WATER DEEPER THAN HIS WAIST. PRAYER WAS VITAL!

Jan Scheyer joined CHPC in 1976. She owns *Personally Yours Travel* — <https://personallyyourstravel.com/>



# When you take that step of faith to go on a mission, you get to see God working and then you get to take that back home with you. — Elizabeth Mock

REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF SONLIGHT POWER.ORG

Elizabeth Mock has achieved a special milestone on SonLight Power trips. She's one of the first to accomplish a trifecta of sorts, participating on SonLight Power trips in three distinct life stages: as a youngster, teen, and now as an adult.

In 2008 at age 11, Elizabeth joined her family on a church-sponsored trip to Honduras with SonLight



Power. Five years later in 2013, she returned to Honduras on a SonLight Power trip with her youth group.

In November 2024 and June 2025, Elizabeth made her 3rd

and 4th SonLight Power trips to Honduras. This time, she was on a church team that included her mother-in-law Susan, husband Samuel, and mother Claire Snyder .



For Elizabeth, each trip she's taken has been impactful in its own unique way. But all four trips have shared two things in common: using the power of the sun to equip remote, isolated school communities with reliable electricity for the first time, and using the power of the Son, Jesus, to share God's love with children and communities. Elizabeth reflected on her most recent experience in Honduras as she and a SonLight Power

team from College Hill Presbyterian Church (CHPC) spread the love of Jesus with children and communities at three schools



that previously had no access to basic electricity.

Join us as we unpack Elizabeth's journey . . . As part of CHPC since childhood, Elizabeth grew up alongside SonLight Power, which was founded by longtime CHPC member and elder, Allen Rainey. He organizing mission trips with CHPC to install solar-power in Honduras



in 2002. Proximity to the mission meant Elizabeth had access to the transformational impact solar power and the gospel can have on children and families, both near and far.

Inspired by stories from CHPC's early trips to Honduras, Elizabeth and her family joined their first mission trip with SonLight Power. This year, she led others on the Fiesta Team that builds relationships with the community while the Installation Team sets up the solar-power equipment. .



THERE ARE A LOT MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO ON THE WEBSITE. Go to <https://www.sonlightpower.org/news/letting-her-light-shine-elizabeths-story> .



**Whiz Kids is a one-on-one tutoring ministry for K-5 students** focusing on math and English, relationships with Christian adult tutors. In partnership with City Gospel Mission and made possible by the generous support of the CHPC community, Whiz Kids brings hope and help to students from College Hill Academy (1625 Cedar Ave), on Tuesday afternoons. Curriculum provided. **Not a tutor? Donations needed: \$100/ student.**

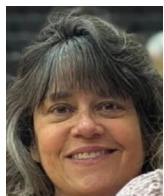
GO TO <https://chpc.org/whiz-kids-tutoring/>

## STEP RIGHT UP!

Elijah Kenny and Nikki Mc Kenna invite you to watch the June Connections Camp in action. Just type the highlighted address into your internet browser. Be careful to enter it exactly. You'll love seeing the video.



[HTTPS://VIMEOCOM/1103576387/7f2d726159?SHARE=COPY](https://vimeocom/1103576387/7f2d726159?SHARE=COPY)



**To honor Jane Schrott, former 3CS Preschool teacher who died suddenly on Aug. 4, 2025, a "Courage to Bloom" Scholarship Fund has been established in partnership with 3Cs Preschool & Kindergarten for the 2026 school year.**

The scholarship will recognize a family or individual with financial need who has overcome personal challenges and who uplifts others through acts of kindness, service, and quiet leadership within their church or community. The fund will encourage racial diversity. Detailed criteria will be shared in spring of 2026. *Watch for info about donating to the fund.*

## SOME MARRIED COUPLES CAN SEE ONLY TWO PAINFUL OPTIONS

1. Suffering in an unhappy marriage
2. Enduring the devastation of divorce

*Here is a Third Option – a practical and proven path to a healthy, functional marriage.*

## The Marriage School

Growing Better Together

**This class one of a series for couples: those engaged, newlyweds, ones struggling, and those who want to have their good marriage flourish.**

**When: Wednesdays, Sept. 3 to Dec. 10, 6:30-8:30 PM**  
**Register and begin at any time during the 14 weeks.**

Different subjects are taught each week. Register for free childcare. Although a donation is suggested, classes are free.

**Where: CHPC** (College Hill Presbyterian, 5742 Hamilton Ave., 45224), Learning Center Building: 2nd Floor.

**What: Skills-based classes full of real people overcoming real problems with real solutions.** Topics include: Respect, The Blame Game, Understanding Expectations, Power Struggle, Control, Listening, The Baggage of Personal Differences, Childhood Anger, Speaking the Truth, Conflict Resolution, The Hurt Spiral, Forgiveness, and Rebuilding Trust.

If you or someone you know could benefit from learning skills to enable their marriage to flourish, come and check the class out and/or pass this information along.

**To Register** go to: <https://www.themarriageschool.net/the-third-option>.



**Questions?** Please contact Michael Gaines  
513-541-5676 x1160 or  
[Mgaines@chpc.org](mailto:Mgaines@chpc.org).







## GROUPS BEGIN SEPT 21ST

Growth Groups at CHPC provide a supportive place for people to gather and explore 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 for us to be the Church as we grow in following Christ through prayer, play, study, and service.

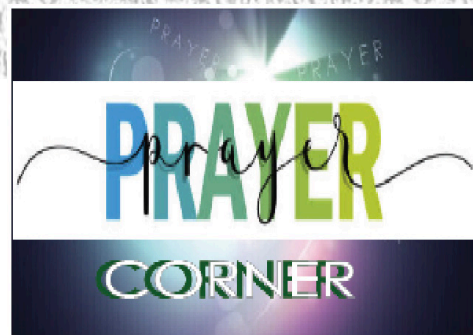
**EXISTING AND NEW GROUPS CAN BE FOUND  
AT [chpc.org/growth/#Growth-Group](http://chpc.org/growth/#Growth-Group)**

There are groups that meet on different days of the week, ones for women only, mixed-age groups, zoom, com online groups, and face-to-face ones, groups that meet in different parts of the city and some at CHPC.

Let us know your interests, and we will put people together to form new growth groups.



It is costly and very difficult for internationals to obtain a visa to come to America for Equipping Ministries Int'l training. As the first step in establishing an EMI regional training center in Africa, a team of 15 facilitators from the U.S. and Norway went to Nairobi, Kenya to teach EMI's four core relational skills courses originally developed at CHPC more than 40 years ago. Natalie (Clippard) McSwain and her daughter Anna were part of the team. Watch for the story and photos in the October BTN.



BY CHRISTY ROEDIGER

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. . . All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. . . But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*

1 Corinthians 12: 7, 11, 18 (NIV)

As our congregation celebrates new leaders and the continual transformation of our local body, let's remember that our individual, unique gifting isn't just personal but a corporate gift. Paul's teaching reminds us not to let our light be hidden under a basket just as Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew chapters 5-7). As you read about those who have been called, how is your inner spirit being tweaked? Is there a particular role or function of the church that calls to you? Something that concerns you? A place in our body where you long to put your shoulder to the plow? Those thoughts can be the beginning of your call to service within His body.

*Almighty God, You can do all things and yet you choose to live through your people and your church – your Bride. Teach us, God. Grow us up to be the people you dreamed we would be when you wove each of us together and then made us into this congregation. Lord, while our church may have history, we pray for the future and that you will shine here. We pray sinners will repent, the broken will be restored, the sick will be healed and may manifestation of your spirit happen in ways we can only imagine. We say YES, Lord, for Your glory in Jesus. Amen.*

**Bell Tower News**  
**article submission deadline is September 17 th**

Submit an article or photo of an event. Request more information? Contact the BTN Editor, Sam Stare  
513-382-5902 or [starecvg@aol.com](mailto:starecvg@aol.com)



COLLEGE HILL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: “PULLIN’ OUT THE STOPS” ORGAN RECITAL



**PRESENTING**  
**Highly Acclaimed and**  
**Widely Celebrated**  
**Organist**

**Nathaniel**  
**Gumbs**  
**In Concert**  
**Sunday,**  
**September 28,**  
**2025, 3:00 PM**

**College Hill**  
**Presbyterian**  
**5742 Hamilton Ave**  
**Cincinnati OH 45224**

Nathaniel Gumbs, a native of the Bronx, NY, has performed throughout the United States and abroad, including Antigua, St. Thomas, Ghana, Paris, and Munich, and is consistently gathering new fans and followers. *The New York Times*’ review of Nathaniel’s concert with bass-baritone Dashon Burton describes their performance as “mature, lyrical, accurate and energetic,” and Nathaniel’s playing as done “deftly and with feeling.”

Dr. Gumbs currently serves as Director of Chapel Music at Yale University where he works with students, faculty, and guests to coordinate music for three worshipping communities: the University Church in

Battell Chapel and at Yale Divinity School in both Marquand Chapel and at Berkeley’s Divinity School. He earned his undergraduate degree from Shenandoah Conservatory in Virginia, his Master of Music degree from Yale University, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music. Nathaniel’s principal teachers include Steven Cooksey, David Higgs, and Martin Jean.

Prior to his position at Yale, Dr. Gumbs served as Director of Music and Arts and church organist at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC, where he led several hundred volunteer musicians and staff in four choirs and other ensembles. Nathaniel currently serves as the Interim Minister of Music and Fine Arts at the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, NY.

In 2017, *The Diapason* magazine recognized Nathaniel as one of 20 outstanding organists under 30 years old for his achievement in organ performance and church music. In 2018, Nathaniel curated the opening Hymn Festival (Singing Diverse Music in the New Church) for the Hymn Society’s annual conference. He is also featured on various recording projects with James Abbington, and award-winning conductor, Jason Max Ferdinand. He has recorded revised choral works by Margaret Bonds with New York Philharmonic’s Chorus Director, Malcolm Merriweather. Most recently, Dr. Gumbs is a contributing composer to *Pulling Out The Stops, Volume 3, Congregational Song Accompaniments for Organ*, published by Augsburg Fortress. ■



### MORE THAN MINE

**TIME, TREASURE, TALENTS, & TIK-TOK**

One of our first words is “Mine!” Then, as Jesus-followers, we live our lives unlearning that natural self-centered tendency. Nothing we have is ours. Our very breath is a gift from God. He gives us the gift of life and teaches us how best to live it. Let’s learn from God’s Word and help one another discover a life beyond “Mine” to “God’s” for all eternity!

Sept. 7	Breath From God	Genesis 2:5-17 (poss. Lk 21:1-4)	All of life is a gift. Explore from the very beginning that God provided all we needed for life in His creation. God owns it all.
Sept 14	You Have it All: Time	Col. 3:23,24	We all have the same amount of time. Just like money, it’s a gift from God to be spent according to heavenly values.
Sept 21	How to work and rest	Genesis 1:26 – 2:3	The created order of work and rest.
Sept 28	Be Intentional	Matthew 6:19-24	Money is a devilish master but a powerful servant. Jesus talks about money because of its power over our souls and influence in our world.
Oct 5	Be Godly, Give Generously	Eph. 4:28, 2 Cor.9:6-15; 1 Cor. 16:1,2	God has adopted us into God’s family, so that we can adopt God’s habits and values. Generosity of treasures and time is an eternal family tradition.

