



UNION *Presbyterian* News

UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

www.unionpresby.org

JUNE 2011

Union Presbyterian Church is a loving family that welcomes the diversity of our community and seeks to engage, nurture and challenge each other to grow in faith and service to the Lord.

Congratulations to Our 2011 High School Graduates!



(L-R) Spencer Zembrodt, Meredith Eckstein, Anne Gilliland, Stephen Pair, Andy Gilliland

Meredith Eckstein—attending Morehead State University this fall to major in Biology

Andy Gilliland—attending the University of Cincinnati Clermont to major in Aviation Technology

Anne Gilliland—attending Northern Kentucky University to major in Nursing

Stephen Pair—attending the University of Cincinnati to major in Mechanical Engineering

Spencer Zembrodt—attending the University of Louisville to major in Music Education

Thank You Very Mu(I)ch!

Thanks to all of you who purchased mulch from the Senior High Youth this spring. We appreciate your support as we raise funds to attend the Montreat Youth Conference this summer. Please keep our group in your prayers as prepare to travel at the end of July.

Coming
to UPC
June
20-24!



Registration forms are available in the narthex or contact Susan Byrd for more information!

Good Deeds Abound

- The next time you see a member of our middle school youth group, please take a moment to thank them for their time and effort in planting the flowers that beautify the front of the church!
- Thanks to Girl Scout Cadette Troop 270 for making fleece blankets for the new toddler room at ULC. This fulfilled the girls' service project requirement for their childcare badge.

UPSeniors on the Move

Our annual picnic was on June 8th at Chuck and Glen Byrne's farm. We enjoyed some fine music with a patriotic theme by our own Susan Byrd and company. Also, Dick and Linda Baumer provided homemade ice cream.

Our outing for next month will be on July 7th. We will cruise the Ohio River on a BB Riverboat to Warsaw, Ky. which will include luncheon, music and games.

See Elaine Johnson for information about this lively group. God bless.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

John Harkrader	1
Stephen Pair	7
Ross Hillman	10
Donna Shupe	10
Phil Ruwe	11
Jeff Hansel	14
Lee Ann Foltz	22
Neva Martin	24
Anita Reed	24
Layne McEntyre	27



Bob & Jacque Sherwood	3
Tony & Teresa Gieske	4
Kevin & Holly Hillman	18
Kathy & Bill Martin	18
George & Anita Reed	20

Missing a Ring?

A ring was found on the piano in the choir room. Contact the church office if it might be yours.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Please feel free to contact one of the Elders on Session:

- Linda Baumer**—llbaumer@yahoo.com
- Dave Braun**—dpacbraun@insightbb.com
- Glen Byrne**—glentisb54@gmail.com
- Mary Lu Funyak**—mlfunyak@yahoo.com
- Lori Ruwe**—loriruwe@mac.com
- John Seibert**—jseibert8@insightbb.com
- Jacque Sherwood**—hsherwood@fuse.net
- Dana Skulan**—dana@becomingfreshwater.com

TROOP 805 NEWS



Suddenly summer is here!

The most recent Troop activity was a campout to the Red River Gorge, the first 'big trip' for the not-so-new anymore Scouts. The boys discovered a new camp-ground and got a chance to get out on the cliffs to work on climbing and rappelling, many for the first time. Also noteworthy on this trip were the older Scouts taking off for an Outpost Night on their own, giving the middle Scouts a chance to run things and prove themselves. The weather even behaved; all in all a great trip!

With the Troop growing a few changes were made. The boys separated themselves into more but smaller Patrols and restructured in the hope of improving communications and leadership opportunities. Watching them come together was a special treat, and offers some real insight as to where they're heading!

The Scouts will be at Union Kroger this Saturday selling Root Beer Floats and raising money for those less fortunate to go to Summer Camp. This time around they're fund-raising for others instead of themselves...

The SeaBase Crew continues their fundraising work on the way to the Bahamas, their 'storking' some front yards with the dreaded Pink Flamingos. Games with a Purpose...

And there's lots more going on—the boys recently put flags on Veteran's graves for Memorial Day, a good opportunity for everyone to remember those who offered all they had.

Troop 805 is proud to be a boy-run unit, operated by Scouts and for Scouts, and welcomes all young men over 11 years old. Bring your son by some Monday evening to see Scouting at its finest!

We build Eagles from the inside out...

CREW 805 UPDATE



The Venture Crew is as thrilled to see Summer coming as everyone else...

Members of the Crew went along on the recent Red River Gorge campout to help out on the cliffs and keep the younger boys safe. Later on they headed out on the Outpost trip to spend some well-deserved time on their own.

The Crew is also looking forward to the upcoming Troop canoe trip, they'll be busy working with the younger guys to keep the proper end of the boat headed downstream...

Further out, there are lots of plans to try the kayak trip again and perhaps enter a Trapshooting team to the 5th District Fair?

Crew 805 will be what you make it!

Got questions?

Call Crystal Noem at 384-1335

Or Barry Akins at 384-3806

Or just ask a Crew member!

VENTURING · BSA

Following is a church-wide letter from Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, regarding the adoption of Amendment 10-A. Contained in the letter is a link for additional information. Also contained in the letter is an email address where church members can address questions or comments regarding 10-A.

The full text of the churchwide letter:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
May grace, mercy, and peace be yours in abundance (Jude 1:2).

The debate about ordination standards has been a Presbyterian family struggle for much of the last three decades. We have sought to find that place where every congregation and every member, deacon, elder, and minister of the Word and Sacrament can share their gifts in ministry while, at the same time, the integrity of every congregation, member, deacon, elder, and minister is respected.

This year, the conversation has focused on Amendment 10-A that was passed by the 219th General Assembly (2010) and sent to presbyteries for approval. While we wait for official tallies, it appears that 87 presbyteries have approved 10-A, which is the majority required for approval.

If this becomes official, the new language outlining the gifts and requirements for ordained service will say the following:

Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates. This decision begins with an unequivocal affirmation that ordained office will continue to be rooted in each deacon, elder, and minister's "joyful submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life."

This action also has important effects on our life together as a church, namely:

in keeping with our historic principles of church order, each session and presbytery will continue to determine the suitability of individuals seeking ordination within its bounds.

persons in a same-gender relationship may be considered for ordination and/or installation as deacons, elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within the PC(USA); and

all other churchwide standards for ordination remain unchanged.

Reactions to this change will span a wide spectrum. Some will rejoice, while others will weep. Those who rejoice will see the change as an action, long in coming, that makes the PC(USA) an inclusive church that recognizes and receives the gifts for ministry of all those who feel called to ordained office. Those who weep will consider this change one that compromises biblical authority and acquiesces to present culture.

The feelings on both sides run deep.

However, as Presbyterians, we believe that the only way we will find God's will for the church is by seeking it together—worshiping, praying, thinking, and serving alongside one another. We are neighbors and colleagues, friends and family. Most importantly, we are all children of God, saved and taught by Jesus Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

We hold to the strong affirmation that all of us are bound together as the church through Jesus Christ our Lord. "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all," Paul wrote to the Ephesians (4:5-6).

It is Jesus Christ who calls individuals to ordained ministries, and all those who are called to ordained office continue to acknowledge Jesus as Lord of all and Head of the church. It is this same Jesus Christ who is the foundation of our faith and to whom we cling.

No doubt, there will be several news stories and other reports about this change in the days ahead. A number of resources, including frequently asked questions and liturgical resources, are available for you at the HYPERLINK "<http://oga.pcusa.org/>" Office of the General Assembly website (<http://oga.pcusa.org/>). In addition, for those who wish to comment on or inquire further about 10-A, please email HYPERLINK "<mailto:Ga.amendments@pcusa.org>" [ga.amendments@pcusa.org](mailto:Ga.amendments@pcusa.org) or call (888) 728-7228, x8202.

We invite you to join us in prayer:

Almighty God, we give thanks for a rich heritage of faithful witnesses to the gospel throughout the ages. We offer gratitude not only for those who have gone before us, but for General Assembly commissioners and presbyters across the church who have sought diligently to discern the mind of Christ for the church in every time and place, and especially in this present time.

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Your Presbytery Link— Highlights of the Meeting

Education—Elder Susie Lewis (Montgomery) and Elder Susan Imhausen (Kennedy Heights) shared insights into ways interim pastors have made a difference in the lives of their respective congregations. The Rev. Michelle Bacon (interim, Trinity) reviewed stages of a congregation's life: birth, growth, stability, decline, death. She stressed that intentional efforts are needed to move from stability or decline back to growth.

Fellowship—Special greetings were extended by Vefa Erginbas of the Niagara Foundation, which promotes global fellowship among Christians, Jews, and Muslims, and by the Rev. Raafat Zaki (transitional executive, Synod of the Covenant). Presbytery members and commissioners gathered around tables to share conversation and a light meal. Visitors included the confirmation class of Christ Presbyterian Church.

Worship—"Servant leadership" was emphasized in homilies delivered by Elder Deborah Ramey (CLP, Hartwell), the Rev. Kevin Stainton (pastor, Heritage), and the Rev. Raafat Zaki. The offering was collected to benefit hunger ministries designated by Mt. Auburn and Sardinia First churches.

Business—The presbytery took the following actions.

- Approved requests from Community of Faith and Providence to sell portions of their properties.
- Renewed agreements for ministers and elders to provide pastoral leadership with congregations.
- Appointed session moderators.
- Approved 2011 terms of call for ministers in installed positions.
- Dissolved the pastoral relationship between Loveland and the Rev. Tim McQuade. And granted him permission to serve as a chaplain with Hospice of Cincinnati.
- Elected the Rev. Kevin Stainton as vice moderator and Elder Jill Moormann (Knox) as moderator to begin service in September. Also filled vacancies in committees.
- Elected ordination examination readers: Elder Vicki Abend (Mt. Washington), the Rev. Terry Webster (pastor, Ft. Thomas First), and the Rev. Kathy Westmoreland (pastor, St. John's Westminster).
- Approved proposed amendment to the PCUSA Constitution 10-1: Foundations of Presbytery Polity and Form of Government.
- Dissolved Bantam Presbyterian Church at its request and gave thanks for its members and ministry.
- Commissioned Elder Vicki Abend as commissioned lay pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church.

The presbytery also received reports.

- 2010 church statistics and year-to-date financial statements
- The Permanent Judicial Commission has elected Elder Nancy Schmidt (Pleasant Ridge) as its moderator and the Rev. Kimberly McCoy (at-large) as its clerk.
- The synod has approved the presbytery's 2010 minutes.
- The Committee on Preparation for Ministry has enrolled Christy Mitchell (Hillsboro First) as an inquirer and granted permission for Elder Robert Northcutt (Aurora First) to begin lay pastor training.
- The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, an interfaith ministry including the presbytery, is focusing on homelessness/affordable housing and immigration reform in 2011.
- The Outdoor Ministry and Christian Education Mission Team has scholarship funds available for individuals and groups to attend PCUSA camps and conferences.
- The presbytery and the United Church of Christ will conduct lay pastor training beginning this fall.

Upcoming events:

- May 21—Strengthsfinders Workshop
- November 4-13—Presbytery Mission Trip to Guatemala

For more information, visit www.presbyteryofcincinnati.org

The Presbytery of Cincinnati met on May 10, 2011 at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Letter *(cont. from page 3)*

May your Spirit of peace be present with us in difficult decisions, especially where relationships are strained and the future is unclear. Open our ears and our hearts to listen to and hear those with whom we differ. Most of all, we give thanks for Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who called the Church into being and who continues to call us to follow his example of loving our neighbor and working for the reconciliation of the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Gradye Parsons

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Cynthia Bolbach

Moderator, 219th General Assembly (2010)

Linda Valentine

Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council

Landon Whitsitt

Vice Moderator, 219th General Assembly (2010)