



Sycamore
Church

THE NEWS LETTER

March 2018



On Tuesday, February 13, the SPC Staff celebrated the anticipated arrival of Baby Behbehani whose beautiful mother is our own Executive Director of Family Ministries. Needless to say, we will miss Rebecca terribly while she is away on maternity leave, but we could not be happier for her and her family...we extend our love, prayers, support, and congratulations to Andy, Rebecca, and Zach as they prepare for this ultimate blessing.

Project Linus

Thank you to all those who participated in Project Linus this year. It was a great SUCCESS, and so many children will benefit from your efforts!



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY

March 25, 10:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 29, 7:00 PM
Communion

GOOD FRIDAY

March 30, 7:00 PM
Drew Hood is preaching

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1, 9:00 and 11:00 AM
Bring a flower for the Flower Cross

Thank You, Jack

Dear Sycamore Friends,

Jack Taylor is officially retiring from his fulltime service to Sycamore Church on March 5, 2018. To help us in this transition time while the search process for a Director of Operations continues, Jack will help us 12 hours per week through Easter and perhaps into April. JX

Friends!

I am pretty confident that if Jack was in charge of the newsletter, the following article would NEVER appear! I just love pulling rank on him.

You would be helped to know that Jack first came to Sycamore as a byproduct of a "Come to Jesus" meeting! Let me explain.

When the search committee offered Jack the position to be the first full-time Director of Operations at Sycamore, he declined. I was struck. But, he apparently was not ready to leave where he was. Until –

The search team was very astute and asked that I would be in touch with Jack to glean anything from our process that could have been done better to help represent the church. I told them that I already anticipated connecting with Jack when he returned from Canada because I liked him. While he was away, I sent Jack an email inviting us to share lunch when he got back.

While Jack was in Canada he was alone in a fishing boat one day when it is as if the Lord spoke to him saying, "Jack, what did you do in turning down that position? That's where I want you to be!" Or at least it felt that way to Jack. But he also knew that the bridge had already been burned and there was no road back. Until –

He returned home and saw my email. Jack reached back to me and said "I think I've made a mistake!" As we discussed whether or not there was potential to reengage the committee, having already turned us down, I offered, "Jack, the committee that I know would be glad to hear back from you. Of course, they will be interested in what changed your mind, but they will ultimately have respect for your honesty." We all met together, and Jack was soon officially on our staff. One of the things I have always appreciated about Jack is that he saw something happening here and envisioned that a building program might be a possibility in our future. That was in 2008. How grateful we are

that Jack had the heart and capacity to support that vision. I am convinced that without Jack's involvement, we would have never realized a new building and opportunity for ministry.

Many of you would not know that Jack also has served as board chair for what was the National Association of Church Business Administrators. He had that kind of respect. And if you ask me, Jack wouldn't want you to know that he is a very sensitive guy. You might not always see it, because it frequently falls to Jack's position to have to be the person to say "NO!"

It would probably be fair to tell you that the two positions that must most frequently collaborate in a church like ours is the head of staff and the director of operations. So much of our life and ministry flows through the responsibilities of these positions.

I have to chuckle now when I reflect on those times when some mistakenly believed that Jack was running the church. Of course, he has had moments when he has been strong about his perspectives, but he never disrespected my leadership or responsibility. In fact, he was consistently good-natured about it. He knew his role and he valued the opportunity to collaborate. Without Jack, I would've probably lost my mind on a couple of occasions.

Here are some things worthy of note:

- Jack helped bring Sycamore into the 21st century by facilitating needed technology advances. Think of Jack the next time you stream a service.
- Next time you sing a hymn off the screen, thank Jack for helping us get there. How many churches do you know that can produce their own videos? Jack's efforts have allowed us to have resources typically not found in today's mainline churches.
- You can thank Jack that we have an icemaker in the kitchen. That was a battle he took on, years ago...
- If you have utilized our church columbarium, you have worked with Jack to secure your needs. You can thank Jack that he worked devotedly to see that project realized.
- Most wouldn't know it, but there have been times when we have had custodial vacancies and it has been Jack who opened the building, Jack who got the heat working, Jack who did the set up, Jack who was salting and shoveling.
- If you have had a funeral or memorial service at Sycamore, chances are that it was Jack who did the background work to play the video you had made, to backstop the service, to do all in his power to lovingly represent your loved one.
- Jack was consistently the staff member who would leave town leaving behind a dozen contacts so everyone would know where to go if a certain need would arise.

- Jack was the one often locked away preparing an exhaustive variety of reports and scrutinizing what needed to be done to help an endless array of needs to be met.
- And as a member of the staff, he has been a tireless colleague and friend, always advocating for his fellow team members and never betraying a confidence. Sure, Jack has sometimes been stubborn, but you have to love him for caring.
- Many are not aware that Jack is a Presbyterian elder and that his real heart lies in Canada, a 24 Hour drive away. His coming retirement will allow those deserved renewal opportunities to be a regular part of his life. I have often known Jack to go weeks on end without a day off. I also know that he did it, not simply because he is a hardworking employee, but most importantly because he loves Christ and His church.
- I must always be mindful that Jack may not want you to know that deep down he is and "old softy." The man adores his family and will do anything for them. I have seen Jack show grace in situations around here when my own heart was far from it. I have also seen Jack tear up because there are things so close to his heart.

The Lord let Jack Taylor be on loan to us at time when we needed it so much. He has served us faithfully and well and challenged us to do and be our best. I, for one, am a better person and a more capable servant because I had the privilege of working with Jack. In whatever way you feel led, I invite you to show Jack your appreciation for his efforts.

Bless you, Jack. This is one time you didn't get your way!



Lawrence W. Kent

Deacons for March

Karen Miller (489-7388) and
Brad Myers (722-5886).

Session Meeting News and Notes

The meeting opened February 19, 2018 at 6:00 PM with prayer.

Dr. Kent gave a devotion on two presidents, Washington and Lincoln, being it is President's day holiday. Dr. Kent shared aspects of each president's Christian life values.

Session reviewed committee reports, correspondence, statistical reports and financial reports. The reports were accepted with little discussion and there were no revisions.

Order of the day: The Trustees and Finance members present at the meeting were introduced by Elder Don Stuart. The 2018 recommended budget was discussed. At earlier meetings in February the Board of Trustees/Finance approved and endorsed the budget for Session to consider. Key lines of the budget were explained. Even with the "Extra Mile Campaign" this is a bare bones budget with \$1,426,056 in expected income and the same for expenses that indicates a balanced budget.

Questions were asked about the requests for funding for a Worship Leader, salary increases for staff, and IT upgrades to our website. These were not funded on the recommended budget because we didn't receive the funding for them.

A motion was made to accept the budget as proposed, endorsed and recommended at \$1,426,056. The motion was approved by Session.

The "Extra Mile Campaign raised approximately \$132,000 in total allowing the benevolence lines to be fully funded and the mortgage to be covered for the year. We ended the campaign with approximately \$10,000 more than planned. Discussion was heard on how to appropriate that money. Elder Lisa Wade shared her concern that with each budget over the last few years the first thing to be reduced is the personnel area and we need to consider what is important for our church strategy as we go through the funding process. That is something Trustees/Finance will be working on for the 2019 budget process.

A motion was passed placing the additional \$10,000 into Long Term Maintenance to help fund some large expenses that need addressed this year.

Elder Don Stuart read a Statement of Financial Risk that was endorsed by the Board of Trustees/Finance.
Elder- Board of Trustees/Finance

News and Notes continued on page 4...

Session News and Notes Cont'd

New Business was covered including the Session Annual report that goes to the Presbytery. This was voted on by Session and approved.

Elder Linda Hill explained that the board of Deacons has revised their charter so that it focuses on ministry inside the church. The main change is a refocus of their main mission. Session will hold off voting on that until a copy of the charter is sent out to Session members for additional review.

Elder Alan Greggo discussed Livingston Security Consulting and the training that they can do with staff for emergency preparedness. Trustees are working on a preparedness program.

Session started an initial discussed the Sunday morning model. We are in dialogue and collective understanding about what we are as Sycamore Presbyterian Church. The members of session have agreed that we will seek information from our committees for the next meeting.

A motion was made that we have a 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM service on Easter and that motion was approved. Elder Clark Oughterson recommended that session commend and thank Jack Taylor for his service over the years to our church.

The meeting closed with prayer from Dr. McQuade at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alan Greggo
Elder- Board of Trustees/Finance

Wilmington Project

Thanks to the dedicated volunteers, we are beginning the **9th year** of service to our friends in Wilmington. This month we will serve on Wednesdays, March 7 and 14, for lunch, and for dinner we will serve on the 4th Thursday, March 22, and the 4th Tuesday, March 27. Show time for dinner is 5:45 PM and 11:45 AM for lunch. Join our volunteer team who serve with joyful hearts to those in need at Sugartree! For questions, contact either Bob Morgenfeld (RJMorgenfeld@gmail.com or 933-0274), or Rhonda Vickers (rvickers1@cinci.rr.com or 295-3834).

A Note From Rebecca

March leads us in our final month of Lent. We journey together towards the cross: a chance to be reflective and mindful of what Jesus has done in our lives. I really love Lent. I try to keep myself a little quieter. I tend not to pick up new hobbies or rush around as much. It is a season of stillness and listening to what God has to say to me. It is hard to be still and listen. It is even harder when you have a 4 year old and a newborn on the way, but I make efforts to do so. I know that the healthier I am in my spiritual walk, the better I can care for my family.

That is true in all aspects of our life. The healthier we are physically, mentally, and spiritually, allows us to give ourselves to others. If we don't care for ourselves, then we can't care for others. We are given 24 hours a day. During that time, your life demands a lot of you. Maybe it is work, maybe it is raising children, maybe it is household obligations, and maybe it is caring for someone else. Whatever it is, you have 24 hours a day to do that. You also need to eat and sleep. When you factor in everything you do in a day, how much of that time is being dedicated to caring for your spiritual growth? Can you find an hour to read your Bible and pray? Maybe 30 minutes of reflective conversations with God and listening?

If this is new to you, try spending 5 minutes in prayer, completely dedicated prayer. No phone, no TV, no distractions around you- just you and God. It might be hard at first. After all, our minds like to wonder, and we like to be busy, but give it a try. Don't get frustrated if you find yourself wondering in your thought. When you do, just take a deep breath, and ask God for guidance. Once you get this down, add another 5 minutes to your day of opening your Bible and reading. Keep building up your daily time.

I promise you that if you stick to it, you will see a huge transformation in your life. You will feel more connected in your spiritual walk and will find it easier to share the Gospel with others.

Blessings to you on your Lenten journey. I will be gone until June with our new little one, but I will continue to pray for the people of Sycamore. I look forward to rejoining the life of Sycamore during VBS!

Grace and Peace-
Rebecca Behbehani
Executive Director of Family Ministries

FAMILY MINISTRY UP-

Sunday School Schedule

9:00 AM – Sunday School Hour Church Wide.
10:00AM - Worship Hour with Nursery/ Toddler care available. Preschool-Kindergarten leave the service after the Children's message

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Lenten Home Pack - Its not too late to spend the days of Lent working, praying, crafting and growing together as a family with the take home pack for families. It is a complete pack to help deepen your faith and understanding of the journey to the cross. Available in the Family Room or the Café.

Holy Week Schedule

- **Sunday, March 25** - Palm Sunday - 10:00 AM
- **Thursday, March 29** - Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 pm with Communion
- **Friday, March 30** - Good Friday Service - 7:00 pm; Drew Hood is preaching!
- **Sunday, April 1** - Easter Service - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM; Bring a flower for the flower cross outside the sanctuary

Thursday, March 15- College Ministry - Dinner, Bible Study - 6-8 PM. For anyone college aged. Join us for dinner, Bible study and Community. Contact Drew Hood dhoo@sycamorechurch.org



Nursery - Kindergarten

In March our youngest kids will learn that they can trust and follow Jesus using Matthew 4:19 - "*Come and follow me,*" Jesus said.

Sunday, March 11 - Kindergarten Take Faith Home Workshop on Prayer - 9:00 AM in the Chapel

Sunday, March 11 – Pajama Party - Since we're losing an hour of sleep, rollout of bed and join us for a day full of fun in your PJ's (maybe even your bunny slippers too!)

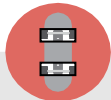
Wednesday, March 14 - MOPS at 9:30 am - contact Trina Gunn: theyoungguns@gmail.com



Elementary

Elementary kids will be discussing *PEACE proving you care more about each other than winning an argument!* Because of Jesus, we don't have to get even. Instead, we can reflect the character of Christ by caring for others and making peace.

Sunday, March 11 – Pajama Party - Since we're losing an hour of sleep, rollout of bed and join us for a day full of fun in your PJ's (maybe even your bunny slippers too!)



Middle School

- **Sunday School 9:00 am** - meet in the Loft
- **Confirmation 9:00 am** meet in the Underground
- **Sunday, March 25** - Laser Tag & Discipleship Sunday 11:00 - 5:00 pm - Meet in the Underground after church for lunch before we go.
- **Sunday, March 4, 11, 18 & 25** - Quest, MS Youth Group - 6-7:30 pm; meet in the Underground.



High School

- **Sunday School 9:00 am** - meet in the Underground
- **Friday, 3/16- Saturday, 3/17** - Discipleship Lock-In; 7pm Friday - 8am Saturday Contact dhoo@sycamorechurch.org
- **Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21 & 28** - 7-9pm Small Group Bible Study! Walk (guys) & BABES (girls)
- **Senior High Sunday Practices will start mid March** - watch your emails for more information!

THINGS TO KNOW

NURSERY/TODDLER CARE at 10AM – a reminder that nursery and toddler care is provided the entire hour of worship in our nursery room 114. Our structured childcare after the Children's Message is for preschool – Kindergarten only and is not set up for Toddler care.

Saturday, April 21 - SPC Outreach Day - Sign up in the Café to Serve with your Family and with other Sycamore members as we do God's work and serve the community!

Saturday, April 28 - Matthew 25 Ministries - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm - Meet at Matthew 25 Ministries with your family and friends. Sign up on line or in the Café

Sermon

"Living A Benediction"

4) If You Find It Not, Help Make It So Dr. Lawrence W. Kent January 28, 2018

We begin the new year with the challenge of living a benediction. A benediction is a sending of God's people into the world to further serve and worship God.

But do we go as those who behave as if we have heard good news? Does the good news make us glad?

We have affirmed that a cross could not bury good news and that tomb could not contain, confine or constrain good news. Jesus himself stated that he came to give us joy, that our joy may be full. Joy is both God given and God driven.

The second week we were reminded to live in faith. We did not say live with faith because that would imply that faith is an occasional companion or friend. Living in faith means that faith is the galvanizing reality which frames and undergirds our life.

For the Christian, to say "live in faith" means to "live in Christ" or in a very personal way to "live in Jesus". Jesus is always the one who raises the faith questions for our lives asking, "are you praying about that?" Or, "are you willing to trust that God is seeking to re-frame and transform your life through this series of circumstances that you are going through?"

Last week we explored the importance of striving to "believe that life is good." I believe we agreed that the goodness of life is not up for grabs because it is God's gift. In fact, God looked at the creation he had made and called it "good". Genesis 1:31

We have sometimes behaved as if the goodness of life is determined by our circumstances. If things are going swimmingly well then we say life is good? And if we are at a point of deep challenge we are often lead to presume that life is not good. But the goodness of life is not up for grabs.

It really is more of a matter of aligning our attitude with God's truth and presence. The goodness of life is really not about us but it is about God.

This brings us to the awesome challenge today of embracing "if you find it not, help make it so!" This is the big "ask" – the call to action.

All of us have experienced a great share of changes and challenges which could leave us saying that we have not found life to be good. In the midst of that experience here are a couple of things that have bubbled up within me.

1 - Refuse to live as a victim. That does not mean that we may not have been legitimately victims of something. Perhaps you were passed over at work due to no fault of your own. Or perhaps your bank accounts are lean due to an unprecedented number of heavy expenses which have

saturated your budget and left you with no maneuvering room. Perhaps your health has been fragile even though you have tried hard to lead a healthy and responsible life. We have spent much of this week reflecting on the tragic experience of a number of young American women's gymnasts who are legitimate victims of abuse and disrespect. I admire their efforts to help leave a legacy of positive change for their sport.

One of the problems with living as a victim is that you give your power away and you allow your life to be defined primarily by your point of challenge, rather than by the promises of God which always seek to intersect your arena of brokenness and challenge. And, sometimes, those who consistently live as victims can be very difficult to be around because they have not allowed something into their world which is bigger than their own point of pain.

2 - I always find it essential to ask, "Lord, what do you want to impress on me through this time of trial?" Or, "what are you wanting me to see and discern?" And, there is always looming that additional question, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" Or, "Lord, how do you want me to serve?" I have found myself all week speaking about the life and witness of one who felt compelled to serve. So much, in fact, that he seemingly could not be relieved of the burden to serve. By time he had reached the age of 30, he believed that he had been so blessed in his life that he could do nothing other than commit his remaining years to the service of humanity.

Typically, I don't speak about pastors, but this man was a pastor. In fact, he was a theologian of global importance. He even had earned a doctorate of theology. As a keen and incisive thinker, he had also published a book titled "The Philosophy of Civilization." He had earned a PhD in philosophy as well, being well acquainted with the scope of human and global thought. To respond in a caring way to some of the brokenness of life, he recognized that he needed a skills set that he did not possess, so he returned to school to get his medical degree. Amazing. Three earned doctorates.

Having felt led to go on the mission field, there were many mission societies that seem to be afraid of him so he set off on his own and would raise his own money. Now in the heart of Africa, Dr. Albert Schweitzer would literally hand construct the hospital that he would run until he was 90. The world finally caught up with Schweitzer and awarded him the Nobel peace prize in 1952. It thrilled him because it provided monies to help with his medical mission.

Some would describe Schweitzer is being brusque, and yet, he could protest the innocent killing of a fly. He would eventually gain a world audience through the integrity of his actions and a life, simply put, which was committed to following Jesus. He always maintained, "let your life be your argument."

Sermon

Schweitzer would tour Europe and America giving organ concerts to help raise money for his hospital. Oh yes, many regarded him as being the world's greatest interpreter of Bach. He also built organs. Some of us just come from a different gene pool!

On this given occasion, Schweitzer was traveling to Chicago on the train. Adorned in his typical white cotton suit with hat, he was met at the train by several Chicago reporters. He politely entertained their questions but was noticing something happening in the distance.

An older lady was struggling to get her luggage onto a Greyhound bus and no one seemed willing to help her. It was about one block from where Schweitzer was standing and he politely excused himself from the reporters and said he would return.

Schweitzer quickly walked the block and came to the woman and offered to help her. He was a very physical man for his age and possessed massive hands. He easily picked up her suitcase and placed it on the bus, tipped his hat to her and went to return to his interview. She apparently had no idea who had been her bellboy.

As Schweitzer returned to the reporters one of the reporters said to another, "that's the first time I've ever seen a sermon walk."

Where might our Lord be calling you to walk? Where is he nudging you to go? Where is he leading you to serve so that another human life might be blessed by the mercy and care of Jesus?

There is still time for us to do that. But hurry. Amen.

Line from Larry....

We share a common denominator in life...human suffering.

Suffering comes in many shapes and forms. We feel its gnawing presence in our experience of loss, brokenness, fear, isolation, illness, anxiety, vulnerability, tragedy, uncertainty, rejection, embarrassment, humiliation, misunderstanding, distress. Suffering has countless names. No one goes untouched by its presence and power.

We articulate our struggle with suffering when we ask:

-“What have I done to deserve this?”
-“Why do such terrible things happen to good people?”
-“How could I have guessed that I would ever feel this low?”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for those who know such struggle.

George Friedrich Handel knew such struggle. He was ill, virtually penniless, creatively exhausted, and threatened

with debtor's prison. For him, life had become something only to be endured. Joy was fleeting. Hope had vanished.

As he made his way into his flat one evening, he discovered that a friend had been there. On his little table was a set of papers with an encouragement for Handel to consider a musical setting for the scriptures which had been left. He read the selections and his attention became riveted on a particular passage: “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Something in those words opened the faith throttle for Handel. His heart experienced rekindled hope and the assurance of God's help which would not be defeated. He wrote and he wrote. Nearly 20 hours a day for 20 some days until he was finished. And the world became a changed place. Out of his effort and inspiration “The Messiah” was born.

During this season of Lent, we are quick to move to Easter and forget the passion and pain of Good Friday. Jesus shared our common denominator: human suffering. He was whipped and abandoned, misunderstood and rejected, hurt and pummeled, ridiculed and crucified, being broken in every way, shape and form for our sake. We don't like to witness Jesus experiencing such pain at the hands of the human community. So we often leap past Good Friday and head straight into Easter.

But this same Jesus died so that death and human suffering would not have the final word. The exclaiming words of the angel, “He is not here. He is risen!” hearkens us to that new awareness that the resurrected power of Jesus' love is present to meet every experience of suffering which undermines and darkens life. Over all that would leave us feeling emotionally obliterated...He is Risen. Over all that leaves us feeling that discouragement and suffering really defines the final word in life...He is Risen. Over the reality of death itself...He is Risen...with the tenacious and relentless love of God which demands to have the final word for our lives. And it is a word of hope, help, mercy and committed companionship.

Perhaps we would stand more erectly on Easter morn if we would also sit and consider all the suffering that Jesus embraced for us.

So, the next time you stand in the presence of Handel's “Hallelujah Chorus” like King George first did, remember all that God can do... especially with human suffering...for your sake...for my sake...for the sake of this whole world He came to love.

Larry

Lent 2018 “Giving It Up”

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| March 4 | “Giving Up Enemies” Luke 19:37-44
-Larry Kent |
| March 11 | “Giving Up Fear” Matthew 14:22-33
-Tim McQuade |
| March 18 | “Giving Up Misery” John 16:25-33
-Larry Kent |
| March 25 | “Giving Up Popularity” Matthew 21:1-11
-Larry Kent |
| April 1 | “Giving Up Death” John 20:1-18
-Larry Kent |

Adult Ministry Classes - February

Monday Women's Bible Study

10:30 a.m. in Room 120

The Bible Jesus Read by Philip Yancey



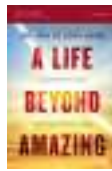
The Old Testament is not a mysterious, outdated book. It is God's biography, the story of his passionate encounters with his people, and the prequel to the story of Jesus. It is also the Bible that Jesus read, used, and loved. In his characteristically candid style, Philip Yancey probes seven carefully selected books--Job, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and the Prophets--and reveals how the Old Testament deals in astonishing depth and detail with the same questions we face today.

Contact Marilyn Poe, 513-204-3443

Wednesday Men's Study

6:45 a.m. in Room 120; meets all year

A Life Beyond Amazing by Dr. David Jeremiah



In *A Life Beyond Amazing*, David Jeremiah shows readers how they can live a life of joy and purpose, despite discouraging circumstances and worrying news. We don't need to wait for eternity to live a remarkable life, God's blessings of fulfillment and peace can be lived right here, right now. Focusing on nine qualities based on the fruit of the Spirit, you'll explore what God believes the character of an amazing life displays.

Contact John Strong - 677-1712

Wednesday Women's Study

9:30 a.m. in Room 120

Hosea by Lisa Harper



The book of **Hosea**—it's a deeply personal and passionate love story, yet it's a difficult story. As an account full of harsh judgment unfolds, we find in its midst a rare and pure gem: the truest and purest of loves.

Hosea, an old-testament prophet, preached his own life message using his marriage as the sermon illustration. The book will challenge us with judgment but it will show us the kind of love we dream about. Be amazed by the love of Hosea for his wayward spouse—and more amazed by the unfailing love of God for His wayward people, and for all people. Hosea showers us with hope—hints and portents pointing to the coming of the promised Messiah.

Contact: Jenny Ellsworth, jenny@ellsworthaccounting.com

Women's Tuesday 5:30 Bible Study

Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. in Media Center

Studying the Book of James

Dr. Tim McQuade will lead us through the book of James.

Contact: Dianna Jimenez Diannajimenez14@aol.com

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

1st and 3rd Tuesdays

9:30 a.m. in Room 120

Receiving God's Love, A Woman of Faith Study



Women who are new believers and women who have been friends of God for years will benefit from this reminder that they are precious to God. In this study guide you'll discover the height, width, and breadth of God's amazing love for you!

Contact Claudia Gross, 683-6709

Harmony Circle

3rd Tuesday of the month

7:00 p.m. in Room 120

He Speaks To Me: Preparing to Hear from God by Priscilla Shirer



Priscilla relates six characteristics found in Samuel that are applicable to women today as they tune their hearts to hear God's voice. By listening to God's voice and obeying Him, women will be drawn into a closer relationship to God that brings a deeper desire to serve Him faithfully.

Contact Mitzi Green, eggleg4@gmail.com

Lamplighters Adult Small Group

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center

Hebrews: Consider Jesus, Good Book Guide



Jesus Christ is at the center of the Bible's message and God's plan for the universe - and at the center of human history. But is He at the center of our existence - our hopes, priorities and day-to-day lives? We need to move on from simply knowing the details of His birth, life and death to a deeper understanding of their meaning.

The letter to the Hebrews helps us leave behind our limited views of Jesus by explaining to us the supreme greatness of Christ Himself. Hebrews is an invitation to fix our eyes on God's Son - our perfect Brother, faithful and merciful High Priest, atoning Sacrifice and great Shepherd. Discover the whole picture of Jesus Christ, and equip yourself to know, trust and follow Him, come what may.

Contact Don Dunham 513-398-6893

Sunday Bible Study with Rev. McQuade

9:00 a.m. or 11 a.m. in Media Center

Leap Through Lent

During Lent we will discuss Lenten Text from the Bible.

Contact Dr. Tim McQuade (tmquade@sycamorechurch.org)



SPC Outreach Day – April 21, 2018

Colossians 3:17 (ESV): *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

We're all called by Jesus to learn to love and serve one another. He calls us to utilize the spiritual gifts He's given us to build up the Body of Christ. Then, He sends us out as ambassadors filled with His Spirit to share our time and resources.

On April 21, 2018, **all SPC members and guests of all ages and talents** are invited to go out into our community participating in mission/outreach activities. We each have gifts, skills, and talent that God has bestowed on us. SPC Outreach Day is a way to use them "to serve one another as good stewards of God's grace." Some of the gifts and talents we will be seeking: painting, enjoying yard work, organizing, cleaning, visiting with the elderly, praying for others, preparing and serving food, or providing childcare. When you sign up, we will match your talent and gift to the area or organization seeking that talent.

We are still looking for servant volunteers of all talents to sign up in the café or online.

This past month, we equipped members of the congregation to go out and "Spread the Joy" on January 28 through the delivery of cookies. Please see the weekly BLAST to read about some of the stories.

We are also encouraging all members of SPC to "Spread the Joy" through weekly acts of kindness. Look to the e-blast and Facebook for updates. We will "Spread the Joy" through cookies again in March. Please share your stories with us!

As part of Outreach Day, we want to further equip you by seeing where God is at work in our community. We will be asking you to share photos of what you witness in the community and outside the walls of SPC **March 26 through April 15**. Here is what we encourage you to do:

Seek where you see God at work outside the walls of SPC. This could be a photo of nature, an act you witness, etc. Pay attention to your surroundings. We would like to get photos by each age group through involvement in Children's and Family Ministries. Take a photo of it and share it with us on Facebook or at spcphotoinbox@gmail.com (Note: if children are included in any photos, please be sure you have proper permission from parents/guardians).

We have several organizations we are partnering with where there is a need for us to serve on this day for needs they have that include yard work, organizing, painting, etc. There will be other ways to serve on Outreach Day, such as praying for those who are serving, visiting residents at Twin Lakes, The Lodge, or Mason Christian Village, providing child care to those serving, and preparing a meal for fellowship and celebration of our accomplishments at the end of Outreach Day. You and your families are invited to sign up and serve in the manner that best serves your gifts and talents. Based on the needs of the organizations, **150 volunteers are needed! Please sign up in the café, on the form on the SPC website, or by clicking on this link: [SPC Outreach Day Sign Up Form](#)**

"May he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him. All glory to him forever and ever!" (Hebrews 13:21 NLT)

If you have any questions, please contact **Karen Daniel** (513-266-1056 or kdaniel651@gmail.com) or **Ron Cowgill** at (513-604-7049 or rcow-gill@cinci.rr.com).



Death and grieving are a part of life. If you, or someone you know, have experienced a loss, SPC wants you to know that you are not alone and we want to support and walk along with you as you travel through your grief. Anyone grieving the loss of a loved one, whether it is a recent loss or from years ago, is invited to join us in our next 13-week cycle of GriefShare, beginning on **March 7, 2018**.

About GriefShare: GriefShare is a proven ministry delivered worldwide through a network of more than 12,000 churches. It is a faith based program that equips and supports local churches to offer grief support groups that deliver biblical concepts for healing from grief, and support individuals as they grieve and transition to a "new normal." GriefShare participants meet weekly in a warm and caring environment to receive the information, support and the encouragement they need to move forward on their journey through grief. Weekly meetings consist of three key parts:

Video Seminar - Encouraging information-packed videos featuring some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief recovery topics.

Support Group - Small group discussion and fellowship with others who are journeying through the grief process.

Personal Workbook – "Your Journey from Mourning to Joy" provides an opportunity for reflection, journaling and personal study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics.

SPC's GriefShare will meet **Wednesdays, March 7– May 30, 2018. Program time 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., in the SPC Media Center. Participation fee of \$15 for materials. To register please contact Susie Shaw at (513)520-7429 or email jsa_shaw@yahoo.com**

SPC's GriefShare is a ministry of the Board of Deacons and is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. If you have questions about GriefShare please contact *Susie Shaw* (see above), *Nancy Casner* 398-1242 or ncasner74@gmail.com or *Bill Barnhill* 683-9133 or williambarnhill2@gmail.com,

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4



**SYCAMORE PRIME TIMERS LUNCH & PROGRAM
THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 12:00 NOON FELLOWSHIP HALL**

It is time to highlight your calendar...for our Spring, yes this will occur on the second day of Spring, catered luncheon:

- Cost is \$10.00 per person
- Choice of Maple Glazed Ham OR Roasted Turkey Breast (**entrée selection at time of reservation*)
- Reservation Required - beginning **March 4** at Kiosk in Café
- Program: Tom White

Tom White is currently the Praise Band leader at Threshold Church at Union Center. He is a professional pianist, performer, arranger, and composer of various styles and genres of Music.

Plan on coming to celebrate Spring as we fellowship, enjoy a delicious lunch, and listen to outstanding piano music to which we may hum, dance, laugh, and simply smile away those winter blues...



A Special Invitation for Sycamore Men

On Thursday evening, March 22, the StoneMasons Leadership Team will be hosting an insightful event in the Chapel beginning at 6:30 PM that all Sycamore men are invited to attend. We will watch the recently released video entitled "Flying Blind" by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. **Pastor Tim McQuade** will lead us in conversation as we learn about four people who face the inevitable consequences of ignoring life's warning signs. You will be able to witness what happens when God breaks through their blind spots.

When the warning sounds, will you heed it? Or will you fly on at your own risk?

HEAR YEA HEAR YEA



**SYCAMORE PRIME TIMERS PRESENTS: 2018 TRIPS
REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 22 FOR BOTH**

1. Indianapolis DAY TRIP - Tuesday, June 26

Indy 500 Raceway

Includes the VIP Tour of the world famous "yard of bricks."; a lap around the track with Bryan as our driver; and a look at many behind the scenes "off limit" areas.

Eli Lilly Estate

We will enjoy a guided tour of this historic magnificently maintained estate.

Cost: \$110.00 (all inclusive) per person due at time of Reservation. *Reservations are limited to the first 48 paid registrants.



2. Northeast Ohio Adventure including

Amishlands, Pro Football and ROCK 'N' ROLL Halls of Fame - August 27-30 - *4 DAYS 3 NIGHTS all in OHIO...all three nights in the same hotel...you will enjoy the following...

Canton-Pro Football Hall of Fame
Cleveland-Rock 'N Roll Hall of Fame - Luncheon Cruise; tour of Money Museum / Federal Reserve Bank
Amishland-some of our stops: David Warther Carving tour, Lehman's General Store, Shopping in Berlin, dinner at the home on their farm of an Amish family, Heini's Cheese Factory tour, and much more!

**COST: \$555.00 PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
\$735.00 FOR SINGLE**

***\$50.00 per person deposit required at time of reservation..trip is limited to 48 registered guests.**





"Called to be an inviting community where God is glorified, lives are lifted, and Christ's spirit of fellowship awaits."

SYCAMORE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SYCAMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11800 Mason Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45249
Phone: 513-683-0254 Fax: 513-683-0364
sycamore@sycamorechurch.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Sycamore Newsletter

Sycamore Music Series Presents

*The
Purduettes*



**March 17 in the SPC Sanctuary
7:00 PM**

Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.00 per person; children 10 and under are free.

Eunice Circle Salad Luncheon

All ladies of the church are invited to attend our Annual Salad Luncheon on **Thursday, March 8, at 12:00 noon** in the SPC Chapel. Bring a salad to share, and we will relax and enjoy the Sycamore Presbyterian Preschool children as they share their talent with us. If you have questions, please contact Diana Combs (513-683-6615).

