



SYCAMORE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WEEKLY EMAIL BLAST

August 11, 2017

Continuing Care List

Kim Fix

Helen Sperling

Karen Seifried

Ryan Malanchuck

Zach Malanchuk

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

I hope that some of the following information may be helpful to our church family members.

The recent session decision to support a 10:00 am worship and 9:00 am church school hour for the 2017-2018 program year was influenced by a number of factors.

The initial recommendation to offer a single worship hour for the summer schedule emerged through the combined energies of three different ministry groups, each of which discussed the benefits of such a model independently. High on the list of objectives was to strengthen both congregational connectivity and make the worship time multi-generational. Although, initially, the proposal did not excite me, I believed that those who were passionate about it might have a thoughtful handle on a possible way to enhance our life together. I believe that these ministry groups were correct, and the model has served us well for the summer.

There were concerns within the session about the recommendation, namely my own, that we would return to our pre-existing two service model for the fall. Although I found it to be potentially still viable, there were many sentiments from officers and members who believed that our 2 service model was broken. Continuing the 10:45 am service, as it existed, had limited support. Although some wanted to make both services all traditional, many others believed that there needed to be room for modern elements. The very spirit and style of a second service is presently being worked on and could likely emerge in fall 2018, but it requires some possible elements not currently in hand.

Your church staff was charged by the session to offer a recommendation at the August meeting concerning the fall schedule, but many staff members and elders believed such timing would be too late to allow for the organization of church school, ushering, coffee service, greeting and many other infrastructure pieces. This led to a special session meeting on Sunday, July 23, and the recommendation, which I support, was to have a 10:00 am worship service for the fall. This proposal was strongly supported by session. Along with numerous congregational affirmations for the 10:00 am summer service, there was also a corresponding concern that our present 2 service model lacked both energy and identity. The model that seemed most viable was the present 10:00 am model - a blending of both worship styles but mostly traditional. Knowing that we had an actual attendance increase with this model, and recognizing that the sense of energy and multi-generational life was greatly appreciated, made this appear as our wisest choice for THIS PROGRAM YEAR.

Those persons concerned about overcrowding need to know that several provisions for the fall exist from offering a simultaneous service in another part of the building to utilizing increased seating capacity. Should there be a need for such a provision, I would trust that our church family would recognize that it would constitute a GOOD problem and one that we are equipped to handle.

Family Ministries also supported the 10:00 am worship model and along with staff, believes that the 9:00 am church school model encourages families to attend both church school and worship together, while allowing for increased Adult Education classes. Dr. Tim McQuade plans on teaching a class during this 9:00 am education hour. For families, during the 10:00 am worship hour, there will be Nursery/Toddler care, and children Preschool-Kindergarten will have the option (as they do this summer) to leave the Sanctuary for structured childcare including a Bible Story after the Children's Message. More all-congregational events are also planned, including a Kickoff Picnic following worship on September 10.

These efforts underscore our commitment to help infuse connectivity and vitality in our Sunday morning life, a key pillar of our strategic planning effort. Admittedly, many of our preferences on Sunday morning come down to personal preferences, and in a congregation as large and diverse as Sycamore,

we have many of them! My hope is that as a community of faith, we will continue to seek pathways forward which enhance our ability to be Christ's growing and servant people.

Larry

Stewardship 2017

Your Stewardship Ministry has asked that we initially highlight some items of interest pertaining to our staff. Since the largest part of any budget for a church is generally the personnel costs, I have been invited to give you some of the experience data of your staff. Including your pastors and ministry directors:

- Jan Ferris, Director of Children's Ministries
- Sujin Kim, Director of Music Ministries
- Drew Hood, Director of Student Ministries
- Rebecca Behbehani, Director of Family Ministries
- Jack Taylor, Director of Operations
- Tim McQuade, Associate Pastor
- Larry Kent, Pastor

There are 165 years of experience embodied by these individuals in their current or related roles.

Sycamore is blessed by the experience and commitment of these and other staff members.

Larry Kent, For Your Stewardship Ministry

Summer Movie Night at SPC

August 11 - TONIGHT!

The Adult Ministries Committee is sponsoring a summer movie night TONIGHT, August 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The movie, *The Case for Christ* (released 2017), is based on Lee Strobel's best-selling novel in which he, an investigative journalist and atheist, began a search to disprove his wife's Christian faith only to end up finding his own faith in Christ. We hope to see you THIS EVENING!

NEEDS Back to School Drive

August 13 - LAST DAY TO DONATE

We are collecting **1 and 1 1/2 inch binders** for children in North Eastern Hamilton County to help them get ready for school this fall. This coming Sunday is your last opportunity to donate. Please place your donations in the bins outside the Café.

Thank you for your generosity.

Bill Barnhill, Pam Rogers, and Barb Davis, NEEDS Representatives

Singles

IHN Meal - TONIGHT - August 11

The Singles will be providing a "cookout" meal of hamburger and hot dogs, with all the trimmings, for our IHN guests TONIGHT, August 11. If you are able to join us for this meal of fun, fellowship and ministry, please bring a side dish that would be enjoyed by children as well as adults. Plan to arrive by 5:30 p.m. to help with set up.

Questions? Julie Glenn (jmarjean@hotmail.com or 513-307-1577).

August 13 is the Last Sunday to sign up for R.O.M.E.O.

August 17

August's luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, August 17, at the Sleepy Bee Cafe, located at 9514 Kenwood Road, Blue Ash, OH 45242. We will meet at **12:30 p.m.** due to the greater distance from the church. This coming Sunday is the last day to sign up, so please do so if you plan on attending.

Even if you are not yet retired, we invite you to join us if your schedule permits. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Rogers (Richard_L_Rogers@yahoo.com or 513-713-7140).

Remember: Fellowship is Meaningful and Food Matters!

Lawn Fete 2017 is coming...

September 9

DID YOU KNOW that...

Participating in Lawn Fete is about Fellowship and Charity. Engage in fellowship by taking on one of the many volunteer positions crucial to a successful day knowing that all your hard work is benefiting charitable activities and SPC.

This year's recipients of Lawn Fete proceeds are **New Life Furniture Bank, Operation Give Back, Heavenward Farm & Horsemanship, and SPC's technology upgrades and Student Ministries missions.**

WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO HELP?

1. **SIGN UP** in the Café to volunteer your time (often just a 2-hour shift) and/or Donate requested items. Not here on Sept. 9? Some jobs can be done the week before.
2. **MAKE A MONETARY DONATION** - see the MOW DOWN EXPENSES display near the signup area for creative suggestions on how to contribute.
3. **SOLICIT** your favorite local business for a donation (items or gift certificates) for the Silent Auction. Please check with our donation's coordinator, Sandy Krieghoff (777-5091), first to make sure they have not already donated.
4. **SELL** - Can you help us sell some specialty items on ebay?
5. **PLACE A YARD SIGN** in your yard or a "high traffic" area to which you or someone you know may have access...

*****Yard Signs are coming on August 20!***

If you can help or have questions, PLEASE SEE THE LADY IN THE LAWN FETE HAT in the Café after church, or contact Lois Borisch (489-0744 or LEBorisch@gmail.com) or Cheryl Beil (254-6429 or cvbeil@yahoo.com).

Donations:

We are currently accepting donations for SPC's 2017 Lawn Fete. Please leave all items on the storage facility porch and we will move them indoors. Donated items must be clean and in good condition. **Items not accepted:** *clothes,*

electronic or computer equipment, computer furniture, TVs, tires, and exercise equipment.

For furniture pickups or questions, please contact Doug Gausmann at 683-8614 or gausmann@fuse.net.

Trinkets and Treasures:

We are accepting donations through **Monday, August 28**. Thank you!

Silent Auction:

We have begun collecting basket donation items for the Lawn Fete Silent Auction. Check out the Silent Auction board in the Cafe; choose a theme and sign up to bring items that fit your theme. Don't forget to fill out a basket donation form and return it with your donations. Please bring your donations to the church by **August 27**. Thanks!

For questions or to volunteer to help with silent auction, please contact Sharon Wisby at 677-3066 or sharon.wisby@gmail.com

Lawn Fete "Spotlight Activity"

Silent Auction and Basket Raffle...

Silent Auction is returning by popular demand this year. Approximately 40 themed baskets will be featured such as *Green Thumb*, *Tea for Two*, and *Golf*. There will also be individual items auctioned including gift certificates and hand-crafted items made by Sycamore Woodworkers and Quilters. Look for the Silent Auction **INSIDE** the entry area adjacent to Fellowship Hall (the site of the Grilled Chicken Dinner). Bid closings will be at 2, 3, and 4:00 p.m.

Basket Raffle will feature approximately 5 baskets or individual items to be raffled off. You may purchase as many tickets as you like, and apply them to the basket or baskets/items of your choice. The more tickets you purchase, the better your chance of winning! Look for the Basket Raffle **OUTSIDE** the church near the entrance to Vogel Hall (the Education Wing); however, the baskets will be moved inside shortly before the 4:30 p.m. drawings.

*Please note that credit cards will be accepted, and you need not be present to win.

"Don't forget to let your friends, families, and neighbors know about all these activities!"

Kick-Off Picnic for Christian Education

September 10

Please save the date: Sunday, September 10, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a kick-off picnic for all Christian Education. Details will be forthcoming...

Contact: Betty Kratz (513-604-5688 or bkrazt@fuse.net).

Men's Retreat - Inwardly Strong/Outwardly Focused

September 22 and 23

The StoneMasons Leadership Team will be hosting a Men's Retreat on Friday evening, September 22, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (in the church Underground) and Saturday, September 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (at Twin Lakes Conference Center in Montgomery) featuring guest speaker, Doug Pollock, author of the book *God Space*.

In last week's sermon, Pastor Tim reminded us of our role in spreading the Gospel along with the challenge: *What are you and I going to do about it?*

Many of us avoid conversations about faith because we do not feel we can effectively articulate our beliefs, or we fear that we will alienate or upset others. Doug Pollock, an energetic and inspiring speaker, is going to address ways for all of us to productively engage in conversations about our faith; thus, enabling us to take on a stronger role in spreading the Gospel.

You may view Doug's presentation from our June Men's Prayer Breakfast by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJr9QvMoEg0&t=1274s>. In addition, you will not want to miss Doug as he delivers the Sermon here at SPC on September 3, so mark your calendars.

The fee for the conference is \$25.00, which includes a copy of Doug's book, *God Space*, and \$20.00 for those who already have a copy.

Please join us for this awesome opportunity including food, fellowship, and spiritual fortification! Signups begin this Sunday, August 13, in the Cafe. If you have questions, please contact Rick Rogers ([Richard L Rogers@yahoo.com](mailto:Richard_L_Rogers@yahoo.com) or 513-713-7140).

SPC New Member Class

Saturday, September 16

Our next new member class, scheduled for September 16, 2017, is just around the corner. To sign up, please call the church office at 513-683-0254. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Jeanne Stevens at jstevens@sycamorechurch.org.

Weekend Custodian

SPC is in need of a custodian to fill our weekend shifts. Must be experienced in all areas of cleaning, be able to lift and set large tables/chairs, handle light snow removal and other exterior work, have basic knowledge of HVAC system operation...experience working with automated controls a plus...and more. Person MUST have at least 3 years custodial experience.

If you know of someone with these skills and experience, please have them contact Jack Taylor. Additional details can be found in the EMPLOYMENT area of the church web site (www.sycamorechurch.org).

Medical Response Team Needs Your Help

Sunday Mornings

Please consider joining the SPC Medical Response Team to help respond to possible medical emergencies on Sunday mornings. You do not need to have medical experience; CPR and AED training are sufficient. If interested, please contact Sandy Bowie (sjeanbowie@gmail.com) or Dianna Jimenez (diannajimenez14@aol.com).

Host Families Needed for Children's Choir Participants - only two more families needed...

September 24 and 25

Children of the World International Children's Choir, composed of participants from World Help's *Child Sponsorship Program*, is scheduled to perform here at SPC on September 24. **Two (2) host families** are still needed to accommodate the children and two female chaperones on September 24 and 25. Each family will host two guests each for two nights, as well as provide their meals.

The choir, comprised of orphaned and disadvantaged children from several different countries, represents a rich and culturally diverse set of backgrounds and experiences, each with an urgent story to tell. This year's Rescue Tour calls attention to the staggering impact that poverty, malnutrition, and dirty water have on millions of children around the world. The children have performed in such venues as Focus on the Family, Brooklyn Tabernacle, and Disney World.

If you are able to open your home on September 24 and 25, please sign up in the Cafe or contact Sujin Kim at skim@sycamorechurch.org.

World Help is a faith-based humanitarian organization that exists to serve the physical and spiritual needs of people in impoverished communities around the world.

World Help is committed to meeting people's physical needs by providing humanitarian, medical, and educational assistance and ensuring access to clean water to as many communities as possible. We promise to meet people's spiritual needs by providing Bibles and establishing churches.

Since 1991, World Help has impacted over 73 million people in 69 countries worldwide.

For more information about World Help and the *Child Sponsorship Program*, visit <https://worldhelp.net/>

Dave Ramsey's Classes Coming Soon...

Financial Peace (FPU) and The Legacy Journey

This fall Sycamore will host two Biblically-based, personal finance courses from Dave Ramsey. In addition to the popular **Financial Peace University (FPU)**, Sycamore will also offer **The Legacy Journey** course for the first time in 2017!

Legacy Journey teaches a biblical framework for purposeful living and how to leave a financial and spiritual legacy to positively impact future generations. **Legacy Journey** also dives deeper into several of FPU's "Baby Steps," topics

like investing and estate planning. The 7-week **Legacy Journey** classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. starting September 28. The course materials cost \$109 per household.

2017 marks **Financial Peace University's** 9th year at Sycamore with nearly 200 students having participated! FPU is an enlightening and entertaining personal finance course that has helped guide millions on the path to financial peace. The 9-week **FPU course** will be held on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. starting September 10. The FPU class materials cost \$95 per household/\$60 singles.

Sign up for these classes in the Café or Online, or contact the class coordinators for more information:

- Legacy Journey: Dave & Cathy Sperry (cpsperry@gmail.com)
- Financial Peace University: Neil Gartner (neilgartner@fuse.net)

GriefShare

Begins September 13

GriefShare, a support group ministry for those who have experienced the death of a loved one, will begin a new 13 week cycle on Wednesday, September 13th. GriefShare will meet Wednesdays, 10:00am-Noon in the Media Center through December 13th. Informational brochures are available in the café. For questions and registration, please contact Susie Shaw 520-7429 or isa_shaw@yahoo.com.

Family Ministries

Rebecca Behbehani (rbehbehani@sycamorechurch.org)

Children's Ministries - Infant through Grade 5

Jan Ferris (jferris@sycamorechurch.org)

(ALL signups are posted on clipboards on the "Family Room" wall)

GETTING READY FOR FALL - Small Group Leaders are needed for our fall programming. Small Group Leaders teach in teams of 4 with two from the team being in the classroom each Sunday. This allows for flexibility in teaching schedules to accommodate personal schedules. You only need to lead one Sunday a month and assist another. Here are our needs:

9:00 a.m.

TODDLER ROOM: ONE person to serve in our Toddler Room preferably twice a month but will also welcome those who can serve one time a month.

PRESCHOOL: (3 and potty trained by November 30)

10:00 a.m.

TWO people (great opportunity for couples or best friends!) to serve one Sunday each month. You would be assigned as always working the first Sunday of the month, the 2nd Sunday of the month, etc. After the Children's Message, you would be responsible for showing /telling the Bible Story and supervising coloring sheets, other simple worksheets, puzzle play, etc.

SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING

- Sunday, August 27 @ 8:15 a.m. (light breakfast and childcare provided).
Can't make that?? Wednesday, August 30 @ 7:00 PM is the alternate date (no childcare ... probably some snacks!).

REGISTRATION! We need your child's information to register them for fall Sunday School. Register online at the Children's Ministries webpage on our church's website, or hard copies are available in the wire bin on the wall of the Family Room.

Student Ministries - Grades 6-12

Drew Hood (dhood@sycamorechurch.org)

SUMMER WORSHIP:

Worship with your family at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Adult Ministries

Dr. Timothy McQuade (tmcquade@sycamorechurch.org)

Women's Retreat - "A Day to Feel Special: Feeling God's Presence in Prayer"

Save the Date -- **Saturday, November 4, 2017**, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. *We invite you to take a break and set aside a day to feel special in His loving presence as we explore a deeper*

understanding and practice of prayer, bringing you closer to God, to yourself, and to your community.

Men's Breakfast- *first Sunday of each month*

August 6 - 8:30 a.m. Join us for breakfast in the Chapel.

Questions? Contact Randy Gross (randy1849@fuse.net).

Singles meet for lunch on the third Sunday of each month in the Cafe after the service.

ADULT MINISTRIES CLASSES

Detailed information regarding our classes is available in the Café, The Spiritual Growth Resource Center, or on line at www.sycamorechurch.org

Habitat for Humanity

SPC Remaining Saturday Work Dates

SPC Habitat for Humanity Saturday work dates are: **September 16 and October 14.**

For information to participate on any of the dates, please contact, Hal Demmerle, 513-375-6725 or Harolddemmerle@gmail.com. Hal has all the necessary sign-up information.

Deacon Information

August

The Deacons of the Month for August are Dianna Jimenez (513-617-6549) and Karen Miller (513-489-7388).

**Meet your Deacons every Sunday between services at the Welcome Center.*

Submissions for weekly BLAST and Sunday Bulletin

Tuesdays by 12:00 Noon is the deadline!

Please forward information to Jeanne Stevens at jstevens@sycamorechurch.org or Virginia Barnett at vbarnett@sycamorechurch.org, or call the office at 683-0254.

Contact: **Jeanne Stevens, Office Manager**
11800 Mason Montgomery Road,
Cincinnati, OH
513.683.0254



Sycamore Church, 11800 Mason Road, Cincinnati, OH 45249

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