



Celebrating 114+ Years of Ministry

1906-2020

We are a church of ordinary people caring for one another
as we respond to God's call for a just and sustainable world.

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church

1722 Bardstown Road

Louisville, KY 40205

Volume 53

Issue 9

September

2020

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I am guessing that September isn't the normal time to hold an Annual Meeting of the church from a previous year. We all know that right now nothing is "normal". Sunday, September 13, as part of the morning worship service, we will be holding our annual meeting. In the next week or so you will receive in the mail a church directory and more information about our meeting. I promise to keep it as brief as possible. Please be open to the format in which we will have to present the meeting, most probably a mixture of virtual and in-person attendance. We seek a quorum of in person attendees on September 13, where we will present in masks being physically distanced and safe. Pending your vote, we also will be sharing in the ordination of a new Elder during the worship service on September 13. The new church year is upon us!

This year we are going to be using our imagination in ways in which we worship, gather, fellowship, mission, and share in God's love together. I have some exciting things planned for y'all that I will roll out soon. There is no reason that being somewhat bound to our homes should eliminate the Spirit-filled worship of God every day. In the coming months, we will utilize the outdoors, utilize a variety of ways to connect, and utilize the gift of technology. I thank you for your patience and grace during these times.

I think back to our first gathering together, Family Camp of late October 2019. We shared in a wonderful timeline and history of the Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church. Several weeks later I sent y'all home with stamped envelopes and asked you the question, "What gives you hope?". I still have those returned letters from folks. And I still have the timeline that we all shared in together. I take the letters out from time to time and I read them. I think that this question should remain in our hearts through our 2020 Advent and Christmas Season and in to 2021: What is giving us hope right now?

I ask that if you are a praying person, that you might set aside some time in the next weeks and months to lift up prayer to God for the many struggles and needs of God's children in our nation and world. As Christians in the Reformed Tradition, we are called to seek justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. May we do so with grace and the sharing of the abundant love of God.

Blessings to all,

Pastor Mark

Mid-Kentucky Presbytery Call for Prayer and Action

The Louisville Area Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) and our local Beloved Community initiative join with Mid-Kentucky Presbytery to encourage all 50 congregations of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery to join hands and hearts in a two-part call to action.

Join August 25 – October 3, 2020 at noon daily---40 Days of Prayer

Mid Kentucky Presbytery's congregations, leaders, and individual members are asked to pause daily at noon for 8 minutes and 46 seconds during the 40 Days of Prayer which begin on August 25 and end on October 3, 2020. The 8 minutes and 46 seconds is the length of time George Floyd endured and finally died under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer. Forty days is a biblically significant number that regularly precedes God's saving activity. You are encouraged to grow your prayer life through daily noontime talks with God. You are asked to lift up individual and corporate concerns along with prayers seeking courage to dismantle structural racism and wisdom for life in a Covid-19 world. Imagine the uplift of over 6,000 Mid-Kentucky Presbyterian voices raised simultaneously to God in prayer.

Join October 4, 2020 at noon

-A Witness for Justice

Congregations and members are invited to become a visible presence in your neighborhood. For 8 minutes and 46 seconds, Mid-Kentucky Presbyterians will be encouraged to gather in front of your particular church buildings, gather in church parking lots, congregate on church lawns, perhaps with signs or banners as Mid-Kentucky Presbytery witnesses – through prayer and presence—our collective commitment to dismantle structural racism. In advance of the Witness for Justice, a downloadable Mid-Kentucky Presbytery resource will be shared with all pastors and clerks of session. By witnessing—separately, yet together—we act as one church, one presbytery, one people speaking out for the day when God's justice will roll down like waters, and God's righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

HCM's Fall Programs

Vinyasa Yoga with Sharon Weis

Mondays, starting Sept. 14, 6-7pm

Highlands Community Campus, 1228 E. Breckinridge St. at Barret Ave. Maximum of 24 participants; spaced 10-feet apart in big gym. 8 weeks for \$40; Try first class free to see if it's right for you. Register online at HCLouisville.org or call Sharon at 502/939-2895

Tai Chi for Balance and Fall Prevention with Lisa Nutt

Wednesday classes; times depending on number of sign-ups. Highlands Community Campus, 1228 E. Breckinridge St. at Barret Ave. Limited number of participants; spaced 10-feet apart in big gym. 8 weeks for \$40. Call Lisa for info and registration at 502/533-8208

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Peggy Garrison | 2 |
| Martine Wilson | 6 |
| Maurine Crossett | 8 |
| Carol Brinkman | 14 |
| Charles Bensenhaver | 18 |
| Marlena East | 18 |
| Steve Ellis | 19 |
| Justin Ortiz | 24 |

Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church Staff

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Rev. Mark Eldred | Pastor |
| Rev. Jim Brees | Pastoral Associate |
| Jeanie Grosz | Director of Music Ministries/ Organist |
| Sarah Hageman | Children's & Youth Coordinator |
| Johanna Fears | Office Manager |
| Marty Hageman | Treasurer |
| Corey Bullitt | Sexton |

Editor, Johanna Fears

1722 Bardstown Road Louisville, KY 40205
 Pastor phone: 502-751-9660
 Office Phone: 502-451-8305
 Email: mark@brpres.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

MISSION COMMITTEE CALENDAR YEAR 2019

The Committee engages with groups outside of the church to support their missions with funds and volunteers. We spent \$5,000 from the Mission Bequest Fund to support Cedar Ridge's Chapel project. We also established a relationship with Ladder Ministries of Uganda and sent them funds for their trees and seedlings project. Since we could not travel to Buckhorn for a summer mission trip, we sent funds in lieu of a trip. We helped BRP youth with scholarships to Cedar Ridge for summer camp, and we helped build a Presbyterian Habitat house. We collected food and presents for Christmas Baskets for HCM families, and also food for Easter Baskets. We continued to support HCM financially and also Shared Mission Support through the PC(USA).

MISSION COMMITTEE 2020 ACTIVITIES

The Committee has met only two times in person, with the rest of the meetings coming via email. Still, we continued our financial support of HCM and Shared Mission Support through the PC(USA). We also encouraged members to give to the four special offerings of the church. Among other activities, we were successful in having the PC(USA) approve our application to remain an Earth Care Congregation, and we provided bus tickets to those in need who came to the office door. Since the Buckhorn mission trip was cancelled for the second year in a row, we sent money in lieu of our visit. We also helped 5 BRP youth go to summer camp at Cedar Ridge through our scholarship funds.

Bill Bowman, Committee Chair

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE CALENDAR YEAR 2019

2019 was a busy year for Congregational Life committee. Our activities covered two areas:

Congregational care which included regular contacts with homebound individuals and families, monthly birthday cards to all congregants, delivery of meals to those having surgery or other situations where food is welcomed, and transportation to medical appointments as needed.

Congregational Fellowship which included overseeing quarterly after church dinners, Lenten and Advent dinners, organizing groups to attend sporting events especially the UL women's basketball games. Working with other committees we assisted with outreach efforts of Bardstown Road Aglow, providing our now famous Tomato Basil soup. As in years past our committee assisted with Neighbor Fest, a fall festival sponsored by BRP, Deer Park Baptist (across the street), and the local neighborhood association.

Linda Bowman, Committee Chair

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2019

The Administration Committee was organized in 12/2019 to assist in coordinating among church committees and programs. Additionally, a second goal focused on identifying and implementing strategy(ies) for use of current technologies in communicating the Gospel and BRPC's ministries. The need for these functions in the church organization had been identified years earlier, but the roles had been carried by the Pastor and a few individuals until the Committee was activated by Clerk of Session.

The committee felt that the first responsibility to address was to evaluate the possibly replace the church website. Additionally, in light of the significant impact after theft of electronics from the church office, the Committee proposed that a manual of all electronics and related software utilized in church programming should be compiled.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2019

Personnel Committee provided reminders consistently regarding the importance and necessity for criminal records checks for Church staff and volunteers working with the nursery, youth and children programs. There were transitions during this year to some paid nursery time when Jennie Guelda, faithful volunteer, asked for backup support. Personnel Committee also participated in the review and preparation of materials for the Manual of Operations.

Personnel consulted with Pastoral Nominating Committee and Finance Committee on transition from interim pastor to permanent pastor. Personnel Committee completed an exit interview with The Rev. Mary Nebelsick regarding her experience and unique contributions during her ministry. Personnel met with The Rev. Mark Eldred, to clarify his role as Head of Staff as well as to explore his initial goals for ministry.

Personnel consulted with Buildings and Grounds Committee in assuring uninterrupted custodial services when transitions were necessitated due to health issues of staff. Personnel participated with Christian Education on the transition of Coordinator for Youth and Children Services. Personnel reviewed job description and selection process, in coordination with Christian Education Committee, for Nursery staff (part-time, hourly worker)

Personnel met and acted on cost of living increases for 2020 budget. Committee also prepared budget items for all paid positions. At the end of the calendar year, the budget consists of one fulltime staff person (Pastor) and four part-time paid staff (Administrative Assistant, Coordinator of Youth and Children, Custodial, Nursery Worker).

*Martin Blakely, Keith Clements, Sheldon Shafer
Lin Block-Coalter, Chair*

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 (continued)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE CALENDAR YEAR 2019

We chose some amazing Sunday school curriculum for the 2019-20 year, including organizing a Confirmation Class with three sets of siblings before we even had a new pastor in place. Come to pass, we're getting an extra year's worth out of these materials.

Molly and Samantha Barrett ran an exemplary VBS together. They work to include as many adult participants as they can to further intergenerational bonds.

Buckhorn Mission Trip had to be cancelled as the JCPS school year ran later into June. We'll be back.

Family Camp this year was Mark's chance to connect to us and our past.

Lenten and Advent programs come under CE as we work together with Cong Life to dine and grow together.

Youth and CE pulled off a fabulous Lakeside evening with Doug as our grill master.

Along with Youth, CE provided transportation for several of our families to attend Sunday School.

One of our favorite events is the Impromptu Christmas Pageant on Christmas morning. It is worth the effort of stepping out on that busy morning. Ask Mark.

Jennie Gueda
Christian Education Committee Chair

Mid-Kentucky Presbytery of PC (USA) will have its next meeting virtually, on September 21, 2020. Visit the website midkentuckypresbytery.com to learn about the upcoming meeting, to see how the Presbytery is assisting and other Presbyterian churches are operating in the Covid-19 times, and to connect with fellow Presbyterians.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS August 18, 2020

At an in-person meeting on August 18, 2020, in which social distancing conditions were observed, the Session members were joined by three of the nominees for the Class of 2023. The meeting offered the opportunity for sharing of personal histories and leadership skills of participants. The nominees were able to participate in discussion.

Three significant actions were taken during this meeting.

The date of the congregational meeting was changed from August 23, 2020 to September 13, 2020. The meeting will be conducted during the worship hour with access in person and live streaming. Further details for voting will be provided in mailing to the membership.

The Session endorsed the initiative of the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery that an 8 minute 46 second moment of silence and prayer for forty days (August 25, 2020 – October 3, 2020) at noon in memory of the death of George Floyd. The Session requests participation in a time of silence by membership even if the exact time frame is unavailable.

The two week Solidarity Stand-ins for Justice and Peace are extended to September 14 2020, September 28, 2020, October 12, 2020, and October 25, 2020. 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. on church property.

The July 2020 Treasurer's Report noted that the church's operating budget had receipts of \$9,390.00 with expenses of \$14,910.00. Year to date the income is \$145,350 with expenses of \$129,080 leaving a surplus of \$16,265. The monthly deficit is attributed to the loss of income through loose offerings and Love Gifts. Due to utility savings and canceled programs there will be some savings in the 2020 budget.

The Rev. Mark Eldred stressed the importance of active work on part of Committees during the social distancing period. Committees will be re-organizing when the new class is elected to the Session. Congregation members and participants are requested to consider prayerfully the skills and time each has to offer during this unprecedented time.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

September 13, 2020 at 11:00 A.M.

The Annual Meeting is called to get congregational approval for a slate of elders.

**BARDSTOWN ROAD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

COMMITTEES 2020-2021

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Chair: LLester Gamble
Members: Paul Johnson, Kris Bloos

Christian Education Committee

Chair: Jennie Guelda
Members: Molly Rapp, Sarah Hageman, Gillian Hollis
Kraus-Neale

Congregational Life Committee

Chair: Linda Bowman
Secretary: Shirley Shaw
Members: Anne Campbell, Anne Teaford, Becky Shafer,
Lindsay Bilyeu, Mary Muyenza

Mission Committee

Chair: Bill Bowman
Session Liaison - Carol Brees
Members: Jo Anne Overstreet, Alicia Bloos, Laura
Stone

Outreach Committee

Chair: Becky Shafer
Members: Keith Clements

Permanent Nominating Committee 2020 and 2021

Chair: Beverly Gradisek
Members: Paul Johnson, Marty Hageman, Anne Payne

Support Committees

Administrative Committee
Chair: Lin Block-Coalter
Session Liaison: Vacant
Members: Emmanuel Muyenza, Kris Bloos, Marty
Hageman

Finance Committee

Chair: Marty Hageman (Treasurer)
Vice Chair: Doug Rapp (Assistant Treasurer)
Member: Keith Clements (Clerk of Session)
Consultant: Claire Detlefs

Personnel Committee

Chair: Lin Block-Coalter
Session Liaison: Keith Clements (Clerk of Session)
Members: Sheldon Shafer, Martin Blakely
Consultant: Doug Rapp

Stewardship 2021 Committee

Chair: Jennie Guelda
Members: Bill Bowman, Alicia Bloos, Ivona Nijimbere

Worship Committee

Chair: Anne Campbell
Members: LLester Gamble, Carol Brees, Anne Teaford,
Jeanie Grosz
Consultants: Jim Brees, Sheldon Shafer, Claire Detlefs

TRUSTEES

Corporate Representative: Bill Bowman
President: John Elgin (vacant)
Vice President: Jennie Guelda
Treasurer: Marty Hageman
Assistant Treasurer: Doug Rapp
Secretary: Keith Clements (Clerk of Session)
Members: Martin Blakely, Mary Muyenza

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Rolling off

Class of 2020
Lin Block-Coalter
Linda Bowman
Jeanie Grosz

Class of 2021

LLester Gamble
Sarah Hageman
Mary Muyenza (One-Year term)

Class of 2022

Carol Brees
Marty Hageman
Jennie Guelda

Nominated slate: Class of 2023

Keith Clements (Clerk of Session)
Anne Campbell
Clare Lewis

(continued next column)

MISSION COMMITTEE

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Thanks to many wonderful folks, HCM has received many generous donations since the beginning of the pandemic...but the need continues for food, toiletries, etc.!

If you want to help, you can:

-Drop off food, toiletries, or \$25 Walmart or Target gift cards (call HCM to check times).

-Make an online donation at <https://hcmlouisville.org/donate>

-Mail a check to HCM.

-Mail a check to BRP, made out to BRPC with "HCM donation" on the memo line.

HCM's annual fundraiser, **Empty Bowls**, will look different this year.

As you may be aware, HCM's annual fall fundraiser, **Empty Bowls**, will not be happening as usual this year due to Covid-19. However we have a new plan in place to do some fundraising, but mainly want to keep the event spirit alive by sending support out to the people that help make this event possible every year: the local restaurants who donate soup and artists who donate pottery bowls... two groups that are hurting disproportionately during the economic crisis resulting from the pandemic.

We are asking you, our Member Congregations, to help us spread the word of this year's event. Normally you would do that and more including helping organize the event, sending over volunteers, and soliciting donations for a silent auction theme basket. This year we are only asking that you lend as much advertising as possible through your communications with your Congregations.

The event date is Thursday, Oct. 8. For six weeks prior, we will be advertising to the public via several different platforms (email marketing, social media, radio, and your newsletters and communications) to donate to HCM and in return, donors at a certain level will be eligible for a drawing of hand-crafted pottery bowls (attractive groupings of bowls donated from previous years) and local restaurant gift cards. Plus, 10% of all donations will go towards **APRON, Inc.**, a local non-profit that lends financial assistance to employees of Louisville's independent restaurant community. We will also encourage the public to patronize the artists and restaurants.

BRPC FOOD PANTRY and TARC BUS PASSES

We often have the opportunity to help those who come to the church door in need. Please consider: Donating **non-perishable ready-to-eat snack items** such as cheese/peanut butter crackers, individual tuna or chicken salad lunchables (utensil inside), cereal and granola bars, beanie weenies, vienna sausage (have pop tops).

Making a financial contribution to help with our purchase of **TARC Partner Passes**, as we have no budgeted money for passes at this time. You may mail a check to church with "TARC passes" on the memo line. Thank you!

CEDAR RIDGE CAMP

Cedar Ridge Camp was a busy scene this summer, in spite of the pandemic. In June, children and youth were able to attend two weeks of Monday-Friday day camp--masked and socially distancing. In July, approximately 40 campers and staff experienced 21 days at an overnight Quarantine Camp, where they were able to be normal campers—sans masks—following two rounds of Covid-19 testing. August saw three more weeks of day camp opportunities.

Work has continued on the early stages of construction of the new **chapel** following the July 1 groundbreaking! If you have not yet donated, some funding is still needed to fully fund the project.

The annual fundraiser for Cedar Ridge, **Autumn Under the Cedars**, will be virtual this year in early October, with some new elements. There will still be the exciting gift and balloon raffles, plus online painting and cooking classes, "table" purchase to have a tree planted in your honor, and more! Check the website, cedarridgecamp.com, for more info, or contact Alicia Bloos, 502-496-0345 or aliciabloos@gmail.com.

HABITAT NEWS

The Presbyterian churches of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery will start building a new house in October! Several churches will contribute construction volunteers and food to build a new house in the Park Springs neighborhood (where the 2019 house was located).

What will be different this year is that crews will be limited to 8 members, close-together work will require a mask, and volunteers will check in and check out.

Once the workdays are set, there will be another announcement about sign-ups. Please join the team to put another family into a new house!

POLLINATOR GARDEN

None of last year's plants survived in the garden next to the parking lot fence, but Alicia and Kris Bloos have replanted! As of mid-August, the new plants and flowers are doing well! Alicia would like your help, however, to keep the plants watered. Please see below.

Want to be a Bee Buddy? A Pollinator Pal? A Butterfly Friend? Help is needed watering and weeding around the new plants in our garden. If you can help, contact Alicia Bloos for details at aliciabloos@gmail.com or 502-496-0345. Thank you!

Bill Bowman

Rev. Dr. Catherine Evans Knott was the guest preacher on Sunday August 16. Jeanie and Sydney provided the beautiful music; Marty Hageman was the liturgist and Sarah Hageman provided the technology for livestream. Great job done by all!

THEO IN CHURCH August 23



PICTURES FROM AUGUST 10 SOLIDARITY STAND-IN
The next dates are 9/14 and 28





Celebrating 114+ Years of Ministry 1906-2020
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM PASTOR MARK

READING THE BIBLE

Join Pastor Mark in reading through the Bible in a year from September 1, 2020 - September 1, 2021. Pastor Mark will be Facebook Live on Wednesday mornings to share some thoughts on re-reading through the Bible in our time. A zoom gathering will be offered at several time slots the third week of each month for those who would like to share their experiences of reading through the bible. For more information or a printed schedule of the readings email Pastor Mark at mark@brpres.org

PULPIT GUESTS

Pastor Mark and Gillian will be away one week in September for vacation, and two weeks in October for study leave. Rev. Dr. Catherine Evans Knott returns to preach and lead worship September 27. The Rev. Emily Enders Odom will preach and lead worship October 11. Pastor Mark's Mother-in-law, the Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, will preach October 18. We hope that many of you will attend virtually and in person to worship with our guests!

STEWARDSHIP

September 20, 2020, we will kick off our Stewardship 2021 Campaign by highlighting ways in which we give of our Time and Talents to the church. Stay tuned for more information regarding September 20 and our Pledge Sunday in November 2020. Thank you very much for all of the ways in which you have shown support these past six months!