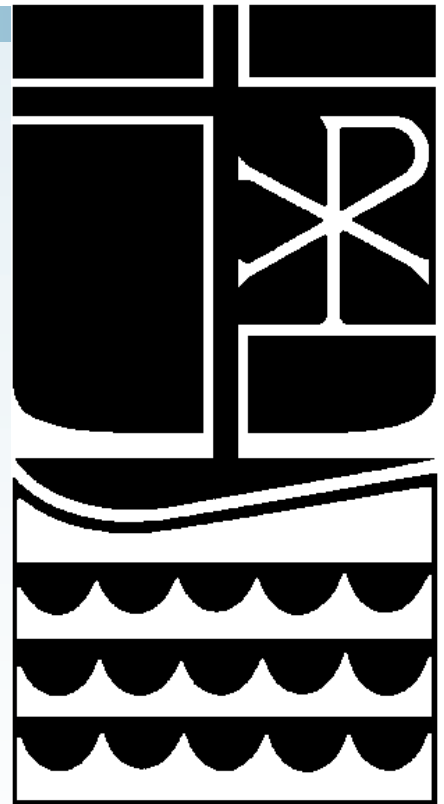


Crescent Hill Baptist Church Life Together

August 2020



Jason Crosby

What gives me hope and inspiration during these difficult days? One of the biggest factors that has been a challenge for us with children who are nine and seven is the weather. When the weather is nice and our children can be outside, most days are manageable. However, when the weather is not cooperating and all of us are stuck indoors all the time, those are the days when we face our biggest challenges. On those days we find that we are frequently staring at one another across the room trying to figure out what we will do next. There is no swim practice to go to, there are no social events to attend, and therefore we find ourselves at the moment with a lot of time on our hands. Sometimes, all that time on our hands proves to be anxiety inducing and stressful. However, it has also afforded us the opportunity to explore some new interests and endeavors. I have run everyday almost my entire life. But, as I get older I have found that I need to find alternative exercise activities in order to maintain my sanity. My knees and ankles are not what they used to be. So, I have had the opportunity to acquire a bicycle. I am learning, for the first time, how to effectively use a road bike to maintain my fitness level. Also, given the fact that we have additional time on our hands, I have been able to spend more time learning how to operate a grill. If this pandemic had not occurred, I would have never taken the time to learn how to maintain a grill temperature at low levels in order to smoke various kinds of meat. I am very glad that I have now had that opportunity. I guess what I am trying to say in response to the question that I posed at the beginning of this article is that the disruption has provided opportunity for growth. Craig Barnes, the President and Dean of Princeton Theological Seminary, wrote a book entitled *When God Interrupts*. In that book he talks about the ways in which we find God and find growth and development during times of disruption and discomfort. When we face a health crisis, when we lose a job, when we deal with the divorce, when our hopes and dreams don't come to fruition, it is in those moments that we have an opportunity to grow and develop in new ways that we would not if our lives remained calm and smooth. These days have been hard. They've been hard for you. They've been hard for me. They've been hard for my family. We are all trying to figure out what is next. However, I am grateful that God continues to show up and give us new opportunities for growth and development in the midst of times of difficult transformation in transition.

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Louie Bailey

Hydrangeas! That is one way I am dealing with the Pandemic. I love seeing the many different kinds of hydrangeas this time of year. It seems there is a plethora of bushes all over! I drove through Norton Commons today and have never seen so many gorgeous hydrangea bushes! Several years ago, June and I decided we wanted to plant a couple of hydrangea bushes in our back yard that we could see from our dining room and kitchen. We decided upon the Oak Leaf Hydrangea, which truly has leaves like oak trees and an exquisite large white flower that changes to a reddish tint in the Fall. Little did I know I would be able to see the bushes thrive and draw strength from them as I attended many Zoom Meetings and Webinars and worked from home!

In addition to hydrangeas, other flowers and plants this Spring/Summer have been stunning - begonias, impatiens, celosia, petunias, etc. Seeing these and taking them in has helped my mind and heart to deal with the other things going on right now! The flowers and trees people have posted on Facebook are incredible and have added to my sanity in these times.

And, of course, there is Holy Scripture - particularly the Psalms. How many times I have recited the mantra, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want!" And "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" And the song Laura Lea Duckworth sang July 19 in our Crescent Hill worship service recording, "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me," has been a welcome earworm this week! Even in the bleakest times, we have confidence that God has created this marvelous earth for us, is for us and loves us unconditionally! May we extend that love and grace to others!

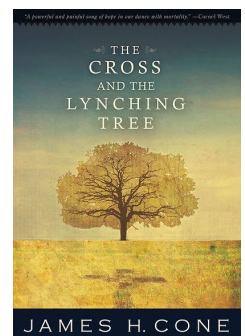
Janet Cole

In the midst of all the confusion and trauma surrounding COVID, I find hope and inspiration in two things. Wednesday has become my favorite day of the work week. That's when I actually get to see and visit – although briefly – with folks who come to pick up Bobbe's delicious dinners. It is a reminder how much fellowship with my church family means to me, how much I miss it, and what it means to them for us to be here.

The other thing that gives me hope during these strange days is watching my sweet granddaughter Amelia grow into a bright, vocal, opinionated, busy little girl. She and other children like her are our future, and we can't afford to mess it up. Wear your mask; use hand sanitizer; keep that six foot distance. It's the right thing to do.

Theology of the Cross Discussion Group

The Theology of the Cross Discussion Group is planning to reconvene via Zoom in the month of August. You are invited to join us for conversations on the book, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James H. Cone. The group will meet for four **Sundays, August 9-30**, from 5:00-6:00 PM. We will read and discuss two sections each week, beginning with the Introduction. Discussion will be led by Josh and Brittani Bair. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please contact Brittani Bair by emailing brittani@chbcky.org. We invite all those who participated in our Lenten discussion to join us again and would love to have new faces and voices join us.



Bobbe Crouch

There have been many things helping me keep sane during this pandemic: my fairy garden, being able to continue to work all of my jobs, cooking Wednesday night meals and of course, my beautiful little dog, Sammy.

For as long as I can remember during my employment at CHBC, I have wished for and wanted a giant bulletin board in my office. At the beginning of this year, I finally found one which was secured to the wall by Bill Johnson and Bob Hieb. It's blue and I adore it!

When I think of all of you, however, there is one item that stands out in my mind.

For three months, it sat blankly staring at me, waiting for some form of decoration, yet I couldn't decide what to do with it. One day, Roxann came in and faciously said, "Oh Bobbe, I love what you have done with your bulletin board." and we both laughed. I hadn't a clue what to do with it... until the pandemic hit.

Now, it is nearly filled (note that I said "nearly" hint hint) with the beautiful cards and letters people have sent to me throughout this time. Sometimes it's just a little verse or note included with an offering and other times it's a real card addressed to me. These are priceless items to me and every day when I sit at my desk, I look up and it puts a smile in my heart.

One of the best things I have experienced during this time is getting closer to people through cards, letters and long emails. I can no longer count the number of times I've received something that has touched me so much, it's brought tears or the times I've laughed with everything I have because of something silly someone has shared with me.

They say that "sharing is caring" and I am here to tell you, it's absolutely true, especially when it comes from the heart at times like this.

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." **Galatians 6:9**



ONLINE RELIGIOUS COURSES BEGIN THIS FALL AT SIMMONS

PREACHING CLASS



REV. DR. CORRIE SHULL
Professor



DR. FRANK THOMAS
Director of the Ph.D. in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric Program
Christian Theological Seminary



DR. LANCE WATSON
Senior Pastor
Saint Paul's Baptist Church



DR. FREDERICK DOUGLASS HAYNES
Senior Pastor
Friendship-West Baptist Church

THE RADICAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



DR. LEWIS BROGDON
Professor



DR. WILLIAM A. "SANDY" DARTY
Samuel DuBois Cook Distinguished
Professor of Public Policy
Duke University



DR. CORNELL WEST
Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy
Harvard University



YVETTE CARNELL
Founder, BreakingBrown



JOEL GOZA
Author, "America's Unholy Ghosts: The Racist Roots of our Faith and the Problem of Race in America"



DR. MICHAEL O. EMERSON
Author, "Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America"



DR. KEVIN W. COSBY
Senior Pastor, St. Stephen Baptist Church
President, Simmons College of Kentucky



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READING THE BIBLE FROM THE MARGINS



DR. CHRIS CALDWELL
Professor



REV. DR. RENITA WEEMS
Co-Senior Pastor
Ray of Hope Community Church



DR. MIGUEL A. DE LA TORRE
Professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies
Iliff School of Theology



ALAN CULPEPPER
Author
Mark: Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary

THE POST-COVID CHURCH



REV. DR. KEN JOBST
Professor



MIKE SLAUGHTER
Pastor Emeritus & Global Church Ambassador
Ginghamburg Church



KEM MEYER
President and Founder
Less Chaos. Less Noise.



DR. DEFOREST "BUSTER" SOARIES
Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens



BISHOP DONALD HILLIARD, JR.
Senior Pastor
Cathedral International

**CLASSES
BEGIN
AUG 17TH**

Scholarship and pay assistance is also available

Courses are offered for continuing education credits
For more information contact: tbarger@simmonscollegeky.edu
or call (502) 776-1443



Andrea Woolley

This pandemic has been tough on everyone in a myriad of ways. Some are struggling financially due to loss of jobs. Some are struggling with their health as they have become ill with COVID. Some have struggled with the isolation and lack of routine. Some are struggling to juggle full time jobs without the benefits of childcare and school for their children. And some are struggling with the sense of utter hopelessness.

So what are we to do in a time of such struggle? Fred Rogers is known for saying, *“My mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’ To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother’s words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers — so many caring people in this world.”* This is great advice for children, for whom this advice was intended, and it might give us adults a warm fuzzy feeling. As adults, I would challenge us to take this a step further; in times of crisis, don’t simply look for the helpers, rather BE THE HELPERS.

During the pandemic, I have had the opportunity to host the Agape/Harmony Sunday School class each Sunday morning. It has given me a chance to get to know a group of women a little bit more than I would normally be able to. I know who will be the first to log on to the Zoom meeting. (It is usually Joyce Stines.) I know the sounds of their dogs in the background. I have seen their “zooming” abilities increase ten-fold, and the process of logging in and connecting that used to take fifteen minutes, now is almost instantaneous. And I have witnessed the helpers.

This group of women love each other, For the members of the class that do not have email, they make sure they are called with all the church happenings. They know when each other are sick or have medical appointments. They know each others’ children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren. They support each other when the weight of the isolation and uncertainty of the current situation is pulling them down. They make sure each other has what they need. They sew masks for each other. They show grace and compassion to each other. They offer wisdom to each other.

This is how to BE THE HELPERS right now. It is not necessarily in grand gestures, though there is room for that too. It is in the daily checking up on people. It is listening to the struggles of others and offering love, acceptance, and compassion. It is allowing others to know you, and taking the steps and time to know another.

So as this pandemic drags on, BE THE HELPERS in the small, daily ways. Thank you Agape/Harmony class for such a loving example of how to BE THE HELPERS !

August Take Home Box for Kids

Coming in late summer (around the last week of August) is the next take-home activity box for kids. These boxes will include a **Bible story and a Lego build for each story**. The plans are VERY tentative right now, but I am hoping to offer a video (on YouTube) of me telling the Bible story and walking through the Lego project. The kids can watch the story when they want, and they will have the supplies in their box to create their own Lego creation of the story. I will need **VOLUNTEERS** to help in mid-to-late August to sort and bag the Legos. Also, if you have any **Legos** in your basement or attic that you would like to **donate** to this project, please let me know and I will arrange pick up or drop off. Also, if you have Duplo blocks (larger Legos for preschool age kids), I can use those too! If you are interested in this take-home activity, please email andrea@chbcky.org. **Reservations for this box must be made by August 10, and please specify if you want regular or Duplo sized Legos.**

Wednesday ZOOM Gathering July 29

During our Crescent Hill Baptist Church Wednesday evening gathering via ZOOM beginning at 6PM on **July 29**, Louisville Metro Council Member Bill Hollander will join us. He will explain where things stand regarding the Breonna Taylor case. What authority does the mayor have to charge the officers involved? What is the role of Attorney General Cameron? What is the scope of the Metro Council's authority? What could happen next? What can we do as a church and community to bring about the best outcome given the realities in which we find ourselves. Join us and invite others to do the same.

If you would like to participate, follow these directions: If joining the Zoom Prayer Meeting through a computer, tablet, or smartphone click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/860970250>

Meeting ID: 860 970 250. If you do not have access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone, you can use a regular phone or cell phone and call 1 312 626 6799 and use the Meeting ID: 860 970 250. You will hear and be able to talk, but you will not have video.

Bill Johnson

In 1981, Henri Nouwen visited Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India. During the course of his visit, Henri asked Mother Teresa this simple, yet compelling question. "What should I do to best serve our Lord Jesus?" Her reply was equally simple and compelling. She said, "Spend an hour a day, every day, in adoration of God, and never do anything that you know in your heart is wrong."

From a certain angle, Mother Teresa's answer is possibly her take on the two commandments Jesus offered: Love God with all that you are, and love your neighbor as you love yourself. I find inspiration in this and a measure in which to try to live my life.

In 2007, Ruben P. Job wrote a small volume entitled, *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*. Based on the writings of John Wesley, the three simple rules are: Do no harm, Do good, Stay in love with God. Possibly these three rules are Wesley's take on the two commandments of Jesus. I find inspiration in these and a guide by which to try to live my life.

Greatly influenced by the poetry of Mary Oliver and Wendell Berry, I find inspiration in the ordinary, the commonplace, in the normal ebb and flow of life. In the words of Eudora Welty, I am still learning how to see.

I am inspired by watering a wilted hydrangea and watching it come back to life, a mother deer placing her new born fawn between the wall of our house and the A/C unit, safely protected until she returns. I am inspired by the joy of translating the formations of white clouds into the imaginations of my mind, in Judy's uncanny ability and great delight in finding yet another four-leaf clover, in the unconditional love and devotion of a pet dog that wants to share the recliner with me.

Again, in the words of Mary Oliver, pay attention and inspiration can be found at every turn.

Looking back, I realize in my life that inspiration is often preceded by perspiration. I have given shape and content to many pastoral prayers while cutting grass or mowing pastures on the Hieb farm. Most recently in polishing the pews in the summer-warm church sanctuary, I was inspired as I reflected on persons who had sat on a certain pew who now abide in glory. It was a gentle and quiet trip to bountiful, and I was deeply touched and inspired.

Polishing those front pews in the center section of the sanctuary, it dawned on me all the different occasions in life when persons sit on those pews: weddings, funerals, baby dedications, all saints Sunday, joining the church, professing one's faith in Christ, and on it goes.

In the ordinary commerce of our days, inspiration abounds and encourages us to believe and live the commandments to love God and love each other as we love ourselves.

COVID Update

The Church Council and staff regret that we felt it necessary to cancel our planned in-person gathering on **Sunday morning, July 26**. We began planning that event many weeks ago. However, when the number of positive COVID cases rose dramatically in mid-July, we felt it would be unwise to hold our first in-person gathering since the beginning of the pandemic at that time. We continue to put plans in place so that we can gather together when the opportunity arises. We will meet together as soon as the number of positive cases declines or plateaus for several weeks. When we do meet, gatherings in the sanctuary will be limited to roughly 50 people. Although our sanctuary is large, the distance guidelines between people will only allow that number to be safely accommodated in our sanctuary. Furthermore, we will be requiring that all people who gather wear masks. Masks will be provided for those who do have one. Hand sanitizer will be readily available as well.

These are difficult days. It feels as if every time a thoughtful plan is put in place a development occurs that requires further adjustment. Please know that we want to provide the opportunity to gather in person as soon as we feel we are able. Until then, take comfort in the fact that by way of the mystery of the Holy Spirit we remain in communion with God and one another.

Brittani Bair

I know many of you are avid readers of multiple books each month. I love books too, but I am not that type of reader. I digest words with an intensity that prevents me from reading books at anything close to a normal pace. I read slowly and mentally chew on the ideas represented by the words until I can digest them cognitively and spiritually. It takes a long time.

I will often read a page or two and then spend twenty minutes staring out the window thinking about it, googling similar ideas, and journaling my reflections. As you might imagine, I don't finish a lot of books this way. There are many that I stop and start, interrupted by my own thought tangents, by exploring ideas on my own, by finding an even better book on the topic, or by the demands of work and family.

For over a year now, I have been slowly digesting a single book, called *Soulcraft*, by Bill Plotkin. I have read other things this year as well, but I keep coming back to this one because it is so rich, like a sweet chocolate cake that I can only take a few bites from at a time.

The essence of the book so far is that we are all on a journey of becoming who we were made to be, or who we really are. This process is called Soul Initiation. It is part of the larger life cycle of psychospiritual development and in our modern culture, most of us never make it out of spiritual adolescence. This is partly because we are disconnected from nature and the rhythms of the planet that have always guided human life. The journey of Soul Initiation is a journey inward toward a center, a self, a soul – whatever you need to call it. As we continue to discern what church and spiritual development look like in the age of COVID-19, consider with me this idea from *Soulcraft*: “To quest is to honor a fallow time in our spiritual lives, an emptiness into which something utterly new and generative might enter. It is to create an open vessel capable of being filled to overflowing by the sacred Other...”

I have started spending my Sunday mornings on nature trails and beside waterfalls, listening to the CHBC worship service as I drive to the edges of the city and beyond, seeking to honor the emptiness of our corporate sanctuary and to be closer to the natural rhythms of the Earth. What I have learned so far is the quest we are on is not a quest into the wilderness out there, deep within the forest. This is a quest into the wilderness in here, deep within ourselves.

I invite you, in these days ahead of us, to honor the quest we are on together. Consider it with an intensity that prevents a quick conclusion. How might we honor the emptiness we are experiencing and prepare for whatever sacred Otherness might fill it?

Love in Action

Missions Sunday, August 30: Love in Action

Please join the Missions Response Team for an engaging worship service which highlights the "boots on the ground" work of our CBF field personnel through videos and stories. Our liturgical calendar scripture for the day is Romans 12:9-21, highlighting our call to service, sharing Love in Action.

An Opportunity to Share Our Love in Action! Start Collecting Now!

Saturday, August 15: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. Donations will be accepted for drop off at the Fellowship Hall entrance for the following ministries:

Together for Hope: Scarlett Jasper - CBF Field Personnel ministering in Eastern KY

Needs: Cleaning supplies, Hygiene Items, Sanitizer, Masks, Canned goods

Educational games such as Junior Scrabble and Farkle for literacy bags

To donate funds: <https://www.classy.org/campaign/scarlette-jasper/c103225>

Cultivate Abundance: Rick and Ellen Burnette - CBF Field Personnel in Immokalee FL

Needs: Masks, Sanitizer

Money Donations: <https://www.cultivateabundance.org/donate> or

mail to Cultivate Abundance, 17151 Laurelin Ct., North Fort Myers, FL 33917

Hope Rising Ministry Center: Annette Ellard and Steve Clark - CBF Field Personnel at CHBC ministering to

Karen, Chin, Karenni Refugee Community

Needs: coffee supplies (paper cups, spoons, 3-in-1 single serve coffee packets(available at Asian markets; office paper; pens

To donate funds:

Louisville Stand Up For Justice (SURJ): a local effort to organize white people for racial justice.

Needs: snacks, ice, soft drinks, food (hot & cold), grill Items

Masks, disinfectant wipes, candles, storage containers

Chairs, volunteers for event support, speakers and performers

Here are ways to donate online:

*<https://www.paypal.me/ItsWhatWeDo> for direct aid to protesters

*[KentuckyAlliance.org](https://www.kentuckyalliance.org) for non profit gift to support the work of The Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression

*[bailproject.org](https://www.bailproject.org) to help pay bails for protestors and provide ongoing supports which include: transportation, court reminders, emergency shelter, food and gift cards for supplies and #PPE to anyone released from jail during #COVID19

Seekers after Mature Faith —Dr. Glenn Hinson Class

Dr. Hinson will begin another class on **Thursday, August 6 from 10:30 AM-12:00 PM** on Zoom. Please email Andrea at andrea@chbcky.org if you plan to attend the class so you can receive the handouts and the Zoom link. Dr. Hinson describes the class as follows:

“A study of the way Christian saints have thought about the spiritual life in their world and time. Insights will be drawn especially from such classics as Augustine’s *Confessions*; Thomas a Kempis’s *The Imitation of Christ*; *The Life of Francis of Assisi*; Julian of Norwich’s *Showings*; *The Letters* of Francis Fenelon and Jane de Chantal; *The Pilgrim’s Progress* of John Bunyan; George Herbert’s poems; John Woolman’s *Journal*; William Law’s *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*; Teilhard de Chardin’s *The Divine Milieu*; Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s *Letters and Papers from Prison*; Thomas Merton’s *The Seven Story Mountain* and other writings; Glenn Hinson’s *A Serious Call to a Contemplative Lifestyle.*”

Crescent Hill Baptist Church
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 Louisville, KY 40206-2662

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August Birthdays

1	Ethan Ferry (18)	12	Mary ByarMarMoo (9)	22	Jake Armstrong (14)
	Stan Gentle	13	Marty Kent	23	Kay Barfield
	Hser Moo Moo Ku	14	Moo Nay Chris	24	Hilary Jones
	Bill Thomason	14	Debbie Williams	24	Joan Skaggs
2	Mattie Diehl (14)		Norma Ruble	25	Quinn Chipley
	Ruth Revis		Mitch Underhill		Lelia Gentle
	Moo Pio Soe	15	Erik Smith		La Htoo (20)
4	August Moo (17)		Lee Whitlock	26	Eileen Bartlett
	Su Su Thaw	16	Sterling Baker		Berniece Thomas
6	Maung Pyay		Jo Forest		Brian Williams
	Poe Si Si (16)		Corinne Holt	27	Sue Ellen Bird
7	Judy Hodge		Elgin Tupper	28	Samuel Bates
	Grady Throneberry	17	Jose Chipe		Al Rohrer
	Jeff Twyman	18	Adam Ison (11)		Lonna White
9	David Arnett	19	Ler Say Say (19)	29	Stephen Collier
	Daniel Leidner (7)	20	James Hill (2)		Washit Min (19)
10	Tim Sellers		Beh Wah Paw (12)		Pler Moo
	Bobbie Thomason		Paw Say Roe Po (14)	30	Kevin Corlett
	Benjamin Wah (8)	21	Pat Cole	31	Jordan Conley
11	David Graves	21	Katherine Young		Say Wah Moo (20)

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 Every member a minister

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