

Crescent Hill
Baptist Church

May 2020

SPECIAL EDITION #2

Life Together



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?



Wow! What a crazy six weeks this has been. March 15 was the first Worship service we had to record and post and it was the end of that week that we were scrambling trying to figure out what and how things would progress. Now about six weeks into this COVID-19 “Healthy at Home” order and things, for better or worse, have found a new rhythm.

I am incredibly grateful for flexible jobs that allow both Matt and me to continue working full time, but, WOW, it has been a challenge.

My current life rhythm...Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, I pack lunches and snacks for Lillian and me. I have chosen to keep a presence at the church Tuesday – Friday. Wednesday is Lillian’s day with Daddy so that I can visit Dr. Glenn Hinson to help him be able to teach his Bible Study on Luke and Acts.

The office is still operational. We still receive calls. We still have folks from the community who come to the church looking for help (Kroger cards, cash, etc.), we still have mail and deliveries, bills still need to be paid, checks and other money still need to be counted and so on. Typically there are 3 to 4 folks in the building. Bobbe is in the office in the morning, Janet in the afternoon, and Bill is here working with the custodial staff. And we continue to have weekly virtual staff meetings. I have set up a make-shift office in the nursery. Lillian plays, naps, eats, and “helps” mommy run Zoom meetings and send emails.

We have been able to record and post worship services each week as well as a Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Service. We have been able to help Sunday School classes stay connected through Zoom meetings and have had virtual Wednesday Prayer Meetings. Church Council, Personnel, Finance, Tech, and Worship Teams have continued to meet regularly via Zoom. Dr. Hinson’s Wednesday morning Bible Study Class has been able to continue meeting via Zoom as has the monthly Women’s Gathering and the quarterly Men’s Breakfast. Brittani and Josh Bair have been able to complete the Lenten Discussion group on Zoom. And even our young children and preschoolers were able to meet via Zoom a few times and are now utilizing the app Marco Polo to stay connected with each other.

But many of you already know all of this, as many have been joining us online for Worship, joining your weekly Sunday School Classes, Prayer Meeting, and small groups. We thank you for joining us. We thank you for the comments on Facebook, emails, phone calls, and mail. We need these notes of encouragement and it helps us to know what is effective and what can be improved.

Inside this issue

Each member of the ministerial and office staff was asked to submit an article about how and what they are doing during this time of quarantine.

WHAT DOES SUMMER LOOK LIKE?

As the weeks go on, the novelty of online services and Zoom meetings is wearing thin, and while these virtual connections are what we must continue to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible, they are not a great substitute for in person community. We miss seeing everyone in person too, but we must continue in the most responsible way, and will follow local guidelines, CDC, and WHO recommendations. We hope to be able to open some kind of in person meetings in early summer, but we just don't know until that time comes.

Typically early spring is when I do the vast majority of planning for our summer children's activities. Usually we are able to take the K-2nd graders to the Hieb farm for a campout. We enjoy a week-long Messy Art Day Camp, Passport Kids Camp, VBS, as well as some field trips, and host three to four summer interns to help with all the activities. So what if anything will we be able to offer to our children this summer? The short answer is I am not completely sure yet. However, Passport has cancelled all in-person camps (they will be sending some resources for a virtual camp) and CBF is not sending summer interns to any site.

This means I am concurrently planning if we can gather for in-person events, if we cannot gather for in-person events, and if there is some sort of hybrid – maybe not in June, but perhaps we can meet in person in July. So I have floated some ideas to our parents – can we offer a virtual Art Camp? Maybe we can send art supplies and instructions to our families and they can share their creations with each other over Zoom or Marco Polo. Maybe by the end of July we can host a Passport day-camp where we utilize resources Passport sends and do our own camp. Perhaps we need to wait until August and can host a VBS-back-to-school bash. All that to say, I am working on plans to stay connected through the summer, offer some meaningful experiences (whether in person or not), and when we have a bit more clarity as to when we can meet in-person again, those plans will be publicized. Creative ideas are greatly appreciated as well as volunteers will be needed whether we are offering in-person or virtual events.

PERSONALLY WHERE DO I FIND MYSELF?

I fluctuate between gratitude, exhaustion, energy and creativity, frustration and anger, and renewed hope. I am grateful that Matt and I are still able to work full time. I am grateful that our financial picture has not changed much. I am grateful for a flexible job where I can schlep my toddler with me to work, and work from a variety of locations including the church nursery, my living room, and even occasionally my actual office, and to be able to work at a variety of times through the day. I am grateful that I am able to help folks stay connected, offer meaningful worship experiences, be a listening ear to those struggling, and brainstorm new and creative ways of doing things.

This also leaves me exhausted. Working with a toddler attached to you ALL day is a challenge. My level of efficiency and productivity is reduced when there are constant interruptions of diaper changes, snacks, and general needs of attention. Not to mention, tiny “helping” hands that love buttons have a tendency of sending emails prematurely, closing Zoom meetings that I am hosting, and there is some unknown stickiness on my keyboard. It is exhausting not doing anything the “normal” way. And all of us are probably succumbing to a level of exhaustion from just living in a time of so much uncertainty. Not knowing how to plan and proceed with plans and if we are making the best choices, leaves all of us exhausted.

Then I find myself in moments of great creativity and renewed energy. Most people do not like change, or at least that is what is said. But I thrive off change. Move across the country? Sure, count me in! Buy a house and learn some home improvement skills? Obviously that is why I live so close to Lowes. Teach ESL in Belgium? Sounds fun! Invite a couple foster boys to live with me? I am always up for a challenge! Recreate how to keep a church connected without meeting in person? I'm on it! These moments when we cannot do what we have always done, allow my creativity to flow and this brings me great renewed energy.

Then come the moments of frustration and anger. It is frustrating to have choice taken away. I can't just take my child to the playground. I can't just walk aimlessly through the mall. I can't gather with friends or family. It is frustrating. I become angry when I think of the inequality in our society and how much more that is compounded in situations like this. In my privilege, I can stock up on food and supplies so I only have to go to a store every few weeks. I can use Clicklist, because I will have money whenever I can actually get a scheduled pickup; I don't have to shop around EBT or WIC schedules. I am angered when I think of those living with abusive spouses or partners or children living with abusive or neglectful parents. In times of social isolation, these occurrences aren't lessened even if reporting is down, it is simply because there are less witnesses and helping hands. I am frustrated and angered when I see the huge social problems this pandemic is causing, and I feel so tiny and helpless to combat any of them.

Then I find myself with a sense of renewed hope. I see, through Zoom, how the Agape/Harmony class truly care for and know each other. Their excitement when they see a member of their class login who has not previously been able to connect is life-giving. I see how folks are looking out for their neighbors and purchasing Wednesday meals for themselves, but add several meals to their order and deliver meals to folks who cannot get out. I see folks using their extra time to sew face masks and make sure members of their Sunday School class have them so they can remain as safe as possible. I see families communicating more frequently with each other and with more intentionality. I have seen families spend actual quality and quantity of time together flying kites in the park, making spaceships out of cardboard boxes, reading together, and going for daily walks. I have seen how tiny gestures, a phone call, a letter in the mail, a text message, are received with such gratitude and joy. These small glimpses of humanity remind me that we will get through this together.

Until we are able to meet together in person, stay home and stay healthy. Find the grace God gives us each day – in a blooming flower, in a call from a friend, in the laughter of a child, in the warm sunshine on your face. Those moments of grace might be tiny and fleeting, but see them and allow them to bring you a sense of renewed hope.

Andrea

A Blurb from Bobbe



When I heard the church was doing another “special edition” newsletter for May, I asked if I could be part of it. First, I wanted to say thank you for the overwhelming support the church has been receiving from each of you. One of my favorite parts of working here is the fact that I am often the first and only person who gets to know what wonderfully special donations are made in times of need. When a crisis arises, the people of Crescent Hill Baptist Church always leap right into action and it's beautiful to witness. I can no longer count the number of times I've cried happy tears at my desk while opening the daily mail. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

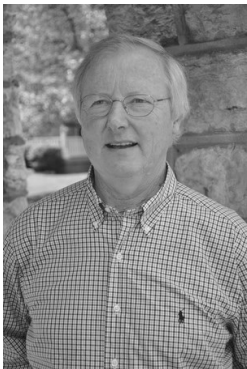
As I am sure you have heard by now we have a number of great giving options. My favorite of all was recently installed. Now, in addition to being able to send checks and donate via PayPal, you can “TEXT to GIVE”. The reason I love this option so much is threefold: 1) It's super simple to do; 2) We do not incur fees when you choose to give this way; 3) You can now also use it to pay for Wednesday meals, to make Benevolence donations and to make memorial gifts donations. (Even better, you can make your payments and donations recurring.) The directions are simple: Send a text message that says, “Give” to (502) 237-7312. If it is your first time using this method or you wish to split your donation among categories, click through the link provided and enter the information requested. The next time you want to use “TEXT to GIVE” all you have to do is text “Give” to the same number, enter the amount you wish and send it. It's that simple. I receive a daily report that tells me who gave, the amount given and the reason for it.

Lastly, Charlie and I appreciate being able to continue to offer Wednesday meals via curbside pick-up. (We are especially grateful to be among the few who still can work during this time.) As you may know by now, we love to minister by way of feeding people! We plan to continue to offer meals this way as long as we are able or until Fellowship Hall reopens. We wanted to make sure that everyone knows we're offering this service to *anyone* who wants a homemade meal. Several of the Third Lutheran members and St. Mark's members have started to order as well as a few neighborhood people. If you know of someone in the area who would like this, please invite them to order by calling the church office or by emailing me at: bobbe@chbcky.org by Monday evening each week. We especially love when you buy meals to deliver to people who are isolated or shut in and we want you to know that we're happy to deliver in this manner if you cannot.

Blessings and love to all of you. You are greatly appreciated and dearly missed.

Bobbe

"A Lick and a Promise"



Growing up on a farm I learned the value and worth of work, of doing a good job. I was surrounded by hard workers including both my grandmothers. I still recall one of my grandmothers having this saying about work. When we were in a hurry doing a task she would say, "we are going to give it a lick and a promise."

Over the years that phrase, a lick and a promise, has continued to rattle around in my memory. I think it means that the "lick" is what we have to do right now to do the job, and the "promise" is that at a later time we will come back and do the job more thoroughly.

With the church building being "closed" for the past weeks, the maintenance staff and I have been able to fulfill some "promises" we made about some tasks that received a brief "lick".

- Initially, we sanitized all the desks, chairs, tables, light switches, door handles, etc. We accomplished deep cleaning of all the restrooms, entry ways and hall ways.
- We have more fully cleaned out and straightened both boiler rooms, since we have two new boilers. The fourth floor storage area has been further cleaned as have the storage rooms and closets on each level of the towers.
- The insides of both church vans have been cleaned thoroughly.
- Kenny Allen is now in the process of stripping and waxing hallways and landings in the 1956 education building and the 1926 towers.
- With the church dumpster being more available, we have discarded much trash and junk.
- Just this morning (Wednesday, April 22) Ken Nay Moo was washing down and cleaning all the entry mats and washing all the outside entry ways. The outside stairwells to the two boiler rooms and all the outside stairwells to the building along with outside window wells have been swept and cleaned. The roofs of the Birchwood and Fellowship Hall entrances have been swept and cleaned.
- The alleyway entrance to the gym has been fully cleaned as has the gym.
- The Graham Court parking lot and the Library parking lot have been cleared of tree limbs, trash and debris.
- Other tasks have been addressed and in the days ahead, we will fulfill "promises" made earlier.

Thanks to the church for allowing the staff to continue to work during this uncertain time. Much is being accomplished.

Bill

“Meanwhile”



One of my favorite TV programs is The Late Show with Stephen Colbert. In it he often has a segment called "Meanwhile," in which he comments on news items that have occurred while life is going on. Lately he is calling it "Quarantine-while," because of the unique situation in our world today. As I was reflecting on what I might share with you, the term "meanwhile" kept going through my mind. I wondered if the term appears in Holy Scriptures, so I googled it and found there are almost 200 references to situations of all sorts with that designation.

This has definitely been a difficult time for all of us, and we want to extend our thanks to all those who are on the front line: doctors, nurses, custodians, grocery store workers, police officers, fire personnel, and others. We want to pray for all those who have been affected by the Coronavirus and the families and friends of those who have died.

This has been a time of growth for many, myself included. My normal schedule is working seven days a week, 3-4 hours each day. In addition to my primary job at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, I also serve at The Temple, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and Highlands Latin School. I miss directing the choirs in those places. But I have gained new experiences, participating in classes and meetings via Zoom. We record our CHBC services on Thursday evening for the following Sunday; we do a live streaming of Temple services on Friday night and Saturday morning, and even live-streamed two Passover services; in addition, we have meetings from LPTS and HLS on Zoom.

One of the most ironic phenomena of this time is that Spring has sprung, in all its glory. The flowers and trees are exquisite even as the world is suffering in many ways. My heart is touched by words of beautiful hymns such as "For the Beauty of the Earth," "All Things Bright and Beautiful," and "Morning Has Broken." It has been said that in order to be happy, humans need three things: something to do, someone to love, and something to live for (thanks to Elaine Parker Akin for this, in one of our Prime Time Singers musicals!). I am grateful for opportunities to serve, even from afar. Our son Sean is in Louisville, on furlough from his job in Colorado, so he and our other son Evan are having a great time together. June and I have enjoyed being with each other more.

We all look forward to the time when life returns to some sort of normalcy, which will inevitably be different in the future. But we know that God loves us and everyone and wants us to be as happy as possible. We can be comforted by the words of the hymn writer, "Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me" and the writings of Julian of Norwich, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." "Meanwhile...." Soli Deo Gloria!

Louie

“This Too Shall Pass”



I wish I had been keeping count of the number of books I have read since the quarantine began! There is seemingly no end of mystery/thriller selections in the library's eBook catalog and from Kindle Unlimited. And there are innumerable plot twists of danger, intrigue, deception, romance, redemption and drama. And I can't quit reading!

With N95 and other masks being in short supply, I have raided my stash of fabric scraps, interfacing, and elastic to keep sew some masks for friends and family. I still have several and can make more if others have a need. We may need to wear them for some time.

Not being able to spend time with Hilary, Chris and Amelia has been most difficult; Hilary and I have spent at least one morning a week together benefitting me, her and Amelia. Zooming Easter dinner was a help!

Working at the church every afternoon has been quite a change with so little personal interaction. Once upon a time I thought I was an introvert, but I have long since abandoned that thought. It has been a quiet time of going through, catching up, cleaning out, and trying to maintain some sense of routine.

As we all do, I look forward to the day when we will be together again for fellowship and worship. Hopefully we will be more grateful for our blessings, more tolerant of each other, more compassionate, and less self-absorbed and judgmental. When I begin to feel like this will go on forever, I remember my favorite quote: “This too shall pass. “

We will get through this – together.

Janet

Living Through This



I had been dealing with the symptoms for five weeks before I realized what was happening to me – the insomnia, the constant anxiety and fatigue, the restless, racing thoughts, feeling numb; I felt slow to process events, ideas, and conversations – I just called it stress. But finally, I came across a post on social media that named it something else. “Living through this pandemic is a trauma.”

It all made sense. I wasn’t going crazy and I wasn’t just stressed. I was living through what we have all been living through, a worldwide trauma. When we experience trauma, parts of our brains shut down in order for us to survive. We are not processing things like we normally do, and it may be years before we feel safe enough to fully process what we are living through right now. When I realized this, I was filled with compassion for myself and everyone around me.

I researched trauma in my DMin work at BTSR and I work with traumatized teenagers daily in my job as a therapist. What I have found is that our world is not very good at being trauma-responsive. My DMin studies on trauma resulted in a paper titled “Ministerial Responses to Trauma”, in which I explored some of the ways we could respond as Church to people who have experienced trauma. One of the books that informed my writing was *The Way of the Wound: A Spirituality of Trauma and Transformation*, by Robert Grant. Grant writes about the potential for healing and growth that trauma creates. “Trauma has the potential to reveal all”, he says. According to Grant, trauma teaches us that our time is short and valuable. It induces conversion. This conversion is to a new way of seeing self, others, and the divine.

Recently we have all felt the fear associated with an unknown, potentially fatal illness stalking our friends, families, and ourselves. We have also faced the profound disconnection of a nearly worldwide self-quarantine. Many are also experiencing job loss, economic hardship, and grief. We find ourselves in a state of disequilibrium created by a combination of quarantine isolation, stories of death and illness, fear for our lives, being robbed of months of special occasions and events, and not knowing when it will end. We are in shock and off balance. But, this disequilibrium also creates a shift in our awareness. It calls us to redefine ourselves, and our world, and possibly even to reorganize our concept of God.

As we find our way through this new reality, we are walking “the way of the wound”. While we may be focused first on survival, as we emerge from this crisis over the next few months, we may find great opportunities to deepen our spiritual lives. We have the chance to embark on a journey of healing. Trauma “topples the ego’s stranglehold”, Grant says. It exposes things within the Self. The exposed inner workings of our hearts and minds merit attention. So try to pay attention to what this pandemic may have revealed within you.

If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, teetering on the edge of depression or anxiety in these strange times, you are not alone. You are experiencing a normal reaction to the trauma of living through this. If you need support as you explore that reaction, I invite you to connect with me via email, or whatever form of

quarantine-communication you prefer. Share your story with me, or with someone you trust, and let us journey together. If you are interested in learning more about the biblical, theological, spiritual, pastoral, or psychotherapeutic responses to trauma that I have researched, I can send you the thirty-page paper I wrote in 2018, or you can join me for a special Zoom meeting on this topic. I will host a Zoom meeting for those seeking to transform this trauma into spiritual growth on Sunday, May 3rd from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. To sign up, email brittani@chbcky.org.

“Yet still I dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease.” – Lamentations 3:21-22 (NLT)

Brittani

Life Together



I am grateful that others have taken the lead on sharing what is happening in the life of our church. As is evident from what others have shared, life at CHBC is not boring. I am thankful that we are able to be functioning at a high level as a church. Church, perhaps, has never been as important to so many people in my lifetime. Jesus taught us to be in community with one another. I sense that people’s understand of the importance of supportive community has never been greater.

One additional comment I will add regarding church matters is that pastoral care is occurring in new, strange, but perhaps better ways. That now takes place on the phone or via text. I am glad to have been contacted in that way by so many new people. Keep it up. I welcome it.

I figured it makes the most sense to share more regarding what is happening with me and my family. Perhaps, that type of sharing will remind you that you are not alone in dealing with COVID-19. We are, like most of you, at home. Kate and I are very grateful that we are both busy and able to work at home. That is a luxury that many do not have these days. However, because her office is closed and our six and nine year old are confined to the house, I am home as well. Kate and I take turns managing the kids. While one of us takes the lead on that front, the other one gets as much done on the work front as possible.

I am extremely grateful for the work that Jefferson County Public Schools has done to make Non-Traditional Instruction (online learning) happen. Both Brooks and Millie Lou spend the morning “in school” virtually. However, it requires parents to help keep kids on track. Keep educators and parents in your thoughts and prayers.

The weather makes a dramatic difference regarding the flow of our days. If the weather cooperates, the kids are glad to play outside independently. Plus, when the weather allows we take an afternoon family bike ride or walk. Those outings are good for us all of our bodies, minds, and souls. If the weather forces us inside, the days can get very long and everyone begins to feel the weight of that.

As many of you are aware, Zoom meetings consume hours of my days, these days. I am thrilled that so many of us, especially our older members, have embraced that technology and are able to connect with family and friends at church and beyond church through that platform. However, I have found that leading a Zoom meeting requires a higher degree of energy than in person gatherings.

I call family every day. We watched the first three Star Wars Movies with the kids. I believe that owls are nesting in a tree in our yard. I got a haircut – a short buzz cut, in fact. We have all gotten better acquainted with one another at the Crosby house. We regularly deliver supplies in appropriate ways to Kate’s grandmother.

Emotionally and spiritually the situation comes in waves. Some hours we are happy as can be. We feel productive, loved, and enjoy the time. However, other times we feel low and sad. I imagine we are not alone in that regard.

That’s a bit about where we sit personally. Thank you for all the care and concern that has been extended to me and mine. And, remember, call me anytime.

Jason

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CHANGE SERVICE
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May Birthdays

1	Lah May Htoo (8)	Megan Karr	10 Andrew Htoo (4)	19 Vicki Evans
			Day Po (20)	20 Sara Moses
		Nay Lay (8)	11 Nan Arnold (11)	21 Htee Ku See (19)
	Bethani Masse	Eh Doh		22 Kathy Getsinger
	Lah May Paw (20)	Janet Hook		23 Patrick Allison
	Tim Shuler	Jenny Payton		24 Susan Abbott
	Ah Nah Wah (15)	Peggy Perkins		25 Bruce Cho (14)
2	Kathy Creech	Jasmine Scott (21)		26 Josh Bair
	Brittani Bair, Minister to Youth	Elisabeth Taylor		Jane Smith
	brittani@chbcky.org			27 Gregory Rahming
	Jason W. Crosby, Minister of Preaching.	Dale McAbee		28 Sue Catlin
	Pastoral Care and Administration	Amelia Jones (2)		30 Andrew Chalk
	jasonwcrosby@chbcky.org			31 Marlene Schmitz
	Andrea V. Woolley, Minister of Spiritual	T.J. Gritton		
	Formation, Families and Community	Mason M. Lay (5)		
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	William M. Johnson, Facilities Manager	Mike Eggenpiller		
	bill@chbcky.org	Brittani Bair		
	email: churchoffice@chbcky.org	Kaw Tha Yu Soe (8)		
	Web Page: www.chbcky.org	Meme Tunnell		
	Facebook: CHBC on Frankfort			

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