

# BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – OCTOBER 2023

513.541.5676 | 5742 Hamilton Ave. | Cincinnati, OH 45224 | [chpc.org](http://chpc.org)

DO NOT BURY YOUR  
TALENTS,  
THE GIFTS THAT  
GOD  
HAS GIVEN YOU.  
DO NOT BE AFRAID  
TO DREAM OF  
GREAT THINGS!

Pope Francis



## TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE WISE TRAVEL

The current sermon series on the “Parable of the Talents” is growing us as wise stewards of all that God entrusts to us. Pastor Drew Smith put it this way, “God gives to us *through* Christ, so that God may give *through* us to others. The September *Bell Tower News* was filled with accounts of people who were sent out from CHPC to serve others in many parts of the world.

Some of those who traveled did so with their own funds. Many had a prayer team of armchair travelers who contributed to enable them to experience God’s work in the world. Together, the “senders” and the “goers” have experienced the joy of what their stewardship has made possible.

Christy Roediger and Mary Sue Verhagen went to Kenya; Jacky Kalubi to Congo. Both were unique trips. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



COLLEGE HILL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# KENYA MISSION 2023

BY MARY SUE VERHAGEN

For much of July, Christy Roediger and I explored the beautiful work God is doing through His faithful servants in Kenya. The first portion of the trip we were part of an UnveilingGlory team, participating in a different aspect of that ministry every day. Our efforts were focused over two long weekends in the south of Kenya in a Maasai tribal area where **Pastor Moses** (who visited CHPC on Sunday September 24th) and **Pastor John** are planting churches. During the week, we served the needy in two areas of Nairobi, the huge capital city of Kenya.

This photo barely hints at the joy, energy, and unity of traditional Maasai Sunday worship! This experience may be the most unforgettable of



the whole trip. Both Sundays were filled with singing and dancing by several different groups,

prayer aloud together, careful attention to the teaching, then a big lunch. This church has only been meeting about a year and a half.

Next door is a matching primary school with two rooms, two friendly young teachers, and 60-120 children, who previously would have had to walk for several hours through the bush to reach a government school. This location took us two hours to reach by van, over impossibly pitted dirt roads, but we got to see elephants in the wild, along with plenty of Maasai cattle, goats, sheep and donkeys.



**Bob and Debby Sjogren** of *UnveilingGlory*, based in Virginia, regularly disciple Maasai tribe believers through



church conferences in several remote locations of Kenya. Pictured is Christy Roediger, part of the 2023 team, who intro-

duced ladies to their identity as *the Lord's precious lambs* in Psalm 23. **Purity**, a leader among the women of Zion Baptist, is interpreting. Like most women in the region, Purity wears fine traditional Maasai garments to church. Mary Sue spoke about the meaning of the shepherd's rod and staff in Psalm 23:4. Both tools are daily used and commonly carried by the local men, outside as well as inside the church building.



**Nimo Kimani**, pictured with Debby



Sjogren (above),-directs Hami Imani Africa

(protector of the faith), a ministry to women and girls in Kenya, especially among the rural Maasai. She identified the lack of feminine-care products as a major barrier to education, dignity, and self-worth for women. Nimo and Debby founded Delivering Dignity four years ago. Over 15,000 girls have received "Dignity Kits." Our group's first delivery of Dignity Kits was to girls in grades 4-8 was at Eng'aboli Primary School. Each team member spoke on one topic to the group. The girls were very engaged, particularly when Allison, who just started medical school, clearly explained how women's bodies work. Addressing this culturally taboo topic in a safe educational environment and receiving self-care tools (washable sanitary products) motivates young women to stay in school and helps them realize how important and valuable they are in God's eyes.

**"MaMa" Lucy Gacheru** and 284 of her adopted children currently live at Hope Community Centre on the beautiful Kinangop Plateau, a couple of hours north of Nairobi. When Lucy arrived at the newly purchased property with her first few adopted children almost 25 years ago, they had





to camp in the shabby goat sheds (right), until they could get new, sturdier ones built for themselves. Now, the old sheds are coming down as the goats move into better housing.



The lower photo shows (from left to right) the new trade school buildings; the barn and animal pens at the back of the property near the water treatment plant; the gates to the spacious boys' and girls' dorms

that look out over their farm fields, basketball court, soccer field and soon-to-be golf course; the offices; the Baby House and guest rooms; the dining hall and kitchen. Behind the photographer are the bore hole and water tanks, day-time restrooms and hand-washing stations, primary school and secondary school buildings, and a

broad lawn on which to relax. The children have watched God, their Good Father, provide for their every need

abundantly, even as the family grew. Their lives are enriched by joyful morning and evening family devotions, three hot meals, study, play, and even field trips – especially when visitors come!

**Gabe and Sharleen Howard**, CHPC's newest global workers, and their twin daughters welcomed us warmly into their busy lives for the better part of a week. We rented a comfortable apartment near the Howards.

With Gabe and a few of his Kenyan friends, we experienced the neighborhood where he teaches English to refugees, participating in two different classes, visiting a friend's dress shop, sampling tasty street food and fabulous Somali cuisine, and witnessing how some cultures very different from ours



conduct their daily business and worship. The Howards also host a weekly Bible study that brings young adults of any faith or none into deep, thoughtful discussion of some aspect of Jesus' life – the guys even cook dinner!

Our stay was rounded out by a ladies' day out seeing Nairobi specialties like an elephant orphanage, a giraffe nursery, and a bead-making women's cooperative.

The next planned KENYA trip is May 2024. Attend CHPC's monthly mission meetings for more about "Traveling with a Purpose."

## WISE TRAVEL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

One of the largest expenses in travel is transportation. So, "while they were in the neighborhood," the two teams planned several mission experiences. In Kenya, Christy and Mary Sue traveled with the Delivering-Dignity.com leaders to distribute and teach girls about their health and maintenance of their feminine care "Dignity Kits."

The next stop in Kenya was to visit CHPC's newest Global Workers: Gabe and Sharleen Howard and their twin girls. Gabe teaches English to refugees in the a language school at the edge of a neighborhood in Nairobi.

Their final stop was visiting with Mama Lucy and the orphans at Hope Children's Center, where CHPC's Mark and Ellen Murphy served in May and early June.

In the Congo, Jacky Kalubi and her adult sons Gabe and Daniel returned to the area of her family home. In addition to spending time with their Congolese family, the boys trained to install solar panels. These enhanced the original SonLight Power array at the *Kalala Muzeu* humanitarian medical clinic (see the related story on page 4).

Jacky delivered feminine care "Dignity Kits" made and donated by women in the U.S. to school girls in the Congo. She also began training young ladies to qualify to manufacture "kits" in the future.

In terms of CHPC sermon series, both the Kenya and Congo Teams' travels are good examples of wise travel—getting more bang for the buck! As you consider where you are being nudged to travel, how might God use it to bless you and others by your stewardship?





# CONGO MISSION 2023

JULY 31-AUGUST 12 BY JACKY,  
DANIEL AND GABRIEL KALUBI

Packing for travel is often a big challenge. For the Kalubi family, it was doubly so. They had their own luggage, gifts for relatives, and supplies for two major undertakings:

- (1) Installing solar panels and equipment in a medical clinic;
- (2) Providing supplies for reducing “period poverty” in their family’s area of origin in Congo.



*Leja Bulela* (Show That You Care) was founded in 1993 as a reaction to the expulsion of an estimated 500,000 Kasai natives from the Katanga province of the Democratic Republic of Congo. But what began as a response to a refugee need, exists today “to improve the lives of our brothers and sisters living in Kasai Congo, specifically those in Tshibombo Tshimuangi.”



In memory of Alex Kalubi, his wife Jacky and their children (Isabelle, Daniel and Gabriel) mobilized others to provide the much-needed *Kalala Muzeu* medical clinic that now serves 80,000 people in the area, where they still have family.

SonLight Power assisted with vital solar-generated electricity. A cistern was added to preserve water. Then, this year, the clinic needed enhancements to the original solar power array. Funds were raised for the new panels, and SonLight Power provided the tools, wires, and training to the Kalubi brothers to successfully install the solar panels. There was great rejoicing when the shipment of solar equipment arrived!

Three years ago, Jacky and Daniel accompanied a U.S. medical brigade from the U.S.A. to work at the clinic, treating a variety of special needs. As a middle school teacher, Jacky was aware of challenges of feminine-care for adolescent girls. So that summer, she took pants and pads that would, hopefully, work in rural Congo where few options were *available and affordable*.

She returned to Cincinnati and asked the CHPC Missions Committee to begin praying about God’s answer to what is now known as “period poverty” —a reality around the world.

A unique partnership of women in the U.S., Congo, and Kenya was



formed. The CHPC Endowment Fund made possible a successful feasibility study. In her 2023 trip luggage, Jacky took the materials to train young women to begin making fem-care kits similar to those in Kenya.

Jacky ordered new treadle-driven sewing machines and carried the uniquely-engineered fabric that



makes the product “work.” Then she began teaching a team to sew kits that shared

God’s care for each woman.

At distribution, Jacky (blue and white dress below) saw the joy on the faces of the girls receiving fem-care kits, “period panties,” and *the assurance of God’s love in Jesus Christ*. What a life-changing and life-giving trip for the Kalubis and for others in Congo!





## "MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT"

Wednesday, October 11 at the College Hill Recreation Center  
College Hill Community's annual event is your chance to hear from candidates for local office and ask questions. LaDonna Wallace Smith and Elizabeth Sherwood will be the evening's moderators. Invitations are now out and organizers are waiting for responses from the candidates.

## COLLEGE HILL TRAFFIC CONCERNS

Drivers on North Bend Road and Hamilton Avenue may have been surprised by all the traffic cones, concrete and plastic car stops, new lane markers, and electronic speed signs. They are part of an effort of a College Hill Forum subcommittee working on ways to slow traffic and make the community safer for pedestrians. Why? Accidents like the one pictured are becoming more common, as are personal injuries.

For several years, a number of College Hill residents have been working with city and county experts on "traffic calming" options. In the next months, the current installations will change. North Bend Road will be repaved in 2025 and changes can be made until then.



What prompted the traffic calming efforts?  
Photo by Rachael Nolan.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS TO  
[TRAFFICSAFETY@COLLEGEHILLFORUM.COM](mailto:TRAFFICSAFETY@COLLEGEHILLFORUM.COM)

Thanks to the *College Hill Currents* for the photo and information used in this article.

## PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- Weds., 10/4 – CHPC Parlor 7 PM, pray for our local church
- Sun., 10/8 – Prayer for global workers in the Parlor between services
- Sat., 10/14 – Mini Prayer Retreat in CHPC Sanctuary (9 AM to noon). Come for your own personal refreshment time with the Lord.
- Tues., 10/17 – Greater Cincinnati Prayer Canopy. Spend an hour

praying for Holy Spirit's impact within our community.

- Sat., 10/28 - Outside Prayer & Coffee from 10 AM to noon. Come and meet the neighborhood, enjoy a cup of coffee, and pray for someone.

### PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES ON THE HORIZON:

- Sun., 11/12 – Healing Service in the CHPC Sanctuary at 2 PM
- Sun., 12/31 – Prayer Canopy New Year's Eve Event at CHPC Sanctuary, 6:30-8:30 PM.

Questions? Contact  
Christy Roediger 513-675-0346

## Mark Murphy's photos of Kenya

The September *Bell Tower News* included Mark and Ellen Murphy's May trip to serve at the Hope Community Center. Mark sent these photos and comments: "Poverty in Kenya far exceeds anything I have seen. It's not just in the rural setting or a few homeless folks living under a bridge. The impoverished in America would be rich in Kenya." It is a land of great contrasts.



An upscale Nairobi shopping mall



Colorful Maasai gathered for worship



"Homes" by the side of the road



A safe place, Hope Children's Center.





BY JEANNE SCHNEIDER, EXEC. DIRECTOR OF LIVING HOPE COUNSELING SERVICES

September was Suicide Awareness Month. However, we in the counseling service believe that it's vital to know and be aware of signs of suicide year-round. There are many resources available that will help you or a loved one who may be having thoughts of suicide.

The Suicide and Crisis Lifeline can be reached by texting or calling 988. This line will connect you with a trained mental health clinician that can listen and provide the support needed. Many lives are saved by having support available 24/7—the person knows that they are not alone.

One of the biggest misconceptions when it comes to suicide is that if you ask a person if they are considering killing themselves that the question will put that thought in their head. This is not true. Typically people feel relieved to talk about those thoughts in a safe place.

Another misconception is that if someone is considering suicide, they are being selfish. Actually, when

someone has suicidal thoughts, they see no hope and believe they would be doing their loved ones a favor by dying. By calling the Lifeline, trained professionals can partner with the person experiencing hopelessness as well as their loved ones to help provide hope and support.

Remember, counselors with Living Hope Counseling Services are available to provide counseling for individuals, couples, and families.

**For information or an appointment, call 513-371-5135 or go to our website at [livinghopecs.com](http://livinghopecs.com).**

To provide financial support for those who need assistance, checks can be made payable to: Living Hope Counseling Services, 5742 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45224. We also need donations of bottled water, individually packaged snacks, and facial tissues.



**LIVING HOPE**  
COUNSELING SERVICES

## SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE TEXT OR CALL 988.

**BE PREPARED** to help: Call the two Hotlines 988 or 911 if danger of self-harm seems imminent. Ask the person if they are thinking about suicide. Listen without judging and show you care. Stay with the person (or make

sure the person is in a private, secure place with another caring person) until you can get further help. Express support and concern. Don't argue, threaten, or raise your voice.

*PRAY EARNESTLY!*

## WARNING SIGNS OF SUICIDE

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. Almost everyone who has committed suicide has given some signs or warnings.

### HOW THEY FEEL AND TALK—

Feeling sad, angry, ashamed, rejected, desperate, lonely, irritable, overly happy, or exhausted; feeling trapped and helpless: "I can't see any way out of this"; feeling worthless or hopeless: "I'm on my own—no one cares. No one would even notice I was gone"; feeling guilty: "It's my fault, I'm to blame."

### HOW THEY BEHAVE—

Abusing drugs or alcohol, or using more than they usually do; withdrawing from friends, family, and society; appearing anxious and agitated; having trouble sleeping or sleeping all the time; having sudden mood swings—a sudden lift in mood after a period of depression could indicate they have made the decision to attempt suicide; having episodes of sudden rage and anger; acting recklessly and engaging in risky activities; losing interest in their appearance: dressing badly, no longer wearing make-up, or not washing regularly; rapid weight changes; putting their affairs in order; making funeral arrangements.

### HIGH RISK WARNING SIGNS

Threatening to hurt or kill themselves; possessing or having ways to kill themselves, such as stockpiling medicine or buying equipment that could be used to harm themselves; talking, drawing, or writing about death, dying or suicide.



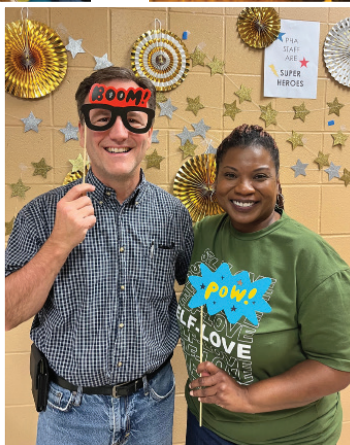


# WELCOME THE SUPERHEROS!

In August, the Friends of Pleasant Hill Academy (PHA) welcomed the staff with a luncheon—not just any lunch, a meal for “superheroes.” After the food from Tortilleria Garcia was served, a group of staff and servers did a prayer walk through in the buildings. A photo booth and festive photo ops added to the fun. Here are some glimpses:



GREAT FOOD,  
GREAT FUN.  
WHAT A WAY  
TO CELEBRATE  
THE  
SCHOOL'S  
SUPERHEROES!



WHO WAS THAT MASKED  
MAN WITH PHA PRINCIPAL  
SHAUNA Mc DOWELL?



“THE TORTILLA BELLES”— PLEASANT HILL FRIENDS ARE SUPERHEROES  
TOO: (L TO R) ELAINE STATTMAN, ROBIN RIECHEL, ROBYN RUSSELL, COLLEEN  
SCHEID, CHRISTY ROEDIGER, CATHY SMITH, AND JANET DUMFORD.



*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

Ephesians 1:17-19a (NIV)

Sometimes I feel overwhelmed at the stories of those I hear – the opportunities to intercede and support in prayer exceeds the time I have, the heart I have, and the knowledge I have about how to pray.

During those times, praying scripture can be really helpful. It's possible to insert someone's name into the text, and pray the prayer that gave us in Scripture. Paul typically includes prayer in his letters, and Jesus gave us some great text to pray. There are also wonderful psalms that can fit any situation about which you find yourself wanting to pray. And so, I now pray for YOU:

Dear God, please fill each person reading these words with the knowledge of your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. (Colossians 1:9b)



BY HEATHER LETHANDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHPC has an energetic staff working both in front of the congregation and behind the scenes. There have been changes in job responsibilities recently. Here is a quick look at our current staff.

SAMUEL MOCK is pursuing ordination within ECO and is responsible for Outreach and Discipleship. He is working on promoting local and global outreach and supporting Adult Discipleship—men's and women's ministries, Growth Groups, and Young Adults.

We are interviewing candidates for the Director of Family Ministries, and considering our options for the best structure for this important ministry area. A lot of ministry has been happening for our youth, children, and families. NICOLE MCKENNA, Youth Director, is involving new people in Youth Ministry. ROBYN RUSSELL has been acting as the Director of Sunday Morning Ministries. She did a great job generating excitement with the kids during BLAST! SHANNON CATON, Director of 3C's Preschool, has been working closely with the CHPC leadership team to integrate our 3Cs parents into the life of the church.

KEVIN MOSER leads the 9 AM Traditional Worship Service.

BERNICE DAVIS leads the 10:30 AM Contemporary Worship. Bernice has been recovering from surgery this summer. We hope she will be back leading worship in the near future. We appreciate all who have stepped in to lead worship during Bernice's absence, especially DAN SCHOENHARL!

HEATHER LETHANDER oversees the operations and administrative functions of the church and staff within the Operations Group. On Sept. 1st GREG FISCHER "semi-retired." He will now work on a part-time basis on Capital Projects. MICHAEL GAINES is now the Property Manager running the CHPC facility on a day-to-day basis. He has 8 years' experience managing and supervising facilities, so we will be in excellent hands. KENDRA MEYER manages the social media for the church, as well as assisting with Finance and Administration.

ALAN MCKINNEY, AV Operator at CHPC since 2005, was promoted to Technical Director. His responsibilities now include all aspects of media ministry (audio, lighting, video, and streaming) for our worship services. He leads an audio team: KYLE WILLIAMS (sound), BAILEY MCKINNEY (slides), and TIM MCKINNEY (video).

FUN  
AT PATRICK'S PARK  
5923 Hamilton Avenue

SAT., OCT 14, 11 AM-3 PM

College Hill Gardener's Annual



Music, children's crafts (theme: all about raptors), face painting, henna tattoos, harvest and nature games, pumpkins, Father George's honey, and the Good Green Earth Farm petting zoo.

FRI., OCT 27, 6-8 PM

College Hill Presbyterian Church



FREE EVENING

for families, friends, and neighbors with live music, photo booth, a costume contest, carnival games, and candy for children. Get right to the fun fast, register *in advance* at

[www.chpc.org/harvest](http://www.chpc.org/harvest)

Looking forward to seeing you in an awesome costume.

CONTRIBUTE CANDY for the event by dropping it off on Sundays at the Atrium Desk.

