



A Celtic View of Faith

Out of the soil of Scotland and Ireland from some of the earliest days of Christianity has come a faith view that is a bit different from the western view of faith which has mostly predominated the church through the centuries. It goes by the name Celtic (Kel-tic) and survived in the farthest reaches of Scotland and Ireland until the time of the Reformation. It is marked by a keen sense of God as intimately present in the world all around and its understanding of faith and life is experiencing something of a revival in the world today. We could characterize this view in terms of three movements.

The first movement of this Christian life is a movement towards the center. Much of later Western theology had a high view of God. He is far off, high and lifted up. He reigns from a throne far away and in some ways is inaccessible, but the Celts worship a God at the center of everything. God is at the center of creation. God is at the center of the world. God is at the center of life and so the Christian life is not a life lived towards something above and beyond but towards the God who is at the center of all things. It is to worship the God who is in the very midst of life and the world.

The second movement of this Christian life is a movement towards Grace. Jesus is not merely our Savior, though he is that, but more importantly, Jesus is the conduit of God's Grace. He is the one through whom God's grace flows to us and flows into the world. It was John's gospel, a very favorite gospel of the Celts, in the very first chapter that tells us that grace comes alive through Jesus Christ and we receive grace upon grace from Christ. Grace is not a one time thing, something that happens to us and then is done. God's grace flows to us in a continual stream and Christ is the riverbed in which this grace flows.

The third movement of the Christian life is a movement into the Spirit. If God is the center from which we live and Jesus is the channel of God's grace to us then we might think of the spirit as the water that we swim in as we live the Christian life. The Celts believed that we are literally surrounded by the Spirit. It is the atmosphere that surrounds us, the air that we breathe, the very breath that gives us life. God presence and Christ's grace is never lost to us as long as we open ourselves to God's Spirit in the world and let it carry us into God's love. Swimming in this divine sea as it were, we live for God as well as in God. Our life is shaped by the Spirit so that we live the life God calls us to live.

The Christian faith, as the Celts can teach us, is an around the clock faith, a seven day a week faith, a through the whole year faith. It is a faith and life lived thoroughly connected to God, graced by Christ, and guided completely by the Spirit. It is a faith and life engaged deeply in the common life of the world. It claims our whole self and calls us to fulfill God's purpose for ourselves and for the world. This Celtic view is something to think about as we seek to form our lives to serve God.

Blessings,

Ray

Ray W. Mendenhall

Return to In-Person Worship!

Session voted to return to in-person services beginning February 27. Thus, we will observe **Ash Wednesday, March 2**, with a short, in-person devotional service, including imposition of ashes, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.





Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The PNC has undertaken its first interviews via Zoom. Within a few weeks, we expect to have completed first interviews and narrowed the field to those we wish to pursue further. At that time we will initiate background and reference checks before scheduling second interviews. We are meeting some interesting and gifted ministers, and working hard to discern which would serve Hunter well. Please pray for stamina and wisdom both for the committee and for the people who are using this process to discern where their next call might be.

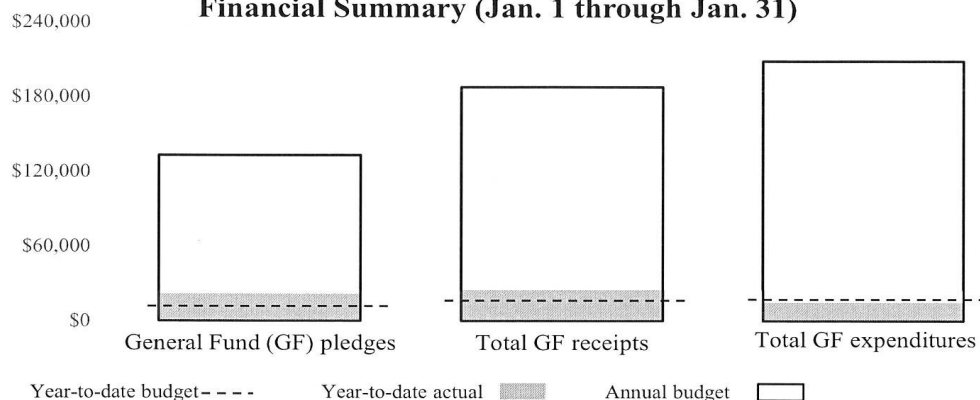


Seeking Interim Choir Director

With the return to in-person services, the choir will reassemble and resume singing in worship as Lent begins. We are advertising for an Interim Choir Director to get us through to the end of the academic year. In the summer, with a new crop of UK choral students expected to be arriving, we will mount a search for our next Director of Music Ministry. Until we find the Interim Choir Director, Barbara Rogers will direct the choir.



Financial Summary (Jan. 1 through Jan. 31)



Member Tributes

Sadly, we have lost several longtime Hunter members in the last few months. Recently, Pastor Ray did a tribute to these members during the Sunday service. We wanted to share these tributes with you in case you missed them.

Susan Durant — December 20, 2021

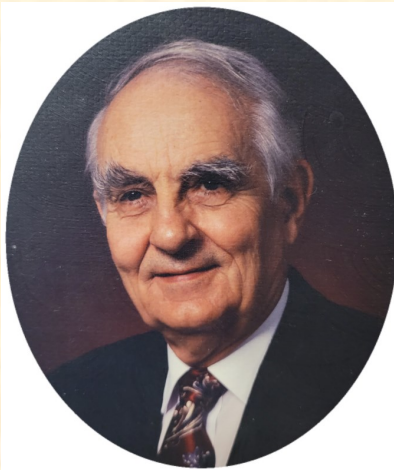
Susan Durant, formerly of Spartanburg, SC and long time resident of Lexington, KY, passed away on December 20, 2021 at home. She taught history at the University of Kentucky. She also served as Administrative Law Judge for the Office of the Kentucky Attorney General. She distinguished herself in her work for the University and the State of Kentucky. She was an avid reader and loved to garden. She was a long-time and active member of Hunter Presbyterian Church giving of herself in many ways and will be greatly missed by all her friends at Hunter.

We lift up Susan's family in our prayers- her sister, Sandra (Lynn) Parker, her children Benjamin Durant and Sarah Durant, her grandchildren Matthew, Elena Grace, and Naomie Durant, and a host of other family and friends.



Services for Susan will be held here at Hunter Church in April.

Dr. C. Milton "Milt" Coughenour *— January 26, 2022



Milton Coughenour was born in Brooklyn, NY while his father was attending Drew Methodist Seminary in New Jersey. After his father finished seminary, the family moved to a rural parish near Melvern, Kansas. Milt's father eventually decided to take up farming so his early life was filled with the tasks of farming and rural life.

After graduating from high school, Milt joined the military and was able continue his education during his enlistment. He found that the courses in rural sociology and country people and farms attracted his interest. He graduated with a BA in sociology from the University of Kansas and moved on to the University of Missouri for graduate work in Rural Sociology. While there he met and married Reta. He received a Ph.D. in Rural Sociology in 1953. He began teaching at the University of Missouri. In 1956, Milt and Reta moved to Lexington with their two very young daughters, Jean and Karen where Milt became an Associate Professor at the University of Kentucky in Rural Sociology, retiring as a full Professor in 1994 having served as chairman of the Department Sociology. Milt's impact has been both local and worldwide. His work in Rural Sociology took him went beyond the borders of the US. He worked on projects in such places as Australia, Africa and the Sudan.

Milt was an active member of Hunter for more than 50 years. At Hunter, Milt served as a Deacon, Elder, longtime choir member, Superintendent of Sunday School, Jr. High teacher, Men's Breakfast participant, and a faithful supporter of the Flower Guild delivering flowers. He chaired the Stewardship and Worship Committees while on the Session. He is remembered by many for his leadership on two Pastoral Nominating committees.

So we celebrate the life and legacy of Milton Coughenour and give thanks to God for his time among us.

**Information gathered from 50-year-member tribute written by Frankie Daniel.*

Member Tributes, continued...

Anne Combs *— February 7, 2022

Anne Combs was born in KY. Her family moved around a lot due to her father's military assignments. She graduated from the University of Kentucky where she majored in English in the College of Arts and Sciences. English and writing continued to be life-long interests!

She met Ben Combs at a UK - Notre Dame in 1946 and in August Anne McGlothen and Ben married at Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church. Ben was in Governor Breathitt's cabinet, an administrative law judge, and Deputy Attorney General. Along with Ben, Anne had another interest to pursue, too: Politics!

She is survived by two daughter, Anne Melissa Combs (Lisa) a therapeutic counselor in Ohio and Tori, a lawyer like her dad; two grand-daughters, Stephanie and Meghan, and one special great-granddaughter, Haley Sparks!

Professionally Anne worked as an Editorial Assistant and then taught English at Lafayette High School for twenty-one years where she earned the highest respect from her colleagues and her students.

Throughout all of this time her interest in politics and political campaigns remained a "passion." In 1960 she served as a Kentucky Delegate to the 1960 Democratic National Convention. And in 1995 she and Ben were invited to the White House for a Lawn Party by President and Mrs. Clinton. Anne Combs was a member of Hunter Presbyterian Church for more than 50 years. At Hunter Church Anne taught Sunday School and Bible School, served as an Elder on the session, conducted a Wednesday night program, and from 1970-1972 she served on the Board of Presbyterian Housing corporation for Amberly Place.

We give thanks for the life of Anne Combs, faithful servant, active church member and valued friend.

**Information gathered from 50-year-member tribute written by Frankie Daniel.*



B.U.I.L.D. Update

Improvements to people's lives have been happening despite the Pandemic challenges. In 2020, up to 1,400 families had new affordable housing from the Affordable Housing Fund B.U.I.L.D. (with your help) helped set up a few years ago. Last year, B.U.I.L.D. (with your help) won an additional \$10 million dollars to help build and renovate more affordable housing in Lexington and now up to 2,922 families are benefiting from this huge financial increase of help. Your participation in the B.U.I.L.D. Action Assemblies (one night a year) DOES MATTER and fully affects huge numbers of people by making their lives easier and more equitable. B.U.I.L.D. is currently researching and working on getting more dedicated Affordable Housing funds, improving the mental health of the citizens of Lexington, and lowering the high homicide rate. The Gifford Law Center claims that a single gun related homicide costs law enforcement and healthcare a combined \$488,000 and more than \$71,000 for a non-fatal shooting. The homicide rate has gone down in many cities including Cincinnati, OH by cities incorporating the Group Violence Intervention strategies to reduce street group-involved homicides. You can help with this one night a year. I am not asking you to help with the research, etc. I am only asking you to support those who did the necessary research, etc. at the Action Assembly on Tuesday, May 3rd at 7 pm. B.U.I.L.D. is not able to do what it does without people attending and supporting their work once a year.

If you would like to learn more about the research, etc. that has been done recently on these three topics B.U.I.L.D. has been working on this year, please also consider coming/attending the B.U.I.L.D. Rally on March 22nd at 7 pm (on Zoom and possibly a hybrid other option). Please contact Ann Freytag at afreytag2016@yahoo.com to attend this event so she will know to send you the registration survey once it is sent out by email so you can get the zoom link.



Unity Garden News

Winter has been rough on many of the above ground plants in the garden that are overwintering. However most seem like there is a healthy root and stem still surviving. The native plants have not started peeking out of the ground yet so Spring hasn't started yet despite the up and down weather patterns this winter. Daffodils are properly making their way out of the ground in the back corner however. There is a new bird suet feeder at the garden that was donated by Susan Durant quite a while ago. Impressively, so far, the squirrels haven't been courageous enough to jump from a nearby tree branch to the suspended feeder. I copied how Susan suspended her suet feeders at her house as best as I could. Kevin Eddy graciously was willing to climb a really tall ladder that he found to tie the pulley to a tall branch. The next feat will be to get the donated bird house from Susan Durant into the Unity Garden. All things happen in its proper time.

3 Fred Swarts
4 Nora Jennings Chesnut
9 Lola Woolums
9 Charlie Allen
14 Virginia "Jennie" Hall
14 Mia Telechbush
15 Art Wright
23 Doris Palmer
24 Adam Telechbush
30 Felix Brady

March Birthdays



Easter Flowers Order Form 2022

Easter is April 17th. Tulips, Hyacinths and Easter Lilies will be ordered to decorate our church. The cost is \$10 per plant. If you would like to purchase a plant in honor or memory of someone special, please fill out the form below and send it to the church office. Please make checks payable to *Hunter Presbyterian Church* with 'Easter Flowers' in the memo line.

***Please submit all orders by Monday,
March 28th!**

Please **print** your information below.

Name: _____

Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Hyacinths _____

Total # of plants _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

(for office use only)

PAID: YES _____ NO _____

AMOUNT: _____

CASH: _____ CHECK# _____

EASTER 2022



109 Rosemont Garden
Lexington KY 40503
(859) 277-5126
www.hunterlex.org



Hunter is an Earth Care Congregation – Please Recycle

A digital copy of this newsletter is available on www.hunterlex.org.
Contact the office if you would like to change your
subscription to online-only.
l.davis@hunterlex.org—thanks! Lynn