



Church Life

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
CHEEKTOWAGA, NEW YORK



JULY 2010

Arrival of Our New Karen Refugee Family

The new Karen Refugee Family that CHCC is co-sponsoring with Journeys End is now living in their own apartment at 911 Niagara St. in Buffalo. The family consists of Lay Ktray Htoo (father) Pe Ker (mother) Htoo Lwai (age 9 son) Say Ktray Wah (age 6 daughter) and Lah Poe (age 1 daughter).



Much planning and preparation was done to prepare the apartment and get the family here. Gerry Frenette coordinated most of the preparations done by Cleveland Heights. A long list of items needed to set up the apartment was provided by Journey's End. These items included: beds, furniture, kitchen and bathroom supplies, food, curtains, rugs, clothing and virtually everything needed for a family who has nothing. CHCC members and friends purchased and/or donated almost everything on the list. Apartment items were stored at church.

Once an apartment was rented by Journey's End, our volunteers checked it out Friday June 5. Monday June 8 was cleaning day with American and Karen workers from church. On Tuesday June 9 Journey's End provided a large box truck and a driver to transport the apartment items. We loaded and filled the box truck, drove to the apartment, hauled all of the items up a narrow staircase and set up and decorated the entire apartment. We worked hand-in-hand with our Karen brothers and sisters to create a beautiful dwelling for our new family. Then there was a day to rest!

On Thursday June 10 at 10:21 PM our refugee family arrived at Buffalo Niagara Airport. They had flown from Bangkok to Chicago, been processed through Customs/Immigration and then flew to Buffalo. Needless to say, they were exhausted! Pastor Nadine and a group from Cleveland Heights met the family at the airport.

Lay Ktray Htoo and family went to pick up their luggage, only to find out that it hadn't made it on the plane to Buffalo. Lay indicated that that was not a problem, there was nothing in the luggage that the family needed right away. We later found out that family only had ONE piece of luggage for all 5 of them!!

We transported the family to their new apartment, where they were welcomed by a traditional meal prepared by our Karen church families. Most of these families have been through a similar ordeal, so they were very helpful in helping Lay and his family begin to adjust to their new surroundings. Lay and family were overwhelmed and very, very tired.

Lay Ktray Htoo, his wife Pe Ker and their 3 children were in church Sunday and greeted by the congregation. We welcome them to our church family and plan to work with them as they become settled. There is still much work to be done.

We at Cleveland Heights believe that God has a plan for us. Sometimes that plan leads us in a new and unexpected direction. We also believe that through prayer, listening (to God and each other), faith, and love we can work to discern the path that God has prepared. There may be much to learn, but God's blessings can be found in the journey!

July 25 Worship at 9:00 AM



Early Worship Service

On July 25th our morning worship hour will be at 9:00AM.*

This will be a very special day as we come together as the church community to celebrate those who will be baptized, and as we celebrate the wedding of Pah Eh and Aung Lwin Win at 11:30 AM.

If you have been thinking about being baptized, and you would like to be among those baptized on this day, please speak with Pastor Nadine.

Two of our newest members, Pah Eh and Aung Lwin Win, wish to invite their church family to join them as they celebrate their love in marriage. The wedding will take place at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary, followed by a lunch reception and music in University Hall. Please come and support them.

*(Please note that the service will not be a longer service, but we are accommodating schedules of those who would like to attend the wedding, but have to go to work.)

FROM THE PASTOR

A poster I once had featured a chameleon sitting on a tree branch, dressed in bright clothing, wearing sunglasses, playing a guitar; the caption read, "Don't Blend" and it referenced Romans 12:1-2.

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect."

When we see the word "therefore" which begins chapter 12, we should ask "What's it there for?" It helps to look at the preceding verses and the context in which this writing took place. Here, Paul has been writing about God's gift of mercy. Because of God's mercy, God's grace, we should offer ourselves in service to God.

God does not want the dead animal sacrifices, but the offering of our very selves in service to God. This is our worship to God. Worship is not just attending church each Sunday, but a way of life. Going to worship, however, helps in "renewing our minds, so that we can discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect" as we live in this world.

What I have been taught, and what I have believed is that, as Christians, we should "be in the world, but not of the world". We can walk in this world with one another, be attuned to the culture, and even enjoy contemporary culture. But, at the same time we can stand against the things that are corrupt, unjust, and oppressive. That's what Jesus did.

Jesus went to dinner parties, participating in the culture of his day. He ate with "tax collectors and sinners," that is, with social, moral, and religious outcasts, and reached out to them in compassion (Matt 9:10; Luke 15:1-2). By going to these dinner parties he was accused of associating with "unacceptable" people. He also went to dinner parties where his hosts were Pharisees, the very people who accused him of hanging around the wrong crowd. Jesus often spoke out against their laws and behavior toward others. For example, when questioned by the chief priests and religious leaders for his disruptive conduct at the Temple, he said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you" (Matt 21:31).

Jesus participated in the culture, but he stood against it. He stood up against the Pharisees who felt that they were holy by separating themselves from those they judged and marginalized. Jesus identified with the outcasts and he ate and socialized with them and reached out to them. Jesus certainly did not blend in with the culture, but he did not separate himself from it, either.

As Christians it's important to meet people where they are in the world and to respond to their needs. It's difficult to respond to needs if we're not in the world and attuned to them. By worshipping on Sunday mornings, we learn of, and are reminded of, God's love and grace. The rest of the week we'll worship in response to the world's needs with our service.

See you on Sunday!

Rev. Nadine



Outdoor Service and Church Picnic

Cleveland Heights will have an **Outdoor Service on Sunday July 11**. The service will be held behind the church under a tent, starting with a **Favorite Hymn at 9:50 AM** and the **Worship service at 10:00 AM**.



A **Church Picnic** will take place in our parking lot following worship, and last from about **11:30 AM to 4:00 PM**.

Pulled pork, hot dogs, and a bean salad will also be provided along with condiments and rolls. **Drinks** (pop, water, ice tea and coffee) will also be provided as will **plastic ware, plates, and napkins**. A small supply of dessert will be available.

Please bring a dish to share or a dessert. Don't forget to bring a service spoon, if one is required for your dish or dessert.

Everyone is invited. Come enjoy the fellowship, rest and relax under the shade or bask in the sunlight. Weather permitting we will have a small wading pool or sprinkler for the kids. There will also be activities for both the young and the not so young to keep everyone busy.

If you have any questions please ask Bob Lutot or Patrick Mc Elroy. A basket will be available for any free will donations or \$2.00 or more

Volunteers are needed to set up the tent, probably on Saturday the 10th and chairs for the worship service early Sunday morning. Bob and Patrick will have more information about this. Thanks in advance.

Welcome New Members and Thanks Laura!

A Coffee Hour to welcome those persons who have joined our church during the past year was held on Sunday, June 13, and was sponsored by the Nurture Department.

The following new members were welcomed into our Church family:

Saw Eh
Htoo Tee
Aung Lwin Win
Hser Nay Moo
Shah Doh
Aye Tin

Yang Nang
Siro Hser
Ro Si July
Hai Chris
Lois Newman



This occasion was very significant and turned out to be a pleasure for everyone who attended!

Our Karen friends have been studying English, under the tutelage of Laura Mazurkiewicz, during the past year, and Sunday was their last class with Laura. They are saddened that Laura is moving (she is going to China in August!) and will no longer be teaching them.

To add to the day's festivities and surprises, the Karen women prepared a delicious luncheon meal which was shared by all who attended.

What a lovely way for family and friends to come together in fellowship! Thank you all who participated.

CHCC Participates at Buffalo Pride Festivities

Marti Gras came late to Buffalo this year. That's what it felt like at the 2010 Annual Pride Parade on Sunday, June 6th. The parade, now in 19th year, honors the contributions of local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and organizations. This year's theme was "the Power of Pride" . . . the Power to be Yourself, the Power to be Counted, the Power to Love!" There were lots of proud organizations, fun costumes and excited people who marched in the parade. Check out the photo slideshow at the CHCC website photo gallery <http://chccchurch.org/chcc/photogallery.htm> and click on "2010 Pride Parade."



The parade began at 1:00 p.m., with a line up at 1195 Main St., Buffalo and proceeded south on Main, west on Summer, north on Elmwood and southwest on Bidwell Parkway. Thousands of people were watching or participating and a good time was had by all! At the conclusion of the parade, there was a Pride Festival Market Place on Bidwell Parkway from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The Market Place had music, food, entertainment and information about LGBT supportive groups and organizations.

CHCC had a table representing our church at the Festival Market Place. Mark and Dawn Hemann and Gerry and Ching Frenette were at the table and helped to promote Cleveland Heights as an Open and Affirming Church. We had the church banner and handed out fortune cookies with church information, stating

that we are an OA congregation, welcoming to all people. We had 350 cookies and gave out every one of them. They were a big hit, and reached a lot of people. Gerry and Ching also brought along their large dog Woody, who also attracted much love and attention. Our table was located right next to the Transgender Group table, which included Cindy Shipley, Kathy Tomasik and Sheryl Stewart. We had lots of fun together.

All in all it was a great time. Cleveland Heights reached out to many new people and made a visible witness for our Open and Affirming commitment. We can't wait to do it all again next year and to let it be known that the love of Jesus includes everyone and knows no boundaries.

Volunteering for Habitat Houses for CHCC Families

Cleveland Heights has long been very supportive of Habitat for Humanity. Every year we give financial support to Habitat Buffalo and host monthly meetings for 4 Habitat committees. We now have a church family who is working toward Habitat home ownership. Htoo Lwe Moo and family are working towards owning their own Habitat home on Lawrence Ave. on the West Side of Buffalo. This was a house that was donated to Habitat by PUSH Buffalo, the West Side housing advocacy group. Perhaps you heard about PUSH during the Extreme Makeover show that was recorded in Buffalo last year.



The neighborhood around Lawrence Ave. has many Karen families, and PUSH wanted Habitat to find a Karen family for the house they donated. Htoo Lwe and his family fit the bill perfectly!

Habitat requires that a homeowner family work at least 500 hours of "sweat equity" before they can get their house. The families also have to pay for their house, but through a no interest, no profit mortgage. This makes the home affordable! A family need to work 300 hours themselves, but can get assistance from friends, etc. for the remaining 200 hours.

Htoo Lwe has already started accumulating his 300 hours on other Habitat houses under construction. We as his church family can help with the additional 200 hours.

On July 10 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM CHCC is scheduled to volunteer for a house at 493 Winspear Ave. These hours will be credited to Htoo Lwe and help him achieve his dream of home ownership.

If you are age 16 or older and would like to volunteer on July 10, please email Mark Hemann at mrhemann@roadrunner.com. Mark needs to forward the number of volunteers to Habitat, so that appropriate work activities can be scheduled. All volunteers are asked to complete an online site safety course before going to the work site. Mark will email the safety course information after you contact him.

There's even more good news! Aye Aye, father of another Karen family attending CHCC, was assigned a Habitat house on Plymouth Ave. (also on the West Side). He will soon be working on his "sweat equity" hours and we will have an opportunity to help him in the future.

God's blessings are being showered all around us. Thanks be to God!

Stewardship of Our Building

Our church building is an important part of the mission of Cleveland Heights. Obviously, we use the building for Sunday worship, Sunday school, church meetings and activities. However, our facilities are also used many other Christian and community groups. This has been a vital part of our mission beyond our immediate church family.



stewardship

In order to do all this, we need to maintain and pay for the building that we have. We still have a monthly mortgage of nearly \$3000 for the wonderful addition that was completed in 1998. In recent months it has become challenging to meet that monthly payment. We have less than 3 years to go before the mortgage is over, but we still need to make those monthly payments!

The Stewardship Department has setup a "Yellow Envelope Building" in the Atrium to help encourage and remind us of our mortgage needs. The yellow envelopes on the building are for mortgage payments. Please take an envelope and make an additional donation to support our building. Help us get to the day when we can burn that mortgage in celebration and love!

Stewardship Thought

- Time is a gift from God, to be used wisely, not frittered away. God allows us to choose how to use this gift.
- In giving, a person receives more than they give.
- Throughout his teachings, Jesus simply asked that we change the way we think- change the way we look at ourselves and our neighbors- learn to use our life, our talents, our gifts, to serve others- and through service to others, find that we have served and loved God.
- When we give to God, who gives everything to us that we are and have, our gift says in our name, "God we love you...God we thank you." There is always joy in loving and thanking God.

Dunkirk Camping!

It's not too late, but you need to hurry! The Dunkirk Conference Center camping season is right around the corner. Dunkirk has some wonderful children, youth, and family camps. There are also adult weekend camps and several special events throughout the summer and fall. The remainder of the 2010 schedule is listed below:



<u>Explorers</u>	July 4-10	<u>Adventure Camp 1&2</u>	August 15-21
<u>Junior High</u>	July 4-10	<u>Adult Music Camp</u>	August 27-29
<u>Family Camp I</u>	July 11-17	<u>Annual Music Festival</u>	August 29
<u>Family Camp II</u>	July 25-31	<u>Annual Walk-4-DCC</u>	September 18
<u>Family Camp III</u>	August 1-7	<u>Annual DCC Dinner</u>	October 2
<u>Pioneers</u>	August 8-14	<u>Halloween Happening</u>	October 23

If you've never been to a camp at Dunkirk, now is the perfect time to start. All first-time campers receive 50% off the full fee and any youth camper referring a new camper receives a discount from his/her own fee; \$25.00 for Pilgrim Mini Camp or \$50 for all other camps. A family camper sponsoring a first time family will be given a \$50 discount from their own fees. (Not applicable for a first time camper within the same family group.) There are also sibling discounts as well as discounts for attending multiple weeks.

The theme for 2010 is "Be A Hero: Living Like Jesus." Here's a brief description. What is a hero? In the movies and fairy tales, heroes are those who leap tall buildings in a single bound, save damsels in distress, or thwart the powers of evil in climatic, spectacular battles. However, being a hero for God is different, although not nearly as dramatic.

Being a hero for God means recognizing a need, realizing that something can be done to address that need, and taking the risk to act. Being a hero for God involves understanding that God calls and equips each of us to do some of what Jesus and other biblical heroes did. And for us, like the biblical heroes, this work is often done in simple ways, with everyday things, and by ordinary people.

Come join us as we explore the actions of biblical heroes as campers, and are introduced / reacquainted with biblical stories for the week.

For more information, visit the DCC website at <http://www.dunkirkcc.com/> and a registration form (with camp prices) at <http://www.dunkirkcc.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/Registration-Form-2010.1.pdf> .

CHCC has some scholarship money is available for children and youth camps. Please contact Mark Hemann at 683-4562 for scholarship requests. Once you've experienced Dunkirk, you'll want to come back every year!



- The Official Board meeting in August will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday, August 11. Our normal meeting day is on the 1st Wednesday of even months. Please note this change if you are on the Official Board or wish to attend the meeting.
- There will be a Market for Habitat at CHCC on Saturday July 31. This will be a fun event with a variety of items for sale. Table space will be purchased by vendors or individuals and the money raised will go to Habitat Buffalo. For more information, contact Sharon Kwaitkowski.
- The Christian Women Fellowship meeting at noon on Wednesday July 28 will be at Ken and Marge Neal's home at 184 Lehn Springs Dr., Williamsville. Please bring a dish to pass.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



- 3rd – Michael Kibler
- 6th – Naomi Sterns
- 15th – Mark Hemann
- 18th – Polly Sturm
- 21st – Joanne Crawford
- 23rd – Milton Keim
- 24th – Ellie Cacner
- 30th – Anthony Mock

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 19th – Bob and Cindy Phillips

Worship Service Responsibilities in July

ELDERS

Joanne Sterns

Jerome Mazurkiewicz

GREETERS

- 4th – Mark and Dawn Hemann
- 18th – Donna Pleger

- 11th – Sharon Greenauer
- 25th – Gerry and Ching Frenette

DIACONATE

- Captain – Bob Lutot – 835-6216
- Pat Beaman
- Roy Schrod
- Toni Termini
- Laura Mazurkiewicz

- Michael Kibler
- Dom Termini
- Bonnie Welgoss



CHCC Online Calendar

Cleveland Heights is now using Google Calendar to track church and outside group activities. 2 months of the calendar will be posted on the office bulletin board (to replace the old handwritten calendars). Contact Sarah our office secretary at 632-3332 or chchurch1@verizon.net to add activities. A copy of the monthly calendar will be included with the printed newsletter available at church.



The calendar is also on the church website chccchurch.org/chcc/googlecalendar.htm. This is the best way to view or print the most recent update of the calendar. Church activities are in red, outside groups are in blue. You can scroll through the calendar months ahead to check on building availability or schedule. This will be helpful for our church and outside groups to find activity dates and times that do not conflict with other scheduled events. You can also click on an event to get more information.

Have fun looking at the calendar and seeing all the things happening at church and the great ways that our building is utilized. This is an important ministry of Cleveland Heights and the new calendar will help things run even more smoothly.



Cleveland Heights Christian Church Website:

<http://www.chccchurch.org/>