



NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

October, 2016

Next monthly meeting:

October 18, 2016

Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria,
Lower Level, Straight Street

A brief history of St. George Church and parish

by Mark Bambach

With the recent renovations of St. George Church for the new Crossroads Church, as well as the replacement of the new steeples, I thought it might be interesting to delve into the early history of Saint George Church and Parish.

The Beginnings: After the Civil War, there was an immense population growth in the City of Cincinnati, much of it due to a large wave of immigration from Europe, especially from Germany. As Over The Rhine and other long established communities of Cincinnati's "Basin" were getting filled, there was mounting pressure for residents to move up the surrounding hills. The Vine Street valley was one of the first easy access points to get up the hills. That's where the community of Corryville began to establish after the Civil War. It quickly became a boomtown in the 1870's. Many of the settlers were Germans, either new immigrants, or those already established in Over the Rhine. Not having easy access to a Catholic Church, local community members approached Archbishop Purcell about establishing a Catholic Church of their own. On April 20, 1868 Archbishop Purcell approved the purchase of land for a church. They bought a plot owned by the heirs of William Corry, a very early mayor (1815-1819) of Cincinnati who invested in land outside the city.

On July 5, 1868 the cornerstone for a new church was laid. This was not, however, the same St. George Church that we think of today. The original church was a much simpler building with three stories. The ground floor was the church, and the top floors were for a school. It was merely two years later, when the parish realized that they built a church much too small for a quickly growing community. Then came the planning of the beautiful St. George Church

with which we are familiar with today, designed by prominent Cincinnati architect Samuel Hannaford. On a lot just to the west of the existing church and school, the cornerstone for the "New" St. George was laid on October 13, 1872. It was designed in a Roman-Byzantine style. The new church was dedicated on June 28, 1874. This time it was built on a large scale, ensuring the parish would not out grow it.

What became of the original church? Believe it or not, it actually lasted 79 years. It continued to be used as the parish school throughout the late 1800's, until a new parish school was built in 1915. This "new" school is now the Corryville Catholic School in existence today. The old original church/school then continued life as the Archdiocese Teacher's College. In 1947 it was torn down in order to fulfill the growing need for parking for

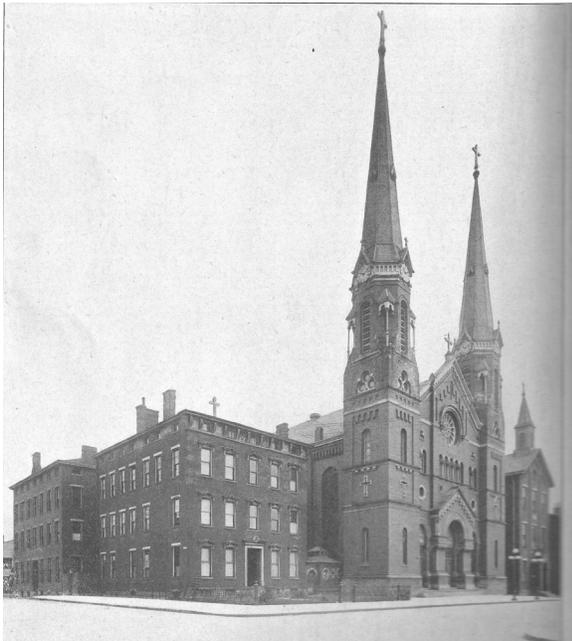


parishioners.

Just on the west side of Saint George Church is the combination rectory/friary where the pastors have lived over the years, as well as a community of Franciscan Friars. From its beginning Franciscan priests have been running the parish of St. George. Several other Catholic orders have also been heavily involved with the parish school. The Sisters of Notre Dame taught at St. George School since 1877. They are still on the staff at Corryville Catholic today.

Also, the Brothers of Mary, (Marianists) based in Dayton, Ohio, taught the classes of older boys at the school for much of St. George's School history. They were provided a house to live in next to the old church/school.

The existing beautiful rectory and friary buildings we see today were not the original parish buildings on this site. They are actually the last main buildings built on the former parish grounds, having been built in 1929. Before 1929, there were at least two large three story buildings on the site of the rectory building. Further research is needed to discover whether these were actually parish buildings or private



buildings.

In 1989, due to a shortage of available priests, as well as the declining membership at St. George, it was decided to merge the parishes of St. George with St. Monica. On July 27, 1993 the last mass was celebrated at St. George. The archdiocese then sold the church to the nonprofit Christian Ministries Center. After facing financial troubles, they in turn sold the church to the Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation who eventually found a willing purchaser dedicated to saving and renovating the church, Crossroads Church.

references:

- Saint George Church, a parish book made for the celebration of the 100 anniversary of the parish. (South Hackensak, New Jersey: Custombook Inc., 1968)
- Souvenir St. George New Parish School, a parish souvenir magazine celebrating the dedication of the

new parish school in 1915

- Old St. George Church, UC Historical Walking Tour, Google Sites pictures:
- St. George Catholic Church, St. George Catholic Church, Slideshare.net, LinkedIn Corporation
- Souvenir St. George New Parish School



CUF Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes September 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:35pm, by Linda Ziegler.

Guests:

- Officer Jim Vestring, UC Police Department
- Fran Larkin, UC Student for the Center for Community Engagement – CPS Town Hall Meeting Report
- Daniel Cummins, UC Assistant Dean of Students
- Lindsay Wright, Program Coordinator for Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Tom Reese, Service Area Coordinator (Clifton Recreation Center)

Safety Updates:

There was no fire department report.

- Officer Hageman gave District 5 report. Crime continues to go down. Calhoun and West McMillan Streets are being closed for about 9 hours around UC football games and FCC matches for safety reasons.
- Officer Vestring gave the UC police report. He was joined by Daniel Cummins and Lindsay Wright. Officer Vestring introduced Sgt. Brian McKeal. There are currently 15 addresses on UC's Problem Properties list. UC's Live Safe app may be downloaded to get safety updates from the University. For game day parking problems, call 556-1111. For complaints about Greek parties, call 911, the CPD's non-emergency number (765-1212), or UC

(556-1111), depending on the severity of the situation. The UC volunteer group, Clean Up Cincy, announced a cleanup for Saturday, 8 October.

Reports, Announcements:

- Fran Larkin reported on issues related to CPS's Town Hall Meeting in June, and mentioned that a new neighborhood elementary school is still in discussion.

- Tom Reese spoke on behalf of the Cincinnati Recreation Department, saying that he was not sure why the baseball fields at Fairview Park have been removed.

- CUFNA made a contribution of \$1000 to Artworks in recognition of their mural program, including the new murals on Central Parkway near Marshall Avenue in CUF. Adriatico's and Mac's provided 2 lunches each to the mural painters.

- KCB and the Sheriff's Department need \$52,000 per year to continue the work-release cleanup program.

- Cincinnati Parks' Fall Re-leaf program is Saturday, 8 October.

Reports:

Old Business:

• Planning Commission meeting Friday, 30 September 2016, 9am to discuss and vote on the University Area Impact solutions study, and to consider and vote on extending IDC #77, for another 6 Months.

Announcements:

• Clean Up Cincy 2016: Saturday, 8 October.

Join a team at:

<http://tinyurl.com/cleanupcincy16>

- Next General Meeting: 18 October 2016

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30pm

Minutes submitted by Jack Martin

Financial Report 9/16

Balance on Sept 1, 2016	\$2121.36
Income:	
Dues	30.00
NSP	6800.00
Total	6830.00
Expenses:	
	0.00
Total	0.00
Balance on Aug 31, 2016	\$ 8591.36

New homeowners assistance

First-time home buyers have another reason to consider purchasing in the Uptown area, thanks to a new down payment assistance program from Uptown Consortium and The Homeownership Center of Greater Cincinnati.

The incentivized program offers more than 50 down payment assistance grants, each for \$1,500 per buyer, to those purchasing a home in Mt. Auburn, Clifton, Corryville, Avondale and Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview Heights (CUF). Homebuyers who have not owned a home in Cincinnati in the last three years are eligible to apply, and must live in the home for five years as an owner-occupant. The grants can be applied to down payments, closing costs and out of pocket costs.

President and CEO of The Home Ownership Center of Greater Cincinnati Rick Williams noted that home ownership will always be important to neighborhoods. The "Live Uptown" Down Payment Assistance Program connects new home buyers to five historic neighborhoods located near several great Cincinnati institutions that are some of the largest employers in the city.

The program is supported by four participating lenders: Huntington Bank, Third Federal Savings and Loan, Union Savings and US Bank.

To learn more information about the Down Payment Assistance Program, contact The Homeownership Center at (513) 961-2800.

Body camera survey

After months of seeking feedback and engaging stakeholders, the City of Cincinnati is releasing an administrative policy and set of procedures that will govern the City's new Body Worn Camera (BWC) program.

This is an important document because this policy will determine how the Cincinnati Police Department will use, manage, store, release and retain BWC video and audio files.

The BWC Policy and Procedure is posted on the City's website and along with a brief survey. The City asks any interested parties to review the document and provide feedback.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPD-BWC>

City offering new and improved landlord training program

When landlords and tenants work together to keep rental properties maintained and illegal activity out, neighborhoods thrive. That is why the Cincinnati Police Department and the Department of Buildings and Inspections have partnered to expand the free landlord training program, which provides landlords around Cincinnati the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of rental property ownership.

The Landlord Training Program is also designed to help owners and managers keep illegal drug activity, chronic nuisance activity, and other criminal activity off their property. The program has been adapted for Cincinnati and is based on the National Landlord Training Program, which is supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice. Funding for this series of trainings is provided by the City of Cincinnati.

The content of the course has been developed through a process of intensive research involving hundreds of organizations and individuals: landlords, management associations, private attorneys, public defenders, housing authority personnel, tenant screening companies, narcotics detectives, district officers, and many others. The program has won the approval of active landlords and concerned tenants alike.

The Landlord Training Program will now be offered ten months out of the year beginning in January 2017. The training is presented in two parts during an all-day training session. For a full list of trainings and to register for the upcoming training on Wednesday, October 19 go to <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/landlord> or call Michelle Faulkner at 513-352-1472.

Cincinnati Poet Laureate



From the Paddock Hills Newsletter: Paddock Hills resident Pauletta Hansel has been named Cincinnati's first Poet Laureate. Ms. Hansel is a poet, memoirist, teacher and arts administrator who has lived in

Cincinnati since 1979.

To become the Poet Laureate, the poet

must have written poetry that exemplifies the characteristics or spirit of Cincinnati. As the Poet Laureate she will promote poetry appreciation, encourage the reading and writing of poetry throughout the city, as well as compose and read poems for special events.

Pauletta is the author of five poetry collections, and her writing has been featured in numerous literary journals. She has served as Writer in Residence at Thomas More College and is currently Writer in Residence at WordPlay, a literary and literacy organization for younger writers in Cincinnati. She leads community writing workshops and retreats in the Greater Cincinnati area and beyond. She is a current editor of Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel, the literary publication of the Southern Appalachian Writers Cooperative.

For upcoming events, see the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1767490103507841/events/>

ArtWorks

Please note, that our Canal Days mural dedication has been rescheduled from Saturday, October 16th to Wednesday, November 2nd at 5pm. More details about this special event will be coming soon.

Findlay Market recognition

The City of Cincinnati would like to spotlight the fact that Cincinnati's Findlay Market has been designated as one of the 2016 American Planning Association's Great Places in America! The organization announced on Monday that Findlay Market has been named one of five Great Public Spaces on their annual "Great Places in America" list for 2016. The announcement can be found at <https://www.planning.org/greatplaces/spaces/2016/findlaymarket/>.

There will be an official celebration event at Findlay Market on Friday, October 14th at 1:00 p.m. During this event, representatives from the American Planning Association, Vice Mayor David Mann, and Department of City Planning Director Charles C. Graves III will present Findlay Market with their official award. We invite you to come out and join us for this exciting event and stay to enjoy Cincinnati's nationally recognized Findlay Market!

City of Cincinnati, Department of City Planning

Little lizards

If you're hiking around Cincinnati on a warm sunny day and spot a lizard scurrying over rock walls or rocky slopes, it's likely to be the non-native European wall lizard (*Podarcis muralis*). However, if you ask a Cincinnati to identify the lizard, they will most likely call it the



"Lazarus lizard." This is one of the lizards capable of

detaching their tail to survive a predator's attack; a defense mechanism known as autotomy. However, the local common name "Lazarus" has nothing to do with dropping a tail to rise again. It's associated with the Lazarus family best known in Ohio for their connections with department stores.

In 1951, 10-year-old George Rau Jr., stepson of Fred Lazarus III, came across European wall lizards scurrying across rocky slopes while on a family vacation to Lake Garda in northern Italy located about 30 miles east of Milan. George smuggled a few (6 to 10 depending on the reference source) through customs to release them at his family's home on Torrence Court in the suburb of Hyde Park just east of Cincinnati.

The climate in Milan is almost identical to Cincinnati and there are plenty of rocky habitats in southwest Ohio to accommodate the lizard's needs. The European wall lizards thrived and became so numerous that Torrence Court is still sometimes referred to as "Lizard Hill." The burgeoning Italian expats were locally renamed "Lazarus lizards" in misplaced recognition of their perceived patrons. Of course, they should have been named "George's Lizards."

While the lizard story may seem like local lore, George Rau wrote a letter in 1989 to herpetologists at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History detailing his role as the lizard trailblazer. He also repeated his story in several interviews with the news media. Research conducted by Cassandra Homan for her M.S. Thesis ("Bottlenecks and Microhabitat Preference in Invasive Wall Lizard, *Podarcis muralis*." University of Cincinnati, 2013) added credibility to Rau's claim. She compared genetic samples collected from the Cincinnati lizards and from the source population in Europe and confirmed a substantial loss of genetic diversity indicating a genetic bottleneck. Her computer simulations suggested the

bottleneck was likely associated with only three individuals serving as the founders of the Cincinnati populations.

The European wall lizards mostly feed on insects which mean they no doubt compete with one or more of our four lizard and skink species (order Squamata, suborder Lacertilia) native to Ohio. The non-native lizards are now found in pockets throughout much of Cincinnati and parts of the adjoining states of Kentucky and Indiana. Although their spread has been patchy owing to their requirement of rocky terrain or stone walls on south-facing slopes in order to survive winters, localized population densities may be as high as 1,500 per acre.

Indeed, the species has been so successful in colonizing southwest Ohio, it is now included in the Ohio Revised Code. You will find "European wall lizard (*Podarcis muralis*)" listed among the names of native reptiles protected by law (Chapter 1531: Division of Wildlife; 1531.01 Division of wildlife definitions). A rare achievement for a non-native animal.

Source: Joe Boggs- Buckeye Lawn & Garden Online

THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY
FALL FUN
FEST

2016 MONDAY, OCTOBER 31ST
6:00 PM - 8:00PM
(During Trick or Treat Hours)

-CARNIVAL GAMES *more FUN than scary!*
-CRAFTS **FREE!**
-PRIZES
-WEAR YOUR COSTUMES
-CANDY!

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH,
245 W MCMILLAN (CORNER OF
ROHS STREET AND W MCMILLAN -
BY HUGHES HIGH SCHOOL)



**CLIFTON HEIGHTS
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
FAIRVIEW
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

2364 West McMicken Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

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Funded by the City of Cincinnati



CUF membership



Any person subscribing to the purpose of the CUF Neighborhood Association, Inc. and paying dues set by the Association may become a member. Election of Trustees is held at the annual meeting in July. Eligible voters are residents of the community who are at least 18 years of age and who are fully paid members of the Association and who have attended three general meetings after payment of dues during the year prior to the annual meeting. Non-resident members have voice but no vote in Association meetings and may not hold elective office. Annual CUF dues are \$6.00.

- CUF general meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month, except August and December, 7:30 p.m, Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria, 311 Straight Street
- CUF Trustee meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m, Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria, 311 Straight Street
- CUF annual meeting and election: 3rd Tuesday in July, 7:30 pm, Deaconess Hospital Cafeteria, 311 Straight Street

CUF Neighborhood Association
2364 West McMicken Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Membership Type:

Voting Membership: CUF resident _____

Non-voting Membership: _____

CUF organization: _____

CUF business owner: _____

Non-resident: _____

Non-resident property owner: _____

Membership fee: \$6.00 per year.
Make checks payable to CUFNA.

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