

## History lesson

Meet our meeting place  
— it's an OTR treasure —

The building which today houses Philippus United Church of Christ was dedicated in the winter of 1891 as Philippus Kirche, but the congregation traces its roots back to 1814.

It was then part of St. John's German Protestant Church. In 1881, a faction broke off from St. John's and began worshipping as St. Matthew United Evangelical German Church.

In 1890, the pastor introduced material into Sunday School lessons to which the church board objected. As a result, the pastor and 170 members of the congregation founded their own church and dedicated the building pictured in 1891, which houses an organ donated by local German-American beer baron Christian Moerlein. Because of the increasing animosity toward Germans and German-Americans as a result of the



First World War, the congregation was forced to switch to using English most of the time in 1921, although services in German were held through 1983. Under Rev. Sam Wyatt, the church remains vital to its community today.

This history is reprinted from the University of Cincinnati's "The Sacred Spaces of Greater Cincinnati and the German Influence."

## Announcing our 2016 Spencer Awards

Cincinnatus Association will once again honor the legacy and contributions of Marian and Donald Spencer with awards named for the "first couple of civil rights in Cincinnati." The awards recognize conspicuous and enduring contributions to creating greater inclusion and promoting diversity in our community. The 2016 awardees are:

- **Individual:** Dr. Bleuzette Marshall, Chief Diversity Officer, University of Cincinnati.
- **Nonprofit:** The Ohio Innocence Project.
- **Business:** The PNC Financial Services Group.

The Spencers' lives are full of firsts. Donald, who died in 2010, was the first African American on the Cincinnati Park Board; the first African American broker on the Cincinnati Board of Realtors; and the first African-American trustee at

Ohio University. Marian, whose contributions continue, integrated Coney Island so her children could swim there. She was the first African-American president of Woman's City Club and the first African-American woman to serve on the Cincinnati City Council. Donald was a longtime Cincinnatus member, and Cincinnatus made both permanent honorary members in 2007.

Cincinnatus will present the 2nd Annual Spencer Awards at a dinner on May 10, starting at 5:30pm at Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, 35 West Fifth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

Tickets are \$60 each (\$40 for Cincinnatus members). Sponsorships ranging from \$250 to \$3,000 are available as well. Learn more at [cincinnatiassoc.org/spencer-awards.html](http://cincinnatusassoc.org/spencer-awards.html).

## DECISIONS, DECISIONS

### BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER?

As you have no doubt noticed, we've been experimenting with meeting times. Our old "dinner club" model is giving way to maybe breakfast, maybe lunch, maybe hors d'oeuvres. Which best suits you? At each meeting, we have comment cards. Tell us what you think on those cards or by email.

In the coming months, the Executive Committee will have to decide on a primary format of location and time. We do not want to be jumping around as much in the future. If you have not had a chance to express your opinions on locations and times, please do.

**SPENCER AWARDS:** You can read the announcement on this page, but I want to encourage all members to attend this fantastic event.

I left last year so very proud to be a Cincinnatus member and in seeing a new program implemented that is not only first class, but making an important contribution to our community. Please attend, bring friends, and consider a sponsorship.

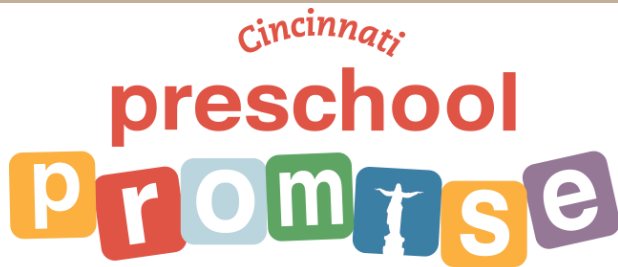
Also, say a word of thanks to our member **Susan Noonan**, and her team, who have worked especially hard on this important initiative. Tip your hat to her and her great team.

**PROGRAMMING:** There has been some strategy in our meeting agendas lately. These have been centered on educating us on issues related to poverty and our new three-year focus. We are building to a new program year where we will be focused on how we are going to impact the problems and have metrics to judge our performance.

Today's meeting with **Ross Meyer** of United Way should provide the first step in getting an important players' perspective on our role in the issues related to poverty. We will continue to narrow this as we keep learning.

Reach Bob at [schrage10@gmail.com](mailto:schrage10@gmail.com).

## THE PRESCHOOL PROMISE: A CONTINUING PRIORITY



## PRESCHOOL MATTERS!

[www.cincy-promise.org](http://www.cincy-promise.org)

**High-quality preschool programs represent a significant investment of resources, but that investment may be paid back through improved outcomes during the school-age years and beyond, according to a new RAND Corporation study(\*).**

The analysis of evaluation findings from 15 full-scale preschool programs implemented at the national, state and local levels indicates high-quality programs produce meaningful gains in school readiness, along with such long-term benefits as lower rates of special education use, reduced grade repetition and higher high school graduation rates.

Based on these short-term and longer-term impacts, credible estimates of the economic return for full-scale high-quality preschool programs range from \$2-\$4 for every \$1 invested.

"Our goal was to compile the most-reliable research evidence concerning whether publicly funded, high-quality preschool programs — implemented under real-world conditions — benefit participating children and whether the associated economic costs and benefits generate favorable economic returns," said Lynn Karoly, lead author of the study and senior economist at RAND.

The research indicates that high-quality preschool programs can be effective under a range of alternative designs, including universal or enrolling a targeted group of children, part-day or

full-day, and serving children for one or two years before they begin kindergarten.

A consistent finding from evaluations of universal programs is that children across the income spectrum may benefit from high-quality preschool, but the impact tends to be larger for more-disadvantaged children.

Researchers address the evidence that the benefits of preschool participation fade out over time. A careful review of the evaluations with longer-term follow-up shows that the differences in achievement scores between preschool program participants and nonparticipants tends to narrow as they advance through the elementary grades. However, there are sustained gains in other areas of school performance, including lower rates of special education use, reduced grade repetition and higher rates of high school graduation.

RAND researchers suggest that improving alignment between preschool and early elementary grades may help sustain the initial boost in cognitive and noncognitive skills .

### (\* ) - ABOUT THIS REPORT & HOW TO LEARN MORE

*Cincinnati continues to play a key role in furthering the Preschool Promise, an initiative that has special importance to our anti-poverty focus. With that in mind, we wanted to share excerpts above from the RAND Corporation about its important study of preschool's value. The study was released last month and received some media attention locally. It had support from the Cincinnati Business Committee, the Cincinnati Regional Business Committee and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati. Read the full report at [http://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR1461.html](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1461.html). The report is titled "Informing Investments in Preschool Quality and Access in Cincinnati: Evidence of Impacts and Economic Returns from National, State, and Local Preschool Programs."*

## Membership report and a call to action

We have 111 members: 63 active, 33 service roll, 12 inactive, and 3 honorary. But the important number is zero. That's our new member count for the past 3 months. We need to change that! You are our best source of new members. Take a look at our membership toolkit online.

## A reminder: Bring a canned good

For 2016, the Executive Committee is encouraging members and guests to bring a donation of non-perishable goods to our regular meetings. These will be given to **Cincinnati Area Senior Services (CASS)**. CASS services allow senior to age with dignity and independence, staying at home among friends and family. The CASS mission aligns with our strategic focus on poverty and opportunity.

## Celebrating local gov't cooperation

Cincinnati is partnering with the Cincinnati chapter of the **American Society for Public Administration** to present the chapter's first Regional Government Cooperation Award. The presentation will be during a lunch at the Phoenix on April 20. Our Government Panel has worked on this collaboration with ASPA. Stay tuned to learn who won and why. Or attend the lunch and hear the news firsthand. RSVP at [aspagcc@gmail.com](mailto:aspagcc@gmail.com)

## Heroin: How can we win this fight?

Author **Sam Quinones** was at Xavier University in November, and made a deep impression on those who heard him speak about heroin. Since then, his book, *Dreamland: True Tales of America's Opiate Epidemic*, has won the National Book Critics Circle Award for best nonfiction book of 2015 and become a leading resource for understanding the epidemic. He'll be back in our region on April 18 for a public lecture at Northern Kentucky University, 7-9 p.m.. **RSVP** at [hicinfo.nku.edu/events.html](http://hicinfo.nku.edu/events.html)