

“Fall Fundraising Blitz”

(a public radio parody)

November 12, 2017 (Stewardship Sunday)

Hyattstown Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Co-anchor: Pastor Jeff (JS)

Co-anchor: Gail (GH)

Station Manager: Debbie (DF)

News Reporter: Hugh (HH)

Marketing Manager: Matthew (MD)

Hostess of Talk Show: Debboe (DB)

JS: Good morning again, friends. We’re back...and we’re local...we’re live...and we’re LOVE!

GH: And we’re in our Fall Fundraising Blitz at Hyattstown Christian Church. Good morning folks!

JS: Fall is the traditional time to talk “Stewardship”, and we are not going to be the exception!

GH: Jeff, we should remind our audience that we don’t have a dollar goal for this hour, although clearly we hope that people will follow their hearts and generously support their church.

JS: That’s right Gail, the goal this hour is to further engage our church family in the mission and ministry that we know is important to them—perhaps among their highest priorities. But if you just won the lottery, call 301-831-8184, or email us at hytcc@comcast.net. We’re local...we’re live...and we’re LOVE!

GH: You know, everyone is busy these days. There aren’t enough hours in the day, and the nights are too short. I know. I do a lot of volunteer work. I help out a lot of my friends. I organize a theatre camp every summer. And I pick up after Hugh around our house!

JS: I’m sure that in itself could be a full time job!

GH: So I look forward to coming to the church on Sunday, and other times, too. HCC gives me perspective, nurtures my faith in God, and keeps me grounded in life.

JS: To find perspective...to be nurtured...to feel grounded...call 301-831-8184, or email us at hytcc@comcast.net. We’re local...we’re live...and we’re LOVE!

GH: You know Jeff, during our Fall Fundraising Blitz, we're fortunate to have other devoted HCC folks drop in to say a few words, and right now with us is our Station Manager Debbie Flook. Hi Debbie!

JS: Join us Debbie. What would you tell the audience about why they should be engaged in HCC?

DF: I'd tell them "It's all about Christian service!" To Eddie and me, it's all about servant leadership. We've been together for over 175 years! And...

JS: You and Eddie? 175 years?

DF: No...no...this church and the Hyattstown community!

JS: I was gonna say—I bet you feel like it's been 175 years with Eddie!

DF: It's all about the community—Hyattstown and beyond! Eddie and I raised a family here. It's People like us that started HCC, because they believed that followers of Jesus should all be one, so they wanted to learn more about God, and how to live like Jesus, by studying the scriptures, and reaching out to people in need, whether close to home or far away.

GH: When you stop to think, it's amazing that we are still doing what started here 175 years ago!!

DF: What keeps us focused on that mission, I believe, is that we sit at the Lord's Table every time we gather for worship. And anyone is welcome to sit with us. We just hosted a memorial service for one of our beloved members, and 80 some people were here, and everyone was served communion together. Jesus would not turn anyone away, and neither do we!

JS: Thanks Debbie! That's an impressive message about why people should be engaged in HCC! Call 301-831-8184, or email us at hytcc@comcast.net. We're local...we're live...and we're love!

GH: Debbie used a very appropriate word, I think.

JS: What word?

GH: "Together". It's true: We are stronger together!

JS: Where'd you get that line!

GH: We can't be the church God hopes us to be if we are not ALL engaged! I pray that each member and friend of HCC understands that our mission cannot be fully realized without them.

JS: I see what you mean. It is a personal decision to be engaged...but we ARE stronger together!

GH: Call 301-831-8184, or email us at hytcc@comcast.net. We're local...we're live...and we're love!

JS: I feel like a fraud.

GH: Why?

JS: Because sometimes I get so tired of those darn emails!

GH: We're local...we're live...we're LOVE!

JS: And now we're being joined by our veteran reporter. Welcome Hugh Howard!

GH: Hugh our mission is local, but it is also much more than that!

HH: That's right. It's far-reaching! Most importantly, HCC is a part of the Christian Church of the Capital Area, unifying all the Disciples congregations in this region, and beyond that, we are a part of the national Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), headquartered in Indianapolis.

GH: So tell our audience more about how our mission and ministry is expressed.

HH: For years we've been helping to feed the hungry in Frederick County. We're known as the "lasagna church"! That's local. In this region, just as one example, we actively support the camping programs at Bethany Beach and Mary Mac. We recently had a retreat at Bethany Beach on the Eastern Shore. And we regularly take up special offerings that our denomination sponsors to assist victims of homelessness, economic hardship, and disasters like hurricanes Irma and Maria. That's our ministry extended world-wide.

JS: So HCC members and friends are engaged with people they will never meet.

HH: Our benevolence makes a difference to somebody somewhere, and we're good stewards of the contributions that people make.

JS: Thanks Hugh! We're MORE than local...we're live...and we're love!

GH: Call 301-831-8184, or email us at hytcc@comcast.net. I was thinking...

JS: That can be dangerous...

GH: I was thinking that if people would recall their very first experience at HCC...or a time in their life that was especially difficult...or a time that was especially happy or peaceful...maybe those images would sometimes be connected with HCC. It's like: What part of HCC belongs to you?

JS: It's like: HCC is reliable, dependable, trustworthy. Can HCC count on you?

GH: Well I know that we can count on this next guest in our Fall Fundraising Blitz! She's host of our most popular talk show. Debbie Blair, tell us about you and HCC!

DB: I hope everyone will take a minute to think about what they get out of being engaged at HCC. It's probably different for each of us. Music? Sermons? Communion? Religious holidays? Pastoral counseling? Mission? Special events?

JS: What is it for you, Debbie?

DB: Well, it's all of that, and more. HCC offers me an opportunity to think about the uniqueness of my faith experience, especially how my faith applies to the complex issues of life. And HCC has offered another thing that I treasure: Fellowship. My family and I have been blessed with genuine friendships since the Sunday we walked in the door. I received so much support when my dad died this year. HCC was a calm comfort when I needed it. The church is my extended family.

GH: Thanks Debbie. See folks? We're local...we're live...and we're LOVE!

JS: To get engaged at HCC, call 301-831-8184, or email us at hytcc@comcast.net.

GH: So I was thinking.

JS: Uh oh! Here we go again!

GH: What might be reasons that people come up with for not being engaged?

JS: Like what?"

GH: Like: "I don't really need the church in my day to day life".

JS: Nasty woman!

GH: Like: "Someone else can do it".

JS: Nasty man!

GH: Like: "God will take care of the church...HCC doesn't really need me".

JS: Nasty woman! Nasty man!

MD: You called?

GH: Our Marketing Manager, Matthew Dohm! Thanks for stopping by!

MD: I just want to inject some excitement in our Fall Fundraising Blitz. I've come up with a few new slogans!

JS and GH (together): What are they?

MD: "Our church helps and heals! It's no FLOOK!"

JS and GH (together): Groan!

MD: "HOWARD you doing today? If HUGH aren't sure, come to church!"

JS and GH (together): Groan!

MD: "HCC is here for you! DE-BIE a place for you! BLAIR it from the mountain tops!

JS and GH (together): Groan!

MD: “Don’t be DOHM. Come to church! The welcome MATT is always out!

JS and GH (together): Groan!

GH: Don’t you have another job?

MD: I’m a professional musician!

JS: I think you better stick to the keyboards!

(Debbie enters with a note)

GH: Wait...Our station manager, has just handed me a note...Thanks Debbie.

JS: What does it say, Gail. Can you read it on the air?

GH: It says that we have just received a pledge that will match any contribution to HCC of a material or spiritual nature—a one to one match for any monetary gift or any act of kindness...

JS: Wow! Any material or spiritual contribution doubled! Is it conditioned?

GH: No! The note says it’s good up to...infinity! And it’s in effect...now! Today!

JS: WOW! Is the matching pledge anonymous?

GH: NO! The matching pledge is from...God!!

JS and GH (together): We’re more than local...we’re live...and we’re LOVE!