



# The Celtic Cross

January 2010

## Letter from the Co-Pastors

Dearly Beloved:

We often describe ourselves as a four-generation congregation, because unlike some congregations, we truly are a multi-generation congregation. Last September we preached a four-part series entitled “Generation to Generation.” That preaching series dealt with a number of faith issues that are common to all of the generations. For example, we found that when we met with each generation and asked, “What is the best thing about being your age?”, nearly everyone spoke of some aspect of freedom, whether it is the freedom of a drivers’ license, or the freedom of retirement. Conversely, when we asked, “What is the worst thing about being your age?”, nearly all of you spoke of limits, whether it was parental restrictions or physical limitations.

There is much that is common to our lives and faith journeys, no matter what age we are. But being of different generations also poses challenges. We have grown up in different times and have had different experiences. We are at different stages of life with different responsibilities, challenges, opportunities, and questions. Not surprisingly, we often dress differently, have different musical tastes, different struggles and blessings in our faith journeys, and different expectations concerning the church. While it is a blessing and gift to have these differences, it would also help if we could better understand each other and see the world through each others’ eyes.

Beginning January 10, two of the adult classes will be combining to explore together how we might “bridge the generations” and get a better glimpse of each generation’s challenges and perspectives. We will have a variety of speakers, including church staff, church members and outside speakers in what we hope will be a fruitful time together. We will look at the different stages and passages that most, if not all, adults go through. We will look at how the times have changed and how that has impacted different generations differently. And we will take a closer look at what the world and God look like to younger adults, middle aged adults, and older adults.

We undertake this exploration together not just to have some extra psychological and sociological knowledge, but so that we will grow in our faith and in our understanding of those around us who make up different generations—whether it is our parents or children, our co-workers or neighbors, or our brothers and sisters in this congregation.

If you are not already involved in a Sunday School class, come and join us. The more the merrier! “From generation to generation, we will recount your praise.”

See you Sunday,  
Carter and Kerry

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## Worship Matters

### **Sunday Mornings at First Presbyterian**

9:15 Sunday School for all ages; 10:30 Service of the Lord's Day; 11:45 Fellowship Time

**January 3**—Service of the Lord's Day  
Rev. J. Max Creswell, preaching  
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**January 10**—Service of the Lord's Day  
Cherub choir sings

**January 17**—Service of the Lord's Day  
Celtic Choir Sings

**January 24**—Service of the Lord's Day

**January 31**—Service of the Lord's Day  
Annual Meeting of the Congregation followed by Mission luncheon

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## Music Notes

It's hard to believe the holidays are past and the bleak midwinter is upon us. I want to thank these people who helped make the season bright and possible: Barb Fletcher and her elves for the Coventry Singers reception, Leanne Campbell and the quartet for the Service of Wholeness, Jo Ann Bathurst for the pageant, Scott Sample and Meredith Creswell for their help with the Christmas Eve service, the Handbell choir, Westminster Choir and Chancel Choir for all their hours of practice and Deb Voytko for her amazing talent.

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, Leanne Campbell, will accompany the Chancel Choir on flute. Later in the month the Handbell choir will play a lovely rendition of "I Am The Bread of Life."

If you enjoyed our Christmas music and have been thinking about joining choir, now is a good time. Don't be shy! Rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7:30-9:00 in the choir room. Hope to see you then.

—Diane Lane, Director of Music

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## Dr. King Community Worship Service, Sunday, January 17 at 3 p.m.

First Presbyterian is joining other congregations for a community worship service on Sunday, January 17 at 3 p.m. The service will recognize the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and is designed to promote unity in greater Pottstown. As of the *Celtic Cross* deadline, we do not know which congregation will serve as host, but watch the Sunday bulletin for updated details. Please join us!

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## Gathering the Final Pieces of the Puzzle!

The Stewardship Committee will present a final report to the Session in January so that the Session can prepare a budget for the new year. Thank you to all those who have made financial commitments for 2010. If you have not turned in a pledge card yet, please do so by January 10 so that we can know what we can support as a church in 2010.

## Upcoming Events

### Annual Meeting of the Congregation—January 31, following worship

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 31 following worship. The agenda for the meeting includes:

- Election of deacons and elders; (the list to be presented by the Nominating Committee will be listed in the Sunday worship bulletins in January, beginning January 10);
- Election of at-large members of the Nominating Committee;
- Vote on any proposed changes to the salary, benefits, or vacation leave for the co-pastors;
- Hear a financial report for 2009 and be presented with the 2010 budget approved by Session;
- Receive the annual written reports of the committees and ministries on the congregation;
- And hear about a significant bequest made to the church.

The meeting will not last long, but we will consider some important matters. Please join us for this annual exercise of democracy and faith.

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### January 31 Mission Luncheon to Hear about “Living Waters for the World”

**STICK AROUND AND WE’LL FEED YOU — *Latino style!*** After the annual meeting of the congregation on Jan. 31, the Mission Committee members would like to tell you about a new ministry which will bring clean water to a village in Honduras. Come! Eat! Listen! Learn! And get excited with the Mission Committee about this new adventure God is setting before us. Sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office, and we’ll set a place for you at the lunch table.

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### Hoagie Sale by Seekers to Raise Money for Mission Trip

Once again, as the super bowl season makes it’s way onto our televisions, the church will be filled with the familiar smell of... Onions, as the Seekers prepare delicious hoagie sandwiches to raise money for the adult mission trip. Watch for the sale, coming your way, at the end of January.

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### New Orleans Mission Trip, February 27/28 to March 6

We are preparing again to send a group of adults to the Gulf Coast for our fifth and presumably final time. We will be working with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in the ongoing rebuilding efforts in New Orleans. The trip is funded through your contributions to the church, as well as by the special fundraising efforts of the Alternative Gift Market and other efforts. Participants are asked to pay one-half of their round trip airfare to New Orleans. If you are interested in going, there is still space available—but not for long. Some people will be flying down on February 27 and some on Sunday, February 28, and all will return on Saturday, March 6. If you have questions or are interested in going, contact Carter, Kerry, or Tom Zeigler.

## Christian Education Opportunities

### Adult Education Opportunities

- **Forum and Faith and Relationships classes (combined) (Community Room)**

**January 3: Life and a Church on a Maine Island**

Max and Meredith Cresswell talk about life on Swan Island in Maine and the church they serve there as pastor and choir director.

**January 10: “Bridging the Generations: Life Stages and Faith Questions”**

Dr. Debra Sutton of the Middleton Center of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church will talk about the stages that all adults go through from young adults to death and discuss the issues, challenges, opportunities, and faith questions that arise along the way.

**January 17: “Bridging the Generations: How Each Generation Has Its Unique Experience and Perspective”**

What do we share in common as “pre-boomers,” “boomers,” and “generation X” and how do we differ? How has life changed for us all? What are the implications for a congregation with four generations? Carter will lead the discussion.

**January 24: “Bridging the Generations: Perspectives, Issues, and Challenges that Young Adults Face”**

Speaker: Olivia Stewart Robertson

**January 31: “Bridging the Generations: Perspectives, Issues, and Challenges that Middle Aged Adults Face”**

Speaker: Dr. Phillip Webber

- **Men’s Sunday Mornings (Pastor’s Conference Room) Teacher: Bernarr Rhoades**  
Topic: Moses
- **Women’s Sunday Mornings (Mary Ann Yost Room—110) Teacher: Amy Shutt**

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### Weekday Opportunities

- **Thursday Women’s Bible Study:** Meets January 7 and 21 from 9:30–10:30. Teachers: Rev. Max Cresswell and Ron Gower.
- **“Sisters of the Way” Bible Study:** 9:15-10:45 a.m. every Thursday. Teacher: Kerry
- **Evening Bible Study:** 7:30—8:30 PM on Tuesday, January 5 and 19. Teacher: Carter
- **Moms’ Circle:** Meets Wednesday, Wednesday, January 20, 9:15-11:00 a.m. at Sheila Dugan’s house, 71 N. Hanover Street. Teacher: Kerry Bring your children!
- **Praying the Scriptures (Lectio Divina) Group:** Tuesday, January 12 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. Join Kerry and others for a quiet hour of listening deeply to the Scriptures.
- **Theology Reading Group:** Monday, January 25 at 6 p.m. at Carter and Kerry’s house. We will discuss atonement with Dr. Daniel Migliore over dinner. Readings available in the church office.

## Music and Rec

Resumes January 6th, 2009. If you have not been able to make it for the fall semester, come join in for the spring! We will meet at the usual time, 4:30 to 5:45. We can't wait to see you all there!

## Sunday School Attendance Recognition—Sunday, January 10th

The Christian Education Committee will recognize those children who have had outstanding attendance this past Fall at a special Sunday School gathering in the Fellowship Hall. Before the awards are handed out, each Sunday School class will teach us something they learned in the fall!

**Perfect Attendance**– Will Shutt, Chris Trevoy, Julian Weber, and Emily Weber!

The following Children have outstanding attendance, which means they were only allowed to miss two Sundays this whole semester...

### **2 and 3 yrs.**

Klara Orzechowski  
Zach Lipsky

### **2nd/3rd grade**

Juliana Roseo  
Makena Lurie  
Emily Weber

### **Jr. Seekers**

Cecilia Roseo  
Alexa Lurie

### **Sr. Seekers**

Chris Trevoy  
Cara James  
Elizabeth Lester  
Will Shutt  
Tyler Levin  
Nicole Levin

### **1st Grade-**

Abby Rice  
Rebecca Lipsky

### **4th/5th Grade-**

Julilan Weber

## Confirmation and Seekers' News

### Confirmation

**Sunday, January 10 at 5 p.m.** "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" Discussion  
(combines with Junior Seekers. We will provide pizza at intermission and end about 8)

**Sunday, January 24 at 5 p.m.** Discussion of What Would Jesus Do?

### Junior Seekers, Grades 6-8

**Sunday, January 10 at 5 p.m.** "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe" This will be a combined confirmation/seeker event and all Jr. Seekers are welcome. We will have a discussion after the movie—because it's awesome and there is lot's to talk about— and we'll have pizza and popcorn.

RSVP— Liv Stewart Robertson

**Sunday, January 3 1st-** Plans are underway for a service/fellowship project. We'll send home a calendar and info as soon as things are ready! RSVP— Mike and Mindy Lipsky

**Advisors:** Ken and Holly Lee— 610-547-1563, Mike and Mindy Lipsky— 610-323-5616

### Senior Seekers—Grades 9-12

**A calendar is in the works. We'll send one home as soon as we've finished coming up with the most awesome spring events yet!**

**Advisors:** John and Lisa Livezey (610-326-0490), Chris and John Macdonald (610-987-0529), Donna and Gary Rhoadarmer (610-327-8157), and Trish and Dave Weller (610-970-6481)

## Fellowship Opportunities

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST—Saturday, January 9**

We gather for food and fellowship this month on Saturday, January 10 from 8 to 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Paul Lepard is this month's chef. Come join Carter and the guys for fellowship, fun, devotions, and prayer.

### **PRIME TIMERS**

**Monday, January 11, Noon:** Potluck lunch and movie at the church.

**Sunday, February 21, 5:00 p.m.:** Potluck dinner and hymn sing at the church. The whole Church is invited to this event. Look in next month's *Celtic Cross* for more details.

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

**Tuesday, January 12—7:00 p.m. in the Library**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry makes shawls (knitted and fleece) to wrap someone in love and comfort. If you would like to help join us as the new year begins on Tuesday, January 12. If you would like to request a prayer shawl, contact Jane Barndt.

### **YOUNG ADULTS**

Our monthly movable feast of dinner, fellowship, and discussion returns to the Vedocks, 58 Gehringer Road, Barto. Date to be decided. Check with Carter or Kerry for the details or if you have any questions.

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## Thank You to Those Who "Tidy Up" the Sanctuary

We are grateful to those who come in each week to "tidy up" the sanctuaries, replenish the "worship bags," and help us to show good hospitality to all of those who join us for worship on Sundays. Please thank Jean Sweeney, Kathy Benning, Marilyn Becker, and Faye Bush if you see them. If you would like to help in this simple, but important, ministry, contact the church office.

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## Deacons' Bench: Can You Give a Ride to a Church Member?

Some church members can no longer drive and need a ride for Sunday worship? Can you be part of a rotation to provide a ride to someone who does not live very far from you? Leigh Chancler coordinates the rides on behalf of the Deacons. If you can help, contact Leigh, or the pastors.

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## From the Community Bulletin Board: Volunteers Needed

Men and women can volunteer to give hope. Befriend one person on their mental health recovery journey. Two men, ages 35 and 50 live in North Coventry. One lady, age 59 lives in St. Peter's Village. Each person hopes to meet a same-gender Compeer Friend. Join other Presbyterians who have served as a Compeer volunteer. You will be trained. If you are interested in serving, contact Compeer at 610-436-4445 or [www.compeerchesco.org](http://www.compeerchesco.org).

## Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following members who have been ill or hospitalized recently: Jean Hollenbach, Norm Vanderlick, Joyce Swick, Sara Grim, Lu Gaut, and Peg Deegan.

We send our condolences to Suzanne Fritsch and family upon the death of husband, Joe.

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### **Thank you! Thank you!**

- Leigh Chancler, Jen and Rob Drago, Herb Barndt and members of the Decorating and Fellowship Committees for coordinating the Hanging of the Greens.
- Leigh Chancler, Bill Dupree, Mim DeRenzo, John Livezey, Gary Rhoadarmer, Sandro Roseo, the Deacons and the cast of thousands who brought us the Deacons' Breakfast;
- Tom Hudson and Sara and Don Grim who coordinated the December PrimeTimers events.
- Marilyn Becker, Marlene Wrigley, Kit Gingrich, Leigh Chancler, Rosie Roseo, Rob and Jen Drago and the other parents who assisted "Mrs. B" with the annual Christmas miracle, the Christmas Pageant.
- Charlie Jenkins, Rick Moyer, Rob Drago, Max Creswell, Horace Fletcher, Dave Voytko, Jim Short, Bob Hartman, Jr., Scott Sample, and Fred Remelius, who helped set up and take down the manger and steps for the Christmas pageant. Cecilia Roseo and Sydney Hernandez for their clothing and lighting expertise.
- Diane Land, Deb Voytko, and JoAnn Bathurst for coordinating the special music of the season;
- Musicians Alex Chancler, Kira Livezey, Christian Fletcher, Matt Ricci, Scott Sample, Beth Ann Straub, and Leanne Campbell for their help in Advent and Christmas worship..
- Our Westminster Choir, Adult Bell Choir, Cherub Choir, Celtic Choir, and Adult Choir.
- Bill Dupree for coordinating our annual Red Cross blood drive.
- Ginny Bleyer and her able Worship Committee who pulled together many 'behind-the-scenes' details of the season.
- Liv and our Seekers advisors who helped our young people celebrate the 'reason for the season.'
- Gaile Rhoades and the Mission Committee who led us in the Children's Christmas Clothes project and Ruth Forney who got the bags down to the Cluster.
- Bob Hartman, Jr. and Andy Hazeltine who helped with all of our sound system needs and many other miscellaneous details.
- Sara Grim, Dave and Doreen Duncan, John and Marian McNey, Trish Weller and the Community Meals team who coordinated our Community Meal serving on December 19 and Christmas Day.
- Peggy and our sexton, Tom, for the extra work they have to do at this time of year.
- Michelle Thompson and Don Trevoy who keep the "books" throughout the year, but who are especially busy in December.

What a list! Thanks for all that you do!

## Branches of the Vine

### **Christmas Generosity**

The Mission Committee is appreciative of all of the “extra giving” projects undertaken by members of the church family in this season of giving.

- More than 140 children received a brightly wrapped gift bag with a new outfit of clothes for the winter months, through the Cluster Outreach Center children’s department.
- We beat our goal in December’s blood drive so that others might receive the ‘gift of life.’
- The Alternative Gift Market raised over \$1000 for the mission trip to New Orleans, \$100 for Habitat for Humanity, and \$300 for Heifer International.
- Guests at Community Meals will enjoy new scarves and other goodies thanks to gift bags made up by the PrimeTimers and scarves knitted by the Prayer Shawl ministry.
- Over 250 Christmas meals were served to Community Meals guests in the Advent season, including on Christmas day. Thanks to all those who donated turkeys so that we could serve a special Christmas dinner when it was our church’s turn to prepare dinner on December 17
- The Deacons’ Needy Assistance Fund helped several families at Christmas.
- Senior Seekers baked and delivered cookies to church members who cannot get to church regularly and Junior High Seekers made Christmas ornaments with children at the Salvation Army family shelter.

We give thanks to God that His love and compassion are being born into the world through you. Merry, merry Christmas!

### ***Recycling Cans and Paper—and Contributing to Mission***

**Place your aluminum cans** (no tin cans) in the white recycling bins in the upstairs hall and Fellowship Hall. All proceeds go to support Habitat for Humanity. In 2009, we recycled 320 pounds of aluminum.

**Place all of your papers (including newspapers, junk mail, magazines, folders, and Christmas wrapping paper)** in the colorful recycling bin on the Manor Care parking lot (this is a joint project with Manor Care). Our share of the net proceeds will go to Mission projects.

### ***Can you Help Habitat for Humanity Give a Hand Up in Pottstown?***

First Presbyterian Church is a charter member of Habitat for Humanity in Pottstown. Would you be willing to work on a Thursday or Saturday with Habitat to rehab a house for a family in need? Construction skills are not necessary. If you may be interested, contact Carter or Rick Moyer. We are planning to schedule a workday on both Thursday and Saturday sometime this winter.

## Session Digest

At its December 15 meeting, the Session:

- Shared joys and concerns.
- Witnessed a presentation by Liv of an example of a “Children and Worship” devotion offered to the children in “downstairs worship” on Sundays.
- Received notice that the church has recently received proceeds from a trust.
- Elected Ron Gower to serve as Clerk of Session beginning in February.
- Received the good news that the Nominating Committee has nearly completed its work in preparation for the annual meeting in January.
- Received reports from the Stewardship Committee and Treasurer (summary of the financial report is on p. 10). Approved a payment of \$9167 for this month’s mission allocation.
- Received the report and recommendations of the Audit Committee.
- Approved payment of attorneys’ fees related to legal proceedings as a trust beneficiary.
- Received an update from the Administrative Committee regarding its investigation of replacing the current HVAC system in the Christian Education wing which may be on its last legs. The Administrative Committee is also investigating the need for surge protection to protect the organ electronics in case of lightning.
- Received an update concerning the volunteers from our church who will be traveling to New Orleans in February.
- Discussed in detail the proposed Child Safety policy recommended by a church taskforce. Questions were raised about some of the definitions in the policy and the matter was referred to attorney Picardi with hopes of reviewing and approving the policy in January.
- Approved sponsoring a “Financial Peace” seminar to be offered at the church with Rob Wade coordinating.
- Received reports from the Administrative, Worship, Stewardship, Christian Education, Endowment, Fun and Fellowship, Membership, Mission, and Nominating committees and from Deacons.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Fun and Fellowship: Simply gratitude for our many blessings as a congregation.

Mission: For the well-being of Rick Moyer and Karen Keiser who travel to India in January as well as our fledgling Living Waters for the World initiative.

Hospitality: That we understand the meaning of the season.

Christian Education: That we can move forward to implementing our “Children and Worship” ministry.

Worship: For our advent and Christmas Eve worship and help “undecorating” the church.

Nominating: Gratitude for those who have answered the call to serve and prayers for the Committee as they complete their work;

Stewardship: For a successful conclusion to the stewardship campaign.

Administrative: That we be guided as we search for solutions with our major projects.

## Lectionary Readings

### **For the week of January 4—10**

Isaiah 43: 1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8: 14-17, Luke 3: 15-17,, 21-22

### **For the week of January 11—17:**

Isaiah 62: 1-5, Psalm 36: 5-10, I Cor. 12: 1-11, John 2: 1-11

### **For the week of January 18-24:**

Neh. 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, I Cor. 12: 12-31a, Luke 4: 14-21

### **For the week of January 25—January 31:**

Jer. 1: 4-10, Psalm 71: 1-6, I Cor. 13: 1-13, Luke 4: 21-30

## Devotional Books Available

Looking for a book of daily devotions? The Christian Education Committee will make available copies of Disciplines which has daily devotions for each day in 2010. The CE committee subsidizes the cost so that church members can purchase them for only \$7 a copy. Books may be obtained during coffee hour after church or from the church office. Large print editions are also available for \$11.

## Financial Report (as of November 30):

Budgeted Income for 2009:	\$465,564
Budgeted Income through Nov. 30:	426,767
Actual Income through Nov. 30:	426,974
This time last year:	388,387
Budgeted Expenses for 2009:	\$465,564
Budgeted Expenses through Nov. 30:	423,455
Actual Expenses through Nov. 30:	413,215
This time last year:	386,674
Surplus to date:	\$4,592
Deficit to date last year:	(\$23,736)

## Soul Feast—News from the Library

Check out some of the hidden treasures in our church library—all there to be checked out and enjoyed at no charge! “Hidden Treasures—Part 4” is an insert to this newsletter.

# January 2010

Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Sun. Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 Communion Rev. Max Creswell preaching	<b>4</b> Cub Scouts 7	<b>5</b> Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	<b>6</b> M/R 4:30 p.m. Prayer 7:15 Committees 7:30 p.m. "Undecorate the Sanctuary"	<b>7</b> Sisters of the Way 9:15 Ladies Bible 9:30 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7 Choir 7:30	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
<b>10</b> Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Confirmation Class/Jr. Seekers 5 p.m.	<b>11</b> PrimeTimers Potluck, Noon Cub Scouts 7 Session Meeting 7:30 p.m.	<b>12</b> Prayer Shawl, 7 p.m. Cub Scouts 7 p.m. Lectio Group 7:30 p.m.	<b>13</b> Endowment 8:30 a.m. Arts/Worship 9:30 a.m. M/R 4:30 Admin. Budget Mtg. 7:00 Deacons 7:30	<b>14</b> Sisters of the Way. 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7 Choir 7:30	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Officers' Retreat @ Innabah 9-3
<b>17</b> Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30	<b>18</b> Cub Scouts 7	<b>19</b> Endowment 8:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	<b>20</b> Moms' Circle 9:15 M/R 4:30 Session 7:30 p.m.	<b>21</b> Sisters of the Way 9:15 Ladies Bible 9:30 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Sun. Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 Confirmation 5 p.m.	<b>25</b> Theology Book Group @ Lesters; 6:00 p.m..	<b>26</b> Lectio 7:30 p.m.	<b>27</b> M/R 4:30 Compassionate Friends 7:30 p.m.	<b>28</b> Sisters of the Way 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Sun. Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 Cong. Meeting Mission Luncheon						

