

# The Celtic Cross

September 2009

## Letter from the Co-Pastors

Dearly Beloved:

September is always a month where life is buzzing at the church as we move from summer into a new program year. Sunday School begins with Rally Day; the Deacons help us cope with the end of summer by having an always-fun church-wide picnic; Seekers resume for junior and senior high youth and their families; music and recreation returns; a new confirmation class begins its journey together on a retreat; volunteers from the church resume or begin serving as tutors and mentors at Barth Elementary School; we prepare to welcome a new class of third graders to the Lord's Table; and ministry takes place in many places, in many ways, with all ages.

September marks the return of familiar rhythms and patterns. But there is also always something new when it comes to ministry in Christ's name. This fall, a new theology reading group has formed, and the Mom's Group has become a monthly Mom's Circle. And we will be soon hearing more from the Mission Committee about the possibilities of a new and exciting ministry of bringing clean water to villages with contaminated water supplies. But one new thing this September is a special joy for all of us: our own Olivia "Mis Liv" Stewart will become "Mrs. Liv" when she and Scott Robertson get married on September 6. Liv will be back in worship on Sunday, September 20. Scott, a senior at Princeton Theological Seminary, has an internship at a Presbyterian church in Bucks County this year.

This month we will also begin a new sermon series, "Generation to Generation." We often describe ourselves as a four-generation congregation, because unlike some congregations, we are not predominantly over 65 or predominantly under 45. Instead, we are a true multi-generational congregation. This can pose challenges: we often travel in different worlds with different points of view and responsibilities. We often dress differently, have different musical tastes, and different expectations concerning the church. And yet what a blessing it is to have the diverse gifts of wisdom, energy, patience, enthusiasm, faith, hope, and love that the different generations offer. Where else in our society do we gather with multiple generations except at family and church events?

Over the past weeks, we have been gathering different generations together and listening—and we have solicited input by e-mail. What are the joys of being the age you are? The concerns? What do you worry about? How has your faith helped you? What questions do you have? In September we will share what we have learned and reflect together on what God has to say to us no matter what age we are. *"From generation to generation, we will recount your praise."*—Psalm 78:13

See you in church,  
Carter and Kerry

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## Worship Matters

### Upcoming in Worship

- September 6: 9:30 a.m. Worship  
Join us for an old-fashioned hymn sing  
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- September 13: Service of the Lord's Day at 10:30 a.m.  
Sermon Series: "Generation to Generation—Part I"  
Dedication of Sunday School Teachers and Youth Advisors
- September 20: Service of the Lord's Day  
"Generation to Generation—Part II"  
Dedication of Choir members
- September 27: Service of the Lord's Day  
"Generation to Generation—Part III"
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### Music Notes:

How can summer be over already?? My impatiens are still thriving and my crab grass is a stunning green! But it must be because I am missing having our weekly musical gatherings and fellowship. Our first Choir rehearsal will be on Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in the choir room and our first Sunday will be September 13<sup>th</sup>. Our first Handbell rehearsal will be on Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. We have added three new choir robes this year in hopes our of choir expanding even more. We have lots of new music and already have some surprises in store. If you are interested in joining the choir, please feel free to come and try us out on the 10<sup>th</sup> or call or email me if you would like. Hope your summer was refreshing and fun. Can't wait to see you !

Diane Land  
Director of Music  
610-327-1566  
Crafdy1954@comcast.net

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### New Webpage and Newsletter by E-mail

After September 13, check out our new webpage. It has lots of new features, pictures, and information that we hope will be helpful for members and visitors. Sermons are posted on the site and we hope soon to offer podcasts. The web address remains the same:  
[www.fpcpottstown.org](http://www.fpcpottstown.org).

Thanks to Sue Moyer, Tom Zeigler, Jim Osborn, Paul Lepard, Jr., and John Macdonald who have worked with Liv, Kerry, and Carter on redesigning the webpage and getting it ready.

Would you like to receive your *Celtic Cross* by e-mail rather than by regular mail (and save paper and postage)? If so, please contact the church office by e-mail: [fpoffice@fpcpottstown.org](mailto:fpoffice@fpcpottstown.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”**

#### **Rally Day, Sunday, September 13th at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**

All children, youth, and adults are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall on September 13th at 9:15 a.m. for “Rally Day” as we begin the Sunday School year. We will be looking at God’s world and sharing how we take part to care for God’s World. Come see how you are a part of the “Big Puzzle.” Parents will have an opportunity to meet their children’s Sunday School teachers and hear about plans for the year. Children and youth will be dismissed to their individual classes and then the adults will hear about this year’s Sunday morning classes.

Look for the balloons and join everyone downstairs!

### **Church Picnic**

**Sunday, September 13th—4:00-7:00 p.m.**

**New this year! Live music for all ages beginning at 4:30**

**On the church lawn. (If it rains, in Fellowship Hall).**

What better way to mark the end of summer and the beginning of the school year than gathering on the church lawn for an old-fashioned church picnic! There will be live music for all ages and face-painting, games and entertainment for all ages—indoors and outdoors. It all ends with an egg toss and the pastors’ tug of war.

The Deacons will supply: Chicken, Chips, Pretzels, Beverages, Fruit Trays and Dessert. Each family is asked to provide a side dish to serve 8 people. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m.

Bring folding lawn chairs or a blanket. A free-will offering will be collected to offset expenses.

Please let us know if you are coming by September 8 by calling the church office at 610-326-0620, or by signing up in the hallway bulletin board (so we know how much chicken to cook!). If you need transportation, contact the church office. See you there!

You asked for a fourth year!

### ***HEAD-TO-HEAD ENCOUNTERS***

***The game where parents and youth try to “get inside each others’ heads”***

**Sunday, September 20, 6:30—8:00 p.m.**

**Teams are made up of a Seeker and one of his/her parents.**

**(So we know how many questions to make, the deadline to enter a team is Friday, September 18)**

After the game and ice cream sundaes, Seekers will split into junior and senior high groups and parents will meet with the advisors to discuss upcoming events.

**RSVP to the church office if you can attend or be a team.**

## Christian Education Opportunities

### ADULT EDUCATION

- **Forum (Community Room): “What really is a Presbyterian?”**  
In this year when we celebrate John Calvin’s 500th birthday, Carter will introduce us—or re-acquaint us—with our Presbyterian history and beliefs. Join us whether you are a new or life-long Presbyterian.  
  - September 20:** “Happy 500th Birthday John Calvin!”
  - September 27:** “From Edinburgh to Pottstown—The Presbyterian Church in Scotland and America”
  - October 4:** “Total Depravity Isn’t All That Its Cracked up to Be—An Introduction to Presbyterian Beliefs”
- **Faith and Relationships Class (Library) “The Thoughtful Christian: What is Happening with Our Economy”** Discussion Leaders: Sharon Trevoy/ Debbie Remelius.  
“What is happening on Wall Street? How did this happen and what should we, as Christians, be doing? In this world of globalization and constant change, how we and our church work to help the poor, be stewards of creation, and work toward being followers of Jesus Christ in our individual vocations?”
- **Men’s Sunday Mornings (Pastors’ Conf. Room): “Moses”** Teacher: Rev. Bernarr Rhoades
- **Sacred Space for Women (Mary Ann Yost Room—I 10) “She Turned and Said to Him, ‘Rabboni’”** Teacher: Amy Shutt  
We begin a year-long reflection for women on "learning, knowing and turning" based on Mary's response to Jesus calling her name (John 20:16). Join other women as we grow in our faith together
- **Adult Bible Study (Sanctuary Conference Room)** Teacher: Rob Wade

### WEEKDAY STUDY

- **Thursday Women’s Bible Study:** Teachers: Max Creswell and Ron Gower  
Will resume in October.
- **“Sisters of the Way”:** 9:15-10:45 a.m. every Thursday beginning September 17. Teacher: Kerry
- **Evening Bible Study:** Meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month 7:30-8:30 p.m. beginning September 15. Teacher: Carter
- **Lectio Divina Group:** Led by Kerry, this Bible study meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month beginning in October.
- **Moms’ Circle:** Coffee, conversation, and a Bible devotion led by Kerry. This “moveable feast” meets monthly in different homes. This month we gather at Rosie Roseo’s house on Wednesday, September 23 at 9:30 a.m. Bring your children and they can play while we talk. Call Rosie or the church office for directions.
- **Theology Reading Group:** Join Carter as this new group wrestles with the theological questions and answers in Daniel Migliore’s The Power of God and the gods of Power. We meet monthly at the church—this time on Wednesday, September 30 at Carter’s house at 7:30 p.m.

## **Confirmation Class Begins With a Retreat...September 25-26**

When children are baptized, parents profess their faith on their children's behalf. Then it becomes time for our youth to consider if they are ready to profess their faith on their own—and what it means to do so. Seventh and Eighth Graders (and older youth who missed the confirmation experience) are invited to attend a mandatory **Child of the Covenant Retreat** at a secret location on Friday, Sept. 25 to Saturday, Sept. 26. Watch for the map in the mail and then RSVP to the church. Questions? Contact Carter, Kerry, or Liv.

## **Music and Recreation for Children in Grades 2-5**

Music and Rec is back! Beginning September 23rd. If you like to sing, play an instrument, laugh, and play games then come join us! From 4:30 to 5:00 we will play games with Mrs. Liv then from 5:00 to 5:45 we will meet with Mrs. Bathurst for a time of singing fun. The Celtic choir sings in worship once a month.

**Join us on Wednesday, September 23rd for an opening pizza party!** Contact Liv or the church office if you plan to come so we know how much pizza to order.

## **Third Graders Welcomed to the Lord's Supper and Worship**

Third graders and parents (and any other interested parents and children) are invited to join Liv, Kerry and Carter for a pizza supper and discussion concerning worship and the Lord's Supper on Sunday, September 27 at 5 p.m. at the church. Then, on Sunday, October 4, we will introduce the children to the congregation and "welcome" them to the Lord's Table. This is an important rite of passage as our young ones join the rest of the church family in celebrating the Lord's Supper. Please "RSVP" to the church office, and call Liv, Kerry or Carter if you have any questions.

## **Seekers News**

### **Jr. Seekers— This is for you!**

Sept. 13— Church Picnic— yum. See you there.

Sept. 20- "Head to Head Encounters." Sign-up with a parents and see just *how well* you know them.

Oct. 4th- Scavenger Hunt- What kind? You'll have to wait and see...you won't want to miss it!

Advisor Info: Ken and Holly Lee— 610-547-1563 [kennethalee@comcast.net](mailto:kennethalee@comcast.net)

Mike and Mindy Lipsky—610-323-5616 [mindylipsky@verizon.net](mailto:mindylipsky@verizon.net)

### **Sr. Seekers**

Sept 13th— Church Picnic- yep, yum. See you there.

Sept. 20th— "Head to Head Encounters." Find a parent, sign-up, show us what you got.

Sept 27th— "Extreme Make-Over: Seeker Edition." Wear old Clothes.

Advisor Info- John and Lisa Livezey 610-326-0490 [ljckal@comcast.net](mailto:ljckal@comcast.net)

John and Chris Macdonald— 610-987-0529 [ccmacdonald@me.com](mailto:ccmacdonald@me.com)

Gary and Donna Rhoadmarmer— 610-327-8157 [dmrhoady@comcast.net](mailto:dmrhoady@comcast.net)

Dave and Trish Weller— 610-970-6481 [tjweller@comcast.net](mailto:tjweller@comcast.net)

## **Branches of the Vine—Reaching Out with Christ's Love**

### **BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING DRIVE**

This year the Pottstown School District will enter its second year of requiring students to wear school uniforms. Studies indicate that it takes about three years for a community to get an adequate supply of uniforms in circulation (among families and in thrift stores) to provide for all its students. The children at our partner school, Barth Elementary, still need help finding the clothing they'll need. Here's what both boys and girls will be required to wear:

**Shorts—navy or khaki, fingertip length**

**Pants—navy or khaki**

**Shirts—collared, light blue or white, short or long-sleeved**

**Sizes 6—16**

**You do not need to buy a whole uniform: any piece will be welcomed!**

The nurse at Barth keeps a supply of clothing items in her office, to be given out as needed. Clothing may be purchased at any store or thrift shop. **Please bring them to the basket at the foot of the Mission Cross in the front hallway during August and September.**

### **TUTORS AT BARTH ELEMENTARY...**

The tutoring program will begin its twelfth year in October. Last year we had more tutors than ever, but there are always more children who need mentoring and tutoring than there are tutors. We ask for volunteers to commit one hour per week. Studies show such a time commitment will have far more influence than you know. Or perhaps, you would like to lead a monthly book group for a group of fifth graders. Contact Coordinator Karen Keiser and say *"YES, I'll help!"*

### **COMMUNITY MEALS**

On the second Thursday of each month, we provide a free dinner in Fellowship Hall to those in need in our community (on other Thursdays, other congregations serve the meal in our church). If you can help cook on a second Thursday, please contact Doreen Duncan. If you can help serve and clean-up the meal (4:45—6:15), please contact Sara Grim. The more the merrier!

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEERS**

Join members of First Presbyterian Church and other community residents in working to turn an old house in Pottstown into "as good as new" for a poor working family. We try to work on one Saturday every other month (about 8:15 to 4:00). Skilled labor is not necessary—just a willingness to work. If you are interested, please contact the chair of the Mission Committee, Barbara Longstreth.

### **CROP WALK, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 11**

Please join the CROP walk on **Sunday afternoon, October 11** to raise money (through pledges for each kilometer) to support the Cluster Outreach Center and to feed the hungry throughout the world. The walk begins and ends at our church. More details next month.

## Fellowship

### FUN AND FELLOWSHIP EVENTS FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH

#### Eagles Tailgate Party, Sunday, September 27 at 1 p.m.

Food and fun for all as we watch the Eagles play on a giant screen television at the church.

#### **Coming in October—Our first “Apple Fest” on Sunday, October 25 following worship**

More details will be in the October newsletter.

## PRIME TIMERS

### Who or what is a PrimeTimer???

*According to Webster’s Dictionary:*

**PRIME** – adjective – age of ideal physical perfection and intellectual vigor.

**TIME** – noun – a span of years; a suitable or opportune moment or season.

*According to the First Presbyterian Church of Pottstown:*

**A PrimeTimer is a member of the congregation in their PRIME having the TIME of their lives!**

**SEP.** (Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup>) - “BROADWAY’S BEST” SHOW, Amer. Music Theatre  
And DINNER, Good & Plenty Rest. Lancaster (following)  
Meet Church Parking Lot 1:00 PM - Show 3:00PM  
\$33.00 per show ticket & pay for dinner separately  
Your check to church office by Sept. 1 reserves your seat.

**OCT.** (Wed. 7<sup>th</sup>.) - SPAGHETTI DINNER 4:30 – 6:30 PM  
For Whole Church & Guests (Tickets \$8.00 Adults, \$4.00 Children 12 & under)  
Fund Raiser for Primetimers & Kirkwood Campers Scholarships 2010  
NOTE: Primetimers, we need volunteers to help  
with this event in kitchen, setup, cleanup, sell tickets  
and make desserts. Please contact Sara or Tom.

## MEN’S BREAKFAST

Come join Carter and other men for fun and fellowship on the second Saturday of each month.

This month we meet on Saturday, September 15 at 8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We break at 9 a.m.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY WILL RESUME IN OCTOBER

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has knitted and fleece shawls, ready to wrap someone in love and comfort. There are even shawls for new babies, cuddled by the love of this church family. Shawls can be personalized with a Bible verse and the recipient’s name. If you would like to help, or know of someone who could use being “wrapped in prayer” with a shawl, contact Jane Barndt.

## Session Digest from June

At its June meeting, the Session:

- Approved invitations being extended to Rev. Bernarr Rhoades, Rev. Tom Craver, and Rev. Jan Rose to preach and lead worship this summer during Kerry and Carter's vacation.
- Ratified the nomination of Jim Short to chair the Stewardship Committee.
- Received the financial report through May and approved the monthly allocation to Mission.
- Agreed for the Administrative Committee to sign a contract to purchase natural gas through a schools group should the financial terms prove to be advantageous for the church.
- Heard from the Administrative Committee that the playground fence and gate have been repaired, that the new phone system has been installed, and that the church is changing to a local company to test and service the fire alarm system.
- Heard from Christian Education about plans for Vacation Bible School and end of year recognition of Sunday School teachers. CE also reported that they are in the midst of evaluating the pilot project of Children and Worship.
- Approved money from the Memorial Fund to purchase 3 robes for our growing adult choir.
- Established the policy that visiting choirs will sing in worship by invitation of the Session and in consultation with the Music Director.
- Approved a revised Endowment Policy which reflects the changes previously made piecemeal by Session action.
- Heard from Mission concerning "Clean Water U." Four people from the church, Karen Keiser, Bill Dupree, and Rick and Sue Moyer will attend training in Mississippi to learn how to install water filtering equipment in Third World villages where the water supply is contaminated. The Mission Committee is exploring the possibility of sending a team to Honduras. Received a report that two platforms were built at Camp Kirkwood with 25 volunteers and using money from the Vision Fund.
- Please keep in your prayers: our summer ministries; that giving will continue steady over the summer; guidance for Mission concerning Clean Water U; for our summer worship; and for Liv and Scott as they prepare for their September wedding.

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## Financial Report—Through July 31

Budgeted income for the year:	\$465,564
Budgeted income through July 31:	271,579
Actual income through July 31:	265,468
This time last year:	234,101
Budgeted expenses for the year:	465,564
Budgeted expenses through July 31:	269,471
Actual expenses through July 31:	269,629
This time last year:	257,138
Deficit to date:	(\$13,329)
Deficit this time last year:	(\$38,287)

## Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following people who have been ill or hospitalized: Dick Clark, Jonathan Weller, Earl Decker, Mary Ann Hartman, Sally Prizer, Jennie Watts, Helena Peters and Howard Kalis, and Dorothea Melchiorre.

We sent condolences to the families of Dorothy Christman and Marjorie Pitchford who died recently. We also send condolences to the loved ones of Mary N. Porter.

We wish for a long and happy marriage for Thomas Babbony and Holly Shantz who were married on August 15th.

Congratulations to Ray and Allison Zeigler Ghaner upon the birth of son, Robert on August 17th.

We rejoice that Rob Radzwillas, husband of Gretchen Vogt Radzwillas, has returned home from Iraq.

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## Lectionary Readings

### **For the week of August 30 to September 6:**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Psalm 125, James, 2: 1-10, Mark 7: 24-37

### **For the week of September 6 to 13:**

Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19, James 3: 1-12, Mark 8: 27-38

### **For the week of September 13 to 20:**

Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 1, James 3: 13 —4: 3, 7-8a, Mark 9: 30-37

### **For the week of September 20 to 27:**

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22, Psalm 124, James 5: 13-20, Mark 9: 38-50

## Soul Feast: Hidden Treasures of the Library, Part I

These children's books are just some of the ones that are "hidden" in plain view in the library just waiting for eager people to read them. They are either given to the church as gifts by various church members, Mother's Day gifts, or given in honor of Sunday School teachers and youth group advisors.

**Dream: The Tale of Wonder, Wisdom, and Wishes** by Susan V. Bosak

**What is God Like** by Kathleen Long Bostrom

**So Far From the Sea** by Eve Bunting

**Snowy** by Bertie Doherty

**Amazing Grace** by Linda Granfield

**When Daddy Prays** by Nikki Grimes

**Twice Yours** by Nan Gurley

**Papa, Do You Love Me?** by Barbara M. Joose

**K is for Keystone: A Pennsylvania Alphabet** by Kristen Kane

**P is for Philadelphia** by Gordon Korman

**The Lord's Prayer** by Tim Ludwig Ed.

**You Are So Wonderful** by Jacqueline Janette Lewis

**God is With You: That Is All You Need** by Larry Libby

**On Morning Wings** by Reeve Lingbergh

### Max Lucado books

**The Oak Inside the Acorn**

**All You Ever Need**

**Just the Way You Are**

**You Are Mine**

**Because I Love You**

**Just In Case You Ever Wonder**

**You Are Special**

**The Crippled Lamb**

**Mole Music** by David McPhail

**Secret of the Peaceful Warrior** by David Millman

**Everyday Angels** by Mark Kimball Moulton

**Making Memories** by Janette Oke

**The Light of the World** by Katherine Paterson

**Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky** by Faith Ringold

### Schim Schimmel books

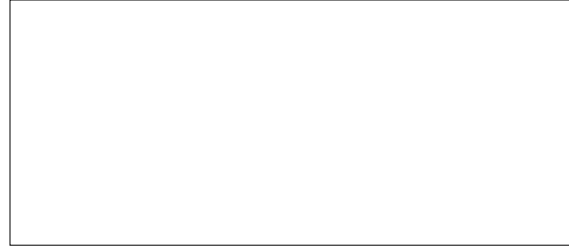
**Children of the Earth . . . Remember**

**Dear Children of the Earth**

**The Family of Earth**

# SEPTEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Endowment 8:30 a.m.  Prayer 7:15 Committees	3  Meal 5 p.m.	4	5
6 Worship with Com- munion at 9:30 a.m.	7 Church Office Closed Labor Day	8  Generation Program (ages 45-65) at the Lesters 7:30 p.m.	9  Deacons 7:30 p.m.	10  Meal 5 HENS Par- ent Night 7 Choir 7:30	11	12 Men's Break- fast, 8 –9 a.m. Picnic Set-up 9 a.m.
13 Rally Day 9:15 10:30 Wor- ship resumes  Picnic 4 pm	14  HENS begins  Cubs 7	15 Girl Scouts 6 p.m. Prayer Shawl 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	16  Session 7:30	17 Bible Study 9:15  Meal 5 Choir 7:30 Girl Scouts	18	19
20 Sun Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 a.m. Jr./Sr. Seekers and Parents 6:30—8:00	21  Cubs 7	22 Presbytery 10 a.m. Prime Timers to Music Theatre 1 pm Girl Scouts 6	23 Mom's Circle @ Roseos 9:15 a.m. M/R 4:30 Comp Friends 7:30	24 Bible Study 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30 Girl Scouts	25  Confirmation Retreat be- gins	26
27 Sun. Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 3d Graders Welcomed to Lord's Table Sr. Seek. 6:30	28  Cubs 7	29	30  M/R 4:30 Comp. Friends 7:30	31 Bible Study 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30 Girl Scouts		



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