

The Celtic Cross

Summer 2011

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Letter from the Co-Pastors

Dearly Beloved,

As you may know, for us — as for many of you — summer is a time when we enjoy sitting down and picking up a good book. Among the mysteries and novels and spiritual reading in our bookbags, are books of poetry. Since poems require us to slow down so we can savor the words and the images they conjure up, summer is a good time for reading poetry.

Here is a poem that captures a moment which many of us have experienced at some point in our lives. We hope that wherever you are this summer, wonder catches you, and you are filled with reverence.

Gladly,
Kerry and Carter

Reverence

The air vibrated
with the sound of cicadas
on those hot Missouri nights after sundown
when the grown-ups gathered on the wide back lawn,
sank into their slung-back canvas chairs
tall glasses of iced tea beading in the heat

and we sisters chased fireflies
reaching for them in the dark
admiring their compact bodies
their orange stripes and seeking antennas
as they crawled to our fingertips
and clicked open into the night air.

In all the days and years that have followed,
I don't know that I've ever experienced
that same utter certainty of the goodness of life
that was as palpable
as the sound of cicadas on those nights:

my sisters running around with me in the dark,
the murmur of the grown-ups' voices,
the way reverence mixes with amazement
to see such a small body
emit so much light.

—Julie Cadwallader-Staub

Worship Matters

Worship in the summer is at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 7 — Service of the Lord's Day
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, August 14 — Service of the Lord's Day
Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Sunday, August 21 — Service of the Lord's Day

Sunday, August 28 — Service of the Lord's Day

Service of Thanksgiving and Caring for Creation

With a Blessing of the Animals

Thursday, August 11, 7 p.m. in the Peace Garden

You don't need to bring an animal to come but all God's creatures, great and small, are welcome—as long as they are on a leash, or in a carrier. Bring a blanket or folding chair. If you have a picture of your critter, bring it along to put in the ark! Lemonade, cookie, and kibbles 'n bits, following. **This is a *fair weather* event. In case of rain, check the website or call the church office.**

Branches of the Vine—First Presbyterian in Mission

News from the Cluster Outreach Center

The new Cluster Outreach Center at the corner of Franklin and King Streets is now open! The official first day for client services in the new building is Tuesday, July 5. Many more volunteers are needed to help on a weekly basis in the Food Pantry and Clothing/Housewares departments. Please let Doreen Duncan or Leigh Chanler know if you are available to volunteer or want more information.

As this is the time of year when food donations are low, there is an immediate need for: soup, stew, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, boxed potatoes, hamburger or tuna helper, spam, spaghetti sauce, all kinds of pasta, canned pasta, crackers, cookies, cereal, oatmeal. Plastic grocery-type bags are also needed. There is a basket in the lobby where you may leave donations during the next few weeks.

Recycling at First Presbyterian Church

It may be summer but recycling is a year-long activity at First Presbyterian Church! Newspapers and other papers can be recycled at the "Abiti" yellow and green dumpster located across Evans Street on the Manor Care parking area (we split the "profits" with Manor Care and our portion supports the mission of the church). Deposit your aluminum cans in the white box on the main floor and in Fellowship Hall—these cans are turned in and all proceeds support Habitat for Humanity. Finally, there are boxes in the cloakroom and in Fellowship Hall for batteries, cell phones, and printer cartridges. Together we can be good stewards of creation and use the proceeds for the mission of the church!

Movie Night Under the Stars, Sunday, August 7 at dusk

Bring your blankets or lawn chairs to the church lawn to enjoy a fun family movie, "Nanny McPhee." Popcorn and drinks are provided. This event is free and open to the public so invite your friends and family to join us!

New Picture Directory Coming! August 16-17 and Oct. 18-22

Join us as we connect our families! We want you to make our new family album complete! We have chosen to partner with Lifetouch for professional photography which will connect our members and tell our story. Most of us will have our pictures taken in October but two days are especially provided for family photographs for those whose children may be going off to college: August 16 and 17, 3—9 p.m. To make an appointment, go the church website at www.fpcpottstown.org and follow the link. If you have any problems scheduling your appointment, call the church office. No purchase is required and everyone who sits for a portrait gets a free picture and directory.

Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, September 11

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

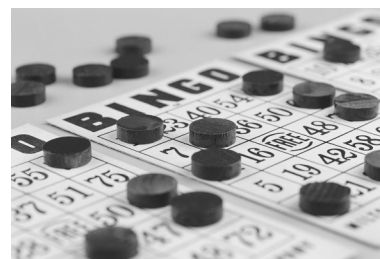
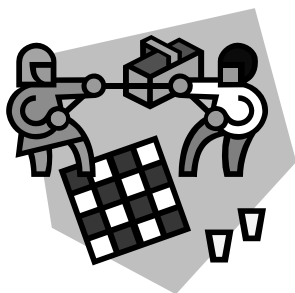
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Don't Miss....

Good friends and fellowship

Great food (and lots of it!)

Live Music from Michael Kropp



Games for all ages!

Please bring a side dish to serve 8 people. Deacons will supply chicken, dessert, and beverage. The picnic will take place rain or shine!

Children and Youth Page

Vacation Bible School- “Fruits of the Spirit”-August 1st-5th 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

VBS is right around the corner! If you haven't signed up do so quickly! We can't wait to see you there!

Mission Mornings– August 15th-19th

Jr. Seekers– It's time for a week of service and fun as we help make God's world a better place by building cabins at Kirkwood, serving food to the homeless in Philadelphia, and making school and health kits for children and babies around the world. If you are not signed up please do so ASAP!

Sr. Seekers

Rita's Bible Study– 4:00 p.m. to 5:30

A new Nooma is ready to go...come hang out, eat some Rita's and be filled!

Rally Day! September 11th! 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall (note: worship will return to 10:30 that Sunday)

Rally up! Sunday School is starting! Children, the teachers are eager to greet you and are looking forward to a special year with you! Parents, join us as we learn about the curriculum for the year and send children off to their first Sunday School class. Adults, come learn what Sunday School opportunities are available for you this year! It's time for another special year of four generations learning together as we follow Christ into the world.

Session Digest:

At its June meeting, the Session:

- Approved Carter and Kerry taking vacation on July 24-31 and approved an invitation being extended to Rev. Bernice Warren and Rev. Stephen Gaustad to preach and lead worship on Sunday, July 24 and Sunday, July 31, respectively.
- Agreed money from the Memorial Fund being used to replace a damaged handbell.
- Approved the invitation being extended to Frank Runyeon to provide the interpretation of Scripture through drama in worship on Sunday, September 25. Rev. Runyeon, who is from our area and a graduate of The Hill School, has stage, film, and television acting experience and will speak on “Hollywood and Faith” to youth and adults during the Sunday School hour on September 25. More information will be in the September *Celtic Cross*.
- Approved the allocation of up to \$90,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund to replace the HVAC system in the “Christian Education” wing. The HVAC work will also install a separate hot water heater which should result in energy savings.
- Approved Tom Babbony serving as “Clerk of the Works” on the HVAC project.
- Approved the allocation of up to \$12,000 from the Capital Improvement fund to replace the floor in the lower hallway, two lavatories, HENS office, and closets.
- Received the report from Personnel that all staff evaluations have been completed except that the committee still has to meet with the Co-pastors in August.
- Reviewed the Treasurers’ Report through May 31 which showed a deficit of \$9011. As a result the mission allocation was delayed until the next Session meeting.
- Elected Marlene Wrigley and Paul Lepard to serve as commissioners to the July 26 Presbytery meeting, with Jane Barndt elected as an alternate.
- Received oral or written reports from Administrative, Spiritual Formation, Hospitality, Mission, Fellowship, and Worship Committees and the Deacons.
- Please keep in your prayers the following prayer requests:
 - Admin. Committee—that the summer projects will get completed on time and on budget.
 - Spiritual Formation—for VBS, Mission Mornings, Workcamp, and the Senior Seekers Bible study.
 - Worship—that people might experience the Holy Spirit in our summer worship.
 - Hospitality—that input from recent members will prove to be fruitful for our ministry.
 - Fun and Fellowship—for the success of this summer’s “Movie Night.”
 - Mission—thanks for all of the volunteers in mission on behalf of the church.
 - Stewardship—that people will keep up their giving over the summer so that our ministry may continue to be strong.

Please remember the church with your giving this summer

We hope you have a wonderful and relaxing summer. Please remember the church this summer by keeping up your pledges and giving as you are able, because our expenses do not stop for this summer.

Lectionary Readings

For the week of July 31 through August 7:

Genesis 37:1-4, Psalm 105, Romans 10:5-15, Matt. 14: 22-33

For the week of August 7 through August 14:

Genesis 45:1-15, Psalm 133, Romans 11: 1-2, Matt 13: 10-20

For the week of August 14 through August 21:

Exodus 1:8-2:10, Psalm 124, Romans 12: 1-6, Matt. 21:6, 11-20

For the week of August 21 through August 28:

Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 105, Romans 12: 9-2, Matt. 16: 21-28

For the week of August 28 through September 4:

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13: 8-14, Matt. 18: 15-20

Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following people who have been ill, hospitalized or in special need of prayers recently: Kathi Lurie, John Davis, Eleanor Jones, Bob Hartman, Sr., Barry West, Max Creswell, Kit Gingrich, Sue Gittings, Trystian Hernandez, and Jacki Wagner.

We rejoice at the birth of Gabriella Lynn Babbony, child of God and daughter of Thomas and Holly Babbony.

We remember Judy Babbony who recently lost her mother, and Russ Shallcross whose brother recently died.

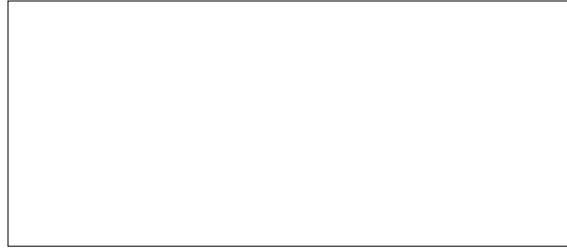
Baptized recently was Emma Jane Allen, child of God and daughter of Tim and Gwen Sample Allen.

Financial Report (through May 31)

Budgeted income for the year:	490,605
Budgeted income through May 31:	204,419
Actual income through May 31:	197,845
Income this time last year:	194,300
Budgeted expenses for the year:	490,605
Budgeted expenses through May 31:	204,419
Actual expenses through May 31:	202,271
Expenses this time last year:	180,821
Deficit to date:	(\$9011)
Surplus this time last year:	\$4,047

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Vacation Bible School, 9:30-12 Noon	2 Vacation Bible School, 9:30-12 Noon Personnel Committee Meeting 6:30	3 Vacation Bible School, 9:30-12 Noon	4 Comm Meals 5:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School, 9:30-12	5 Vacation Bible School 9:30-12 Noon	6
7 9:30 Worship 4:00 Sr. Seekers Bible Study Dusk—Movie Under the	8 Girl Scout Program 6:30 p.m.	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:30 Worship Steczak Baptism 4:00 Sr. Seekers Bible	15 Mission Mornings 9 am to 3 pm Girl Scout Program 6:30 p.m.	16 Mission Mornings 9 am-3 pm Directory Photo Session 3-9 pm Spiritual Formation Meeting @ Vogt's 7 p.m.	17 Mission Mornings 9 am to 3 p.m. Directory Photo Session 3—9 pm	18 Mission Mornings 9 am—3 pm 5 p.m. Community Meals	19 Mission Mornings 9-3 pm	20 Young Children in Worship Training 9 am-4 pm
21 9:30 Worship 4:00 Sr. Seekers Bible Study	22 Girl Scout Program 6:30 p.m. HENS Board Meeting 7 p.m.	23	24 Prime Timers to Valley Forge Carillon Concert 5 p.m. Theology Book Group @ Lesters' 7 pm	25 5 p.m. Community	26	27
28 9:30 Worship Sunday School Teacher Orientation after worship	29 Sunday School Teacher Orientation 7 p.m.	30	31			



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