



# The Celtic Cross

Summer 2016

## Letter from the Co-pastors

Dearly Beloved:

For the past 16 years, our Mission Committee, using your stewardship contributions, has awarded Peacemaker W

Awards at our partner school, Barth Elementary School. What is perhaps most unique about this award is that the boy and girl winners of the peacemaking award are nominated not by their teachers but by their peers. At our June Session meeting, elder Sharon Holloway, who coordinates our tutoring program at Barth, reminded us of the criteria that students are to use in nominating a classmate for the peacemaker award. A peacemaker:

- Is brave – stands up for what is right even if it is hard to do so
- Speaks out for the benefit of all
- Is truthful
- Is fair when dealing with classmates
- Treats all equally
- Speaks respectfully to everyone
- Patiently listens to other students' point of view (side of the story)
- Solves problems without violence
- Is sympathetic
- Is kind to others

How do we do with that list? How do those running for office measure up to these criteria?

In a summer when it seems that we cannot go a week without some senseless acts of violence, it is good to recall these criteria and to try to live them out, at least as well as the Barth fourth graders who were nominated for the awards by their peers. In this world, we will often see sin, evil, and acts of darkness. We Christians should be realistic about the world; after all, we look at a cross each week in worship, a cross where the innocent son of God was executed by the political leaders of his day.

But we are also a people of hope, who know that this world is in God's hands, and that God has the final say. So we need not give into despair or fear. Instead, we live by love and hope, and as Gandhi counseled, we seek to be the change we wish to see in the world. That is what it means to pray for "God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven," and to do what Jesus would do.

May we use these criteria for peacemakers as a map for our own lives, and may we not grow weary with bearing the light that Jesus Christ has brought into the world, the light no darkness can put out!

Carter and Kerry

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## 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

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

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

### Service of Thanksgiving for Creation with a Blessing of the Animals—Thursday, August 18, 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. Lemonade, cookie, and kibbles 'n bits, following. Families and friends welcome! **This is a fair weather event. In case of rain, check the website or call the church office.**

### Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunday, August 28 in Worship

As we turn towards a new school year, we invite children to bring their backpacks to worship on August 28. We'll ask God's blessing upon those who carry them as they do the work of learning throughout the year.

## Lectionary Readings

**Aug. 2-7:** Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

**Aug. 8-14:** Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

**Aug. 15 to 21:** Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

**Aug. 22-28:** Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

### Blood Drive, Tuesday, August 9th, 3—7 p.m.

Visit [www.giveapint.org](http://www.giveapint.org) for online scheduling and to create your donor profile. Use Sponsor code 4342. For more information or if you need help in scheduling an appointment, contact Jeanne Feroe at [jen01565@yahoo.com](mailto:jen01565@yahoo.com), Dawn Skelly at [dskelly@fpcpottstown.org](mailto:dskelly@fpcpottstown.org) or call the church office. Walk-ins are also possible.

**Hold the Date: This year's Women's Retreat will be October 28-29**

## Pathways Through Parables for all ages in August

### **Thursday, August 4: 6:30-8 p.m.**

Pathways Through Parables celebrates its last regular evening together with a great time learning about the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builder. Children will go off to play some games and do some crafts about the parable while the adults will discuss together what it means to have a firm foundation, before everyone comes together for a closing gathering. **Then join us for the Blessing of the Animals on August 18 (see p. 2) and Snooze at the Zoo!**

### **Friday, August 19th 5:00 PM—Saturday August 20th at 9:00 AM: Zoo Snooze at the Elmwood Park Zoo!**

Camp out in a tent at the Elmwood Park Zoo! A flashlight tour of the zoo! A special feeding of the animals! S'mores and a movie! Don't miss this unique opportunity to spend the night with God's animals and God's family.

## Mission Mornings for Junior High Seekers, August 1-5

This year, our rising sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will work and serve, play and have fun together at four "mission sites." The whole week culminates with an overnight at Kirkwood! The days start at 9 a.m. with pick-up varying day by day. If you have not signed up yet, or need further information, contact Jeff Fox-Kline at (248) 953-4702 or [jfoxkline@fpcpottstown.org](mailto:jfoxkline@fpcpottstown.org). Don't think it's too late to sign up! If you can be there for one day or all of them, we'll be glad to have you!

## The Directory is Coming

Here is a chance to get a professional picture taken of you or your family—and to help our church family get an updated directory! We are going to have a new directory and it has never been easier to sign up. You can sign up online following the link from our church website or by going to [www.church-directories.com](http://www.church-directories.com). There will also be opportunities in the Fall to sign up on a Sunday. Or you can contact the church office and we will help you sign up.

Most pictures will be taken October 4-8 or November 9-10. But we do have two days in August available for pictures if that works better for your family: August 3 and 5. All families will receive one free picture and have their picture in the directory. You can also order picture packages, but there is no obligation to do so. If you have any questions, contact the church office. We will have details next month about submitting photos of students away at college.



## One Day, Two Great Church Gatherings to End Summer and Welcome the Fall, Sept. 11

Rally Day for children, youth and adults

9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Church Picnic for all ages

4-7 p.m., rain or shine (Pony rides this year!)

## Session Digest:

At its June meeting, the Session:

- Heard the joys and concerns of the congregation.
- Received the information that Kerry officiated at the wedding of Marybeth Keiser and Armin Farazhaghi on Saturday, July 2.
- Received an update on HENS as the current director, Robyn Durban, had to resign because of family issues. The HENS Board is made up of church members and is chaired by Rob Land.
- Approved the Deacons to invite Legacy to take pictures of church members for a new church directory.
- Approved in concept a taskforce exploring the possibility of hosting a 5k next spring with proceeds going to local designated charities.
- Received an update on a proposed prayer labyrinth to be donated by church members.
- Agreed to Matt Barcus to serve as chair of the Hospitality Committee, with Deb Remelius moderating meetings in his absence and Patty Picardi serving as liaison to Session. Expressed gratitude for Joan's faithful service as Hospitality chair.
- Approved extending an invitation to a minister participant in the congregation to preach on July 24.
- Received an annual report from Parish Nurse, Dawn Skelly and received defibrillator training.
- Approved an updated wedding policy.
- Reviewed the Treasurers' Report through May 31 and approved two month's allocations to the Capital Improvement Fund.
- Approved the recommendations of the Porter-Broward Grant Taskforce (see p. 5)
- Received an update on various maintenance/repair projects around the church, including plans to repaint the church office and upstairs bathrooms.
- Please keep in your prayers the following prayer requests:  
Admin. Committee: for completion of repairs; Spiritual Formation: for summer Thursday inter-generational program; Worship: for active summer worship; Hospitality: for those visiting our church; Mission: for productive community gardens across Pottstown; Endowment: for improving returns for our investments; Personnel: thanksgiving for Marie; Stewardship: for the planning of faithful stewardship operation.

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## Financial Report (through May 31)

Budgeted income for the year:	608,932	Budgeted expenses for the year:	608,932
Budgeted income through May 31:	253,722	Budgeted expenses to May 31:	253,722
Actual income through May 31:	230,249	Actual expenses through May 31:	230,568
Income this time last year:	241,961	Expenses this time last year:	241,457
Deficit to date after all mission and capital improvement allocations paid		(\$16,609)	
Deficit this time last year:		(\$9,309)	

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## Please remember the church with your giving this summer

We hope you are having a wonderful and relaxing summer. Please remember the church this summer by keeping up your giving as you are able, because our expenses do not stop for the summer. You can make your contribution either on Sunday in the plate—or online.

## Recommendations of the Porter-Broward Taskforce

The Taskforce as approved by Session consists of David Allebach, Herb Barndt, Dave DeLong, Kurt Holloway, Donna Force, Andy Lane, Sharon Sgriccia, and Missy Weber. The pastors served ex-officio. The Taskforce reviewed the criteria adopted by Session, reviewed the ideas for use of the money submitted by members of the congregation following announcements appearing in the Sunday worship bulletin and the *Celtic Cross* and brainstormed other potential uses for the money. Assignments were then made to research the various options. The Taskforce reviewed 32 different proposals which, if fully funded, would cost \$240,000. \$119,321.19 was available from the Foundation. The Taskforce unanimously adopted these recommendations which were, in turn, unanimously approved by the Session. The recommendations are grouped under the three areas of the "Guidelines" adopted by the Session for use of the Foundation grant.

### **Enhancement of Current Ministries:**

- 1. Parish Nurse position \$23,000**  
Projected cost to cover salary (including 2% increase given to rest of staff), benefits, insurance, mileage, and other expenses.
- 2. Fund Visit by Dr. Brian Blount, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary \$1000**  
Dr. Blount, nationally known preacher and Biblical scholar, will come to speak about seminary education and the future of the Presbyterian Church from a seminary president's perspective and preach in worship. Grant would cover honorarium and travel expenses.
- 3. Hand chime refurbishment and purchase of new handbell mallets \$1100**  
The Suzuki tone chimes were purchased approximately 12 years ago and have never received any outside maintenance. The mallets currently being used are insufficient in number and are in poor condition.
- 4. Choir Robes \$5000**  
The robes will be entering their 19th season. They have served well but are in need of being replaced.
- 5. New Playground equipment \$30,000**  
For two years, HENS and the church have been seeking to update the playground with the purchase of new playground equipment. Plans have been reviewed by the Admin. Committee. HENS will also be contributing to the purchase.
- 6. Transportation money for Prime Timers \$500**  
Because transportation is an issue for some Prime Timers, this money will be used to rent vans or buses for fellowship outings to subsidize costs. If there is an ongoing need for this transportation assistance beyond this year, then this could be handled through the regular budget process.

### **Building and Grounds Improvements**

- 1. Replacement of chancel overhead lights with LED fixtures \$18,430**  
Lights are currently very difficult to replace, burn hot and inefficiently, and burn out frequently. LED lights would be installed instead with expected life of 20 years. Grant would be combined with funds from Capital Improvement fund to pay for replacement which will cost over \$40,000.

### **Mission and Community Needs**

- 1. Steel River Playhouse \$6000**  
This money would be used to provide free admission and subsidize travel costs so that 1,000 students from the four Pottstown elementary schools can attend the 2016 Theater for Youth production.
- 2. Operation Backpack \$1400**  
Operation Backpack is a 501(c)(3) organization providing food to students in our community who would go without over the weekend. Money will be used for purchasing 140 new backpacks.
- 3. Camp Kirkwood scholarships and supplemental staff position \$3000**  
Money is to be designated to provide seed money for new part-time staff person **See p. 6**

## Porter-Broward Grants—cont. from p. 5

with hopes that Camp will be able to put in its budget this position in future years. Since the camp has only one program staff person now, a new staff person could take administrative load off the director so that the Director would have more time for marketing, church outreach, and development.

4. **Pottstown School District Foundation**      **\$3500**  
This grant will be combined with \$1500 from Mission Fund to support two Pottstown students for one year of courses at Montgomery County Community College. The scholarships enable a good student with limited financial means to graduate from high school with one year of college credits.
5. **The Carousel at Pottstown**      **\$2500**  
With this grant, we would support a bench that would note our sponsorship. It is hoped that this grant can help the Carousel finally cross the finish line to open in 2016.
6. **Montgomery County Women's Center**      **\$1000**  
The grant will be used to install a security system/panic button in the Pottstown office to protect residents and staff from harassment by abusive spouses.
7. **Colebrookdale Railroad**      **\$5000**  
The grant would help install wide steel doors on the café car to permit wheelchair access onto the train. The doors have been constructed and total projected cost for installation is \$20,000.
8. **Pottstown Public Library**      **\$11,300**  
Grant would be used to help replace carpet in youth department to provide safe, healthy, and inviting environment. Current carpet is old, threadbare, and suffered damage from flooding. Projected cost for installation is approximately \$19,000.
9. **Mosaic Land Trust at Barth Elementary School**      **\$4800**  
Mosaic Community Land Trust seeks to use community gardens to provide healthy choices to those with limited resources. This grant will go to support building a new community garden at Barth Elementary School. Our grant will pay for fencing to go around the garden.
10. **Pottstown Area Industrial Development (PAID)**      **\$500**  
The grant would be for printing to expand distribution of the newsletter, "Momentum," an alternative news outlet describing positive economic developments in Pottstown. The idea of supporting "Momentum" came out of the officer's retreat in the spring.
11. **Union Presbyterian Seminary Capital Campaign**      **\$1000**  
This grant will be designated for an ongoing capital project at the Seminary, Kerry and Carter's seminary, for a new community building on campus. The check will be presented to Dr. Blount when he preaches in November.

### Church Family News

**Please keep in your prayers the following people who have been ill, hospitalized or in special need of prayers recently:** Jean Hollenbach, Marion McNey, Andy Lane, Mindy Lipsky, Patty Picardi, Kay Dannehower, Peg Deegan, Betsy McKissic, Jack Orgill, Frank Queen, Sue Ploppert, and Carson Alderfer

**Condolences** to Meredith Creswell and the family of Rev. J. Max Creswell.

**We rejoice at the marriage** of Marybeth Keiser and Armin Farazdaghi in July.

### Counters in August—Thank You!!

Tom Zeigler, Lois Glenn, Sue Moyer, Dave DeLong

# August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>July 31</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>1</b> Mission Mornings 9-12 Pottstown cleanup	<b>2</b> Mission Mornings 9-3 Ephrata Yoga 10am Lectio-Divina 7:30	<b>3</b> Mission Mornings 9-12 Yoga-10am Directory pics 2-9 pm	<b>4</b> Mission Mornings to Kirkwood Camp Yoga 10 am Community Meals- 5 pm Pathways-6:30	<b>5</b> Mission Mornings Kirkwood Camp Directory pics 2-9 pm	<b>6</b> Memorial Service for Rev. J. Max Creswell 10 a.m.
<b>7</b> 9:30 Worship-Communion	<b>8</b> .	<b>9</b> Yoga 10 am  Blood Drive 3-7 pm	<b>10</b> Yoga 10 am	<b>11</b> Yoga 10am Seekers-1pm  Community Meals- 5 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 Worship Rev. Jeff Fox-Kline preaching	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Yoga 10 am  Lectio-Divina- 7:30 pm	<b>17</b> Yoga 10 am	<b>18</b> Yoga 10 am Seekers 1pm Community Meals-5pm Blessing of the Animals 7pm	<b>19</b> Zoo Snooze @ Elmwood Zoo 3 pm	<b>20</b> 9 a.m. leave Elmwood Zoo
<b>21</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Yoga 10 am	<b>24</b> Yoga 10 am	<b>25</b> Yoga 10 am Seekers 1pm Community Meals 5pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30 Worship Blessing of Backpacks	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Yoga 10am	<b>31</b> Yoga 10 am	Community Meals 5 pm		

