



The Celtic Cross

June-July 2011

Letter from the Co-pastors and Session

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We want to inform you of a change which will be made to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church, USA. Changes to the Presbyterian constitution are made by approval by a majority of presbyteries, much like changes are made to our national constitution. The amendment relates to a founding principle of the Presbyterian church, which is that each congregation chooses its own deacons, elders, and pastors, deciding for itself the persons qualified to lead that congregation. The amendment seeks to affirm that historic principle in relation to standards for ordination.

This is what the amendment says:

*Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life. The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation. Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.**

On its face, there is little that is controversial about this amendment: individual congregations choose their leaders. However, in a nation and denomination as diverse as ours, different congregations in different settings will make differing interpretations and decisions regarding those criteria. The practical effect of this amendment is that it opens the door for a congregation to elect as deacon, elder, or pastor, a gay or lesbian person, if the congregation discerns that this person meets the criteria of what it means to be a church officer.

The debate about ordination standards has been a Presbyterian family struggle for much of the last three decades. In our own church family, as we have discussed and pondered this issue through the years, feelings on all sides have run deep.

But over the years, our church family has chosen a way that is different from the polarized world around us: instead of choosing sides, we have chosen *each other*, in love, as God has chosen us. We have sought to follow Christ, listen to one another, respect one another's faith, and live out the principle our forebears articulated for the church when it deals with divisive issues: "*in essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, love.*"

(cont. on page 7)

*The provision that is being replaced was adopted in 1996 and says in part: "Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historical confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness."

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Worship Matters

- June 5, 10:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day and Celebration of the Lord's Supper
High School graduates recognized
Presentation of Bibles to third graders
- June 12, 10:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day.
Celtic and Cherub Choirs sing
Recognition for outstanding Sunday School attendance
Recognition of Sunday School teachers, advisors, and choirs
Strawberry Fest follows worship
- June 19, 9:30 a.m.** **Summer worship schedule begins**
Fellowship time follows the worship service throughout the summer
Come downstairs for something hot or cold to drink
- June 26, 9:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day
Commissioning of Workcamp participants going to New York
- July 3, 9:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
- July 10, 9:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day
- July 17, 9:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day
Worship led by the Workcamp participants
Sacrament of Holy Baptism
- July 29, 9:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day

Music Notes

June is upon us and the summer choir hiatus is almost here. We are presently looking to fill all the anthem and offertory spots for the summer services. **Please contact me if you are interested in singing or playing an instrument for a summer Sunday.**

We had a musically exciting year involving many different styles of music and assorted instrumentalists accompanying the choir or soloing. We have enjoyed a great group of accompanying instrumentalists, and have welcomed the opportunity to provide music in concert with the children's choirs and handbell choir. We hope you have found a path to God through our music.

I am always looking for HIDDEN TALENT! If you would like to join the adult choir (no audition required), or if you play an instrument and might be interested in playing at church, please contact me.

—Diane Land, Music Director

Upcoming Events

Strawberry Fest, Sunday, June 12 after 10:30 a.m. worship

Strawberries, ice cream and cake—what a great way to begin the summer! Following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 12, come downstairs to Fellowship Hall for some delicious refreshments. This event, sponsored by the Deacons, will provide a time for fellowship before the beginning of the summer schedule and vacations.

All Sons' Event—Cars, Cars, and Cars—Sunday, June 5

The Fun and Fellowship Committee invites all sons (in other words, all the “guys”)—large and small, young and old—for an afternoon of cars, racing, food, and surprises on Sunday, June 5. We will begin at 2:30 with a tour at the Boyertown Museum for Historic Vehicles. Returning to the church at 4:30 for pinewood derby racing, dinner, and more. If you have a pinewood derby car, bring it for the racing, but we'll have some extra cars, so you don't have to have your own to join in the fun!

Please sign up by Sunday, May 29th so we have an accurate count for the museum and dinner. After May 29, you can check with the church office to see if there are any space left for either the museum or dinner.

Switzerland Reformation Trip Preview, Sunday, June 5, 11:45 a.m.

Walk down the beautiful “Bahnhofstrasse,” the historic shopping mecca in Zurich; worship in Grossmunster, which dates from the 12th century; enjoy the scenery of the Alps including a gondola ride up Mt. First with a chance to hike (or just sit!); tour a castle and visit the wonderful “cheese” village of Gruyere; tour John Calvin's Geneva (the father of Presbyterianism) - all while traveling with church members and friends. And you have more than a year to get ready!

Sound enticing? Find out more at an orientation meeting on Sunday, June 5, following worship. The trip, a follow-up to the trip made to Scotland two years ago, is being planned by veteran Swiss traveler, Paul Lepard, and Carter, along with the travel agency that planned the Scotland trip. **The trip to Switzerland will take place August 2-11, 2012, and family and friends are invited as well!**

A New Picture Directory Is Coming!

It is time for a new picture directory for our growing church (and a great chance to get new family and individual pictures to share with family and friends). Pictures will be taken primarily next October, in time for the Christmas holidays, but we will also offer slots on August 16 and 17, which will be especially good for those families with children going off to college or graduate school. Sign up dates for the August dates will be offered later this summer. If you want to be kept informed about the August picture-taking dates, or have any other questions, contact the church office.

Christian Education Opportunities—Sunday School Ends June 12

Adult Education Opportunities on Sunday Morning

- **Forum (Community Room)**

- **June 5: Barth Bulldogs**

- Join us as we celebrate our partnership with Barth Elementary School and hear from the “Barth Bulldogs,” a leadership program sponsored by our church. You will not easily forget these fifth graders!

- **June 12: Understanding God’s World: Views of China**

- A panel made up of Dick Girard, Molly Lester, and John Macdonald will share some of their reflections from recent trips to China.

- **Men’s Sunday Mornings (Pastors’ Conference Room) Teacher: Bernarr Rhoades**

- **Topic: “What Good is God?”** A discussion of a book of that title by Philip Yancey.

- **Sacred Space for Women (Mary Ann Yost Room—110)**

- **Topic: God’s Covenants: Old and New** Teacher: Amy Shutt

- **Faith and Relationships (Library) Teachers: Sharon Trevoy, Rob Wade, and Debbie**

- **Remelius. Topic: “God in America”**

Weekday Opportunities (all break for the summer after June 14)

- **Sisters of the Way:** Last meetings before the summer: June 2 and 9, 9:15-10:45 a.m.

- Teacher: Kerry. The Bible study on June 9 will be a brunch at Marian Lepard’s house.

- **Evening Bible Study:** 7:30—8:30 PM on Tuesday, June 7.

- Teacher: Carter

- **Lectio Divina Group (praying the Scriptures):** Tuesday, June 14, 7:30 p.m.

- Teacher: Kerry

- **Moms’ Time-Out:** Wednesday, June 8 at 9:30 a.m. at a location to be announced (check with the church office). Children welcome! Teacher: Kerry

- **Theology Reading Group:** Wednesday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Carter’s house. Leader:

- Carter. Join us as for an end-of-the year gathering on Carter and Kerry’s porch. We will pick out our next book to read. For directions, see Carter.

Christian Education Opportunities for Children and Youth

Sunday, June 5: Recognition of 3rd graders and graduating Seniors

On behalf of the congregation, the Christian Education Committee will present Bibles to third graders and recognize our high school graduates during the worship service. Our seniors will be given a gift to encourage them in their faith in the next step of their journey.

Sunday, June 12 is “Moving Up” Sunday in Sunday School.

Another year has passed and the children with all of their new knowledge and growth in faith are ready to move on up to the next class. Students will get to meet their new teachers and find out about some of things they will get to learn over the next year! **During worship we will also recognize the children who have had perfect and outstanding attendance.**

Sunday, June 12 Celtic and Cherub Choirs sing and are recognized in worship

Both children’s choirs will sing in worship on June 11 and will be recognized along with the adult choirs.

Sign-up for VBS: Fruits of the Spirit! You will find sign-up sheets in the bulletin or in Mrs. Liv’s office. The dates are August 1st-5th. Adults, come be a part of this special week! If you are available to help please see Liv Robertson.

Mission Mornings– August 15-19 Jr Seekers, this is your week! We will be headed to Philly, Ephrata, Kirkwood, and of course, we’ll spend a day caring for our church. Parents, please email or call Liv Robertson to sign up your Seeker. Rising 5th graders through rising 8th graders are invited!

Confirmation Parent Meeting– June 5th -After church. Parents of upcoming confirmands please join Kerry, Carter, and Liv for an informal meeting to learn about what the confirmation year will entail. Meet in the Mary Ann Yost Room. **Reserve Sept. 23-24 for the Confirmation Fall retreat.**

Jr. Seekers

June 4th– Relay for Life. We will be walking from 12-1 p.m. at the Pottsgrove High School track. Please meet at 11:45 at the entrance to the track. If you would like to come early and help out with games meet Liv at the church at 9:45 a.m. and we will head to the track from there.

June 12th– Advisor Appreciation Picnic– 6:00– 7:30 p.m. at the church. Come say thanks to your advisors as we eat good food and play games. We will also be saying a goodbye to the 8th graders as they move up to Sr. Seekers.

Sr. Seekers

June 4th– Workcamp preview take 2. Seekers are *highly encouraged* to attend this preview in preparation for workcamp. The beloved confirmation bridge at Mim DeRenzo’s house is being rebuilt and help is needed. John Livezey will be leading the project and asks that you get a hold of him if you can come. 610-326-0490

June 12th-Advisor Appreciation Picnic– 6:00—7:30 p.m. at the church. Come say thanks to your advisors as we eat good food and play games. We will also be saying a goodbye to the Seniors as they move on to college.

Workcamps– the mandatory Covenant meeting follows the picnic on June 12th.

7:30-8:15 p.m. Bring your stock packets. Parents of new time workcampers are invited.

Fellowship Opportunities

Strawberry Fest, Sunday, June 12 after the 10:30 Worship Service

See page 3 under “Upcoming Events” for all of the details.

Prime Timers

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 trip to Wendell August Forge in Exton

This forge is America’s oldest and largest forge producing hand-wrought ornamental aluminum and other metals since 1923. We will leave from the church parking lot at 9:45 a.m., tour the forge in Exton, and go to “Buca di Beppo” for a family-style lunch. Lunch menu is salad, bread, beverage, and penne pasta and chicken in a white sauce and spaghetti with meat sauce. Cost is \$17.75 each (payable to the church). Sign up on the bulletin board or on the Sunday bulletin insert.

Carillon Concert and Picnic Dinner at Valley Forge, Wednesday Evening, August 24

We leave from the church at 5:00 p.m. Prior to the concert we will enjoy a picnic dinner together meeting at General Varnum’s Picnic Area, located on the right just after passing the Washington Memorial rectory on Route 23 outside of the Valley Forge National Park. **Please bring your own dinner, paper products and a lawn chair. The concert is at 7:30 p.m. and is free.** It will be held rain or shine. Check the Sunday bulletin and/or the bulletin board for sign-up and for more details. Any questions, contact Sara Grim or Tom Hudson.

Young Adults — June 11 at Carter and Kerry’s house

We gather at Carter and Kerry’s house, 1168 Crestwood Drive, for a potluck dinner and discussion of C.S. Lewis’ The Last Battle. If you have questions, need directions, want to find out what to bring, or need help finding a copy of the book, contact Carter or Kerry.

Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following members who have been ill or hospitalized recently, or who are undergoing tests or treatment: Kathi Lurie, Eleanor Jones, Bob Hartman, Sr., Barry West, Paul Hughes, Max Creswell, and Ron Gower.

We kept in our prayers Rick Moyer and Bill Dupree, who did a follow up visit to Honduras to do further training for the water filtration systems installed by a church group.

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Cameron Ferreri, Daniel Foust, Rebecca Fulmer, Adam Seanor, Chris Trevoy and Victoria Remelius.

Congratulations to recent college and graduate school graduates: Laura Hazeltine, Magan DePrefontaine, Amy Spacht, and Devin Picardi.

We welcome Ryan Thomas Vedock, child of God, and son of Eliza and Andy Vedock and brother of Brady.

Thanks to Joan Evans, Sarah Boyer, and Marian McNey for their long and faithful service on the Worship Committee.

Letter from the Co-pastors and Session (cont. from p. 1)

In any case, we are the same pastors and elders we were last week; the people sitting next to us in worship and serving beside us in the world are the same people they were before this amendment passed. We will continue to *“be guided by scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.”*

For our part, we will continue to commit ourselves to what God has called us to do -- grow deeper in Christ, and reach farther in love, with this congregation. We pray you will do the same.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this amendment further, we invite you to attend an informal discussion gathering at the church on Sunday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m. (the All-Sons event also scheduled for June 5 will be completed before this time).

Please join us in this prayer from our Scottish ancestors, as we go forward, *together*:

Most Gracious God,
 we humbly pray for your Church.
 Fill it with all truth, in all truth, with all peace.
 Where it is corrupt, purge it,
 where it is in error, direct it,
 where anything is amiss, reform it,
 where it is right, strengthen and confirm it,
 where it is in want, furnish it,
 where it is divided, heal it,
 and unite it in your love,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In humility, in hope, and in love,
 Carter and Kerry and the members of your Session: Paul Lepard, Karen Keiser, Rob Wade, Gina James, Scott Sample, Ron Gower, Bill Campbell, Barb Longstreth, Chad Stacks, Marlene Wrigley, Don Grim, Patty Picardi, Kathleen O'Hara, Hank Phillips, and Charles Jenkins.

Financial Report

Budgeted income for the year:	490,605
Budgeted income through April 30:	163,535
Actual income through April 30:	162,365
Income this time last year:	148,679
Budgeted expenses for the year:	490,605
Budgeted expenses through April 30:	163,535
Actual expenses through April 30:	158,804
Expenses this time last year:	154,851
Deficit to date (after Mission paid) :	(1,021)
Deficit this time last year:	(10,889)

Session Digest

At its May meeting, the Session:

- Welcomed new elders Kathleen O'Hara, Hank Phillips, and Charlie Jenkins and returning elders Patty Picardi and Don Grim.
- Approved Kerry and Carter taking vacation leave July 1 to 5.
- Received the Treasurers' Report from Michelle Thompson, the church treasurer. Voted to transfer the monthly mission fund allocation to the Mission Fund.
- Received with gratitude the gifts given in memory of Tierra Dobry and agreed that those gifts would be used to commission the design and creation of a liturgical cloth for the communion table to be used weekly in the sanctuary, to purchase a lasting memorial in the Sunday School classroom where Tierra taught for so many years and for the Christian Student Fund, to support the education of students pursuing calls to professional work in the church. The Session approved the naming of the current Christian Student Fund to be the "Tierra Dobry Christian Student Fund."
- Discussed ways of recognizing the 50th anniversary in 2012 of the move of our church to its present location and the construction and dedication of the sanctuary and original building. The Session also discussed Amendment 10-A, which is the subject of this month's cover letter.
- Received a report from the Administrative Committee that bids are being solicited for a new HVAC system in the Christian Education wing. Work will be undertaken this summer.
- Approved the purchase of new padholders for new "ritual of friendship" pads for the sanctuary pews.
- Heard about the plans of the Spiritual Formation Committee to recognize third graders, high school graduates, and the Fellowship Committee's "All Sons Event."
- Went over instruction for elders serving Communion.
- Elected Gina James and Barb Longstreth to serve as commissioners to Presbytery and Jane Barndt to serve as an alternate commissioner if either Gina or Barb are unable to attend.
- Received written and/or oral reports from the Deacons and the Personnel, Worship, Administrative, Fellowship, Spiritual Formation, and Hospitality committees.
- Please keep in your prayers: our upcoming All Sons' event, our wonderful Sunday School teachers, advisors and choir members; our latest new members. We pray for giving to be sustained through the summer months and for the ongoing projects being overseen by the Administrative Committee, for our Mission Mornings and Vacation Bible School, and for all of the volunteers who serve at Barth Elementary school and for the coordinator, Karen Keiser.

Summer Gardening Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help maintain our church gardens by weeding and watering throughout the summer. This could be a good family service project as the chores are done on your own schedule within the two-week time slot that you sign-up for. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or call the church office today. Questions? Call Doreen Duncan, 610-473-2495.

News from the Library

The Books of Karen Kingsbury

If you enjoy stories about life, love, and miracles, you will love the Karen Kingsbury's books. Stories of everyday situations that could befall any of us, at any time, and how with the help of God, the characters are able to work through their situations. There are several series, and most are based around the Baxter family, a down to earth Christian family from Bloomington, Indiana. These books will make you think, pray, cry, and smile...sometimes all at the same time! I, along with others, have become so enamored with the Baxters, that it is almost as though they have become an extension of my own family, to the point that I even attended the Baxter family reunion in Bloomington, IN last year! Ms. Kingsbury reminds us that no matter what situation we may find ourselves in.... God knows the plans He has for us.... If you are looking for some good reading this summer, pick up one or two, and I would be surprised if you could stop at just two! Happy Summer and Happy Reading!

—Audrey Buckley

Grieving the Death of a Friend

Ever wondered how you can best support a friend who has lost a loved one? Check out Harold Ivan Smith's book, Grieving the Death of a Friend. We think you will find it helpful.

—Carter and Kerry

Lectionary Readings for the Summer

May 31 to June 5: Acts 1: 6-14, Psalm 68: 1-10, John 17: 1-11, 1 Peter 4: 12-14

June 6 to June 12: Acts 2: 1-21, Psalm 104: 24-34, 1 Cor. 12: 3-13, John 20: 19-23

June 13 to June 19: Genesis 1: —2: 4, Psalm 8: 2, Cor. 13: 11-13, Matt. 28: 16-20

June 20 to June 26: Genesis 22: 1-14, Psalm 13, Romans 6: 12-23, Matt. 10: 12-14

June 27 to July 3: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-67, Psalm 45: 10-17, Romans 7: 15-25, Matt. 11: 16-19

July 4 to July 10: Genesis 25: 19-34, Psalm 119: 104-112, Rom. 8: 1-11, Matt. 13: 1-9

July 11 to July 17: Genesis 28: 10-19, Psalm 139: 1-12, Rom. 8: 12-25, Matt. 13: 24-30

July 18 to July 24: Genesis 32: 22-31, Psalm 17: 1-7, Rom. 9: 1-5, Matt. 14: 13-21

July 25 to August 7: Genesis 37: 1-4, Psalm 105: 1-6, Rom. 10: 5-15, Matt. 14: 22-33

August 8 to August 14: Genesis 45: 1-15, Psalm 133, Rom. 11:1-2, Matt. 13: 10-20

August 15 to August 21: Exodus 1: 8—2: 10, Psalm 124, Rom. 12: 1-8, Matt. 16: 11-20

August 22 to August 28: Exodus 3: 1-15, Ps. 105: 1-6, Rom. 12: 9-21, Matt. 16: 21-28

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June 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
			Barth Peace-maker award 1:45 p.m. Music/Rec 4:30 Prayer 7:15 Committees 7:30	Sisters of the Way 9:15 Meal 5 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	Cub Scout Sleepover 6:30 p.m. until Sat. 9 a.m.	Jr. Seekers at Relay for Life 12-1
5 Communion Third Grade/ High School Graduation Recognition Conf. Meeting 11:45 Switzerland Meeting 11:45 Senior Seekers	6 HENS Summer Program all week	7 Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	8 Mom's Time Out 9:30 PT Trip 9:45 a.m. M/R 4:30 (last one) Theology Book Group @ Lester's 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting 7:30 p.m.	9 Bible Studies Brunch 9:30 a.m. Meal 5 6:30 Choir picnic Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	10	11 Young Adult Group @ Lesters 6 p.m.
12 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship SS Attendance/Teacher /Music Recognition Strawberry Fest Parent/Youth Picnic 6 p.m.	13	14 Lectio 7:30 p.m.	15 Session Meeting 7:30	16 Community Meal 5 p.m.	17	18
19 9:30 Worship Schedule begins	20	21	22 Compassionate Friends 7:30 p.m.	23 Community Meal 5 p.m.	24	25
26 9:30 Worship Workcamp Commissioning	27	28	29	30 Community Meal 5 p.m.		

July 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 Worship 9:30 a.m. Communion	4	5	6	7 Community Meal 5 p.m.	8	9 Seekers leave for New York-workcamp
10 Worship, 9:30 a.m.	11	12	13	14 Community Meal 5 p.m.	15	16 Workcampers return from New York
17 Worship 9:30 a.m. Emma Allen baptism	18	19	20	21 Community Meal 5 p.m.	22	23
24 Worship, 9:30 a.m.	25	26 Bloodmobile 4-8 p.m.	27	28 Community Meal 5 p.m.	29	30

