



The Celtic Cross

June-July 2012

Letter from the Co-pastors

George Adamski, Sean Allen, Lindy Bostwick, Daniel Bush, Jordan Daniels, Chloe Francis, Sydney Hernandez, Kayla Hofmann, Alexa Lurie, Maddie Macdonald, Ethan McCarrick, Nick Osborn, Caroline Remelius, Avery Rose-Craver, Haley Weller, and Bailey Young...

We hope these names are familiar to you! Their shining faces have been on our bulletin board this year, and we hope they have been in your prayers. They are the names of the members of our confirmation class, the young people who are approaching the most important day of their lives, their Confirmation Day, Sunday, June 10. On that day, they will claim the promises made at their baptism, and freely confess for themselves their faith in Jesus Christ. On that day, they will declare before God, and you, God's people, 'whose side they are on.' And from that day, they will go forth in a new relationship with God, companions of Christ, *disciples*.

These young people do not come to this day glibly or carelessly. They have been preparing for it for a long time — in Sunday School classes, worship, Vacation Bible School, Mission Mornings, youth groups, and through conversations at home with their parents. But since last September, they have been preparing for it earnestly in confirmation classes learning and reflecting on what it means to be created "in the image of God" and yet also be sinners, what it means to say that Jesus was both "fully God and fully man," and what it means to say that we want be one of his followers. They have heard about the covenant people who have gone before them; they have visited the ministries of covenant people in the Presbytery of Philadelphia; they have shared in the service of this congregation through ministry projects with their shepherds; and they have contributed to the kingdom of God through their stewardship projects. (They will report on these efforts to you during the coffee hour on Confirmation Day— stay tuned!).

At the beginning of May, they went on retreat with their shepherds and took the time to put into words their own statements of faith. And on Wednesday, May 16, they met with the Session and said what it means to them to believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and to be his disciple.

We hope that you will join us on June 10 when they profess their faith. And please pray for them; that they may continue to grow in faith, hope and love, that they will always know themselves to be in the grip of God who will never let them go, and that they will forever hold on tight.

See you in church,
Kerry and Carter

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Worship Matters

June 3, 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 Celtic and Cherub Choirs sing and Choir recognition
June 10, 10:30 a.m.	Service of the Lord's Day. Confirmation Sunday Recognition for outstanding Sunday School attendance Recognition of Sunday School teachers, advisors, and choirs Strawberry Fest follows worship
June 17, 9:30 a.m.	Summer worship schedule begins , Service of the Lord's Day
June 24, 9:30 a.m.	Service of the Lord's Day
July 1, 9:30 a.m.	Service of the Lord's Day and Celebration of the Lord's Supper Guest choir, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Grand Rapids, MI Commissioning of Workcampers traveling to Lynchburg, VA
July 8, 9:30 a.m.	Service of the Lord's Day
July 15, 9:30 a.m.	Service of the Lord's Day Worship led by the Workcamp participants Sacrament of Holy Baptism
July 22, 9:30 a.m.	Service of the Lord's Day
July 29, 9:30 a.m.	Service of the Lord's Day

Music Notes

Our church choirs are almost done for the season. However, you can still enjoy the Chancel and children's choirs this month. Choir appreciation Sunday is June 3rd. All choirs will sing that morning. The Chancel choir will sing a delightful classical anthem that declares the joy of singing, "Go Not Far From Me, O God," by Zingarelli. June 10th is Confirmation Sunday and the choir will sing the stunning, "The Plans I Have For You," arranged by Adams. This summer you will enjoy soloists, small vocal groups, a visiting church choir, and instrumentalists. Please take a moment to thank these brave souls for giving of their time and talent during our summer worship.

I would like to thank our Chancel and handbell choirs for all their hours of work and dedication. Special thanks to Scott Sample for covering for me for almost two weeks while I was 'under the weather.'

Remember September is the perfect time to join a choir. The Chancel choir is always happy to add new faces and the handbell choir can always use subs. If you are interested in either choir, please email or call me so I can have music ready for you. We have had a great year and look forward to bringing more musical glory to God next fall.

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

Upcoming Events

Nature Walk, Hay Creek Reservoir, Sunday Afternoon, June 3

The picturesque Hay Creek watershed and reservoir will be alive with abundant opportunities to hear and see many nesting songbirds, see and photograph native wildflowers and butterflies, explore a variety of trails or just take in the serenity of the reservoir. The walk along the main trail is approximately 3-miles round trip. Folks may come and go as they please. Please plan on bringing insect repellent, and binoculars and cameras are encouraged. Also parents should be aware that there was a recent graffiti spree along the main trail and attempts to clean it up by a local volunteer group are ongoing, but there may still be traces visible on the 3rd.

Meet at the church at 2:15; caravan leaves at 2:30. Or you can meet halfway at the former Birdsboro IGA supermarket parking lot on Rt 345. Directions are available in the church office as well. If you have questions, contact Mike Deegan, our fearless leader at 484-524-8072 or mdeegs16@aol.com

Seekers-Parents End-of-the-Year Picnic, Sunday, June 3 (and mandatory Workcamp Covenant meeting)

Time: 6:00 to 7:30. Followed by the workcamp meeting 7:30 to 8:15

Seekers and Parents: Join us in the fellowship hall as we say "Thank You" to the Advisors for the time and love they have given the youth over this past year. We will also be saying hello to upcoming 9th graders and goodbye to our Seniors. **Please RSVP** on the insert in the bulletin or call Liv at the office.

Please bring a side dish for 8 to share!

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

Strawberries, ice cream and cake—what a great way to celebrate Confirmation Sunday and begin the summer! Following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 10, 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.



Movie Night Under the Stars, Saturday, June 23 at dusk

(or in Fellowship Hall if it rains)

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!

Spiritual Formation Opportunities for Adults

Adult Education Opportunities on Sunday Morning—Ends June 10

- **Forum (Community Room)**
June 3: 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 10: Faith and Film** Teacher: Carter
 Join Carter to see excerpts from *Shawshank Redemption* and *Dead Man Walking* and discuss the Biblical passages they illustrate and faith issues they raise.
- **Men’s Sunday Mornings (Pastors’ Conference Room)**
Topic: “Living and Growing in Godliness” Teacher: Rev. Bernarr Rhoades
June 3: Solomon—Search for Satisfaction
June 10: Josiah—Wealth of Scripture .
- **Sacred Space for Women (Mary Ann Yost Room—110)**
Topic: “Entering Christ’s Prayer” Teacher: Amy Shutt
- **Faith and Relationships (Library)** **Topic: “Sabbath Practices and Sabbath as Resistance”** Teachers: Sharon Trevoy and Rob Wade

Weekday Opportunities (all break for the summer after June 12)

- **Sisters of the Way:** Meets on Thursdays, 9:15-10:45 a.m. On June 14, we will end the year with a brunch at 9:30 a.m. in the Community Room. Teacher: Kerry.
- **Evening Bible Study:** 7:30—8:30 PM on Tuesday, June 12. Teacher: Carter
- **Lectio Divina Group (praying the Scriptures):** Tuesday, June 5 and 19, 7:30 p.m. Teacher: Kerry
- **Moms’ Time-Out:** Will next meet next Fall. Teacher: Kerry
- **Theology Reading Group:** Meets May 30 before breaking for the summer. To find out what we are reading over the summer to discuss in August or September, contact Carter.

Families Forming Faith

An important aspect of faith is being able to articulate what you believe. The confirmands had to articulate their beliefs at the retreat at the end of the year and we will hear the expressions of their faith in church on June 10th. Families can do this too! Take some time on a rainy afternoon or after dinner and write your own affirmation of faith. You can start with these questions...

Remember to listen to and include the children and youth’s answers.

What do I know or believe about God?

What do I believe about treating others?

What do I know or believe about Jesus?

What do I know about the church?

What do I know or believe about the Holy Spirit?

Children and Youth Cont.

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

On behalf of the congregation, the Spiritual Formation 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 10 is “Moving Up” Sunday in Sunday School.

Another year has passed and the children, taking all they have learned this year are ready to move up to the next class where their faith formation will continue to find nourishment. 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 3 Celtic and Cherub Choirs sing and are recognized in worship

Both children’s choirs will sing in worship on June 3 and will be recognized for their joyful leadership in worship along with the adult choirs.

July 3rd Splish-n-Splash– Children new born up to first grade are invited to come play in the sunshine with sprinklers and a waterslide! Parents, bring your little ones for a few hours of summer fun at the church. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sign-up for VBS: “Faith Connection” You will find sign-up sheets in the bulletin or in Mrs. Liv’s office. **The dates are July 30– August 3rd.** Adults, come be a part of this special week! If you are available to help please see Liv Robertson.

Mission Mornings– August 6th -10th. Jr Seekers, this is your week! We will be headed to Philly, Ephrata, Pottstown, and, of course, we’ll spend a day caring for our church. Parents please email or call Liv Robertson to sign up your Seeker or sign up on the insert in the bulletin. Rising 5th graders through rising 8th graders are invited!

Jr. Seekers

June 3rd– 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 3rd -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 greet the new 9th graders as they join the Sr. Seeker ranks also be saying a goodbye to the Seniors as they move on to college. ****

June 28th and June 30th- Welcome Westminster Durham and Westminster Grand Rapids! Two youth groups will be staying at our church June 28th and June 30th and we would like to help make them feel at home. Seekers, come help make dinner for them and then we’ll play some awesome Seeker games... do I hear British Bulldog?? Be at the church at 4:30 on the 28th or the 30th

******Workcampers******– 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 encouraged to join the meeting.**

Fellowship Opportunities

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

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

Prime Timers

50-year members!!

2012 marks the 50th anniversary of First Presbyterian's move from High and Evans Streets to our present locations. In September, we want to recognize all of our 50-year members, as well as collect some of your congregational memories. If you have been a member for 50 years, please check with Peggy to make sure we have you on our list. We do not want to leave anyone out!

Check the bulletin board for summertime plans for Prime Timers!

Young Adults — June 22 at the Lipskys

We gather at Mike and Mindy Lipsky's house, 1275 Pine Street at 6 p.m. for a potluck dinner and discussion of the movie, "50-50." If you have questions, need directions, or want to find out what to bring, contact Carter or Kerry or Mike and Mindy.

Acorns of Faith Summer Luncheon Sunday, June 24, following worship



The Endowment Committee is hosting an Acorns of Faith summer luncheon at the church on Sunday, June 24 following worship. If you would like to meet representatives of Glenmede Trust, the investment company that manages our endowment fund, if you are an "Acorn of Faith" who has already made a commitment to contribute to the Endowment fund, or if you would like to know more about how you might give a gift that will help ensure a strong future for

First Presbyterian Church's ministry, please join us. Speakers from Glenmede will be sharing ideas about planned giving and will offer attendees the opportunity to learn more about Glenmede, current market conditions, and how our endowment is invested.

If you agree with the following:

- I believe that all I have is a gift from God.
- I believe that giving enables our church to be the light in the community.
- I believe that my giving will enable future generations to know Jesus Christ....

...Then perhaps you should consider being a planned giver! Please RSVP to the church office by June 15. If you have any questions, please contact Patty Picardi at patriciapicardi@comcast.net or 610-970-8555.

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: John Davis, Nancy McDevitt, and Kit Gingrich.

We send condolences to the family of Lu Gaut as we gave thanks for her life on May 3rd.

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Sarah Allen, Laurie Buckley, Robert Burkhart, Jessica Geyer, Maggie Kanter, Anna Kohnken, Chadd Livezey, Nicole Levin, Tyler Levin, Tunde Oladipo, William Shutt, Cordelia Urquhart, and Allison Weller.

Congratulations to recent college and graduate school graduates: Kristen Kyler, Stephanie Rhoadarmer, Kim Fulmer, Allison Shutt, Julia Urquhart, Elizabeth Remelius, Brittany Buchanan, and Molly Lester. **If you know of anyone else, please let us know.**

Congratulations to third graders recently receiving their Bibles: Alicia Daniels, Jonah Kasznay, Quincy Lee, Rebecca Lipsky, Abby Rice, Madelyn Schmuck, James Thompson, Travis Thorum.

Thanks to our Confirmation shepherds: Mike Lipsky, Gary James, Missy Weber, Marianne Harrison, Jacki Wagner, Doreen Duncan, Marlene Wrigley, Seth Rios, Barbara Longstreth, Lisa Livezey, Jaylee Ferreri, Joe Collins, Tom Zeigler, Sharon Trevoy, Paul Lepard and Gwen Allen.

Thanks to Andy Lane, Mike Ziemba, and Dave Voytko for volunteering to do some church cleaning while our sexton, Tom Spitko, was on vacation.

Sing the Faith Songbook Giving Opportunities

We are adding more songbooks to the pews. If you would like to make a unique gift in honor or memory someone important to you, here is another chance. Each donation will be honored with a nameplate inside the book. The cost of each donation is \$15 (checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked "new songbook." Let us know who should be shown as making the gift (or you can request it to be anonymous), and for whom it is given "in honor of," or "in memory of." Turn in your donations with the accompanying information to the church office.

Branches of the Vine: Cluster Signature Page and Vegetable Garden

Cluster Signature Page: For the second year, the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities is promoting a Signature Page in *The Mercury*. Last year, the Cluster raised \$11,500. All of the donations go to support Pottstown residents in need. If you would like to share your signature for \$10 (individual) or \$25 (business name), see Doreen Duncan at a table in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, June 10 (during the Strawberry Fest).

Vegetable Garden at the Church: Did you know that, along with the flower gardens that surround our church with their beauty, we also have a vegetable garden? A small, but dedicated group of people, prepare the ground each spring with a rototiller, plant the vegetables, pull weeds, and tend the growing crops. We usually plant tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers, and zucchini. During the summer and early fall we take these fresh vegetables to either Cluster or the Salvation Army. Please talk with Barb Longstreth if you are interested in helping with this project.

Session Digest

At its May meeting, the Session:

- Welcomed new elders Dave Duncan, Amy Shutt, and Barbara Peckham and returning elders Rob Wade and Karen Keiser.
- Welcomed the confirmands, their shepherds, and their parents with great joy. Professing their faith and being received into church membership upon their profession of faith in worship on June 10 were confirmands: George Adamski Sean Allen, Lindy Bostwick, Daniel Bush, Jordan Daniels, Chloe Francis, Sydney Hernandez, Kayla Hofmann, Alexa Lurie, Maddie Macdonald, Ethan McCarrick, Nick Osborn, Caroline Remelius, Haley Weller, and Avery Rose-Craver. A “commission” of elders was elected to meet with Baily Young before June 10. Approved the baptism of confirmand George Adamski on June 10.
- Ratified the Committee chairs and Session committee assignments made at the suggestion of the moderators, Kerry and Carter.
- Approved Kerry and Carter taking vacation leave July 18-25 and August 21-28, and taking continuing education leave, August 2-10.
- Received the Treasurers’ Report from Michelle Thompson, the church treasurer. Voted to transfer the monthly mission fund allocations for the Mission Fund and Capital Improvement fund.
- Approved the baptisms of Landon Wheelles, child of God and son of Kim and Phil Wheelles, on July 15, 2012, and of Brilan Biesecker, child of God and daughter of Brian and Lori Biesecker, on August 19, 2012. Approved Landon’s grandmother, a minister in the United Methodist Church, being invited to participate in his baptism
- Approved receipt of the Pentecost Offering on Sunday, May 27.
- Approved the expenditure of up to \$6000 from the Capital Improvement fund to double-coat the flat roofs over the office area and Community Room. The Admin. Committee will bring to the June meeting a proposal for caulking and recoating the stucco on the “new wing,” which also must be done.
- Went over instruction for elders serving Communion.
- Elected Marlene Wrigley and Barb Longstreth to serve as commissioners to Presbytery.
- Received written and/or oral reports from the Deacons and the Personnel, Worship, Administrative, Fellowship, Mission, and Spiritual Formation committees.
- Please keep in your prayers:
 - Mission: Our community vegetable garden—that the needed help will come forward.
 - Administrative: Thanksgiving that we have the money needed for necessary repairs.
 - Fun and Fellowship: That our committee will continue to come up with good ideas;
 - Spiritual Formation: For our third graders, high school graduates, and summer programs.
 - Hospitality: For our new members
 - Personnel: For safe and restful trips for our staff in their summer travels.
 - Worship: Thanksgiving for our choirs and music program.

Counters Corner for June and July—Thank you!!

June: Fred Remelius, captain, Scott Sample, Gina James, and Karen Keiser

July: Captains—Bill Campbell (July 1), Patty Picardi (July 8 and 22), Jane Neiss (July 15), and Tom Zeigler (July 29). Regular counters: Charlie Jenkins, Herb Barndt, and Jane Barndt

Financial Report

Budgeted income for the year:	538,905
Budgeted income through April 30:	179,635
Actual income through April 30:	176,434
Income this time last year:	162,365

Budgeted expenses for the year:	538,905
Budgeted expenses through April 30:	179,635
Actual expenses through April 30:	156,021
Expenses this time last year:	158,084

Surplus to date (after Mission and Cap. Improvement paid) :	\$3458
Deficit this time last year:	(1,021)

Lectionary Readings for the Summer

May 28 to June 3: Isaiah 6: 1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8: 12-17, John 3: 1-17

June 4 to 10: 1 Samuel 8: 4-11, Psalm 138, 2 Cor. 4: 12—5:1, Mark 3: 20-35

June 11 to 17: 1 Samuel 15: 34—16: 13, Psalm 20, 2 Cor. 5: 6-10, Mark 4: 26-34

June 18 to June 24: 1 Samuel 17: 39-49, Psalm 9: 9-20, 2 Cor. 6: 1-13, Mark 4: 35-41

June 25-July 1: 2 Samuel 1: 1-17, Psalm 130, 2 Cor. 8: 7-15, Mark 5: 21-43

July 2 to July 8: 2 Samuel 1: 17-27, Psalm 130, 2 Cor. 12: 2-10, Mark 6: 1-13

July 9 to July 15: 2 Samuel 6: 1-5, Psalm 24, Ephesians 1: 3-14, Mark 6: 14-20

July 16 to July 22: 2 Samuel 7: 1-14, Psalm 89-20-27, Ephesians 2: 11-22, Mark 6: 30-34

July 23 to July 29: 2 Samuel 11: 1-15, Psalm 14, Ephesians 3: 14-21, John 6: 1-21

July 30 to August 5: 2 Samuel 11: 26—12: 13, Psalm 51: 1-12, Eph. 4: 1-16, John 6: 24-35

August 6 to August 12: 2 Samuel 18: 5-0, Psalm 130, Eph. 4: 25—5: 2, John 6: 35

August 13 to August 19: 1 Kings 2: 10-12, Psalm 111, Eph. 5: 15-20, John 6 51-58,

Tending Gardens: Can you help us keep First Presbyterian beautiful?

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.

June 2012

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 Communion Third Grade/ High School Graduation Recognition Senior Seekers Bible 3:30 Parent/Youth Picnic 6 p.m. Covenant Mtg. 7:30	4 HENS Summer Program all week	5 Lectio Divina 7:30 p.m.	6 M/R 4:30 (last one) Evening Prayer 7:15 p.m. Committee Meetings 7:30 p.m.	7 Sisters of the Way 9:15 a.m. Meal 5 6:30 Choir picnic Choir Re- hearsal 7:30 p.m.	8	9
10 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship SS Attendance/ Teacher /Music Recognition Strawberry Fest Confirmation Sunday	11	12 Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Meals on Wheels set up 6 p.m.	13 Meals on Wheels Vol- unteer Lunch Deacons Meeting 7:30	14 Bible Studies Brunch 9:30 a.m. Community Meal 5 p.m.	15	16
17 9:30 Worship Schedule be- gins	18	19 .	20 Session Meet- ing 7:30 p.m.	21 Community Meal 5 p.m.	22 Young Adult Group at Lipskys 6:00 p.m.	23 "Nanny McPhee" Movie Night Dusk
24 9:30 Worship Acorns of Faith Luncheon 10:45 a.m.	25	26	27	28 Community Meal 5 p.m. Westminster PC Durham, NC arrives	29 Westminster P.C. Durham, N.C. serving in Pottstown and staying at church	30 Westminster P.C., Durham leaves Westminster P.C., Grand Rapids, arrives

July 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30 Worship Communion Westminster P.C. Choir Sings Workcamp Commissioning	.	Splish-Splash 2 -4 p.m		Community Meal 5 p.m.		Workcampers leave for Lynchburg
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 9:30 a.m.		Prayer Shawl 7 p.m.		Community Meal 5 p.m.		Workcampers return from Lynchburg
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship, 9:30 a.m. Baptism				Community Meal 5 p.m.		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 9:30 a.m.	VBS 6-8	VBS 6-8	Endowment Meeting 8:30 a.m. VBS 6-8	Community Meal 5 p.m. VBS 6-8	VBS 6-8	
29	30	31				
Worship, 9:30 a.m.						

