



# The Celtic Cross

June-July 2015

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## Letter from the Co-pastors:

What do we Presbyterians contribute to the greater church? Some people might point to our name. We are called Presbyterians because we are ruled by elders, and the Greek word for elder is *presbuteros*. We are somewhat unique in the way that leadership is shared in Presbyterian congregations between clergy and the Session, what we now call “teaching elders” and “ruling elders,” and unlike most other denominations, when we ordain our clergy and lay leaders in worship, both teaching and ruling elders lay hands on those to be ordained. But if that is all that is distinctive for us then we might feel as if our motto or tagline is something like: “Presbyterians: the people who brought you “presbyters” and “presbyteries” - hardly exciting or one that will energize our ministry together.

But there is a more substantive contribution we have made to the greater church. As Charles Wiley recently wrote in *Presbyterians Today*, “from the Mennonites, we [Presbyterians] learn the discipline of not conforming to our surrounding culture. From Catholics, we gain an appreciation for God’s presence in the sacraments...And from the Pentecostals, we are given the exuberance of the Spirit. The doctrine of grace and gratitude is our gift to the wider church.” Since the days of John Calvin, we Presbyterians have always emphasized that we love only because God loved us first. We did not choose Christ; instead Christ chose us. Our baptism of infants is a sign of our recognition of God’s grace, that God claims us and loves us even before we know what is happening. And we experience grace at the Lord’s Table, where we come not because we are worthy, but because we are invited by Christ, our gracious host.

In response to God’s grace, how can we not be filled with gratitude? We do not love, serve, and do good works to gain God’s love. God’s love is a gift that cannot be earned. All we can do is love, give, and share out of gratitude and in response to God’s grace. That is why our worship and prayers should begin with praise and thanksgiving, and why “saying grace” before meals is such an important way of reminding ourselves of all God’s gifts. Because God has been so generous to us, we have reason to be generous with others. To quote another theologian, “gratitude follows grace like thunder follows lightning.”

May we live lives of gratitude that all may know the abundant grace of God!

Grace and peace,  
Carter and Kerry

**P.S. If you have not had a chance yet, please return your health ministry survey (or you can pick one up at the church and fill it out).**

**Also, another installation trip to Honduras is being planned for October. If you are interested, contact Bill DuPree.**

## Worship Matters [When are we thanking who in June? Cherub?](#)

- June 7 10:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day and Celebration of the Lord's Supper  
Recognition for Outstanding Sunday School Attendance
- June 14 10:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day.  
Cherub and Celtic Choirs sing  
Recognition of choirs and Sunday School teachers and advisors  
**Strawberry Fest follows worship**
- June 21 9:30 a.m.** **Summer worship schedule begins**, Service of the Lord's Day  
Rev. Jeff Fox-Kline preaching
- June 28 9:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day
- July 5 9:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day and Celebration of the Lord's Supper  
Commissioning of Workcampers
- July 12 9:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day
- July 19 9:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day.  
Worship led by the Workcamp participants
- July 26 9:30 a.m.** Service of the Lord's Day  
Rev. Jeff Fox-Kline preaching
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## Music Notes

Various styles of music from classical to jazz will be offered this month on the keyboards. Handel's "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth," a jazzy version of "Blessed Assurance," and a rousing "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" are a few examples of what you will hear on the organ. Featured on the piano will be Marilynn Ham's lush, "Be Thou My Vision," as well as a Mark Hayes' offering called "Shepherd Me, O God." The latter may not be as familiar to you as some of the others, but it is a beautiful arrangement of the Twenty-third Psalm, which is included in the new Presbyterian hymnal called "Glory to God." We also look forward to welcoming our church's former organist and choir director Corinne Griffiths back to the piano and organ one Sunday.

The Handbell choir will be ringing the prelude on the first Sunday of June with "The Bells Heard 'Round the World." The piece is based on a change ringing pattern called the Plain Hunt. The Hunting is a patterning of one bell, usually in the treble voice, which starts by ringing first and gradually changes to being last (hunting up). The reverse process, from last to first, is called hunting down. The piece is coupled with an English tune, which fits the rhythm of the ringing bells of St. Clements church in London. The church is quite small, only 64 feet long and 40 feet wide. There has been a church on this site since the 11 century, this one being the third one.

The Chancel Choir's June anthems begin with "Standin' in the Need of Prayer!" We will be joined on this rousing gospel with bass, and drums! We will finish our liturgical season with the "Anthem of the Year!" Choir members were asked to vote for their *favorite* anthem **(cont. on p. 9)**

## Upcoming Events

### **End of the Year Parent/Seeker Advisor Appreciation Picnic June 14, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

*We will thank our advisors, say goodbye to our Seniors and goodbye and hello to our rising 9th graders. Please sign up by e-mailing Jeff (jfoxkline@fpcpottstown.org) or on the church bulletin board or by calling the church office. Junior and Senior Seekers welcome as well as all family! Please bring an appetizer/ snack/dessert.*

### **MANDATORY Workcamp Meeting following the Picnic, 7:30-8:15**

Parents please come at the beginning or end to sign the necessary paperwork and parents of "first timers" are encouraged to join us for the entire meeting.

The picnic officially ends at 7:30, but feel free to stick around and sit around the fire with us!

### **Strawberry Fest, Sunday, June 14 after 10:30 a.m. worship**



**Yum!**

Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>  
Immediately following the Worship Service,  
join us in Fellowship Hall  
Great food and fellowship to celebrate  
the beginning of the Summer Schedule  
Sign up on the bulletin board or on the bulletin insert or call  
Peggy in the church office.  
**Don't miss the fun!**

### **Backyard Blessings: We are the Body of Christ!**

Join other individuals and families of all ages as we take our faith out into the world and discover blessings in our own backyard, including each other.

Dates: Thursday July 9 5:00-7:00 (Community Meals), Thursday July 16 6:30-8:00, Thursday July 23 6:30-8:00, Saturday August 1 9:00-4:00 (Kirkwood), Thursday August 6 6:30-8:00, Thursday August 14-15 (Zoo Snooze)

An intergenerational celebration of the different parts of the Body of Christ. Each evening will be 'hosted' by one of the many groups that bless this church family. Join us to see the incredible breadth of this body that we call the church

We'll end up with an overnight at the Elmwood Park Zoo on Friday August 14!

**More information available in the "Insert" to this newsletter.  
Brochure and registration materials available at the church**

## Spiritual Formation Opportunities for Adults

### **Adult Education Opportunities on Sunday Morning—Ends June 14**

- **Forum and Men’s Sunday Mornings (Community Room)**

- **June 7: “Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection and the Mission of the Church” - Carter**

The two classes combine for a series based on the book and video by the Anglican bishop and spiritual writer, Tom Wright. What are the practical implications of our understanding of Easter and the resurrection? You may think you know all about the resurrection but join us for this provocative study which will give you something new to consider—as well as something more traditional to treasure.

- **June 14: Report from Bayville, Vol. 2**

Our adult mission participants will report and show pictures concerning their recent mission trip to Bayville, New Jersey to help residents rebuild their homes.

- **Women’s Sunday Mornings (Mary Ann Yost Room—110)**

**Topic: “Fruits of the Spirit”** Teachers: Kris Barcus, Donna Force, Debbie Remelius, and Jan Rose.

- **Faith and Relationships (Library) Topic: “Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go”** Teachers: Sharon Trevoy and Rob Wade

### **Weekday Adult Opportunities**

- **Sisters of the Way:** Last meeting before the summer is a brunch: June 4 at Donna Force’s house at 9:30 a.m. Those who want to carpool will meet at the church at 9 a.m.
- **Lectio Divina Group (praying the Scriptures):** Tuesday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m. Teacher: Kerry (last gathering before the summer)
- **Next Week’s Sermon** Starts again in September. Teacher: Carter
- **Theology Reading Group:** Will meet in August at Carter’s house to continue our discussion of Lesslie Newbigin’s The Gospel in a Pluralist Society. For details or if you are interested but have never come before, contact Carter at [clester@fpcpottstown.org](mailto:clester@fpcpottstown.org)

### **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.

## Children and Youth

### **Sunday, June 14 is “Moving Up” Sunday in Sunday School, while we honor the teachers in worship.**

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 this worship service we will also celebrate the ministry of the teachers as we recognize the gifts that they have given us and lift up their service.

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### **Seekers Summer News (see also June 14 picnic details on p. 3)**

The Summer for Seekers is not a time off, but a time to celebrate!

Thursdays over the summer: This summer I will be in my office on Thursdays starting at 1:00 for open office hours. If you are feeling bored and looking for someone to hang out with, stop by the church. Want to play Frisbee, but don't know who to call? Want to walk to Rita's, but don't want to go it alone? Stop by after 1:00 on Thursdays! This goes out to all of the seekers, so if you are a graduating senior, come on by! If you are a fifth grader who wants to get an early jumpstart we can't wait to have you! Starting on June 18

**July 11-18: This is the big one! Workcamp!** The Senior Seekers are going to Workcamp in Richmond Virginia. Look forward to a week filled with faithful work as we serve God and God's people! Look forward to a week filled with meaningful conversation on what it is to serve and love God! Look forward to a week of incredible fellowship with some of the most wonderful people you will ever meet!

**August 3-7: Junior Seekers Mission Mornings!** Learn what it is to serve and gather together as friends and children of God. We will be going to various places in the area for the day including Kirkwood, Ephrata and the Pottstown Training center. The final day will have us enjoying the sun at a pool party! This is for rising sixth graders through rising eighth graders. If you are looking to join us for this event contact Jeff Fox-Kline at [jfoxkline@fpcpottstown.org](mailto:jfoxkline@fpcpottstown.org).

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### **A note from Jeff Fox-Kline**

My second program year draws to a close and I can only sit back and thank God for the blessings that have been bestowed on this church. From the advisors to the teachers to the nursery care to the Spiritual Formation Committee; this church is rich with willing, loving, compassionate and faithful leaders eager to share their love of God with the children and youth in the congregation. Thank you to parents who bring their kids to Sunday School and thank you to parents who stick around to teach. Thank you to teachers who do not have children in Sunday School, we are truly blessed that this is how you choose to serve the church. Mornings, afternoons evenings, overnights, this work is the work of the Lord. The time that you spend with the kids and youth at this church will be remembered by them for decades to come. You are the hands and feet of Christ. You are nurturing a faith to last a lifetime. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!!

—Jeff

## Fellowship Opportunities

### Prime Timers:

#### **July 30, 2015 at 3:00 PM. American Music Theater in Lancaster**

We will see the show "Inspire" which celebrates the power of music through the themes of Hope, Faith, Freedom, and Joy. Cost is \$27.00 each. We will have dinner together after the show with each person paying for their own. Sign up on the church bulletin board.

**August 12, 2015. Carillon concert and Irish Thunder Pipes and Drums at Valley Forge Park.** More details will be on the church bulletin board. We will eat a picnic supper together at the park prior to the concert.

#### **Faithful Friends with Children, Saturday, June 6 at 5p.m. at the Vedocks**

Calling all those with preschool children—come for a potluck supper and fellowship. Children welcome! To find out what to bring or for directions, contact Eliza Vedock or Jeff.

#### **Faithful Friends—Either Fri. June 26 or Sat. June 27 at Sly Fox**

Join us as we gather for an informal supper and fellowship at Sly Fox Brewery here in Pottstown. Carter and Kerry will soon be sending out an email to find out which night will be best for folks. If you are interested or have questions, let us know.

### Faith and Nature Group

As I walked all alone on the beach on a perfect spring morning just after sunrise at Island Beach State Park, some song lyrics kept running through my mind; "A beach is a place where a soul can feel that he is the only soul in the world that is real." Having miles of beach completely to one's self is amazing beyond words. I was not without company though. There were gulls of many varieties, sanderlings, plovers, terns, black skimmers, and many other shore birds. There were schools of dolphins passing close by, as well as two harbor seals. I saw a fox dash into the dunes. In that moment, I felt God patting me on the shoulder. Not literally, but I was overcome with the sense of how privileged I was to be on that beach, at that moment in time. As the sun rose higher in the morning, that sense of privilege became a sense of complete delight and contentment. My soul was revived. And why was on a beach in April? I was there serving God through our mission work camp. God's grace? Absolutely.

Our group had a spectacular hike at Mill Grove, home of John J. Audubon, on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The sounds and sights of spring were everywhere. The flute like song of the wood thrush, ovenbirds calling "teacher, teacher, teacher," Towhees encouraging us to "drink your teeeee," and common yellowthroats singing "witchity, witchity, witchity," were just a few of the dozens of bird species we saw and heard that day. Late in the hike we were blessed with a not too common sighting of a Nashville warbler who also serenaded us. I have only caught a glimpse of that bird once before, so this was a treat to not only see him, but also to hear his song.

As we approach the end of our spring hiking season and prepare for a few months off, I hope that you will be able to find your own beach or special place to feel God's grace in your life.

Our last hike of the spring will be **Sunday, June 7th at Crow's Nest Preserve in Elverson.** This beautiful Natural Lands Trust preserve offers a serene trail that **(Cont. on p. 7)**

## Parish Nurse Notes:

Hi! I am so happy to be here and settling in to my new office! Thanks to all of you who have stopped in to say hello and see my new "space". It is still a work in progress but please stop by to introduce yourself anytime you are at church and see my door open! I hope to grace this newsletter space with timely tips and news to help you be the healthiest version of you!

It's finally beautiful weather and with that come those pesky **TICKS!** It's *so important* to protect ourselves from ticks and Lyme Disease! According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), Lyme disease is the most commonly occurring vector-borne disease in the United States. An estimated 300,000 infections occur each year.

### **Fortunately there are ways to protect yourself...**

**1. Know where to expect ticks.** Blacklegged ticks live in moist and humid environments, particularly in or near wooded or grassy areas. To avoid ticks, walk in the center of trails and avoid tall vegetation.

**2. Use a repellent with DEET (on skin or clothing) or permethrin (on clothing and gear).** Repellents containing 20% or more DEET can be applied to the skin, and they can protect up to several hours. Always follow product instructions! Parents should apply repellents to their children, taking care to avoid application to hands, eyes, and mouth.

### **3. Perform Daily Tick Checks**

Check your body for ticks after being outdoors, even in your own yard. Take special care to check these parts of your body and your child's body for ticks:

under the arms; in and around the ears; inside the belly button; back of the knees; in and around all head and body hair; between the legs; and around the waist.

### **4. Check your clothing and pets for ticks.**

### **How to remove a tick...**

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water.
4. Dispose of a live tick by submersing it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet. Never crush a tick with your fingers.

**After being bitten by a tick,** watch for signs or symptoms of Lyme disease such as rash or fever for the few weeks following. See your healthcare provider if these develop. Don't forget to protect your pets as well and treat them with veterinarian-prescribed tick collars or spot-on treatment. Have a safe and healthy summer! Don't forget your sunscreen!  
—Dawn (dskelly@fpcpottstown.org)

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## Fellowship Opportunities cont.

winds along the French Creek through woods and meadows. It's approximately 2 to 4 miles of walking. We will meet at church at 1:30 pm. Please sign up on bulletin board or contact me at mdeegs16@aol.com or by phone: 484-524-8072. Hope to see you out there.

—Mike

## Session Digest

At its May meeting, the Session:

- Welcomed new elders Sharon Holloway, Andy Lane, Patty Picardi, and Tom Zeigler and shared joys and concerns.
- Approved Kerry taking vacation leave June 5-8.
- Approved moving the June Session meeting to June 24 because Carter and Kerry will be on vacation during the third week of June.
- Elected Sharon Holloway to be the second elder on the Nominating Committee and approve the following appointments of committee chairs and elder assignments:
  - Admin: Andy Lane, chair, effective Sept. 1, Bill Campbell and Hank Phillips
  - Hospitality: Joan Brasacchio, chair, Patty Picardi and Chad Stacks
  - Mission: Barbara Longstreth, chair, Sharon Trevoy, Sharon Holloway, Dave Allebach, Tom Zeigler, and Sue Moyer
  - Worship: Barbara Peckham, chair and Kathleen O'Hara
  - Spiritual Formation: Bill Dupree, chair and Marlene Wrigley
  - Endowment: Patty Picardi, chair, Chad Stacks, and Dave Allebach
  - Nominating: Chad Stacks, chair and Sharon Holloway
  - Personnel: Bill Campbell, effective Sept. 1 and Andy Lane
  - Stewardship: Kurt Holloway, chair, Sharon Trevoy, and Bill Campbell
  - Clerk of Session: Patty Picardi and Treasurer: Michelle Thompson
- Received the Treasurers' Report from Michelle Thompson, the church treasurer. In light of the General Fund deficit, voted to transfer only one month allocation to the Mission fund.
- Received a draft final report from the Porter-Broward taskforce and voted on two proposed grants that would be timely gifts: a donation to Camp Kirkwood for scholarships and to support a staff position and a gift to the Pottstown Carousel which will enable our congregation to be recognized in the last "rounding board" on the Carousel.
- Approved spending up to \$3700 from the Capital Improvement fund to purchase hardware necessary for installation of wifi system.
- Received a report from the Presbytery meeting from commissioners Marlene Wrigley and Sue Moyer.
- Received written and/or oral reports from the Deacons and Mission, Hospitality, Spiritual Formation, Worship, and Personnel Committees.
- Our prayers: Thanksgiving for our many volunteers who support the worship of the church, thanksgiving for our teachers, youth advisors, and childcare volunteers, thanksgiving for sue Moyer's (Treasurer) and Sharon Holloway's (Secretary) hard work on the mission committee and prayers for our children, for the work being done on our windows, and for those who visit the church that their lives may be touched by the Holy Spirit through us.

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## Counters Corner for June and July—Thank you!!

June: Hank Phillips, Dee Phillips, Barbara Winter, Sheila Dugan

July 5: Sharon Trevoy, Karen Stacks, Marlene Wrigley, Mike Ziemba

July 12: Dave Duncan, Andy Hazeltine, Joe Collins, Susan Matrone

July 19: Rob Wade, Bill Wilson, Sharon Holloway, Jim Madden

July 26: Tom Zeigler, Susan Moyer, Dave DeLong, Jon Allen

## Financial Report

Budgeted income for the year:	573,590	Budgeted expenses for the year:	592,132
Budgeted income through April 30:	191,197	Budgeted expenses thru Apr 30:	197,377
Actual income through April 30:	184,378	Actual expenses thru Apr 30:	189,572
Income this time last year:	184,268	Expenses this time last year:	177,973

Deficit to date (after Mission allocation paid) : (\$11,861)  
 Deficit this time last year: (\$372)

## Online Giving

Going away on vacation? Do you want to make your contribution to the church in the same way you pay your other bills? You can always make contributions online—either on a one-time basis or regularly. Just click on the tab on our webpage. In worship, you can use one of the new pew cards to symbolically make your offering physically in worship.

## Music Notes, cont. from p. 2

from a list of 32 anthems that were performed this year. Can't wait to see what we are singing!

Our summer musicians are preparing their music as well. Rob Land will begin by singing on Father's Day, followed by Sarah Pinard, Beth Ann Straub, Linda Hale and myself singing a beautiful SSAA version of "Set Me As A Seal" on the final Sunday in June.

The Children's choirs will finish their year singing on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Our music ministry continues to devote and dedicate ourselves to present our best musical works before God. We hope and pray that we may inspire and encourage you through our musical selections.

Cynthia Foust, Director of Music Ministry  
 Deb Voytko, Organist  
 Jo Ann Bathurst, Director of Children's Choirs

## 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:** Ruth Neville and Dick Ludwick.

**We send condolences to the families of** Eleanor Jones and Herman Siever, and to Chad Stacks and family upon the death of Chad's mother.

**Congratulations to our high school graduates:** Danielle Buchanan, Zachary Burkhr, Torry Dugan, Connor Ferreri, A. J. Lewis, Joe Macdonald, Cecilia Roseo and Caroline Stacks.

**Congratulations to recent college and graduate school graduates:** Cameron Ferreri, Becca Fulmer and Maggie Kanter.

**If you know of anyone else, please let us know.**

# June 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>HENS Summer Program all week</b>		M/R 4:30  Evening Prayer 7:15 Committees 7:30	Sisters Bible Study Brunch @ Donna's 9:30 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30		<b>Eleanor Jones Memorial Service 11 a.m.</b>
<b>7</b> Sun Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 Communion SS Attendance Recog. Nature Walk	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Relay Mtg. 6 p.m. Deacons' Meeting 7:30	<b>11</b>  Community Meal 5 p.m. Choir Picnic@ Genthers' 6:30	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Strawberry Fest set up</b>
<b>14</b> Sun Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 Cherub/Celtic Choirs sing-Teacher/Advisor/Choir Recog. Strawberry Fest Seekers Picnic 6	<b>15</b>  HENS Board Meeting 7:30	<b>16</b>  Meals on Wheels Lunch set up	<b>17</b>  Meals on Wheels Volunteer Lunch 1 p.m.  Relay Mtg. 5:45	<b>18</b>  Community Meal 5 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  Worship 9:30 a.m.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Compassionate Friends 7:30 Session 7:30	<b>25</b>  Community Meal 5 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Sr. Seekers Workcamp preview 10-2
<b>28</b>  Worship, 9:30 a.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

# July 2015

Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

			1	2 Community Meal 5	3	4
5 Worship 9:30 a.m. Communion	6	7	8	9 Community Meal 5 p.m. Backyard Blessings, 5-7	10	11 Workcampers leave for Richmond
12 Worship, 9:30 a.m.	13	14	15 Relay Meeting 6 p.m.	16 Community Meal 5 p.m. Backyard Blessings 6:30-8	17	18 Workcampers return
19 Worship 9:30 a.m.	20	21	22 Endowment Committee Meeting 8:30 a.m.	23 Community Meal 5 p.m. Backyard Blessings 6-8	24	25
26 Worship, 9:30 a.m.	27	28	29	30 Prime Timers to Music Theatre Community Meal 5 Backyard Blessings, 6-8	31	1 Backyard Blessings to Camp Kirkwood 9-4

