

The Celtic Cross

March 2010

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Letter from the Co-Pastors

Dearly Beloved,

Soren Kierkegaard was a Danish philosopher, literary critic, and writer in the nineteenth century who frequently wrestled with what it means to be a Christian in his writings. His words still resonate today. In one of his books, he talks about what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and how that is different from being an admirer:

“It is well known that Christ consistently used the expression ‘follower.’ He never asks for admirers, worshippers, or adherents. No, he calls disciples. It is not adherents of a teaching but followers of a life Christ is looking for....Christ came into the world with the purpose of...being the pattern, to leave footprints for the person who would join him, who would become a follower.”

“What then, is the difference between an admirer and a follower? A follower is or strives to be what he admires. An admirer, however, keeps himself personally detached. He fails to see that what is admired involves a claim upon him, and thus he fails to be or strive to be what he admires.”

The admirer never makes any true sacrifices. He always plays it safe....he renounces nothing, will not reconstruct his life, and will not let his life express what it is he supposedly admires. Not so for the follower. No, no. The follower aspires with all his strength to be what he admires.”

In this season of Lent, when we look to the cross, and are reminded of the great sacrifices Christ made for us out of love, may we surrender our will to God's will so that we too might be followers—and not mere admirers. May we reflect on Christ's pattern and our lives and see that which needs to be changed and reconstructed.

But even as we do so, may we remember it is not our strength which enables us to be a follower. Instead, it is God's strength which God so freely offers to us. And when we fall, as we so often do, it is Christ who helps us up. When we go astray and get lost, it is Christ who comes back looking for us. In the words of the hymn, “Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.”

See you Sunday,
Kerry and Carter

Worship Matters

- March 7:** Service for the Lord's Day, 10:30 a.m.
Preaching Series: "Wilderness Survival: Reflections from New Orleans"
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
- March 14:** **Daylight Savings Time begins**
Service for the Lord's Day, 10:30 a.m.
Preaching Series: "Wilderness Survival: What to Do"
- March 21:** Service for the Lord's Day, 10:30 a.m.
Preaching Series: "Wilderness Survival: Who to Listen To"
- March 28:** Palm Sunday (see below), 10:30 a.m.
Cherub and Celtic Choirs sing

Holy Week at First Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday, March 28

Palms will be distributed and both children's choirs will sing.

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper and Service of Shadows

Prayer Vigil, 9:00 p.m.—12:00 noon, April 1-2

We will keep watch in the sanctuary as we remember Jesus' last night. Please sign up for a slot on the bulletin board

Good Friday Prayer Processional, 10:30—11:45, April 2 (downtown)

Meet on the green between Zion's UCC and Emmanuel Lutheran on Hanover Street as we walk with other Christians to remember Jesus' walk to the cross and to pray for our neighbors. Families with children are encouraged to attend. The walk will begin with a time for children to explain Good Friday and the processional. If it rains, we will "walk" inside Emmanuel Lutheran's Fellowship Hall.

Easter Sunday, April 4

6:30 a.m. Sunrise service in the Peace Garden

7:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time and Easter Egg Hunt on the Lawn (bring your own basket!)

Invite a Friend, Sunday, March 21

Do you remember how you got involved in this church? Perhaps you are life-long members, or perhaps someone initially invited you to visit us one Sunday a long time ago. If you remember that first invitation, you remember that warm welcoming feeling and a sense that you could find a spiritual home and new friends here.

If you know someone who needs to feel that way—a friend, a neighbor, a co-workers, or even a relative—prayerfully consider inviting them to worship with us on March 21, 2010. The Hospitality Committee will have a special coffee hour for members and guests alike.

Wednesdays in Lent at First Presbyterian Church

Sacred Journeys

Adults and youth will learn from the spiritual journeys of people near and far.

March 3: Manoj Shrestha

Native of Nepal and PhD student in preaching at Princeton Seminary

March 10: Adan Mairena

Pastor of West Kensington Ministries, a largely Hispanic Presbyterian fellowship in Philadelphia

March 17: Mapping Our Own Spiritual Journeys

We will reflect together on how God has been at work in our lives.

March 24: Service for Wholeness

A time for worship and prayer for those in need of our prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit.

Sacred Paths

There are many ways to pray. Come and learn some of them. Seekers welcome! Please register since space is limited to 25. \$20 covers the cost of materials and reserves your space.

March 3: Praying with Color

Kerry will introduce a 'new' form of intercessory prayer.

March 10: Walking the Labyrinth

Using a labyrinth from a sister church, Kerry will introduce this ancient way to pray.

March 17: Praying with the Body

Led by yoga instructor, Jennifer Alexander. People of any age and ability and disability are welcome.

March 24: Service for Wholeness

A time for worship and prayer for those in need of our prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit.

Sacred Path for Children in Grades 3-5: Worship

Miss Liv will guide our children as they continue to learn how to travel the path of corporate worship. Children in grades third through fifth will explore and deepen their experience of 'upstairs' worship on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary by preparing their own worship service.

Sacred Journey for Younger Children through Second Grade

Our younger children will learn about the symbols of Lent.

Wednesday Schedule

6:00 p.m.: Evening Prayer

6:20 p.m.: Dinner

7:00—8:00 p.m. Lent Programs for all ages

Sign up for dinner on the bulletin board or call the church office (and if you sign up, but find you cannot join us, please let us know so we don't waste food).

Workcamp Stockholders Luncheon—Sunday, March 14th, Noon

Yes, there is a free lunch! All 2009 workcamp stockholders and families, senior high seekers, and eighth graders and families are invited to join us for lunch and a video of last year's trip on Mar. 14.

Christian Education Opportunities

Sunday Mornings

- **Forum (Community Room) - A Potpourri of Topics and Speakers**
Join us as we hear from a variety of folks who teach in the area of religion and ethics in local universities (and we will poll you at the end if you would like for us to invite any of them back for an extended series).
March 7: Ethical Issues and Adoption—Dr. Darlene Weaver, Villanova
March 14: Archaeology and the Bible—Dr. Judith Hadley, Villanova
March 21: Feeding the Hungry—Dr. Suzanne Toton, Villanova
March 28: India Mission Trip—Encore—Karen Keiser and Rick Moyer
Since they did not get to show everything—and since some folks missed the first time.
- **Faith and Relationships Class (Library)** Teachers: Debbie Remelius, Sharon Trevoy, and Rob Wade. Topics: “Where is God When Disaster Strikes?” “Finding God in Times of Tragedy?” and “Who is God?”
Please join us as we explore these thought provoking topics using resources from “The Thoughtful Christian.”
- **Men’s Sunday Mornings (Pastor’s Conference Room)**
Teacher: Bernarr Rhoades Topic: “A Perfect Life that Changed Eternity”
- **Sacred Space for Women (Mary Ann Yost Room—I 10)**
Teacher: Amy Shutt Topic: “That’s What the Man Said”
A study on some of the most important words of Jesus using a devotional commentary by Maxie Dunham.

Weekday Opportunities

- **Thursday Women’s Bible Study:** Meets Wednesday, March 4 and 18 from 9:30 to 10:30.
Teachers: Rev. Max Creswell and Ron Gower.
- **“Sisters of the Way” Bible Study:** 9:15-10:30 a.m. every Thursday. Teacher: Kerry
- **Evening Bible Study:** 7:30—8:30 PM on Tuesday, March 16. Teacher: Carter
(no class on March 2 because Carter will be in New Orleans)
- **Praying the Scriptures Group (Lectio Divina):**
Tuesday, March 9 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. Join Kerry and others for a quiet hour of praying the Scriptures.
- **Moms’ Circle:** Wednesday,, March 17 - 9:15-10:30 a.m. Teacher: Kerry.
Location: Check with the church office. Bring your children!
- **Theology Reading Group:** Normally meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Carter’s house, but there will be no meeting until April. For the next reading, check with Carter.

Children and Youth

Music and Recreation for Children in Grades 2-5

Music and Rec has changed times during Lent. There will be no recreation but there *will* be Music! Music will start at 5:00 pm. Then we hope that everyone can join us to attend Lenten School as our congregation prepares for Easter. The children have also been given the task of setting the dinner tables after Music and they are taking this job joyfully and working hard.

Thank you!!!

CAMP KIRKWOOD

In the middle of this crazy month of snow we can close our eyes and picture being at Camp Kirkwood...Sunny weather, swimming in the lake, going on hikes, hanging out with friends. I'm ready to go! Camp Kirkwood is under new direction this year and lots of exciting new things are happening including more things for older teens. Check out the brochures on the Seeker table and grab an application to sign your youth up for an unforgettable summer at camp. The Mission Committee is committed to paying one-half of each child's costs.

CONFIRMATION AND SEEKERS

Confirmation

Sunday, March 7: Bread for the Journey: The Bible **5:00 p.m.**

Sunday, March 21: Bread for the Journey: Prayer **5:00 p.m.**

Junior Seekers, Grades 6-8

Friday, March 7: Seeker Service Project at 1:00 p.m. We'll take a walk across the street to Manor Care to play games with the residents. Come hang out, get goofy, and make some people's day :)

Sunday, March 21: Kid's Choice- What do you want to do for Seekers? Let us know and we'll make it happen.

Advisors: Ken and Lisa Lee (610) 574-1563, Mike and Mindy Lipsky (610) 323-5616

Staff: Liv Stewart Robertson (610)326-0620

Senior Seekers—Grades 9-12

March 14th: Stockholders Luncheon and WorkCamp Video- We'll gather at 9:00 a.m. to make lunch then we'll serve it after worship! Come relive our Richmond experience.

March 28th: Broad Street Ministries- We will head to Philadelphia to visit Broad Street Ministries. BSM is a growing church who ministers to homeless and millionaires alike. They are justice-minded and faith-oriented. Come for a unique night in Philly.

Advisors: John and Lisa Livezey (610-326-0490), Chris and John Macdonald (610-987-0529), Donna and Gary Rhoadarmer (610-327-8157), and Dave and Tricia Weller (610-970-6481).

Staff: Liv Stewart Robertson (610)326-0620

Fellowship

PRIME TIMERS

Friday Evening, March 19: West Side Story at Boyertown High School

Join us to see "West Side Story" at the Boyertown Area High School at 7 p.m. We will carpool from the church. Cost of the ticket is \$10 and 30 tickets are available. More details will be available on the PrimeTimers bulletin board or contact Sara Grim or Tom Hudson.

Tuesday, May 18, 2010: "Joseph" at the Sight and Sound Theatre

We will carpool from the church leaving at 11:15 a.m. The show begins at 1:00 and we will have dinner after the show. Our seat assignments will not be given to us until all of the money for all of the seats is received. Please bring a check for \$54 as soon as possible. We have 25 tickets.

MEN'S BREAKFAST, SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 8—9 A.M.

Join the guys for food and fellowship on Saturday, March 10 from 8 to 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. See Carter if you have any questions or need further information.

HOLD THE DATE—SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Our annual "Progressive Dinner" will be a little different this year as we will eat and go to see our own "celebrity" "Dance with the Stars." More details in next month's newsletter..

Branches of the Vine

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Since 1949, Presbyterians have been contributing to disaster assistance, refugee resettlement, hunger relief, and community development through the annual "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering. Please consider making a contribution to this special offering on Palm Sunday. You can do so by using the special envelopes in the pew, your family "fish bank," or by marking "OGHS" on the memo line of checks made out to First Presbyterian Church.



LENT MISSION PROJECT: HYGIENE KITS

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance can use hygiene kits to distribute to those in need immediately after a natural disaster. Help us as we try to collect 200 hygiene kits this Lent. Gallon storage bags are available in the church lobby. Put your kits in the mission box in the lobby. Thank you!

- 1—hand towel (approx. 16" by 28 "
- 1—wash cloth
- 1—wide tooth comb
- 1—nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- 1—bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1—toothbrush (in original packaging but no toothpaste)
- 6—Band-aids or other adhesive bandage strips

Branches of the Vine, cont.—Habitat for Humanity Volunteers

Are you willing to join other church volunteers in helping to give someone a hand up—and not a hand out? Join us on Saturday, March 20 to work on a Habitat for Humanity house being built here in Pottstown so that a working poor family can own their own home. Sign up on the church bulletin board. Rick Moyer is our church coordinator of volunteers so check with him if you have any questions. **Construction skills not necessary** but always appreciated! Construction team leaders will give instructions.

Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following members who have been ill or hospitalized or receiving treatments: Tammy Mayberry, Max Creswell, and Flossie Schumacher.

We sent condolences to the family of Cuthbert Nairn who died recently.

Deacons' Bench

DEACON'S CHURCH WORKDAY—SATURDAY, MARCH 27 at 9 a.m.

It's that time of year to spruce up the outside church grounds in time for Easter—and the Deacons seek your help! The Work Day will be held on Saturday, March 27th from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon (rain date, Saturday, April 3).

We will be primarily working outside doing mulching and cleaning up the Peace Garden, but if there are enough people, we will also do some inside special cleaning projects. Sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church office to help. Please bring gloves, rakes, and clippers if you have them. If anyone has a truck to help transport the mulch, please let Cindy Barndt or Doreen Duncan know.

DEACONS' BLOOD DRIVE

The Keystone-Miller Bloodmobile will be in the church parking lot on Tuesday, March 23 from 4 to 8 p.m. Please sign up for an appointment (which keeps the waiting time down!).

Inquirers' Class for Prospective New Members

Are you interested in exploring membership at First Presbyterian Church? Or, do you have questions and would like to have an opportunity to learn more about this church, or Presbyterians, or even Christianity in general? Then join Kerry and Carter for the next set of "Inquirers' Classes" that will begin on Sunday, April 18 at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to attend or need more information, (or want to come but do not think you can make all of the classes), then talk with Kerry or Carter or contact the church office.

Session Digest

At its February meeting, the Session:

- Shared the joys and concerns of the congregation.
- Reviewed and received the minutes of the annual congregational meeting.
- Approved the expenditure of up to \$500 from the Memorial Fund for a transporter for the upright piano in the Community Room.
- Accepted with gratitude the gift of a safe from a church member.
- Received the financial reports for January and approved the monthly mission allocation.
- Approved a revised Child Safety Taskforce Report after Rob Wade and Kenn Picardi revised and clarified certain definitions in the report.
- Received an update from the Administrative Committee concerning surge suppression.
- Received a report from the Energy Use Taskforce which has begun its work. The taskforce is made up of Fred Remelius, chair, Paul Lepard, Jr., and Amy Shutt. The taskforce is investigating having an energy audit and master plan developed.
- Heard that John Marshall has agreed to step in and serve as Coordinator of Counters since Glenn McLaughlin had to step down because of some family responsibilities.
- Approved the unanimous recommendation of the Endowment Committee that Glenmede Trust be selected as the church's Endowment Fund advisor and administrator.
- Approved two recommendations of the Endowment Committee which will revise the church's Endowment Policy provisions on calculating the Endowment fund balance and will segregate money from the Martha Porter gift which will be used for the mission tithe and uses other than the Endowment Fund.
- Heard from the Hospitality Committee about plans for "Invite a Friend Sunday" on March 21 and from the Christian Education Committee regarding Lenten Devotions.
- Elected Gina James and Patty Picardi to be commissioners to the next Presbytery meeting.
- Received the reports of the Administrative, Fellowship, Christian Education, Worship, Hospitality, Endowment, Personnel, and Mission Committees.
- Please keep the following in your prayers: Hospitality: "Invite a Friend Sunday;" Worship: Lenten Worship; Christian Education: the Sunday School teacher breakfast; Mission: the New Orleans mission trip; Fun and Fellowship: our congregational potluck and hymn sing; Endowment: that we would be good stewards of the gifts given to us; Admin.: wisdom for the Energy Use Taskforce.

Financial Report

Budgeted Income for 2010:	\$473,060
Projected Income through Jan 31:	39,422
Actual Income through Jan 31:	44,912
Actual Income Last Year at this time:	27,422
Budgeted Expenses for 2010:	\$473,060
Projected Expenses through Jan 31:	39,422
Actual Expenses through Jan 31:	35,838
Actual Expenses Last Year at this time:	34,166
Surplus to date:	\$8,799
Deficit at this time last year:	(\$10,995)



**Classes Begin March 7, 2010, 3pm.
Where: The Community Room**

What is Financial Peace University?

75% of people in this country live paycheck to paycheck, and many of those are saddled with tremendous debt. You might be, silently, one of them. Or, maybe you're getting by, but you are worried about making ends meet and saving for college or retirement. You want ...peace. FPU might be the most important step to changing your financial future, or the future of someone you love. It is a 13 week Total Money Makeover -- a combination of video presentations and small group discussion, that empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life. The course includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more!

Who is Financial Peace University for?

It's for EVERYONE!...from the financially secure to the financially distressed. Over 650,000 families and individuals have attended Financial Peace University. Applying God's Word radically changes your life. On average, FPU graduates have paid off over \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 during the 91-day program!

What Does It Cost?

The cost is \$100 per family unit (husband and wife; couples engaged to be married within the year; or single individual)—plus the willingness to spend some time dealing with the problems that keep you and your family from having peace. Partial scholarships are available.

Contact Rob Wade, who is our church coordinator for this program for more details rwade@wadegold.com or 610-724-9602. Alternatively, go on The Dave Ramsey web-site www.daveramsey.com and look for Financial Peace University. Our Class Code is 162298.

Easter Flowers Orders

If you would like to order potted flowers to decorate the church on Easter Sunday (and for your own use following the service), fill out an order form in the church bulletin or by contacting the church office. Daffodils, lilies, and tulips are all \$9 each and dedications will be printed in the Easter bulletin.

Lenten Devotionals

Pick up your Lenten Devotional booklet which was prepared by the Christian Education Committee and which includes devotions written by church members. Here are the texts for each day:

March 1: Luke 6: 37-42
March 2: Luke 6: 43-49
March 3: Luke 7: 1-10
March 4: Luke 7: 11-17
March 5: Luke 7: 18-35
March 6: Luke 7: 36-50
March 7: Luke 8: 1-13
March 8: Luke 8: 16-21
March 9: Luke 8: 22-25
March 10: Luke 8: 26-39
March 11: Luke 8: 40-56
March 12: Luke 9: 1-9
March 13: Luke 9: 10-17
March 14: Luke 9: 18-27
March 15: Luke 9: 26-36
March 16: Luke 9: 37-48

March 17: Luke 9: 49-62
March 18: Luke 10: 1-19
March 19: Luke 10: 25-37
March 20: Luke 10: 38-42
March 21: Luke 11: 1-13
March 22: Luke 11: 33-36
March 23: Luke 12: 13-21
March 24: Luke 12: 22-34
March 25: Luke 13: 1-9
March 26: Luke 13: 10-20
March 27: Luke 14: 1-14
March 28: Luke 15: 1-10
March 29: Luke 15: 1-10
March 30: Luke 15: 11-32
March 31: Luke 16: 1-13

Music Notes

As Lent continues during March, our anthems will reveal a solemn beauty. The March 7th service will include guest organist Bill Nash, formerly of Emmanuel Lutheran. On March 14th, new member Beth Anne Straub will sing Faure's "Pie Jesu" from the "Requiem." The following Sunday, Ellen Hospador, Max Cresswell's niece, will accompany the choir on the cello and also play the offertory and prelude. The Handbell choir will play "The Palms," and the Chancel choir will join with the Celtic choir for the anthem on Palm Sunday. And at the Maundy Thursday service the choir will once again sing the stunning "Thy Will Be Done."

In my annual report in January, I was remiss in not mentioning the following names for recognition throughout the year: Gary James trumpet, Danny Foust tuba, Victoria Remelius, trumpet and Dick Clark, bagpipe drum major. I would like to also thank Kathleen O'Hara, Beth Anne Straub, Chip DePrefontaine, Jesse Shutt, and Leanne Campbell for their musical offerings at the Ash Wednesday service. There will be a Service for Wholeness on March 24th with a different quartet, flute and piano.

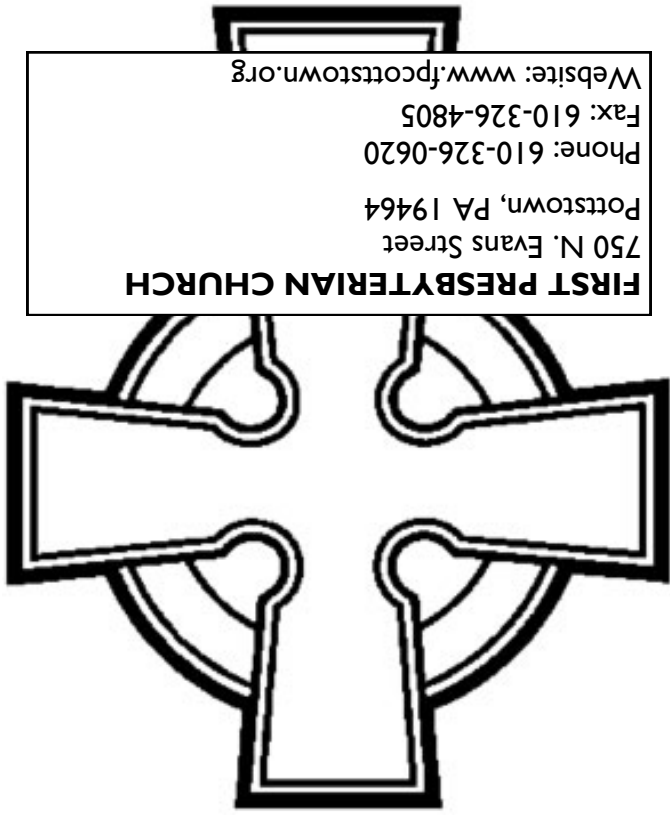
Easter is just around the corner and the choir is preparing for the musical celebration. This year will include the brass and timpani, children's choirs and will end once again with a congregational sing-a-long of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." Bring a friend who loves to sing that Sunday!

—Diane Land, Music Director

March 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>Each Sunday Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:30</p>	<p>1 Cubs 7 Seekers Bible Study 7:30</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Music 5 Lent Prayer 6 Supper 6:20 Program 7 Comm. Nt. 8:15</p>	<p>4 Bible Study 9:15 Ladies Bible 9:30 Meal 5:00 PM Bells 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:30</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Communion Financial Peace 3 p.m. Conf. Class 5 Bible Study 5 Jr. Seekers 6:30</p>	<p>8 Cubs 7 Seekers Bible Study 7:30</p>	<p>9 Girl Scouts 7 Shawl 7 Lectio Group 7:30</p>	<p>10 Music 5 Lent Prayer 6 Supper 6:20 Program 7 Deacons 8:15</p>	<p>11 Bible Study 9:15 Meal 5:00 PM Bells 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:30</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Daylight Savings Time Seekers Workcamp Video Bible Study 5</p>	<p>15 Cubs 7 PM Seekers Bible Study 7:30</p>	<p>16 Bible Study 7:30</p>	<p>17 Mom's Circle 9:15 Music 5 Lent Prayer 6 Supper 6:20 Program 7 Session 8:15</p>	<p>18 Bible Study 9:30 Ladies Bible 9:30 Meal 5:00 PM Bells 6:30 Scouts 7 Choir 7:30</p>	<p>19 Prime Timers to West Side Story @ Boyertown H.S. 7 p.m. Blue/Gold set up</p>	<p>20 Habitat Work-day Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. Officers' Rereat 9-3 Bue/Gold Banquet</p>
<p>21 Invite A Friend Sunday Conf. Class 5 Bible Study 5 Jr. Seekers 6:30</p>	<p>22 Cubs 7 PM Seekers Bible Study 7:30</p>	<p>23 Presbytery @ Germantown 10 am. Bloodmobile 4-8 Lectio 7:30</p>	<p>24 Music 5 Lent Prayer 6 Supper 6:20 Service for Wholeness 7 Comp. Friends 7:30</p>	<p>25 Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7 Choir 7:30</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Church Outside Work-day 9 a.m.</p>
<p>28 Young Adult Group 5 p.m. Sr. Seekers go to Broad Street</p>	<p>29 Cubs 7 p.m. Seekers Bible Study 7:30</p>	<p>30 Brass Rehearsal 6:15 Choir 7:30</p>	<p>31</p>			



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