



The Celtic Cross

May 2013

“Do you have eyes but fail to see?”
(Mark 8:18)

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Dearly Beloved,

Recently we have been apartment hunting in Philadelphia with one of our daughters. Walking the sidewalks and peering out the back windows of the Washington Square neighborhood, we have been reminded of when we moved into our first home, a Baltimore “rowhome” in the Charles Village section of that city. In that neighborhood, four rows of iconic brick homes formed the perimeter of a square city block. Out our back window were the postage stamp yards, fences, alleys and garages that filled in the square made by the four brick rows (picture a scene from Hitchcock’s “Rear Window”).

Our parents looked out on the scene and shuddered, seeing mainly the cracks in the old buildings, the weeds in the pavement, the police helicopters overhead. But when we looked out on our backyard, we saw Carter’s first garden, neighbors talking over the fence, uprooted sidewalks (which meant mature leafy trees grew there!), Eddie’s deli around the corner, and Memorial stadium several blocks away. True, you probably had to live in the neighborhood to appreciate its delights. But even if you lived there, it was possible to miss them. You had to look closely, with eyes and heart wide open, to see the blessings in our backyard.

Photographer Freeman Patterson says “If you do not see what is around you every day, what will you see when you go to Tangiers?” This is the time of year when many of us start hitting the road to go elsewhere — the shore, the mountains, maybe even exotic places like Tangiers. And if we can travel, rejoice!

But as we go and come, it wouldn’t hurt to look again, and closely, at the scene out our own windows. What delights have our eyes looked upon so often we have become blind to them? What marvels have been performed so regularly for us that we have come to regard them as ordinary and routine? If we hope to see the wonder and marvels of this great world in which we are lucky to be alive, we will learn to see by focusing on things around us every day. There are beauty and blessings in our own backyard.

Gladly,
Carter and Kerry

P.S. PARENTS AND CHILDREN: this summer we will focus on delights close at hand, including each other. Find out more on page 3 about “Backyard Blessings,” this summer’s family vacation Bible school. In a new format, we’ll leave the church building and go down the street, around the corner, up the hill, across the town as we look with the eyes of faith on familiar sights and people. Join us on Thursday evenings, July 11–August 15 — and for the Family Lock-in/Campout on August 17!

Worship Matters

Sunday School at 9:15; Worship at 10:30

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 5 | Service of the Lord's Day
Celebration of the Lord's Supper |
| May 12 | Service of the Lord's Day
Celtic Choir sings |
| May 19 | Service of the Lord's Day
Pentecost
Wear something red to celebrate the birth of the church!
Rev. Tom Craver preaching
Cherub Choir sings |
| May 26 | Service of the Lord's Day |

Music Notes

Tra-la, yes, it's May! We will open the month with Lee Dengler's beautiful , "In This Place, At This Time," accompanied by Leanne Campbell on flute. On May 12th, Mother's Day, we will showcase the Celtic Choir as they sing a 'two hankie' anthem with the Chancel Choir, "All God's Children," by Albrecht. That same Sunday, the Handbell Choir will present their last offering this season, "All Things Bright and Beautiful." Pentecost is May 19th, when we will sing the delightful, "Brighter Than the Sun," by Helgen. Jesse Shutt will also solo on that anthem. Wear your red that morning! We will finish up the month with the lovely and appropriate, "Make Us Instruments of Your Peace," by Shafferman, on Memorial Day weekend.

I would like to thank Gary James and Tim Detwiler for playing last month and the Handbell Choir for all their hard work. Remember, if you are interested in playing the Handbells, email or call me. We always are in need of subs and usually every year we have a sudden opening. Also, we always need more Chancel Choir members. Anyone may join at any time. We are in need of sopranos especially as we lose one of our faithful, long time members, Jennie Watts. She and her husband Rich are moving out of state. We will all miss you Jennie !!!! Keep a song in your heart.

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

Easter Service Survey

Rejoice: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Attendance at the Easter Worship service has risen as well! Please help the Worship Committee and Session prepare for next year's celebration of Easter by completing the survey you will find as an insert in this month's *Celtic Cross*. Please return it to the church office by May 15. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Deacons' Blood Drive, Wednesday, May 8, 4—7 p.m. at the Church

Join us in giving the gift of life as Miller-Keystone's bloodmobile will once again be visiting our church. To save waiting time, appointments are required. To make an appointment, or if you have any questions about your ability to give blood, contact Jeannette Feroe of the Deacons, jen01565@yahoo.com

"Take Me Out to the Ballgame—Saturday, June 8



Enjoy a game and *fireworks* with your church family.

Game Date: Saturday, June 8th

Game Time: 6:35 pm

Ticket Price: \$10.00

*children under 4 are free unless you desire a reserved seat for them

Reservations and money due Sunday, May 5th.

Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Strawberry Fest, Sunday, June 9, following worship



Yum!

Sunday, June 9th

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: a summer frolic of families, faith and fun

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

Thursday evenings from July 11 to August 15

6:00 to 8:00

at different locations such as ArtFusion (formerly Gallery on High), Fairview Cemetery, and Deerfield, the Duncans' home and gardens.

We'll end up with a Family Campout/Lock-in on Saturday, August 17.

Brochure and registration materials available at the church.

Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Sunday Mornings

- **Forum (Community Room)**

- **May 5: Report from the Presbyterian Border Ministry**

- Elizabeth Lester, with support from our Mission Committee, recently traveled with a campus ministry group to the Mexican border to work with the Presbyterian Border Ministry. She will share what she saw and learned.

- **May 12: Report of the Adult Mission Trip to New York City**

- Participants on this year's adult mission trip, who traveled to New York City to rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy, will show pictures and share their reflections from the trip.

- **May 19 and 26: "Luther"**

- Join Carter and others for a two-week viewing and discussion of the award-winning "Luther," starring Joseph Fiennes, which tells the story of the great church reformer, Martin Luther.

- **Faith and Relationships Class (Library)** Teachers: Sharon Trevoy and Rob Wade.

- **Topic: To Be Determined**

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

- **Topic: "God in America: How Religious Liberty Shaped America"**

- **Sacred Space for Women (Mary Ann Yost room)**

- **Teacher: Amy Shutt. Topic: "Feasting on the Word"**

Weekday Opportunities

- **"Sisters of the Way":** 9:15-10:45 a.m. every Thursday. Teacher: Kerry

- **Evening Bible Study:** 7:30—8:30 PM on Tuesday, May 28. The Bible study will not meet on May 14 because Carter will be away on vacation. Teacher: Carter

- **Praying the Scriptures Group (Lectio Divina)** 7:30—8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7 and 21. Teacher: Kerry

- **Theology Reading Group:** Is breaking for the summer. To find out what we are reading this summer and discussing in August, contact Carter.

Young Adult Group gathers on a Friday or Saturday night for a potluck dinner, movie discussion, and fellowship. Questions about the next gathering? Talk to Gwen Allen.

Seekers News

Junior Seekers

Sunday, May 5th– Mystery Event with special Guest! 4:30 to 8.

Join us for a night you won't soon forget! You do **not** want to miss this **amazing** event!

Sunday, May 19th—Bowling at Limerick Bowling! 12:30 to 3:30

Bring \$8, but if the entry fee will keep you from coming, speak to an advisor.

Saturday, June 1—Relay for Life

Walk as a group and come as you can. Official time slots will be announced closer to race.

Senior Seekers

Sunday, May 5th– Work Camp Preview , noon to when the work is done.

Get ready to work, eat, have fun, and get prepared for work camp! Bring grubby clothes.

We'll have a preview for the jobs that will be awaiting us at work camp this summer. ***If you are going on work camp, you need to be here!***

Sunday, May 19th– Not-your-usual Scavenger Hunt 6:00 to 8.

**Mark your Calendars! The “Advisor Appreciation End-of-Year Picnic”
is Sunday, June 2nd, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Workcamp Participants—Mandatory Meeting After Picnic on June 2

All Seekers going on this year's workcamp and parents of first-time participants need to attend this meeting to learn details about this year's trip and sign the covenant and other paperwork. **This meeting is brief but mandatory.**

Mission Mornings, August 12-16 (Junior High Youth)

Jr. Seekers, Mission Mornings returns in August! Mark your calendars! We will be returning to some of our favorite places and experiencing some new ones as we serve those in need in our community and beyond.

Presbyterian Night at the “Please Touch Museum”, June 20th

The Presbytery of Philadelphia has reserved the evening of June 20, 2013 at the Please Touch Museum for all to enjoy. Tickets are only \$12.50/person. This includes:

- Free Parking
 - \$5.00 Food Voucher
 - Unlimited Carousel Rides
 - Access to the entire museum
- \$24.00 Value!**

Sign up on the church bulletin board or by contacting the church office. Friends welcome!

Fellowship

Reading Phillies Outing—June 5 See p. 3

Presbyterian Night at the “Please Touch Museum”—June 20 See p. 5

Men’s Breakfast—Saturday, May 11 at 8 a.m.

Come join Carter and the guys for breakfast and fellowship on Saturday, May 11. We begin at 8 a.m. and are out by 9 a.m. If you have questions, see Carter.

Young Adults — Date and time TBD

We will gather for dinner and a discussion of the movie, “Angels and Demons” at Gwen and Tim Allen’s home.

Prayer Shawl Meeting, Tuesday, May 14 at 7 p.m. in the library.

Join us as we knit together prayer shawls. Help is always available!

Salt and Light

A monthly look behind the scenes at the mission and ministry of FPC

This month: John Gloucester House

The Mission Committee supports several agencies in the Philadelphia area, one of them being the John Gloucester House. JGH was established in 1968 in the Point Breeze section of Philadelphia, and was named after Reverend John Gloucester, the first African-American Presbyterian pastor in Philadelphia. JGH is a faith-based organization of the Presbyterian Community Ministries of the Delaware Valley, and was funded for many years through the Philadelphia Presbytery. This important ministry is now “independent”, and continues to need funding from individual churches. The programs offered include after school tutoring, cultural arts, summer day camp, Vacation Bible School, life skills preparation, guidance counseling for college bound students, SAT preparation, and adult bible study. Our church has been a faithful participant for many years in supporting this ministry through our mission budget.

Deacons’ Bench: Special Needs of the Cluster Outreach Center

The current needs for the Cluster are: spring and summer clothes for adults and children, canned fruit, personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, hotel soaps and toiletries, large print Bibles and devotionals. Please place these items in the mission basket.

Faith and Nature: A New Perspective

Spring is here. Usually, I am like a kid on Christmas Eve this time of year. Spring migration from mid-April through the end of May is the highlight of every birder's year. Every year I would make sure to take a week off from work just to travel around the region to as many birding hotspots as possible. How many species of warblers could I find? Any glimpses of that first hummingbird or oriole? Are there any young eagles teetering on the edge of their nest; ready to test the wings God has blessed them with?

I am still like a kid this year, but one who has to watch the world go by from my back porch. After injuring my knee on Easter, I will not be hiking and traveling this Spring. But looking out on my backyard, I realize that I am still quite blessed. I have spent the last few years making our yard into a backyard habitat, and it has paid off abundantly. From here, I can watch the bluebirds arrive and make a home in the boxes on our fence. I can wait and see exactly when the first chipping sparrow, tree swallows, and orioles arrive. I also have a front row seat to the arrival of the first hummingbird. I watch as the chickadees and tufted titmouse take nesting materials from the suet cages we have filled with an assortment of dog hair, string, and yarn. Every day I watch new buds emerge and flowers bloom. I listen and hear all the varieties of bird song and calls.

I have always wanted to have more time to enjoy our yard and the work that we have put into it, but I was always too busy doing something else. Many of us these days are too busy running here and there, looking ahead to the next thing on our "to-do" lists. Wishing we had the time or resources to make our lives "perfect." But the reality is, if we take just a little time out of our frantic pursuit of all these things and pause for a few minutes to really look at what we have in our own backyards and homes, most of us will realize how truly blessed we are. Just think about it, if you pay attention, you can see the miracle of life play out before your eyes. Whether it is planting a garden and watching it come to fruition or watching as birds court with one another, lay eggs, and bring their young into the feeders to start the circle of life all over again. If you have a hummingbird feeder, think about the wondrous miracle of how a tiny bird can travel 3000 miles or more to arrive and spend the summer and fall in your backyard and then make the same journey back again year after year.

We are blessed... it's just a matter of perspective.

"Hummingbird dart lightly through the world, spreading it's joy of beauty and wonder, and teaching us to appreciate the wonder and magic of everyday existence. Hummingbird brings the gift of joy. Learn to laugh and be happy." (Author unknown) I hope to be able to do at least one nature walk in May, please check the weekly bulletin and also the Faith and Nature Group bulletin board weekly for an announcement.

—Mike Deegan

Counters' Corner

This month's head counter is: Jane Neiss

Serving as counters are: Barb and Tim Peckham and Scott Sample

Session Digest

At its April meeting, the Session:

- Shared joys and concerns.
- Joyfully heard the statements of faith of new Deacons, David DeLong, Kathleen Moyer, Marianne Harrison, Beth Ann Straub, Lisa Livezey, April Thorum, Caroline Stacks, Connor Ferreri, and new Elder Bill Dupree, and heard what they learned during officer training. The Session unanimously approved their “examination.” All Deacons and Elders will be ordained and/or installed April 28.
- Approved the celebration of the Lord’s Supper on the Adult Mission trip, should the Lord’s Supper be celebrated in worship.
- Approved the baptism of Ryan Timothy Detweiler, child of God and son of Marguerite and Tim Detweiler, on July 21, 2013.
- Approved the recommendation of the Communications/Social Media team that once a church Facebook page is established that church members be offered an “opt-out” option if they do not wish that their pictures, or pictures of their children, would be posted on the church page.
- Received with gratitude a gift to the church from Lu and Jim Gaut.
- Heard an update from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee that the Church Information Form has been approved by Presbytery and is ready to be posted on the national website and approved the minimum and maximum salary for the position.
- Received the monthly financial report and approved the monthly mission and Capital Improvement allocations.
- Approved the expenditure up to \$35,000 from the Capital Improvement fund to replace the boiler this summer. The current boiler model is out of production and parts are increasingly difficult to obtain for repairs. A new boiler will result in significant energy savings.
- Approved receipt of the Pentecost offering.
- Received the reports of Deacons and the Administrative, Endowment, Fun and Fellowship, Hospitality, Mission, Spiritual Formation, and Worship committees.
- Prayer requests by the Committees: Thanksgiving that we have the resources to replace the boiler without a special appeal to the congregation; for our new Inquirers’ Class; thanksgiving for the Kenya clothing donations and for the Cluster; thanksgiving for the many volunteers involved in the Spiritual Formation program and for the Senior High Seekers retreat; for our adult mission trip; thanksgiving for those involved in the Progressive Dinner and for our fellowship opportunities; for our worship volunteers; and for guidance for our Endowment and Associate Pastor Nominating committees.

Financial Report

Annual budgeted income	\$539,176	Annual budgeted expenses	\$539,176
Budgeted income thru 3/31	\$134,794	Budgeted expenses thru 3/31	\$134,794
Actual income thru 3/31	\$132,170	Actual expenses thru 3/31	\$113,099

Surplus to date after Mission and Capital Improvement allocations paid: \$10,174

While giving is slightly under budget, the surplus is largely the result of the unfilled Associate Pastor position.

Update from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

The key word for the month was “Approved”! As we reported in the last *Celtic Cross*, our “Church Information Form” (CIF) was submitted to our Session and it was approved without change. It was then sent to the Presbytery. We received notification that it had been received and was being “sent to a team for approval” with this final comment: “No need to worry, your CIF is outstanding.” Soon after that, we received this note: “Great news, your CIF has been approved.” We were all delighted with this news as many hours had been spent in the preparation of our CIF.

Next, Bill Campbell, our Moderator, will enter the CIF online through our national denominational Church Leadership Connection. Their staff will review it and it will appear in the “Opportunity Search” of the General Assembly’s website for interested candidates to review and respond. Our APNC will receive additional training in preparation for the next step, reviewing incoming applications (PIFs). This training is scheduled for early May, tentatively for May 5th.

Thank you for your support and prayers. They are greatly appreciated!

Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)

(Bill Campbell, chair, Dave Duncan, Donna Hutchison, Paul Lepard, Barb Peckham, Caroline Remelius, and Karen Stacks)

Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following members who have been ill or hospitalized or have been receiving treatment recently: **John Davis, Brenda Hatfield, Betty Soloway, Ron Gower, Dick Ludwick, Shirley Kalis and Sean Allen.**

We offer our condolences to Bernarr and Gaile Rhoades upon the death of his daughter, Martha and to the family of **Gary Waterhouse** who died recently.

Baptized recently was **Graham Neil Erickson**, child of God and son of Jacob and Tara Erickson and brother of Gabriel and Ava.

We wish God’s blessings on **Simon Waruru and Sarah Kabui** as they return to live in Kenya.

Thank you for a job well done to outgoing elders, **Ron Gower** and to outgoing deacons, **Leigh Chancler, Polly Gower, Doreen Duncan, Jennie Watts, and Dave Weller**, as well as youth deacons, **Abi Rose-Craver** and **Scott Geyer**.

Thanks to **Sharon Sgriccia** and the members of the Fun and Fellowship Committee for organizing the progressive dinner. Thanks to our Murder Mystery cast, **Bill Wilson, John Genter, Rob Wade, Sharon Sgriccia, Jen Drago, and Kerry Pidcock-Lester** and to dinner hosts, the **Barndts, Holloways, Genthers, Lisis, Maddens, and Shallcrosses**.

Thank you to **Sean Allen** who recently completed his Eagle Project which consisted of doing a total renovation of the small kitchen between the junior and senior high Sunday School rooms. This remake had been on the church’s wish list for a long time. Thanks to Sean—and to church members **Charlie Jenkins, Jim Burkhart, Dave Hollenbach, and the members of the Administrative Committee** who assisted Sean.

Lectionary Readings

For the week of April 29 to May 5

Acts 16: 9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 2: 10-21, John 5: 1-9

For the week of May 6 to 12:

Acts 16: 16-34, Psalm 97, Revelation 22: 12-14, John 17: 20-26

For the week of May 13 to 19:

Acts 2: 1-21, Psalm 104: 24-34, Romans 8: 14-17, John 14: 8-17

For the week of May 20 to 26:

Proverbs 8: 104, 22-31, Psalm 8, Romans 5: 1-5, John 16: 12-15

For the week of May 27 to June 2:

I Kings 18: 20-21, Psalm 98, Gal. 1: 1-12, Luke 7: 1-10

News from the Library

Come check out the new books and DVD's in the church library. If you have not been in our library for a while you may be surprised by what is available. Below are listed some of the new DVD's added this past year.

War Horse	Up	The Help
Hugo	The Descendants	Dolphin Tales
The Conspirator	Footloose (2012)	The Lincoln Lawyer
Brave	Iron Lady	Soul Surfer
Dr. David Livingstone	Joyful Noise	Extremely LOUD Incredibly CLOSE
All Chronicle of Narnia movies	The Ides of March	Many Hallmark Classic movies
Argo	Love Comes Softy	Life of Pi
Les Miserables	Dragon	Sherlock Holmes A Game of Shadows
Lincoln	North and South	The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
The Shunning	God in America	Walking the Bible
Downton Abbey –Seasons 1,2, and 3		

Acorns of Faith: Endowment Corner

For most of us, First Presbyterian Church of Pottstown is much more than just a place of worship -it's a warm, comforting community where we feel we belong. Some of us have been a part of the church since we were children. Some of us have come into the area as strangers and have found wonderful new relationships and inspiration at First Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Foundation has designated May 5 as Wills Emphasis Sunday. Have you considered a deferred bequest or gift to the church? The Endowment Committee encourages all of our church members who have property, businesses or children to get three important estate documents in place: a will, a power of attorney, and a health directive or living will. There are many fine local attorneys-some right here at this church who can help you secure these fundamental legal documents.

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday 9:15 Sunday School for all ages 10:30 Worship			1 M/R 4:30 Prayer 7:15 Committees 7:30	2 Sisters Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 7 p.m. Scouts 7 Choir 7:30	3	4 Girl Scouts 9 a.m.
5 Communion Sr. Bible study 5 New Member Reception @ Lester's 4 Jr. Seekers Mystery Event 6:30 Se. Seekers Workcamp Preview	6 Cubs 7 PM	7 Girl Scouts 6p.m. Lectio 7:30	8 Bloodmobile 4-7 M/R 4:30 Relay 6 Deacons 7:30	9 Bible Study 9:15 Bells 6:30 (last) Comm Meal 5 Choir 7:30 p.m.	10	11 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
12 Mother's Day Celtic Singers sing	13 Cubs 7 p.m.	14 Girl Scouts 6:30 p.m. p.m. Shawl 7 p.m.	15 M/R 4:30	16 Sisters Bible Study 9:15 Comm. Meal 5:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Choir 7:30	17	18 Kirkwood Workday
19 Tom Craver preaching Sr. Seekers Bible 5 Jr. Seekers Bowling Sr. Seekers 6:30	20 Cubs 7 PM	21 9 a.m. HENS Graduation Barth Peacemaker Award 1:30 Girl Scouts 6 p.m. Lectio 7:30	22 9 a.m. HENS Graduation M/R 4:30 Comp. Friends 7:30 p.m. Session 7:30	23 Bible Study 9:15 Comm. Meal 5:00 Choir 7:30	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30	27 Memorial Day Office closed	28 Bible Study 7:30	29 M/R 4:30 p.m.	30	31	

