



The Celtic Cross

November 2009

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Letter from the Co-Pastors

Dearly Beloved,

For some ministers and congregations, stewardship season is a dreary season. Money is a subject that most people do not like to talk about, especially at church. Preachers struggle with a special "Sermon on the Amount," and stewardship chairs tell the congregation: "I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that we have all the money we need around here. The bad news is that the money is in your pocket." For many ministers and congregations, it is a season of frowns.

But we do not find that to be the case in our ministry with you. Why?

- **Because stewardship is a time to give thanks.** Just as we individuals need to stop, take stock of our lives, and give thanks for all of the blessings we have received from God, so do we as congregations. At our last two meetings, the Session has named and given thanks for all of the accomplishments and blessings that God has given us in the past year. We came up with a list of 23 that include: the number of children coming forward for Children's Sermon, the growth of our Children and Worship program downstairs during worship, our mission trips to New Orleans and Richmond, the new meal ministry for congregational members, record attendance at Vacation Bible School, the new Barth Bulldog program at Barth Elementary, a growing choir, "our strongest staff ever," and 15 others. Some require more time than money, some more money than time, but all require the grace and power of God. What blessings would you name?
- **Because we all count.** As this year's stewardship theme suggests, we are all pieces in God's puzzle. All of us have something to offer in terms of time, talents, and money to further God's ministry. There is something very moving watching everyone coming forward on Dedication Sunday to offer his or her pledges for the new year. What a great privilege it is to be partners with God in ministry and in the lives of others!
- **Because we have something to celebrate.** Stewardship is a time of looking back and looking ahead to see what God is up to and to see how we are to be part of what God is doing. When we do that, we cannot help but celebrate. That is why we have a stewardship dinner and program that is a fun evening for fellowship. Other minister colleagues marvel that the most attended event at our church, other than worship and the Deacons' breakfast, is a stewardship event! Come and enjoy the fun on Sunday, November 8. There are a lot of people working hard right now so that it will be a great evening for the entire congregation. Come and smile.

See you Sunday,
Carter and Kerry

Worship Matters

Our Sunday Schedule:

9:15 Sunday School for all ages. 10:30 Service of the Lord's Day

November 1—All Saints' Sunday

Remembrance of Those Who Have Died in the Faith
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

November 8—Service of the Lord's Day

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

November 15—Dedication Sunday

Cherub Choir sings
Dedication of our offerings of time, talent, and treasure for 2010
Reception of our newest members

November 22—Thanksgiving Sunday

November 29—First Sunday of Advent

Community Thanksgiving Service—Sunday, November 22 at 3 p.m.

You are invited to our annual Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 22 at First Baptist Church at the corner of King and Charlotte Streets. Please join us for this opportunity to worship together with our neighbors and give thanks for God.

Music Notes

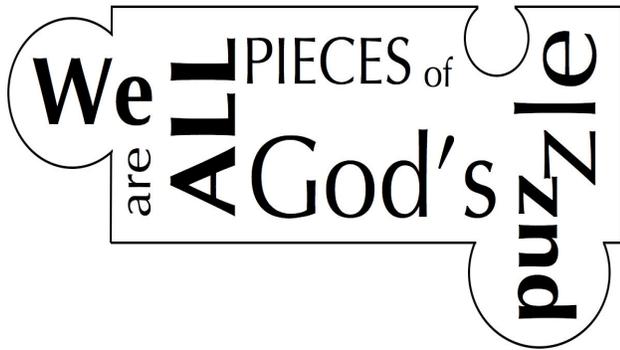
During the chilly month of November, our church musicians will warm your soul with beautiful, awe-inspiring music. November 1st, All Saints Day, will include Gary James on trumpet and Leanne Campbell on flute. The choir will sing a joy-filled, toe-tapping 'spiritual'. On November 8th, Gary will return on trumpet to harmonize with the choir on a new Craig Courtney anthem. November 15th will showcase a new anthem by Joseph Martin in which both the organ and piano will accompany the choir. Scott Sample will play the piano that morning. On Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22nd, the service will include the handbell choir, a children's choir and the adult Chancel choir. The last Sunday in November ushers in Advent

WESTMINSTER choir will have its first practice immediately following church on Sunday November 22nd. They will sing with the adult choir on Sunday December 20th. Letters inviting 6th-12th grade singers will arrive next week. And the whole choir has been working hard to memorize their music and movement for the Stewardship dinner extravaganza. We promise to AMAZE and SURPRISE you yet again. Don't miss this year's only presentation of "Presbyterians Rock".

—Diane Land, Music Director

Bread Bakers—Can you bake bread for Communion?

Would you be willing to bake bread for Communion on the first Sunday of the month? If you are willing to join our team of bakers, contact Ginny Bleyer or Kerry.



What does God have in mind for First Presbyterian Church in 2010?

Join Us For Our Annual Congregational Dinner and Show Sunday, November 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Join your church family for great dinner and fellowship. We gather for a delicious dinner at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall cooked by our resident chef, Dominic DeRenzo. Following dinner, we will hear from musicians young and old in "Presbyterians Rock." Part humorous, part serious, and all fun. Our goal is to send you out about 7:30 p.m. with a smile on your face. A free will offering will be received. In order to we know how many places to set, please sign up on the church bulletin board or call the church office.

Dedication Sunday, November 15, 2009

What pieces are we being called to be in God's puzzle? Please pray to God to discern the role that each of you can play in supporting the ministries of the church with your financial gifts and your time. And join your church family as we dedicate our pledges and commitments for 2010 in worship on Sunday, November 15. If you will be away on November 15, please use the envelope enclosed in the stewardship packet. The Stewardship Committee will call upon all folks we do not hear from before December 1. Stewardship packets can be picked up on Sunday, November 1, or they will be mailed to homes on Monday, November 2.

Deacons' Bench—Church Work Day, November 1

The Deacons are organizing our annual fall Church Work Day for Saturday, October 31 starting at 9 a.m. We will be working outside to trim trees, bushes, and clean up outside to prepare for winter. Come and enjoy the fun. All ages can pitch in. We will have coffee and doughnuts ready for you. If you can help, please call the church office at 610-326-0620, so we know whom to contact if there is rain. Chain saws and trucks especially appreciated! **Rain date is Saturday, November 7.**

Hanging of the Greens, Sunday November 29, 6:30 p.m.

Begin Advent with a gathering for all ages. We will enjoy dessert at 6:30 p.m., we will decorate the church and sing carols. While our church is being decorated for Christmas, the youngsters will make a craft and decorate Meals on Wheels bags (please bring a picture of your child). We will end with a carol sing in the sanctuary. Bring holiday cookies and nibbles to share. If you have greens and holly, please bring them as well. Please sign up on the bulletin insert, on the church bulletin board or by calling the church office.

Christian Education Opportunities

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION—9:15 to 10:10 a.m.

(You can pick up a cup of coffee before class in Fellowship Hall)

- **Forum (Community Room) Matthew 25: “When did we see you...”**
“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”
 —Matthew 25:40
November 1: **First Presbyterian in Mission—through Chester Eastside Ministries**
 Speaker: Rev. Bernice Warren, Exec. Director.
November 8: **First Presbyterian in Mission—through Living Waters for the World**
 Speakers: representatives from Lower Providence Church working with Living Waters for the World.
November 15: **First Presbyterian Church in Mission—through International Mission**
 See and hear the difference our mission dollars are making overseas.
November 22: **To be announced**
November 29: **God at Work in Kenya**
 Members of our church, Simon and Sarah Waruru, and Winnie Shona will talk about the church in Kenya. Winnie, now an intern at Urban Promise Ministries in Camden, will also talk about her work in a refugee camp in Kenya.
- **Faith and Relationships Class (Library)** Teachers: Sharon Trevoy, Debbie Remelius, and Rob Wade. Topic: “Feminine Imagery in the Bible.”
(Adult Bible study has merged into the Faith and Relationships Class)
- **Men’s Sunday Mornings (Pastor’s Conference Room) “Moses”**
 Teacher: Bernarr Rhoades
- **Women’s Sunday Mornings (Mary Ann Yost Room—I 10)**
 Teacher: Amy Shutt. Topic: “She turned and said to Him, ‘Rabboni!’”
 Reflections on learning, knowing, and turning based on Mary’s encounter with Jesus.

WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWING IN FAITH

- **Thursday Women’s Bible Study:** Nov. 5 and Nov. 19, 9:30–10:30a.m.
 Teachers: Max Creswell and Ron Gower
- **Thursday Bible Study:** 9:15-10:30 a.m. every Thursday. Teacher: Kerry
- **Tuesday Evening Bible Study:** Nov. 3 and Nov. 17, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Teacher: Carter
- **Praying the Scriptures:** Tuesdays, Nov. 10 and 24 at 7:30 p.m. Join Kerry and others for a quiet hour of learning the ancient but simple way of praying the Scriptures.
- **Moms’ Circle:** Wednesday, Nov. 18, 9:15—10:30 a.m. Meets at Sheila Dugan’s house. Childcare provided. Teacher: Kerry. Call the office for directions.
- **Theology Reading Group:** Teacher: Carter. Meeting date will be set at October meeting.

Music and Recreation for Children in Grades 2-5 -

As the weather cools off we are exploring new avenues of rec as we hit the stage to play Charades. And, we are starting to get ready for the Christmas Pageant! Come join us Wed. Nights 4:30 to 5:45.

Confirmation and Seekers News

Confirmation Class

November 8 at 4 p.m. Junior High Room

(Stewardship Dinner and Program for the entire church family follows)

November 22 at 5 p.m. Junior High Room

Bring \$3 for pizza and drinks if you are staying for Junior High Seekers!

Junior Seekers

November 8 at 5 p.m. Stewardship Dinner

We are helping "Presbyterians Rock" with our service night of setting-up, serving, and cleaning up! Don't miss helping out, hanging out, and seeing the show!

November 22 at 4:00 to -7:00 Turkey day pie-making party and T-giving dinner!

That means you, the church kitchen, a pie crust, and yummy pie-making ingredients...and of course some music and awesome people. Advisors will be serving a thanksgiving dinner and we will eat our pies as dessert! We make pies at four and eat at 6:00. Jr. Seekers not in confirmation will help with the dinner set up. All will make pies!!

Junior Seekers Advisors Contact info: Ken and Holly Lee (610-574-1563), Mike and Mindy Lipsky (610-323-5616)

Senior Seekers

November 4 at 5:00 Stewardship Dinner

Come join the fun as we are part of the program—and wait to see and hear the rest!

November 29 "College Care Packages"

We'll put on some good music, munch on some food and put together treats to send to the college students to get them through exams. Come hang out. **RSVP:** Rhoadarmers

Senior Seekers Advisor Contact info: John & Lisa Livezey (610-326-0490), Chris & John Macdonald (610-987-0529), Donna & Gary Rhoadarmer (610-327-8157), and Dave and Trish Weller (610-970-6481)

Staff: Liv Stewart Robertson- ostewart@fpcpottstown.org (610-326-0620)

Opportunities for Fellowship

Men's Breakfast,

Saturday, November 14, 8-9 a.m.

The guys gather one Saturday of the month for food, fellowship, and devotionals led by Carter. Tom Zeigler is this month's chef. All are invited.

PrimeTimers:

Tuesday, November 17, at 12 noon: Potluck Luncheon in Fellowship Hall

Carter will share pictures of this summer's trip to Scotland with members of the church. Marilyn Becker is hostess.

Friday, December 4, 2009, 10:30 a.m. : Holiday Trip to Bethlehem

Our trip to Bethlehem includes a visit to the Putz, candle and star store, an old-fashioned Moravian Christmas concert, a visit to the Moravian Bookstore, dinner at Hotel Bethlehem, and a bus tour of Bethlehem at night. Total cost is \$39.50 (dinner not included).

We will leave promptly at 10:45 a.m. Eat your lunch before we go or bring a bag lunch. We will be using church members' vans and cars. Please sign up on the church bulletin boards so we know how many passenger seats we need. Checks should be made payable to "First Presbyterian Church with a notation, "PrimeTimers."

Young Adults:

Gather monthly with Carter and Kerry and other young adults for food, fellowship, and discussion. Because of schedules we never seem to meet at the same time in the month. Check with Carter or Kerry to see when the group is meeting this month.

Advent Angels: Share the Joy of the Season

Here's the plan: "Angels" (individuals or families within our congregation) will be matched-up randomly and notified whom they are to **secretly** remember during the Advent season. Beginning on *Sunday, November 29*, there will be an "Angel" table set-up in the library. Mark your gift with your Advent Angel's name and leave it on the table for them to pick-up and then you should pick-up your gift. Suggestions for gifts are cards, baked goods, a special book, ornaments, candy – be creative! These gifts need not cost a lot of money.

It's a weekly token during this season to remind us all how special we are to each other.

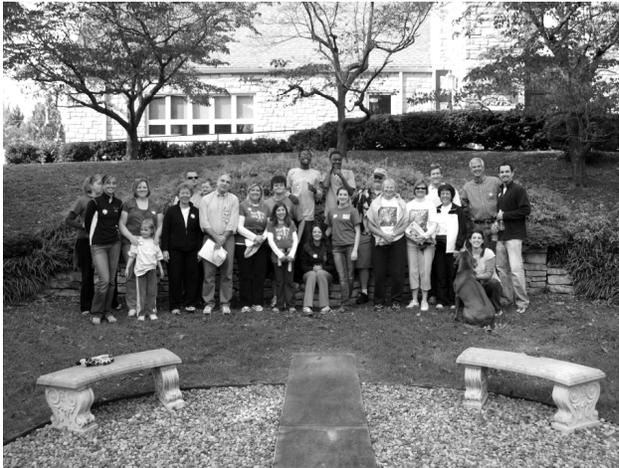
On *Sunday, December 20*, your last gift should reveal your identity and good wishes may then be expressed freely.

Yes, it's tough to keep a secret for 4 weeks!

Any questions? Call Marilyn Becker (610-416-4770).

**The deadline to sign up is Sunday, November 22.
(sign up on the church bulletin insert or by calling the church office)**

Branches of the Vine - Making A Difference



Thanks to all of our **Crop Walkers**, to our fearless leader, **Rob Wade**, and to all who gave money to support our walkers.

We raised more than \$3000 to fight hunger, here in Pottstown and around the world!

Alternative Gift Market

Join us after church on November 15 for our annual Alternative Gift Market. All proceeds from the soup, lunch, and bake sale go to our adult mission trip. Here is a lineup of offerings for the day:

- Order and pick up your quart of soup.
- Enjoy a lunch of soup and bread, or hot dogs and sauerkraut.
- Shop at our homemade bake table. Canned items from summer gardens are also welcome!
- Purchase an Equal Exchange gift basket (supplies our coffee and other products).
- Support the Heifer Project or Habitat for Humanity.
- Purchase our colorful recycled gift bags to use instead of wrapping paper during the holiday season.

Watch for order forms in the November bulletins to order your soup. **If you are willing to help by providing baked goods, please contact Marcia Zeigler.** Come join us for a delicious meal and help benefit some great causes this holiday season as we remember the true reason for the season.

New Clothes for Kids for Christmas

You can make it possible for a child in need in Pottstown to have new clothes at Christmas. Look for the display of cards in November. Select a card, purchase a new outfit (school appropriate) in the proper size. Please bring these gifts to the church unwrapped by December 2. The gifts of new clothes will then be distributed to those waiting children by the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities. And you will have the thrill of knowing you brought a happy smile to a child's face at Christmas! Thank you for your generous support.

Bloodmobile

Give the gift of life in Fellowship Hall on **Monday, November 17th from 4 to 8 p.m.** Questions or want an appointment? Call Bill Dupree, 610-367-7945..

Session Digest

At its October meetings, the Session:

- Approved the baptism of Evan Thomas Temple, child of God and son of Heather Babbony Temple and Jeremy Temple on November 8, 2009.
- Received the Treasurer's Report and approved monthly allocations to the Mission Fund.
- Approved changes to the Endowment Policy recommended by the Endowment Committee and received an update on the legal matters regarding the Martha Porter Trust.
- The Session continued its discussion on looking back (naming the accomplishments and blessings in the ministry of the church in this past year that we should celebrate and give thanks for) and looking ahead ("What do we discern that God is calling us to accomplish in the next year or two so that we can 'grow deeper in Christ and reach farther in love?"). The Session adopted a vision statement that will be shared in the stewardship mailings and at the congregational meeting in January.
- Approved a mission trip to New Orleans, February 27 to March 6.
- Approved allocation of the remaining Vision Fund mission project money (see below).
- Received the report from the Administrative Committee that our property insurance covered lightning related damage to the organ computer components and our fire alarm panel, except for a \$500 deductible. The Admin. Committee has hired an electrical engineer to recommend what further action should be taken to protect the computers, organ, telephones, and building in future lightning storms.
- The Administrative Committee continues to study the current heating and air conditioning units in the Christian Education wing which are near the end of their expected service life.
- Received a report from the Mission Committee about the year's start-up of the tutoring program at Barth Elementary and the upcoming Alternative Gift Market.
- Please keep in your prayers the following:

Fellowship: Thanksgiving for the enthusiasm of the committee and the response to "Apple Fest"

Nominating: Prayers for wisdom, discernment, and persuasiveness;

Stewardship: For a heartfelt and successful stewardship season;

Christian Education: Guidance as they evaluate curriculum and explore new options;

Worship: For our preparation for Advent;

Administrative: For guidance for the heating and lightning protection projects;

Membership: For those joining the church in our next Inquirers' Class;

Mission: For new mission initiatives as they begin.

Vision Fund Mission Project Update

A number of years ago, when we undertook a capital campaign to add air conditioning, rebuild the organ, and accomplish a number of projects, we pledged that 10% of the amount raised in that original three-year campaign would go to mission capital projects. While all of the church projects and most of the mission projects have been funded, we still have some money in hand because some mission projects have not begun (replacement of the Cluster building) or have been cancelled (a new church development in Philadelphia Presbytery). At its October meeting, the Session agreed that the remaining \$39,214 that we hold in the Vision account would be allocated as follows: \$15,000 for the new Cluster Outreach Center building, \$5000 for showers in the Pottstown homeless shelter, \$14,274 for a new project to install water filters in overseas communities that lack clean water, and \$5000 to go to Camp Kirkwood or the Cluster building.

Financial Report

Budgeted income for the year:	\$465,564
Budgeted income through September 30:	349,173
Actual income through September 30:	342,613
This time last year:	310,446
Budgeted expenses for the year:	465,564
Budgeted expenses through September 30:	346,463
Actual expenses through September 30:	338,739
This time last year:	326,520
Deficit to date:	(\$5,294)
Deficit this time last year:	(\$31,491)

Thank you from Liv!

Dear Church Family,

I was so surprised to come home from my wedding and honeymoon to find an invitation waiting on my desk. It was so wonderful to be welcomed home and to feel supported by you all in my marriage. We cannot thank you enough for your gifts and support. We are truly grateful! - Liv and Scott

Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following people who have been ill, hospitalized recently or undergoing tests: Ron Gower, Mary Ann Hudson, Peg Deegan, Andy Hazeltine, Don Trevoy, Bob McDevitt and Marlene Wrigley.

Baptized recently was Vivian Leigh Kyler, child of God and daughter of Bret and Maggie Kyler.

Welcomed to the Lord's Table: Holly Bostwick, Jalen Lee, Makena Lurie, Julianna Roseo, Grady Short, Cecilia Stacks and Hannah Weller.

We welcomed Kaiden Case Grim, child of God and son of Dr. Keith and Katie Grim on October 19.

Thanks to all of our CROP Walkers and to Rob Wade and all of the adult volunteers who helped to plan the day.

PrimeTimers Collecting Campbell's Labels and Gen. Mills Boxtops

PrimeTimers are collecting Campbell's Soup labels and General Mills boxtops to support Menaul School in New Mexico,, a mission school of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Please place your Campbell's labels for education and General Mills Box Tops in the envelopes on the bulletin board. Thank you for helping the Prime Timers help Menaul.

Lectionary Readings: November

For the week of November 1-8:

Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17, Psalm 127, Hebrews 9: 24-28, Mark 12: 38-44

For the week of November 8-15:

1 Samuel 1: 4-20, Hebrews 10: 11-14, 19-25, Mark 13: 1-8

For the week of November 15-22:

2 Samuel 23: 1-7, Psalm 132: 1-12, Revelation 1: 4b-8, John 18: 33-37

For the week of November 22-29:

Jeremiah 33: 14-16, Psalm 25: 1-10, 1 Thess. 3: 9-13, Luke 21: 25-36

For the week of November 29-December 6:

Mal. 3: 1-4, Luke 1: 68-79, Phil. 1: 3-11, Luke 3: 1-6

News from the Library—Hidden Treasures (more to follow!)

AGING & RETIREMENT (12 titles)

Fire in the Soul-Richard L. Morgan

Aging Well-George E. Vaillant

BRUCE FEILER BOOKS (4 titles)

Abraham

Walking the Bible

CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL (18 adult titles)

Chicken Soup for the Caregiver's Soul

Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul

DIVORCE (9 titles)

When the Bow Breaks-Joseph Warren

Divorce and Marriage-Wayne House

DEVOTIONS & PRAYER (20 titles)

Making Time for God-Susan Garrett

52 Devotions for Church Leader

GRIEF & LOSS (36 titles)

Turn My Mourning into Dancing

-Henri J. Nouwen

Be Not Afraid- Johann Arnold

MAX LUCADO (27 adult titles)

Traveling Light

The Great House of God

PARENTING (35 titles)

10 Gifts Your Children Will Grow to

Appreciate-Lynn P. Clayton

Nurturing the Souls of Children

-Thomas F. Geary

POETRY (16 titles)

Something Catches

by our church member, Glen

McLaughlin

The Poetry of Robert Frost

PRAYER SHAWLS & KNITTING (10 titles)

Knit Together-Debbie Macomber

Knitting into the Mystery

-Susan Jorgensen

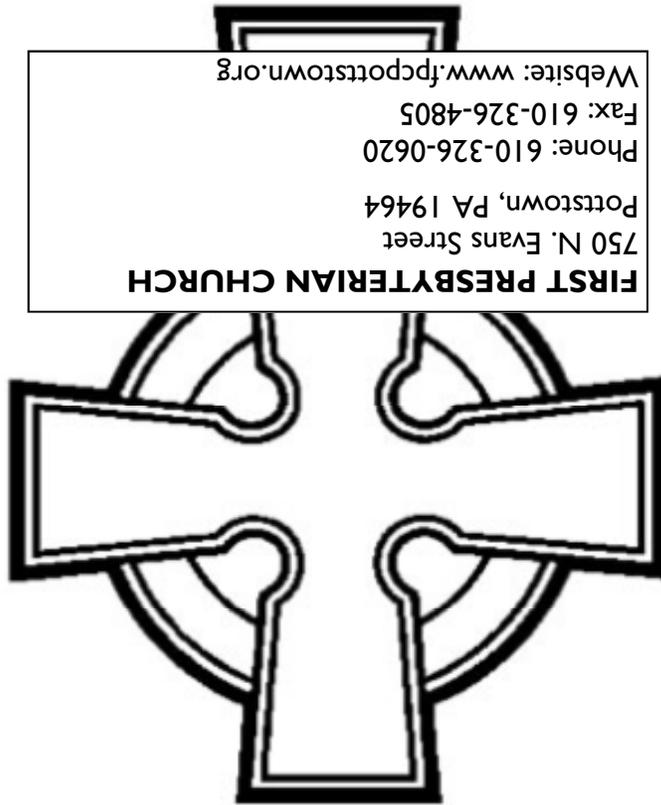
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (25 titles)

Order Your 2010 Copy of the *Disciplines* Devotional Book This Month

Looking for a devotional book to use during the year that will help you find a way and time to read the Bible and pray daily? Or, are you looking for something to pass on to a friend or stuff a stocking with this Christmas? In November and December, the Christian Education Committee will be taking orders for the Disciplines devotional book. The Christian Education committee partially subsidizes the cost because we hope everyone will purchase a copy. Cost is \$7 for a regular print copy and \$10 for a large print copy. To order your copy, fill out the bulletin insert, contact the church office, or sign up during the coffee hour.

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Inq. Class 4 p.m.	2 Cubs 7 p.m.	3 Sr. Seekers Bible Study 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	4 M/R 4:30 Payer 7:15 Committees 7:30	5 Sisters of the Way 9:15 Ladies Bible 9:30 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Girl Scouts 7	6	7 Stewardship Dinner set up
8 Inquirers 9:15 Temple Bap- tism Confirmation 4 p.m. Stewardship Dinner 5:30 p.m.	9 Cubs 7	10. Endowment 8:30 Cubs 7 Shawl 7 Sr. Seekers Bible 7 Lectio 7:30	11 M/R 4:30 Deacons 7:30	12 Sisters of the Way 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 6:30 Choir 7:30	13 Soup making	14 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. Sr. Seekers Beach Retreat @ Ocean Grove, NJ
15 Inquirers' Class 9:15 Session 9:45 Alternative Gift Fair	16 Cubs 7	17 Prime Time Pot Luck Lunch 12 Blood Drive 4-8 Girl Scouts 6:30 Lectio Divina	18 MOMS Circle 9:15 Music/Rec 4:30 p.m. Session 7:30	19 Sisters of the Way 9:15 Ladies Bible 9:30 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30	20 Cub Scouts Sleepover 6:30 p.m.	21 Cubs sleep- over until 11:30 a.m.
22 Jr. Seekers Pie Making 4 p.m. Confirma- tion 5 p.m.	23 Cubs 7	24 Presbytery @ Ardmore 4 p.m. Sr. Seeker Bible 7 Choir 7:30	25 Music/Rec 4:30 Comp. Friends 7:30	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29 Coventry Singers Re- hearsal 2 p.m. Sr. Seekers Meeting 6:30	30 Coventry Singers Re- hearsal 6:30 p.m. Cubs 7					



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