

The Celtic Cross

October 2010

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Letter from the Co-Pastors

When I was growing up, I was frequently enthralled by stories and movies of missionaries who had gone to far-away places to bring love and light to native people who dwelled in deep darkness (think “Lilies of the Field,” Christy, The Keys to the Kingdom ...). Of course, the more dire the conditions and the more difficult circumstances, the better the story. Perhaps one day, I thought, I — even I, little blonde-haired, blue-eyed, not yet 5’2”, Kerry Pidcock— would join that band of stalwart missionaries who loved God so much that they left their home, never to return, and risked everything for the kingdom of God, those men and women whose faces radiated joy and peace even as leeches crawled on their skin and snakes encircled their legs.

I’m trying to remember that vision as I prepare to go to Honduras. I’m keeping Katherine Hepburn’s face before me as I wait for the typhoid injection and malaria pill prescriptions (*typhoid? malaria? Those diseases are still around?!*) I’m trying to tap into that “glow-zone” of spiritual equanimity as I sit in the travel-medicine office and listen to the doc instruct me about spraying my clothes and shoes to keep out parasites (*parasites?! That doesn’t sound good.*) “Well, Kerry,” I tell myself, “what did you think? The whole point is that people don’t have *clean* water! They get sick and die from parasites and disease.” Oh... yeah...that.

As the departure for the Living Waters crew draws near, I feel sheepish about how much my thoughts are revolving around *me* — what will *I* eat? How will *I* sleep? Will there be animals I’ll be allergic to? Please, God, don’t let me see mice or rats — bugs are ok, but not mice or rats. I’m thinking about things like that. Silly, *insignificant* things like that, when compared to what many people in the world have to think about —and live with, not for one short week, but every day of their lives.

I’m trying to shift my thinking to *them*, to the people who are waiting in the village of San Juan Planes, waiting for us to show up with our suitcases filled with PVC pipe. I’m trying to focus my prayers on *them*, on the mothers who are holding onto their unvaccinated children until we get there with the little microbial filter that will save them, and on the hut-dwelling families who line up to build cement block houses. I’m trying to give thanks for *them*, for the mayor of the village who has a vision for his people, for Don Elio and his wife who open their home and labor to make softies like me comfortable, and for Tim and Gloria Wheeler, the *real* missionaries who have devoted not just one week, but a whole lifetime to bringing love and light to people in darkness because they love God so very much.

I’m trying, but I confess I haven’t been entirely successful. So, I’m back to *me*, asking you to pray for me and the Living Waters crew as we head out on this adventure. Pray that this endeavor will be all that God hopes, and that we will reflect the glory of God which shines in the face of Jesus Christ.

Peace, Kerry (and Carter)

Worship Matters

- October 3: World Communion Sunday
 “Characters Welcome Here: Encounters with People of the Way”
 Welcome of Children to the Lord’s Table
 Commissioning of Honduras Mission Trip Participants
- October 10: “Characters Welcome Here: Encounters with People of the Way”
 Commissioning of Mission Workers and Crop Walkers
- October 17: “Characters Welcome Here: Encounters with People of the Way”
 Cherub Choir sings
 “Apple Fest” following the service
- October 24: Rev. Kevin Porter, Guest Preacher
 Cherub Choir Sings
- October 31: Reformation Sunday
 Bag Pipes and Dick Clark, Drum Major
***Wear plaid if you want!** And share shortbread after the service.*
-

Reformation Sunday: Scottish Shortbread Anyone?

In celebration of our Reformation heritage, we’d love to break shortbread together on Sunday, Oct. 31 at the Fellowship Time. If you are able and willing to make shortbread for coffee hour, see the recipe on the insert of the newsletter, and bring the fruits of your labor on Oct. 31.

All Saints Sunday, November 7, “Cloud of Witnesses Gallery”

As we remember those who have died in the faith, we will mount a gallery of the communion of saints. If you would like to include a picture of a loved one who has died in the faith — in any year — place original pictures or good copies in the basket at the rear of the sanctuary by Wed., November 3. Pictures will be returned to the basket for your pick-up the following week.

An Important Word from the Session Concerning Finances

We cannot REAP what isn’t SOWN.

As we enter the final quarter of 2010, we find it necessary to share the financial state of the church budget with you. Over the summer giving fell off drastically. Thus we have a current budget deficit of \$31, 752. The Mission Committee is bearing the brunt of this deficit, and unless our giving is brought up to date, other programs of the church will be jeopardized. For those of you who have given faithfully we thank you. For those of us who may have gotten off track due to the summer travel and holidays, we ask that you please take a moment this month and review your pledge commitment for 2010. Thank you!

Spaghetti Dinner—Wednesday October 6, 2010, 4:30 to 6:30

Come and go after work or Music and Recreation or before Committee night for a great meal that will support Camp Kirkwood and PrimeTimers. Tickets are \$8/adults and \$4/ children—and can be purchased on Sundays or during the week from the church office. Friends welcome! Take out available!

Upcoming Events

CROP Walk—Sunday, October 10

The CROP Walk raises money to feed the hungry, both in Pottstown through the Cluster Outreach Center and Community Meals, and worldwide through Church World Service. Walkers from Pottstown area congregations walk a 10 kilometer route (or a shorter “Golden Mile”) and recruit others to support their walk.

Please join us for the walk, no matter what age you are, and recruit people to support you at \$.50, \$1, or \$10 per kilometer—or find another walker to support. The walk begins and ends at our church. Meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 10. For a link to our team webpage, or to find out how you can raise money “online,” e-mail our CROP Walk coordinator, Rob Wade at rwade@wadegold.com

Apple Fest, Sunday, October 17 after worship

Fall in Pennsylvania means apples—and the great taste and smell of apples baking in our mothers’ and grandmothers’ ovens. Come and experience that same smell and taste of apples baking in our own kitchen in Fellowship Hall.

Stay after worship on Sunday, October 17 for the Fun and Fellowship Committee’s second Apple Fest in Fellowship Hall. There will be an apple pie contest and apple dumplings will be served (plain or with vanilla ice cream). Various baked items (with apple as an ingredient) will also be on sale. Sign up on the church bulletin board to enter the contest or to contribute a baked item.

Let us know if you are coming (so we know how many apple dumplings to have) by signing up!

Stewardship Dinner with a Mission Video Theme, Sun., November 7

Mark your calendars now for our annual fun night of great food, fellowship, and inspiration at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 7.

Following a delicious dinner, we will be treated to a special video extravaganza with an opportunity to see and hear about this summer’s Senior Seekers workcamp and the trip of our just-returning “Living Waters” mission participants to Honduras. There will also be presentations about Mission Mornings and musical entertainment provided by the Celtic and Cherub Choirs. Childcare will be provided for our youngest members, but we think the show will be great for all ages. You will not want to miss it! Our stewardship theme this year is “God Is Doing Wonders Among You.” (Joshua 3:5) Dedication Sunday is November 14.

One Joyful Choir Trip, Saturday, November 13

Come to the Kimmel Center and hear a wonderful concert by a 536 voice all-Presbyterian choir including 15 of our own! Proceeds from the concert will support earthquake relief in Haiti. Avoid the hassles of having to drive and park by hopping on a church-sponsored bus with 46 other church members and friends. Then after the concert come back to the church for a simple but tasty “catered” dinner in Fellowship Hall. Tickets for bus, concert (part charitable donation) and dinner are \$75. Space is limited and your check is your reservation.

Christian Education Opportunities: “Seeking Together to Grow Deeper in Christ to Reach Farther in Love”

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) “Facing the Skeptics: How Do We Respond?”**
A series led by **John Macdonald and Carter Lester**
 - October 3:** “How can you take the Bible literally and believe everything in it?”
 - October 10:** “How can there be only one ‘true’ religion?”
 - October 17:** “How can you believe in Christianity when the church can be so bad?”
 - October 24:** “Aren’t science and religion incompatible?”
 - October 31:** Topic to be announced
- **Faith and Relationships Class (Library) Leaders: Rob Wade, Sharon Trevoy and Debbie Remelius**
Topic: “Great Themes of the Bible”
- **Men’s Sunday Mornings (Pastors’ Conference Room) Leader: Rev. Bernarr Rhoades**
Topic: “Faith in Revolutionary Times”
- **Sacred Space for Women (Mary Ann Yost Room, Room 110) Leader: Amy Shutt**
Topic: “Each One a Minister: Using God’s gifts for ministries. We continue with this Bible study from Ephesians which will help us discover God’s call to use our spiritual gifts.

WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWING IN FAITH

- **Thursday Ladies’ Bible Study:** October 7 and October 21, 9:30–10:30a.m.
Teachers: Rev. Max Creswell and Ron Gower
- **“Sisters of the Way” Bible Study:** 9:15-10:45 a.m. every Thursday. Teacher: Kerry
- **Tuesday Evening Bible Study:** October 5 and 19, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Teacher: Carter
- **Praying the Scriptures (“Lectio Divina”) Group:** Tuesday Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. Leader: Kerry
- **Moms’ Time-Out:** Wednesday, October 20, 9:30—11:00 a.m. Children welcome. Leader: Kerry. Contact the church office for location and directions.
- **Theology Reading Group:** Wednesday, October 27 at 7 p.m. Leader: Carter
The group is discussing Tim Keller’s [The Reason for God](#).
- **Young Adult Group:** Saturday, October 16 at Carter and Kerry’s house for pitch-in dinner and conversations of faith. For directions and what to bring, contact Carter or Kerry.

Music and Recreation for Children in Grades 2-5

If you are in grades 2 through 5 and would like to make new friends, sing, and play games, then join us this fall on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:45. First, Miss Liv will meet you in the fellowship hall for a time of recreation and prayer. Then, you will sing under Mrs. Bathurst's direction for 45 minutes.

Wed, OCT 6th from 4:30 to 6:30 the Prime Timers are having a spaghetti dinner. Parents, eat with kids at 4:30 or meet Kids at 5:45 and stay for dinner!

The **pageant** is coming up! Mrs. B has a new pageant this year and we have lots of parts!

If Fall activities temporarily conflict with Music and Recreation, come join us in November.

Stockholders/Stewardship Dinner

This year the Stockholders dinner will be held in conjunction with the Stewardship Dinner on November 7th. Seekers will help with preparations and the dinner and of course indulge in the viewing pleasure of the workcamp video! Seekers, when you see your stockholders in church please invite them to come and enjoy this awesome night.

Junior Seekers, Grades 6-8: Please RSVP to person in parentheses

October 1st and 2nd- LOCK-IN! Bring your pj's and favorite game...we will be making pizzas, roasting marshmallows, having a "butter-battle," and worshipping at late hours in the night... Drop off is at the Lipsky's house, at 6:00 p.m. Pick up is at the church at 9:00 a.m. (Liv)

October 10th- Crop Walk- Come walk with Mike, Mindy, and Liv :)

October 17th- Jr. Seeker -"Halloween Event" - We're headed out to a spooooky place... bring warm clothes! Time: TBA

Advisor Contact info: Mike and Mindy Lipsky (610-323-5616) Staff: Liv Stewart Robertson (610-326-0620)

Senior Seekers, Grades 9—12: RSVP to person in parentheses please

October 17: 6:30-8:00 "Smashing Pumpkins" Bonfire at Macdonalds' house and some pumpkin fun. Bring warm clothes. Drop off and pick up the at Macdonalds' house. A map will be available on the Seeker table (Macdonald)

October 30 and 31st- Beach Retreat- We're heading back to Ocean Grove for a time of relaxation, games, good food, and honest conversation. (RSVP Liv asap)

Advisors 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; 609-651-3062

Inquirers' Class for Prospective New Members

If you would like to learn more about the ministries First Presbyterian Church and explore the possibilities of joining the church, then you are invited to a series of "Inquirers' Classes" led by Carter and Kerry. Call them if you are interested, even if you will be unable to attend all of the sessions. Childcare is available for all of the classes:

Sunday, October 31, 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, November 7, 9:15 a.m. in Community Room
Sunday, November 14, 4—6 p.m. in the Community Room
Sunday, November 21, 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

On November 21, those who are ready to join the church, will meet with the Session and be received into the membership of the church.

Opportunities for Fellowship (see also p. 3)

Men's Breakfast, Saturday October 9, 8—9 a.m.

The guys gather with Carter on the second Saturday for food, fellowship, and a devotion. You will be well fed for the day by this month's chef, Ron Gower.

Prime Timers' Events and Activities:

Wednesday, October 6, Spaghetti Supper, 4:30 to 6:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Tickets \$8 for adults and \$4 for children with proceeds benefitting Prime Timers and Camp Kirkwood scholarships. Volunteers needed to help with this event in the kitchen, set up, clean up, selling tickets and making desserts. Contact Tom Hudson or Sara Grim to help.

Deacons' Bench

Church Work Day, Saturday, November 6, 9 a.m. to Noon

Join the Deacons as we clean-up outside and prepare the gardens for the winter. Bring your tree and hedge trimming tools and a rake. Sign-up is on the bulletin board or call Doreen Duncan.

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Tuesday, October 19, 7 p.m.

Join us as we knit prayer shawls together. There will be plenty of help—so "experts" are not required. Completed prayer shawls are shared with church members and friends facing difficult challenges so that they know they are wrapped in the love and prayers of their brothers and sisters in Christ. There are even shawls for new babies. If you have questions or would like to know more, contact Jane Barndt.

Branches of the Vine - Where Would You Like to Serve?

Cluster Banquet, Oct. 10, 5:30 p.m. at Sunnybrook Ballroom

After many years, the Cluster has acquired a new and larger building for an Outreach Center—but the building is in need of many repairs. Join us for a special banquet launching a capital campaign for the new building. At the banquet, our church will be recognized for its gifts to the Cluster. Tickets for this special fundraising event are \$20. If you are interested, contact Carter or Barbara Longstreth, chair of the Mission Committee.

Community Meals, October 14:

On the second Thursday of the month, our congregation serves a meal to those in need. Volunteers can help with the cooking earlier in the day, or with the serving from 4:45-6:15 p.m. To help with the cooking, contact Doreen Duncan, 610-473-2495 or the church office. To help with serving the meal, contact Sara Grim at 367-0543 or the church office.

Barth Elementary School Partnership:

Can you give one hour a week to a child who needs a tutor? Volunteers from our church serve as mentors/tutors at our partner school in Pottstown, Barth Elementary. To help, contact Karen Keiser (610-754-7076) or the church office.

Honduras “Living Waters” Trip, October 5-11:

Please keep in your prayers those traveling to Honduras, Oct. 5-11, to install a village water filtration system: Billl Dupree, Gary James, Karen Keiser, John Livezey, Rick and Sue Moyer, Amy Shutt, Chris Trevoy, and Kerry Pidcock-Lester. Hear and see all about their trip at the Stewardship dinner and program on Sunday evening, November 7.

Women’s Retreat, October 22-23

The Things That Make for Peace

We live in an age and a culture which, by its nature and challenges, seems to rob us of our peace. How do we find peace in such an age? In our time together we will seek to discover the things that, both individually and collectively, make for peace. Using passages from scripture, illustrations and stories from other spiritual traditions, and in conversation with each other, we will explore the nature of peace and how we can apply the lessons learned to our own lives.

Our returning retreat leader, Gayle Kerr, has been involved in the ministry of spiritual direction and retreat leadership for the past twenty years. Until June of 2007 when she and her husband moved to Massachusetts, Gayle served as a Spiritual Director at the Middleton Center at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Gayle now resides in Yarmouthport, MA, is the mother of two grown sons and the grandmother of four grandsons.

Please join us at Mariawald Renewal Center in Shillington from 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 22 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, October 23. Triple occupancy rate is \$60.00 per person and double occupancy is \$68.00 per person. Linens & towels are provided and three meals are included beginning with dinner on Friday evening. Scholarship money is available, please talk to Kerry.

Space is limited. Reserve your space with a check to the church office or Gina James.

Session Digest

At its September meeting, the Session:

- Approved Carter and Kerry taking vacation leave on October 22-24 to visit Elizabeth for parents' weekend.
- Approved an invitation being extended to Rev. Kevin Porter to preach and lead worship on Sunday, October 24.
- Approved the celebration of the Lord's Supper on the mission trip to Honduras should the mission team decide to do so.
- Approved Cara James and Cassidy Collins participating in liturgical dance as part of worship on All Saints Sunday, November 7.
- Approved the purchase of a humidifier for the piano used for choir rehearsals at a cost of \$300 from the Memorial Fund.
- Reflected on the past year and listed and discussed "the accomplishments and blessings that we should celebrate and give thanks for," as the Session prepares to look ahead to a new year of ministry.
- Received and discussed the financial report with Treasurer, Michelle Thompson. Agreed that the congregation should be informed about our current deficit through the *Celtic Cross*. Approved a partial payment of the mission allocation.
- Received the report of Liz Remelius following her "Taste of Ministry" summer internship as well as a thank you note for the opportunity.
- Discussed without taking action a request from the Borough of Pottstown for the church and other non-profit organizations to make a donation in lieu of property taxes.
- Received a report from Mission and approved receipt of the Peacemaking offering on October 3 and CROP Walk donations on October 10.
- Received a report from Worship Committee, which among other things, announced that the fellowship time following worship will be held in the Community Room one Sunday a month on a trial basis.
- Received the news from the Administrative Committee that work will begin this week on the steeple to seal the masonry to prevent leaks below the steeple. Approved \$3800 from the Capital Improvement fund to run copper cable from the steeple to the ground.
- Agreed with the Endowment Committee recommendation to have quarterly payouts of the Endowment fund proceeds, presently received in a once-a-year payment.
- Heard a report from the Christian Education committee concerning Rally Day and plans for an Advent Meditation booklet.
- Also received reports from the Deacons, Hospitality, Fun and Fellowship, and Stewardship committees.
- Prayer requests from the committees—Worship: thanksgiving for the number and joy of the children coming forward for the Children's Sermon. Fellowship: for people responding in a timely manner to fellowship events. Endowment: continuing guidance. Administrative: that we will have the resources to do the projects we need to do. Hospitality: for those who will be received into membership in our next set of Inquirers' classes. Mission: for the mission trip to Honduras and our partnership with the people there. Stewardship: for joyful giving.

Financial Report

General Fund

Budgeted income for the year:	\$473,060
Budgeted income through August 31:	315,373
Actual income through August 31:	283,729
This time last year:	308,106
Budgeted expenses for the year:	473,060
Budgeted expenses through August 31:	313,312
Actual expenses through August 31:	301,142
This time last year:	300,415
Deficit to date:	(\$31,521)
Deficit this time last year:	(\$6,059)

Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following people who have been ill or hospitalized recently: Tierra Dobry, the Babbony family, Jan Rose, Avery Rose-Craver, Morris Rissell, Kathy Benning, Barbara Fletcher, Sue Kanter and Bill Morris.

Blessings to Scott and Jane Sample upon the birth of granddaughter, Emma Jane.

We send our condolences to the family of **Carole MacDonald** who passed away recently and also to **Kay Vogt and family** upon the death of Kay's mother, Verna Dawson.

People to People Directory (Insert to this newsletter)

Looking for a plumber or electrician? What about a lawyer or realtor? Or even a babysitter? Check out the "People-to-People" directory put together by the Hospitality Committee from information volunteered by church members. Put it to good use!

But consider this version a "first draft." Do you want your name in the "People-to-People" directory for the services you can provide? Would you like to add your e-mail address to your phone number as a way to contact you? If so, please contact the chair of the Hospitality Committee, Tom Zeigler, at tlzeigler@tlzpeinc.com.

Lectionary Readings—October

For the week of October 4 to 10:

Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7, Psalm 66: 1-12, 2 Timothy 3: 8-15, Luke 17: 11-19

For the week of October 11 to 17:

Jeremiah 31: 27-34, Psalm 119: 97-104, 2 Timothy 3: 14—4:5, Luke 18: 1-8

For the week of October 18 to 24:

Joel 2: 23-32, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, Luke 18: 9-14

For the week of October 25 to 31:

Heb. 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4, Psalm 119: 137-144, 2 Thess. 1: 1-4, 11-12, Luke 19: 1-10

Nominating Committee Needs Your Help

The Nominating Committee needs your help in suggesting persons whom they may consider as nominees for elders and deacons. As you reflect on persons whom you believe would serve well in these offices, please consider some of these characteristics and qualities:

- Evidence of grace, compassion, and maturity.
- Leadership ability and willingness to express own ideas.
- Willingness to learn, readiness to listen, and cooperativeness.
- Regular worship attendance.
- Participation in other church activities.
- Financial support of the church.
- Faith and dedication.
- Offices or leadership positions in the church previously held.
- Ability to follow through on assignments
- Availability to attend monthly Session or Deacon meetings and assigned committee meetings.

Please pass on your suggestions to the Nominating Committee using the forms available in the literature rack.

Library in Focus—One New Book

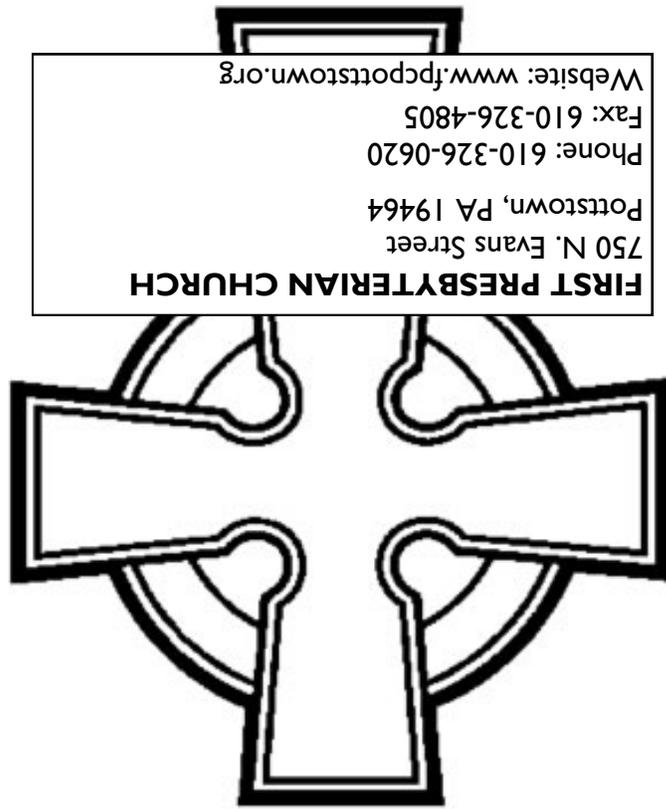
Shaping a Life of Significance for Retirement by R. Jack Hansen and Jerry P. Haas

This book seeks to focus on the personal dimensions of the move from full-time work to partial or full retirement by talking with various individuals who have made that transition. Read how they have dealt with the challenges of finding meaning in the midst of “smaller worlds of authority, influence, interactions, and recognition.” Retirees in the book also speak of the challenges that retirement can pose for marriages and families because of new patterns of daily life. But the authors and interviewees are just as candid when it comes to the benefits and blessings that retirement can offer.

This is a good book for anyone who can see retirement on the horizon (because it is important not only to know what we are retiring from, but also what we are “retiring to,”) as well as for those who have recently retired—and their children. (Carter)

October 2010

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OCT. 31 Reformation Sunday Wear plaid, share short-bread	Sunday Mornings 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship				1 6 p.m. Jr. Hi Lock In 7 p.m. Yoga Benefit	2 Carole Mac-Donald Memorial Service 11 a.m.
3 World Communion Porter Tithe TF Mtg. 7 p.m.	4 Financial Peace Univ. 7 p.m. Cubs 7	5 Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	6 M/R 4:30 Spaghetti Dinner 4:30 Prayer 7:15 Committees 7:30	7 Bible Studies 9:15 Cluster Lunch @ Morning Star 12:00 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7 Choir 7:30	8	9 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. Cluster Night @ PHS
10 CROP Walk 1:30 pm Cluster Banquet 5:30	11 Financial Peace Univ. 7 p.m. Cubs 7	12	13 M/R 4:30 Deacons 7:30	14 Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7 Choir 7:30	15	16 Young Adult Dinner @ Lesters' 6 p.m.
17 Detwiler Baptism Apple Fest Jr. Sr. Seeker Halloween Events 6:30	18 Financial Peace Univ. 7 p.m. Cubs 7	19 Shawl Ministry 7 p.m. 9:30 Bible Study	20 Mom's 9:30 M/R 4:30 Session 7:30	21 Bible 9:15/9:30 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7 Choir 7:30	22 Women's Retreat begins @ Mariawald 5 p.m. till Sat 5 p.m.	23
24 Rev. Kevin Porter preaching	25 Financial Peace Univ. 7 p.m. Cubs 7	26 Lectio 7:30	27 Endowment Mtg. 8:30 a.m. M/R 4:30 Compassionate Friends 7:30 p.m. Theology Book Group @ Lesters' 7:00 p.m.	28 Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7 Choir 7:30	29	30 Seekers' Beach Retreat



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

750 N. Evans Street
Pottstown, PA 19464

Phone: 610-326-0620

Fax: 610-326-4805

Website: www.fpcpottstown.org