

The Celtic Cross

October 2012

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Letter from the Co-Pastors

Dearly Beloved,

As most of you know by now, Sunday, October 7, will be the last Sunday for Olivia Stewart Robertson, or Liv, with our congregation. She and her husband Scott will be moving in early October to Michigan where Scott has received a call to serve as an Associate Pastor in a Presbyterian congregation. It is with sadness and gratitude that we will say good-bye to Liv, because as our first ever “Director of Children, Youth, and Family” she has contributed much to the ministry and fellowship of this congregation and staff. We are especially grateful for the “Young Children and Worship” program she has brought to our congregation, and we are glad to know that she will continue to introduce that program to congregations across the country after she moves. Please join us on Sunday, October 7, to say “good-bye and God bless” to Liv.

We are also grateful for all of the church members who are stepping up to take on many of the responsibilities in Liv’s absence. Members of the Spiritual Formation Committee will be helping to coordinate Sunday School and Young Children and Worship program, the Seekers’ advisors are working together closely so our youth program does not step back this year, and Amy Shutt has offered to lead the senior high Bible study. The two of us will also be helping out with Seekers and the Music and Recreation program as needed. The Personnel and Spiritual Formation Committees have considered hiring an interim staff person, but we are reluctant to ask our children and youth to say hello and goodbye in a short-time to an interim person. Now this may not be necessary. This has long been a congregation that takes its baptismal vows seriously, and once again, it is a blessing to see how many adults are willing to step up to nurture, guide, and support our children and youth.

Nearly 5 years ago, when we first met Liv and contemplated her addition to the staff, we felt like she was a real gift from God. And now, as we prepare to work with the Session to find a new person, we are confident that God again has someone in mind for us to build on the foundation Liv has laid, and to help our ministry to children, youth, and their families continue to grow in new ways.

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”
—Isaiah 43:19

Please pray for us, and for our children and youth, as we say “goodbye”, and prepare to say “hello.”

Grace and peace,
Kerry and Carter

Worship Matters

- October 7: World Communion Sunday
 “Essential 100 Biblical Texts: The Story of Joseph”
 Welcome of Children to the Lord’s Table
 Reception for Olivia Stewart Robertson following worship
- October 14: Service of the Lord’s Day“
 “Essential 100 Biblical Texts: Moses and the Exodus”
 Cherub Choir Sings
 Commissioning of Mission Workers and Crop Walkers
- October 21: Service of the Lord’s Day“
 “Essential 100 Biblical Texts: The Law and the Land”
 Celtic Choir sings
- October 30: Reformation Sunday
 Bag Pipes and Dick Clark, Drum Major
 “Essential 100 Biblical Texts: The Judges”
Wear plaid if you want! .
 Apple Fest follows worship

“Essential 100”

Join the rest of the congregation in reading 100 “essential texts” of the Bible—50 Old Testament and 50 New Testament over 20 weeks. Pick up a bookmark with the list of texts or look at p. 10 in this newsletter, or read the blog, www.fpc100.wordpress.com. Each Sunday’s sermon will focus on one of the five texts read the previous week.

Music Notes

As the leaves begin their yearly parade of colors and you find the need for that extra layer, the choirs will already be preparing music for chilly December. Such is the joy of participating in any choir in our church. Remember that if you are interested, you can join the Chancel Choir at any time.

October 7th is World Communion and the Chancel Choir will present the joyful anthem, “A Sante Sana, Yesu.” The following Sunday the choir will enhance the sermon series with Lloyd Larsens, “I Am Not Afraid.” On October 21st, a new and catchy piece, “Wherever You Go,” will make you want to sing along. You won’t be able to get it out of your ‘head’ all week! The final Sunday in October is Reformation Sunday. The Chancel Choir will present Joseph Martin’s stunning, “A Noble Theme.” We also hope to celebrate with a bagpiper that morning.

We were able to fill our handbell opening within two days of the initial announcement! We can always use handbell substitutes, so if you are interested in learning how to play, please contact me (Crafdy1954@comcast.net).

I would like to thank Scott Sample and Cynthia Foust for brilliantly covering for me while I have been recuperating. I would also like to thank Beth Ann Straub for soloing last month. We are blessed to have so much talent in our church family. —Diane Land, Director of Music

Upcoming Events

Spaghetti Dinner—Wednesday October 5, 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!

CROP Walk—Sunday, October 14

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 14. Follow the link to our team webpage from the church webpage. Questions? Contact Rob Wade, our CROP Walk coordinator, at rwade@wadegold.com.

Apple Fest, Sunday, October 28 after worship

Come, one and all, to the Apple Fest, Sunday, October 28, right after worship in Fellowship Hall. There will be hot apple dumplings, with vanilla ice cream – Yum! There will also be a bake table, featuring goodies from our church family, and new this year, a special contest to become “The Apple of Our Eye.”

We are inviting groups in the church to enter a wonderful apple dessert, that is, Elders, Deacons, choirs, youth groups, Bible studies, adult Sunday school classes, form your own group, and create a prize-winning goodie.

For more details, contact the Fun and Fellowship committee, Sharon Sgriccia, chair

“Come Follow Me” Stewardship Dinner and Program, Sun., November 4

Mark your calendars now for our annual fun night of great food, fellowship, and inspiration at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 6.

Following a delicious dinner, we will be treated to a special musical program showcasing the talents of both children’s choirs, Marybeth Keiser (senior at Manhattan School of Music), and others. Then we all get to witness the world premiere of the summer workcamp video. You will not want to miss it! Dedication Sunday is November 11.

Spiritual Formation 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): “God in America: How Religious Liberty Shaped America”**
Join us as we watch this in-depth exploration of the historical role of religion in the public life in the United States from the award winning producers of “American Experience.”
- **Faith and Relationships Class (Library) “Essential 100 Texts”**
We will focus on one or two texts each week to explore our intimate relationships of marriage, family, friendship, work, and church, as well as our relationships with neighbors, near and far. Discussion Leaders: Rob Wade and Sharon Trevo.
- **Men’s Sunday Mornings (Pastors’ Conf. Room): “Formation of the Gospel: A Bible Study of the Book of Romans”** Teacher: Rev. Bernarr Rhoades
- **Sacred Space for Women (Mary Ann Yost Room—110) “Essential 100 Texts”**
Teacher: Amy Shutt
Join other women in discussing the passages from the “E100” Bible Reading program.

WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWING IN FAITH

- **“Sisters of the Way” Bible Study:** 9:15-10:45 a.m. every Thursday. Teacher: Kerry
- **Tuesday Evening Bible Study:** October 9 and 30, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Teacher: Carter
- **Praying the Scriptures (“Lectio Divina”) Group:** Tuesday Oct. 2 and 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Leader: Kerry
- **Theology Reading Group:** Wednesday, October 31 at 7:30 p.m. Leader: Carter
Join us as we continue to read and discuss Shirlie Guthrie’s Christian Doctrine. We meet at Carter and Kerry’s house.
- **Young Adult Group:** We are looking for a date to have our next pitch-in dinner and movie discussion. Meantime, order “Saved” from Netflix and watch! You can also contact Carter and Kerry for further information.

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, meet in the fellowship hall for a time of games and prayer with Pastors Kerry and Carter. Then, you will sing with Mrs. B and Mrs. Mary!

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

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

October 7th—Goodbye to Liv! Come to the reception after church in the fellowship hall to wish her and Scott well as they take a new step in their lives.

October 21st– Parent/Youth Event– 6:30-8:00 p.m. Seekers, grab your parents and bring them to the Seeker room for a night of fun, family, and faith! (RIOS)

October 29th– Halloween Hubbub– After Church– Haunted Maze, pumpkins, costumes, spoooooooky...Don't miss this fun outing! Watch for flyer with details! (LIPSKY)

Advisor Contact info: Mike and Mindy Lipsky (610-323-5616) Seth Rios (716-939-1030) Jake Erickson (484-300-4731) Tunde Oladipo (484-374-8236) Maggie Kanter (484-925-9925)

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

October 7th—Goodbye to Liv! Come to the reception after church in the fellowship hall to wish her and Scott well as they take a new step in their lives

October 14th– Pizza and Man Hunt and Kerry and Carters! 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Drop off and pick up at their house-1168 Crestwood Drive, Pottstown 19464

We'll talk about what happens next, and if there is time we'll head into the dark for a game of manhunt! So we know how much food to have, message Carter on Facebook or call the church office.

October 28th– Mission Project– You are an important part of caring for God's people in the world. Come hang out with your church family and care for others the way Jesus cares for us! Watch for details in the mail. (RSVP Allens)

Advisors Contact info: Donna & Gary Rhoadarmer (610-327-8157), Gwen and Tim Allen (484-947-8298 Gwen) (484-947-8299 Tim) Don and Melinda Kisela (610-287-1674) Phil and Kim Wheelles (610-323-0515)

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 14, 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, October 28, 4-6 p.m. in the Library
Sunday, November 4, 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, November 11, 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

On November 11, 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, October 13 at 8 a.m.

Join Carter and the guys for fun, food, devotions, and fellowship. We gather at 8 and leave at 9.

Prime Timers' Events and Activities:

Wednesday, October 5, 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Tuesday, October 9

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.

Counters' Corner for October

Thanks to those who volunteered to serve as counters in October: Laura Enterline (head counter), Jeannette Feroe, Mike Bleyer, and Barb Longstreth. (If you must miss a Sunday in October, please recruit a substitute). And thanks to our coordinator, Hank Phillips. If you are willing to serve as a "counter" one month, please contact Hank or the church office.

Communion Bread Bakers Needed

Are you willing to bake bread for communion one month (the first Sunday of the month)? We have some open months. If you are willing to help out in this way, contact Kathleen O'Hara or the church office.

Women's Retreat—October 26-27

Growing Together in the Light of Life

*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life. John 8:12*

As Christians we think of ourselves as Easter people—people who live, not in darkness, but in the light, hope and love of the resurrected Christ. While we profess this, we often find it difficult to live out this creed when we are in the midst of trials and challenges.

How do we learn then, to live a life of trust, hope, faith and light in the midst of our dark times? This is the question we will explore at our 2012 Women's Retreat. There is so much we can learn—from scripture, nature, poetry, the writings of those who have walked in darkness, as well as those in our own circle of friends—about how to seek out and follow this light when we can't see the road ahead. Come and join us as we seek to grow together in the light of life.

Our returning retreat leader, Gayle Kerr, has been involved in the ministry of spiritual direction and retreat leadership for the past twenty-two 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 26 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, October 27. Triple occupancy rate is \$68.00 per person and double occupancy is \$75.00 per person. Three meals are included beginning with dinner on Friday evening. Scholarship money is available, please talk to Kerry.

Come stroll a bit, rest a while, and snack a lot! Enjoy a fall weekend in fellowship with other women from our church family. Reserve your space with a check to the church office or Gina James by October 1, 2012. Contact Gina @ 610-367-6067 or gina.james@comcast.net

Deacons' Bench

Church Work Day, Saturday, October 13, 9 a.m. to Noon

On Saturday, October 13, we have our Fall church-wide work day, led by the Deacons. We will rake leaves, trim hedges, 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. In case of rain, we will postpone the work until October 20. If you sign up, we will call you in case of rain. Otherwise, you can check the church website if you are uncertain about the weather.

Deacons' Medical Closet

The Deacons' Medical Closet has moved its location. You can now find needed medical items in the attic of the Sunday School wing. If you need an item, just call ahead and Peggy will make sure it is waiting for you in the office when you come to the church..

Session Digest

At its September meeting, the Session:

- Approved the baptism of Livia Lynn DeNicco, child of God and daughter of A.J. and Katherine Detwiler DeNicco on September 16, 2012. Approved the baptisms of Mariam, Olajide, Olayiwola, and Abiola Oladipo, children of God and daughter and sons of Nola Oladipo upon their profession of faith.
- Approved the purchase of a new plaque for the Peace Garden with funds from the Peace Garden Fund.
- Approved Carter and Kerry taking three additional days of vacation October 19-23 and for Rev. Tom Craver to preach and lead worship in their absence.
- Approved promotional efforts for “Routes of Hope” (Tierra Dobry Foundation) and “Faith Girls” (breast cancer)
- Received the Treasurer’s Report from Michelle Thompson and approved the three-month allocation owed to Mission (because of not meeting in July and August).
- 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 and establish points of emphasis for a new year of ministry.
- Approved the hiring of Scott Sample (3 weeks) and Cindy Foust (1 week) to fill in as interim choir directors while Diane Land is out on sick leave.
- Discussed plans for the recognition of Liv’s ministry on October 7.
- Received a report from Mission and approved receipt of the Peacemaking offering.
- Received a report from the Administrative Committee concerning the extensive repairs and maintenance done this summer including: recoating of the rubber roof, caulking windows and powerwashing the new building, repointing the steeple, repairing steps, painting the exterior wall of the sanctuary, repairing gutter seams, painting the sanctuary walls and narthex roof where there had been previous water damage, replacing the Fellowship Hall lights and hall lights, and repainting the Fellowship Hall ceiling.
- Approved new congregational bylaws introduced in June.
- Also received reports from the Deacons, Endowment, Fun and Fellowship, Hospitality, Stewardship, Personnel, Spiritual Formation, and Worship committees.
- Prayer requests from the committees—
 - Worship: Thanksgiving for our worship together.
 - Fun and Fellowship: For a continuing strong turnout for church fellowship activities.
 - Administrative: Thanksgiving for having the resources needed this summer to complete all of the projects.
 - Hospitality: For our 50-year members and for those who will be attending the next set of Inquirers’ classes.
 - Mission: for the CROP walk.
 - Personnel: For Liv’s ministry among us and for those who have stepped up to fill in until her successor is hired.
 - Spiritual Formation: Thanksgiving for our teachers and prayers patience, laughter, creativity, and new ideas as the new Sunday School year begins.
 - Stewardship: That our season of stewardship might allow us to reflect on and give thanks for all that God has given to us.

Financial Report

General Fund

Budgeted income for the year:	\$538,905
Budgeted income through August 31:	359,270
Actual income through August 31:	338,742
This time last year:	304,695
Budgeted expenses for the year:	538,905
Budgeted expenses through August 31:	359,270
Actual expenses through August 31:	325,573
This time last year:	306,708
Deficit to date after all Mission money paid:	(\$4,487)
Deficit this time last year:	(\$20,347)

Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following people who have been ill or hospitalized recently: John Davis, DeeAnne Orzechowski, Diane Land, Donald Christ, Brenda Hatfield, Jean Hollenbach, and John Soloway..

We send our condolences to Betsy Mullin and family upon the death of her husband John, and to Kae Kontostathis, upon the death of his father.

Baptized recently was **Livia Lynn DeNicco**, child of God and daughter of A. J. and Katie DeNicco.

We wish for a long and happy marriage for Stephanie Land and Alex DeSimone who were married on September 15.

People to People Directory (coming next month)

Looking for a plumber or electrician? What about a lawyer or realtor? Or even a babysitter? The "People-to-People" directory put together by the Hospitality Committee can provide you with that kind of information—and give you a chance to get the word out about the services you provide.

Do you want your name in the "People-to-People" directory? If so, please contact the church office or Carter Lester.

Lectionary Readings—Essential 100 Bible Reading Program cont.

Join our congregation in reading together the 100 ‘essential texts from the Scriptures’—50 in the Old Testament and 50 in the New Testament over 20 weeks (5 each week). The texts will be discussed in some of the Sunday school classes and Bible studies and will be preached by Carter and Kerry.

October 1 to October 7: Genesis 37: 1-36, Genesis 39: 1—41: 57, Genesis 42: 1-38, Genesis 43:1-44: 34, Genesis 45: 1—46: 7

October 8 to 14: Exodus 1:1—02:25, Exodus 3:1—4: 17, Exodus 6: 28—11: 10, Exodus 12: 1-42, Exodus 13:17—14: 21

October 15 to 21: Exodus 19: 1—20: 21, Exodus 32: 1—34: 35, Joshua 1: 1-18, Joshua 3: 1—4: 24, Joshua 5:13—6: 27

October 22 to 28: Judges 2: 6—3:6, Judges 4:1—5:31, Judges 6:1 —7: 25, Judges 13:1—16:31, Ruth 1:1 —4: 22

October 29-November 4: 1 Samuel 1:1—3:21, 1 Samuel 8:1—10:27, 1 Samuel 16:1—18:16, 1 Samuel 23:7—24:22, 2 Samuel 5:1—7:29.

Family Faith Formation

One of the best ways to form faith as a family is through service. Here are some ways you can serve Christ together!

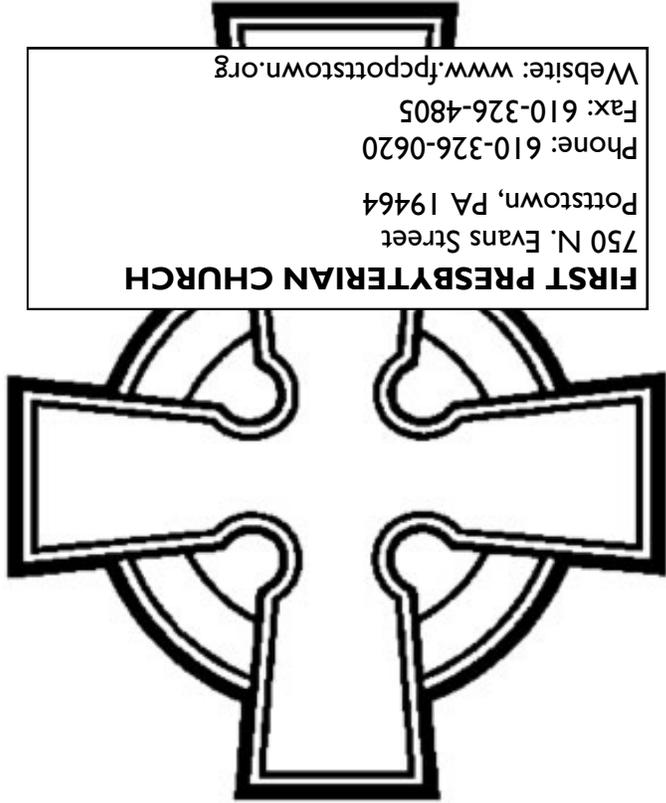
- “Adopt” an elderly member of the congregation to visit and to have to your home.
- Together as a family, buy groceries for a food pantry supporting the needy.
- Plan “hospitality nights” when you can have another family around for dinner.
- Go on a walk to collect stray rubbish in your neighborhood.
- Sponsor a child through *World Vision* or a similar organization.
- Make get-well cards to send to sick people in the congregation or community.
- Volunteer to help take care of an elderly person’s garden.

Branches of the Vine—Peacemaking Offering

In October, we receive the **Peacemaking Offering**, one of the four PCUSA church offerings each year. Its purpose, and its purpose is to find ways of promoting peace in our community, our nation, and in our world. Your contribution to the Peacemaking Offering provides a concrete way to fund the Peacemaking program of our denomination. The program helps to address conflict through peaceful means, namely through dialogue, education, and knowledge. The Presbyterian Church provides programs and conferences with international Peacemakers, and advocates for active nonviolent solutions to conflicts. Peacemaking is a central declaration of the gospel, as Jesus reminds us “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9).

October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Mornings: 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	1 Cubs 7	2 Praying the Scriptures 7:30	3 M/R 4:30 Spaghetti Dinner 4:30 Prayer 7:15 Committees 7:30	4 Sisters Bible 9:15 a.m. Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30	5	6
7 World Communion (Welcome to the Lord's Table) Goodbye Liv	8 HENS Closed .. Cubs 7	9 Shawl 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	10 M/R 4:30 Deacons 7:30	11 Sisters Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7 Choir 7:30	12 Cluster Dinner @ Berean Church 6 p.m.	13 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. Workday 9 a.m. to Noon
14 Inq. Class 9:15 Cherubs sing CROP Walk 1:30 pm Sr. Seekers Pizza & Manhunt @ Lesters'	15 Cubs 7	16 Praying the Scriptures 7:30	17 M/R 4:30 Relay Mtg. 6 p.m. Session 7:30	18 Sisters Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Scouts 7 Choir 7:30	19	20 Workday raindate
21 Celtic Choir Jr. Seekers 6:30	22 Cubs 7	23	24 M/R 4:30	25 Sisters Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30	26 Women's Retreat @ Mariawald thru Saturday	27
28 Ref. Sunday Apple Fest Inq. Class 4 Jr. Seekers Sr. Seekers	29 Cubs 7	30 Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	31 M/R 4:30 Theology Book Group @ Lesters' 7:30 p.m.			



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