

The Celtic Cross

October 2014

Letter from the Co-Pastors

Dearly Beloved,

This month, the Session approved the job description for a new Parish Nurse position. That decision flowed from the work of a Health Ministry Team which has been meeting for over a year to explore the idea and to see what it would take for us to hire a parish nurse. Fortunately, the idea is not a new one, and the team, made up of Kerry, Marcia Zeigler, Deidre Phillips, Gina James, Linda Luey, and Shaaron Guinther, has been in conversation with a number of congregations who have a parish nurse. The team also consulted with physicians and health care providers in our own congregation.

What would a Parish Nurse do? The goals include helping to educate members of the congregation about health-related issues through regular classes or programs, help members navigate the changing health care and insurance systems, assist with referral information and community resources, provide blood-pressure and other screenings at regular intervals, visit and assist individuals with preparation for surgery, and counsel individuals and family members regarding long-term care facilities and end-of-life issues. This is a part-time position for about 15 hours a week, and a RN will be required. The salary and related expenses will not come from our regular budget but will be covered by a Porter-Broward grant.

Parish nurses facilitate access to home care service providers, but they are not free home health care nurses in churches. They facilitate access to care, but they do not deliver such care themselves. For example, they do not give shots, change dressings, or administer medication. They are a resource for services, but they are not free social service caseworkers or psychiatric counselors. They can interpret medical language, but they do not give medical advice. They will support the pastors and Deacons in their ministry to the sick and home-bound, but they are not a substitute for either the Deacons or pastors.

We are excited about this new ministry to members of our congregation: it is an outgrowth of our discipleship of Jesus Christ. As our Presbyterian Directory of Worship states, "healing was an integral part of the ministry of Jesus which the church has been called to continue as one dimension of its concern for the wholeness of people."

Please keep this new ministry in your prayers—and if you know someone who might be a suitable candidate, please let us know.

Grace and peace,
Carter and Kerry

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Worship Matters

- October 5: 10:30 a.m. World Communion Sunday
Sermon series: "Wisdom Behind Bars: Philippians 2:14-30"
Welcome of Children to the Lord's Table
- October 12: 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day
Sermon Series: "Wisdom Behind Bars: Philippians 3:1-16"
Cherub Choir Sings
Commissioning of Mission Workers
- October 19: 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day
Sermon Series: "Wisdom Behind Bars: Philippians 3:17—4:9"
Celtic Choir Sings
Apple Fest follows
- October 26: 10:30 a.m. Reformation Sunday
Bag Pipes and Dick Clark, Drum Major
Sermon Series: "Wisdom Behind Bars: Philippians 4:10-23"
Wear plaid if you want! .

Music Notes

By the time this issue of the *Celtic Cross* reaches you, all of the members of the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, the Cherubs, and the Celtic Singers will be back in rehearsal and assuming their roles within our worship services. Each Sunday, the Chancel Choir embellishes the service through a wide variety of anthems, while the Handbells ring on the first Sunday of each month, and the Cherubs and Celtic Singers will perform during the second and third Sundays of the month, respectfully.

During the month of October, the Chancel Choir anthems range from two Irish hymns, *Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands* (Linda Hale, soloist and William Einhorn, violinist) and *Be Thou My Vision*, to Dale Wood's arrangement of the standard hymn, *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*, to Greg Gilpin's spirituals, *Nothin' Gonna Stumble My Feet* and *Ain't Judgin' No Man*.

All members of the choirs continue to devote and dedicate themselves to present their best musical works before God. We hope and pray that we may inspire and encourage through our musical selections.

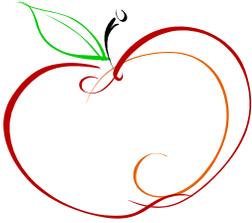
Cindy Foust, Music Director

Switzerland Trip, 2015

Would you be interested in joining Paul Lepard and Presbyterian friends for a trip to Switzerland in 2015—or want more information or answers to your questions? Then contact Paul Lepard as soon as possible because plans are taking shape!

Upcoming Events

Apple Fest, Sunday, October 19 after worship



Come, one and all, to the Apple Fest, Sunday, October 19, right after worship in Fellowship Hall.

There will be hot apple dumplings, with vanilla ice cream – Yum!

A bake table featuring goodies from our church family

And again this year, the special contest to become

“The Apple of Our Eye”.

Who will win the trophy this year? We are again inviting groups in the church to enter a wonderful apple dessert, that is, Elders, Deacons, choirs, youth groups, Bible studies, Sunday School classes, or form your own group, and create a prize-winning goodie.

Sign-ups with be in the church bulletin and on the bulletin board.

Women’s Retreat—October 24-25: Thinning the Veil

Have you ever wondered if God is near? Do you feel like you live with a thick curtain separating you from God whom you once knew well? Can we improve our vision to see God’s presence in the very lives we are living? Bring your wonderings about God’s nearness to the 2014 Women’s Retreat. Let’s explore together how to notice God in creation, scripture, community, and the ordinary living of our days.

Please join us at Mariawald Renewal Center in Shillington from 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 24 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, October 25. Our retreat leader will be Amy Shutt, who is a Ruling Elder in our congregation, has facilitated small group spiritual formation for over 20 years here, and is currently enrolled in a two-year Spiritual Direction Training Program.

Triple occupancy rate is \$60.00 per person and double occupancy is \$70.00 per person. Three meals are included beginning with dinner on Friday evening. Scholarship money is available, please talk to Kerry. Come for a contemplative, restorative time away, as we grow together in our awareness of the presence of God. 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 3, 2014**. Contact Gina at 610-367-6067 or gina.james@comcast.net.

“Fearless Generosity”

Stewardship Dinner and Program, Sunday, November 2

Mark your calendars now for a great night of food, fun, fellowship, and inspiration at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 2.

Following a delicious dinner prepared by our own Beth Ann Straub, we will be treated to a musical program, “Presbyterians Got Talent” with a special video showing our ministry in action.

Please join us – You will not want to miss it! Dedication Sunday is November 9.

Adult Spiritual Formation Opportunities

SUNDAY MORNINGS—9:15 to 10:10 a.m.

- **Forum (Community Room):**

October 5, 12, and 19: The Church and Israel/Palestine

What is the latest in Israel-Palestine-Gaza? How can Christians best respond to the call for peace in the midst of war? How can we best support the church in the Holy Land? The picture is murky and the answers are often unclear. Join us for a discussion with three interesting speakers who will bring three different, but important, perspectives.

October 5: Dr. Peter Pettit, Associate Professor of Religion, Muhlenberg University and Director of the Institute for Jewish-Christian Relations

October 12: Rev. Kate Taber (by Skype), Presbyterian Mission Associate in Jerusalem.

October 19: Courtenay Wilcox, former Moderator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and Commissioner to this year's General Assembly of the PCUSA

October 26—To be determined

- **Faith and Relationships Class (Library) “Children at the Border”**

Discussion leaders: Rob Wade and Sharon Trevoy

Why have so many unaccompanied children arrived at our border? What are the problems and issues that need to be addressed? How can we as Christians respond? Join us for a balanced and faithful conversation about this difficult, headline-making issue.

- **Men's Sunday Mornings (Pastors' Conf. Room): “Genesis”**

Teachers: Gary James, Paul Lepard, Tim Peckham, and Carter

- **Women's Sunday Mornings (Mary Ann Yost Room—110) “Philippians”**

Teacher: Kris Barcus, Donna Hutchison, Debbie Remelius, and Jan Rose

WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWING IN FAITH

- **“Sisters of the Way” Bible Study:** 9:15-10:45 a.m. every Thursday. Teacher: Kerry
- **Next Week's Sermon:** Tuesday, October 14 and 28, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Teacher: Carter
- **Praying the Scriptures Group:** Tuesday Oct. 7 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. Leader: Kerry
- **Theology Reading Group:** Wednesday, October 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Carter and Kerry's house. Leader: Carter. Book to discuss: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Together. If you have questions or need directions or more information, talk to Carter.

Prayer Chain

We are pleased to say that the prayer chain is alive and well and we are glad to take your requests. Please call Peggy, our church secretary with your request, or Suzanne Fritsch, 610-323-5073. We can pray by name or anonymously—it is up to you because God knows who we are talking about either way!.

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, Pastor Jeff meets you in the fellowship hall for a time of games and prayer. Then, you will sing with Mrs. B!

The year is off to an awesome start, but there's always room for more to join us! Our circle is wide and wonderful, and the bigger it is, the more fun we have!

Junior Seekers, Grades 6-8:

October 12th: *Walking the Perkiomen Trail*

After worship the Junior Seekers will go on a wonderful fall walk at the Perkiomen trail. The walk won't be intense, but it will be a great time to commune with the group and nature. We will return between 2 and 3 o'clock.

October 20th: *Corn maze*

The Fall continues as we get lost in a corn maze! The Seekers will make their way out to a farm where they will try to find their way out. We promise to bring everyone back. The event departs from the church after a sack lunch together.

Advisors

Jeff Fox-Kline

Rosie and Sandro Roseo

Jeff and Sarah Pinard

Elizabeth Lester

Senior Seekers, Grades 9—12:

UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, BIBLE STUDY MEETS EVERY WEEK 4:30-5:30

October 5th: Berks Animal Rescue League (time to follow)

Our service event this month will be a trip to the Berks Animal Rescue League to volunteer to help give some love to animals who desperately need it. Time is to be determined soon, keep an eye out on your email

October 19th, Hay Ride. 6-8 PM

As Halloween approaches and the leaves turn crisp colors we will be in the back of a tractor filled with hay. The Senior Seekers will ride around in hay, sit on seats made of hay and probably throw hay at each other!

Mark your calendars!! Beach Retreat, November 8-9

Advisors

Jeff Fox-Kline

Donna & Gary Rhoadarmer

Gwen and Tim Allen

Don and Melinda Kisela

Phil and Kim Wheelles

Opportunities for Fellowship (see also p. 3)

Men's Breakfast, Saturday October 11, 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 and we break at 9 a.m.

Faith and Nature Group

It is fall and all of nature is beginning yet another period of amazing transformation. Our native birds are busy seeking safe roosting spots and places to cache food reserves. Many of our migratory summer birds have left, but some will hang around for another week or two and "get fat" to have plenty of reserves in their body for the long journey of hundreds, if not thousands of miles to their native homes in Central and South America. With that in mind, I encourage all of you who feed hummingbirds to keep those feeders up and filled until December. Over the last 10 years there has been a significant rise in the number of hummingbird species being seen in Pennsylvania well into December. If you are lucky enough to spot one, please let me know.

Fall is also the time for our group to challenge ourselves to a full day hike, and this year we are going to **Lehigh Gorge State Park on October 18th** to hike to Glen Onoko Falls. This is a challenging hike of approximately 10 miles that passes by some of our state's most beautiful scenery and waterfalls. If you would like to join us or would like more information, please contact me by Friday October 17th or sign up on the bulletin board. And finally, the date has been set for our most popular and spectacular event of the year. Join us on **Saturday, November 29th** as we travel to Conowingo Dam to view the annual eagle migration. You will see eagles up close and in flight. We usually see over one hundred eagles, so if you want to see this amazing creature in the wild, this is your best chance. No hiking required, just park your car and the birds will be all around. There is also an opportunity for a short hike along the Susquehanna River. Following the hike we will stop for lunch in the village of Port Deposit. Meet at church @ 9:00am, we will return approximately 4:00pm. Sign up on church bulletin board or contact me by phone at 484-524-8072 or e-mail: mdeegsl6@aol.com.

Hope to see you out there.

-Mike Deegan

Prime Timers

October 22 (Wednesday), Noon, Pot Luck Lunch and Classic TV Game Show Fun

Lunch in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and sign up on the church bulletin board.

Coming in December (Friday, Dec. 5) "The Sound of Music" at Steel River Theater

You must sign up by November 13 because we have a hold on 50 tickets. \$19 for seniors \$24 for adults and \$14 for children. Sign up on the church bulletin board.

Faithful Friends with Children (formerly Young Adults)

Faithful Friends meets each month: one month with just adults and one month with children invited. You don't have to have children to come this month—but they are welcome. This month, we meet at the **Vedocks home on Oct. 11 at 5 p.m.** To get directions and to find out what to bring, contact Eliza (eshupel@yahoo.com). Other questions? Contact Carter, Kerry, or Jeff.

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

Community Meals, October 9:

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 or Dave Duncan, 610-473-2495 or the church office. To help with serving the meal, contact Carter or Kerry 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, or if you have questions, contact coordinator, Sharon Holloway.

Cluster Volunteers and Donations Needed

Cluster Pantry Needs: soup, oatmeal, canned fruit, boxed potatoes, canned pasta, stuffing, baby food, juice and soy baby formula. Plastic and paper grocery bags are desperately needed. Personal hygiene and cleaning products are also needed.

Eco-Boutique

Stop by and purchase a bag of fair-traded coffee that the Mission Committee makes available every Sunday following worship. Also remember we have teas, cocoa, and chocolate bars.

Recycling

Looking for a place to recycle—and raise money for good causes? You can recycle aluminum cans (for Habitat for Humanity), printer cartridges, batteries, and cell phones. Just look for the bins in the cloak room off the sanctuary. Newspapers and papers can be recycled in the “Albiti” bin that we share with Manor Care and is on their property across the street.

Deacons’ Bench

Church Work Day, Saturday, November 1, 9 a.m. to Noon

On Saturday, November 2, 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. There may also be an “inside” crew cleaning the pews. Sign-up is on the bulletin board .

Inquirers’ Class for Prospective New Members in November

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 the pastors beginning on Sunday, November 2. Let Carter know if you are interested even if you will be unable to attend all of the sessions. Childcare is available for all of the classes.

Session Digest

At its September meeting, the Session:

- Shared joys and concerns
- Elected Barbara Longstreth as Clerk pro tem in Rob Wade's absence.
- 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.
- Received and discussed the financial report with Treasurer, Michelle Thompson. Approved that all monthly allocations to Mission and Capital Improvement be transferred.
- Approved retroactively celebration of the Lord's Supper on the Seekers Workcamp in Lewes, Delaware, and approved celebration of the Lord's Supper on the senior retreat this Fall on November 8-9.
- Heard that the Fun and Fellowship Committee has been replaced by ad hoc teams recruited to coordinate the Fellowship events this Fall. Missy Weber and Elaine Siever are coordinating Apple Fest, Barbara Lewis is coordinating the Fellowship aspect of Hanging of the Greens, and Jane Deegan is coordinating Advent Angels. They join other coordinators of fellowship events including Mike Deegan (Faith and Nature), the Hudsons and the Grims (Prime Timers), and the pastors (Faithful Friends).
- Noted that more than 50 people attended the prayerful conversations on gay marriage in August in Fellowship Hall, and discussed the process going forward. Carter and Kerry will work with a small team of Session members to fashion a statement for Session adoption that reflects the variety of perspectives of our congregation and Session and gives guidance for the future.
- Received a report from Mission and approved receipt of the Peacemaking offering.
- Celebrated our first meeting in the newly renovated Community Room and expressed thanks to Amy Shutt, Mike Matrone, Charlie Jenkins, the Administrative Committee for their contribution to such a fine job. Received a report from the Administrative Committee on other repairs and issues in the building.
- Approved a job description for the Parish Nurse position so that a search can begin.
- Also received reports from the Deacons, Hospitality, Stewardship, and Spiritual Formation committees.
- Prayer requests from the committees—
 - Worship: Thanksgiving for all of the volunteers who clean up the sanctuaries, recruit greeters, prepare the coffee hour and prepare for communion.
 - Administrative: For wisdom concerning treatment of the stained glass windows to stop water penetration..
 - Hospitality: For our visitors and our next Inquirers' Class..
 - Mission: Thanksgiving for all of the uniforms contributed by church members and for our tutors.
 - Spiritual Formation: Thanksgiving for Donna Hutchison's faithful leadership and for our new leader, Bill Dupree, and for the energy displayed on Rally Day.
 - Stewardship: Thanksgiving for all of the volunteers who have already committed to supporting our stewardship efforts and for a successful campaign, dinner, and fellowship.

Financial Report

General Fund

Budgeted income for the year:	\$566,947
Budgeted income through August 31:	377,965
Actual income through August 31:	361,710
This time last year:	346,050
Budgeted expenses for the year:	589,270
Budgeted expenses through August 31:	392,847
Actual expenses through August 31 (all allocations pd):	368,692
This time last year:	319,336
Deficit to date:	(6983)
Surplus this time last year:	26,713

The surplus last year reflected the unfilled staff position..

Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following people who have been ill or hospitalized recently: Don Grim, Tom Babbony, Jean Hollenbach, Faye Bush, John Davis, Betty Rissell, Arnold and Brenda Hatfield, Jo Ann Bathurst and Rob Drago.

We remember and send our condolences to the families of Bob McKinney and Walt DePrefontaine.

We welcome newly born Carson Joshua Alderfer, child of God and son of Josh and Adrian Alderfer and brother of Lily.

Counters Corner

Head Counter: Fred Remelius Regular Counters: Debbie Remelius, Kathy & Andy Hazeltine

Thanks to all who serve as counters—and to Hank Phillips, the coordinator of the counters, and Don Trevoy, our financial secretary!

People to People Directory

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 by email or phone.

Lectionary Readings—October

For the week of September 29 to October 5:

Exodus 20: 1-20, Psalm 19, Phil. 2:14-20, Matthew 21: 33-46

For the week of October 6 to 12:

Exodus 32: 1-14, Psalm 106, Phil. 3:1-16, Matthew 22: 1-14

For the week of October 13-19:

Exodus 33: 12-23, Psalm 99, Philippians 3:7—4:9

For the week of October 20 to 26:

Deut, 34: 1-12, Psalm 90: 1-6, Philippians 4:10-23, Matthew 22: 34-46

For the week of October 27 to November 2:

Joshua 3:7-17, Psalm 107, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12

Kitchen Korner is Back

What are safe food temperatures? Bacteria grows in foods between 41 and 135 degrees. So always serve cold food at 41 degrees or less and hot food at 140 or above. Since hot food cools so quickly it is usually a good plan to heat food to 160 to 165 degrees to allow for some cooling before food is served. If food remains for more than 4 hours out of the safe temperature zone, the food should be thrown away. It is best to test after 2 hours so that any major temperature change can be corrected in time.

Cooling cooked food is also a very important step. In the first 2 hours food should be cooled to 70 degrees and then to 41 degrees in the next 4 hours. This can be accomplished by plunging pots into ice water or using the frozen stirring device which should be in the freezer. And finally always be aware of how much warm food is placed in the refrigerator at one time. If the refrigerator is packed with food that is above 41 degrees it will take much longer to cool. Make sure there is plenty of room left for air circulation.

—Marcia Zeigler, Kitchen Coordinator

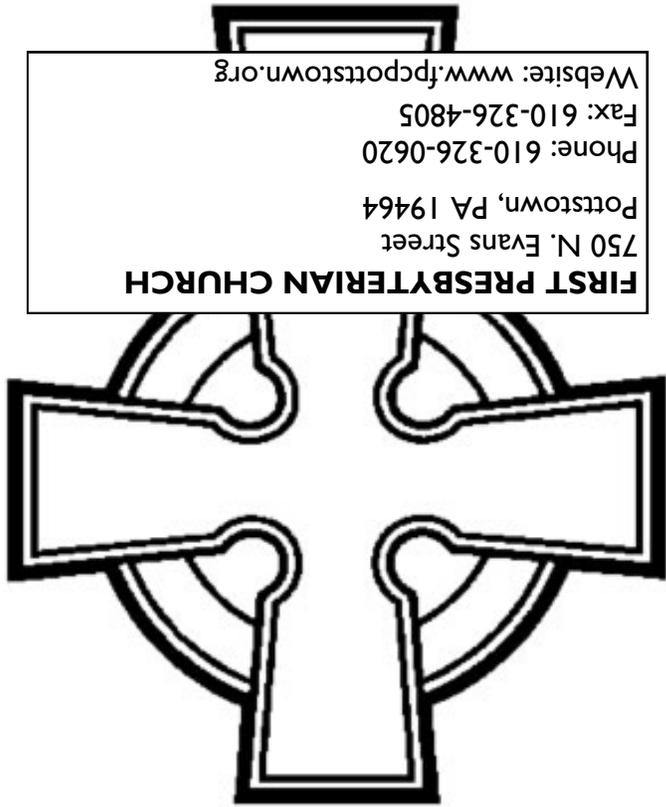
With Joyful Hearts: Porter Family Scholarship Update

Several years ago, the church set up with three other charities an endowed “Porter Family Endowed Memorial Scholarship” at Montgomery Community College from proceeds of a bequest by Martha Porter. Each year, two deserving students are selected by a college committee for full tuition scholarships. We just received two letters from this year’s recipients. Both students are using the scholarships in the program of radiography. One recipient struggles with MS, but talks about how her effort “to show my children that even though I have mental and physical challenges, I can still achieve what I set out to achieve,” has led to all three of her children to pursue higher education at Montco. The other recipient also talks about how much the scholarship means for her. She has “worked very hard in order to maintain my 3.9 GPA, and I am very anxious to finish school and become a registered radiographer.”

What a blessing it is to be able to share what we have been given with others in need!

October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays: Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30			1 M/R 4:30 Prayer 7:15 Committees 7:30	2 Sisters Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30	3	4
5 World Communion 4:30 Sr. Bible Study Sr. Seekers Animal Rescue League	6 .. Cubs 7	7 Boy Scouts 7 Praying the Scriptures 7:30 p.m.	8 M/R 4:30 Relay 6 Deacons 7:30	9 Sisters Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30	10	11 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
12 Cherub Choir sings Jr. Seekers Perkiomen Trail Noon Sr. High Bible Study 4:30	13 Cubs 7	14 Boy Scouts 7 Next Week's Sermon 7:30	15 Endowment Meeting @ Glenmede 12 Noon M/R 4:30 Session 7:30	16 Sisters Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30	17 Cluster Dinner @ Berean Church 6 p.m.	18 Nature Walk 7 a.m.
19 Celtic Choir sings Apple Fest Sr. Bible Study 4:30 Jr. Seekers 6:00	20 Cubs 7	21 Shawl Ministry 7 Dwelling in the Word 7:30	22 Prime Timers Lunch & Game Show 11:30 a.m. M/R 4:30 Compassionate Friends 7:30	23 Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30	24 Women's Retreat begins at Mariawald Center 5 p.m.	25 Women's Retreat ends late afternoon
26 Reformation Sunday Jr. Seekers Corn Maze Sr. High Bible Study	27 Cubs 7 HENS Board 7:30	28 Boy Scouts 7 Next Week's Sermon 7:30	29 M/R 4:30	30 Bible 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30	31	



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