

The Celtic Cross

September 2011

Inside this issue:

Worship Mat- ters	2
Frank Runyeon	
Rally Day Picnic	3
Seekers	
Christian Education	4
Opportunities	
Music and Rec Third Graders Confirmation	5
Seekers	
Branches of the Vine	6
Fellowship PrimeTimers Men's Bfast Prayer Shawl	7
Church Family News	8
Stewardship	
Music Notes Lectionary	9
Library Focus Forget?/E-mail	10
Calendar of Events	11

Letter from the Co-Pastors

We may well debate how good the “good ol’ days were,” but there is no doubt that we are living in an increasingly secular age. A generation ago, when Carter’s family moved to a new town, the first question asked by new neighbors often was “What church do you go to? Then, depending on our answer, they would either invite us to go with them to church or tell us where the nearest church in that denomination was. Now, it is hard to imagine that question being asked of a new neighbor. Then youth sports leagues did not play on Sundays at all; now afternoon games are a staple and increasingly there are games on Sunday mornings. Then, it was rare that a job might conflict with church; now, in our 24-7 world, it is common. Then on any given street, most folks belonged to a church; now on most streets, it is only a minority of the residents who do. How do we live out our faith in this increasingly secular world? How do we pass on our faith to our children?

Two thousand years ago, a book of the Bible, I Peter, was written to Christians living in what is now Turkey. They lived in a culture that was far more antagonistic to their faith than we face today, and they were even more of a minority. The church was made up of converts who often faced hostility from friends, relatives, and neighbors.

In September and October, we are going to step away from the lectionary and preach through a book in the Bible. We think that I Peter has a lot to teach all of us about growing deeper in Christ and reaching farther in love, even when we are outsiders and “resident aliens” in an increasingly secular culture.

September also brings two unique opportunities. On Sunday, September 11, we begin with the celebration of Rally Day in Sunday School and end the day with the fun of our annual church picnic, but in worship we will mark the more solemn tenth anniversary of “9-11” in prayer and song. On September 25, we will have a distinctive visitor to the pulpit: Frank Runyeon. Frank, a native of this area (JoAnn Bathurst sang at his sister’s wedding!) and a graduate of The Hill School, has built quite a career on television, the movies, and on stage. But what makes him especially unique is that he is a seminary graduate and has tried to use his acting gifts to bring the gospel to life. He travels all over the country and on Sunday, September 25, we will step away from I Peter to see and hear his dramatic interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount. During the Sunday School hour that day, he will do a presentation to all of the youth and adults on “Hollywood and Faith.” Please join us in September as we seek to grow with God!

“By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” — I Peter 1:3

Grace and peace,
Carter and Kerry

Worship Matters

Upcoming in Worship

- September 4:** **9:30 a.m. Worship**
 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
 "Faith at Work"
 (Church members reflect on the relationship of their "labor" and faith)
- September 11:** **Service of the Lord's Day at 10:30 a.m.**
 Sermon Series: "Lessons of First Peter for Today: 'Honor Everyone'"
 Prayers in Recognition of the Tenth Anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001
 Dedication of Sunday School Teachers and Youth Advisors
- September 18:** **Service of the Lord's Day at 10:30 a.m.**
 "Lessons of First Peter for Today: We Have a 'Living Hope'"
 Dedication of Choir members
- September 25:** **Service of the Lord's Day at 10:30 a.m.**
 The Sermon in Drama: "Sermon on the Mount" - Frank Runyeon
 (more details below)

Sunday, September 25: Frank Runyeon Joins Us

9:15 Sunday School: "Hollywood and Faith"

10:30 a.m. Worship: The Word in Drama—Sermon on the Mount

Frank Runyeon, a native of our area and a graduate of The Hill School, Princeton University, and General Theological Seminary, has won national acclaim for his work as a translator and performer of Biblical texts over the past 20 years. He has performed the gospel for hundreds of thousands of people in almost every state in America, earning rave reviews from critics, scholars, and church leaders of every denomination. He is regularly reviewed as "the best speaker we have ever heard" by students and faculty at private and public schools across the nation.

Frank has appeared in movies and on the stage, but he is perhaps still best known, however, for his many roles on television, including starring opposite Meg Ryan in *As the World Turns*. On the radio, he has hosted his own comedy talk show in Los Angeles, and co-hosted Charles McPhee's nationally syndicated show, *The Dream Doctor*. He is slated to appear as a recurring guest expert on *Dr. Phil* and *The Doctors* in 2011-2012.

During Sunday School on Sunday, September 25 at 9:15, Frank will do a presentation on "Hollywood and Faith: The Struggle to Live Faithfully in a Media Age." During worship, he will share a dramatic retelling of the Sermon on the Mount which will serve as our sermon that Sunday. We are grateful to an anonymous donor who has made Frank's visit possible.

Please help us welcome Frank "home" on Sunday, September 25—and invite your neighbors and friends to join us for this unique opportunity to experience God's Word in a new way.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RALLY DAY FOR ALL AGES! September 11, 2011– 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School is here and we want to kick it off in style! Come along on a “hayride” as we learn about the Sunday School theme for the year. The Jr. Seekers have a special skit for us and Sunday School teachers will be waiting to greet the kids! **Adults** come hear what is being offered on Sunday mornings and through the week for adults this fall.

Come kick off the Sunday School year together at Rally Day!

YOU are invited to the annual

CHURCH PICNIC!

Sunday, September 11th

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (Dinner at 5:30 p.m.)

Please join us for a fun gathering with:

Games for all ages

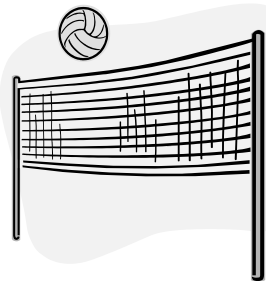
Good fellowship

Great food

Live music by Michael Kropp before dinner

The deacons will provide chicken, desserts and beverages.

What to bring: a side dish to serve 8 people (fruit, salad, veggies, etc.). You may also want to bring a chair or blanket.



It is sure to be an event you won't want to miss!! (We move inside if it rains)

Please RSVP to the church office by Sept. 6th.

Call the church if you need transportation.

Junior and Senior High Seekers Start Up

Seekers, an awesome year has been planned and we are kicking things off! Make sure to see the Seeker page (p. 5) for all of the details!

August 28th– Sr. Seeker Pool Party at the Ferreri's—after church til 2 p.m.

September 11th– Sr. Seekers meet at the Church Picnic for “games with gary”
4-7 p.m.

September 11th– Jr. Seekers meet at the church picnic where we'll be tie-dying our Seeker shirts! 4-7p.m.

Christian Formation Opportunities

ADULT EDUCATION—BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 18 at 9:15 a.m.
(Hear more at Rally Day, September 11. All classes join together on Sept. 25)

- **Forum (Community Room): “Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Everyone Who Ever Lived”**
 What does the Bible say about heaven? About hell? (You may be surprised in both cases). Why did the Southern Baptists find it necessary to issue rebuke of evangelical pastor Rob Bell’s Love Wins? Join Carter and your fellow church members as we all look for answers together for our questions. Visitors welcome!
September 19th: Heaven
October 2: Hell
October 9: And the Fate of Everyone Who Ever Lived
- **Faith and Relationships Class (Library) “Part of the Family”**
 Join us for a theological and personal look at our pets. Discussion Leaders: Rob Wade and Sharon Trevo.
- **Men’s Sunday Mornings (Pastors’ Conf. Room): “Jeremiah: A Man for Difficult Times”** Teacher: Rev. Bernarr Rhoades
- **Sacred Space for Women (Mary Ann Yost Room—110) “Entering Christ’s Prayer”** Teacher: Amy Shutt
 “Entering Christ’s Prayer” uses selected readings from Luke’s Gospel to focus on Christ’s life of prayer and His oneness with the Father. Discover an image of Christ, not born into glory or crucified in bloodied defeat, but rather more like us, developing a union with God through constant prayer, contemplation and service.

WEEKDAY STUDY

- **Thursday Ladies Bible Study:** Teachers: Max Creswell and Ron Gower
 Meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month beginning September 15.
- **“Sisters of the Way”:** 9:15-10:45 a.m. every Thursday beginning September 15. We’ll begin the year with I Peter. Teacher: Kerry
- **Evening Bible Study:** Meets the **second and fourth Tuesdays of the month beginning September 13 (new schedule)** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Teacher: Carter
- **Lectio Divina Group:** Led by Kerry, this Bible study meets on the **first and third Tuesday of the month (new schedule) beginning on September 20.**
- **Moms’ Time Out:** This “moveable feast” meets monthly in different homes. This month we gather at Kerry’s house on Wednesday, September 21 at 9:30 a.m. Bring your children and they can play while we talk. E-mail Kerry for directions at kplester@fpcpottstown.org.
- **Theology Reading Group:** Gathers at Carter’s house on September 28 at 7 p.m. to discuss Rob Bell’s Love Wins.
- **Young Adult Group:** meets once a month for a pitch-in dinner and conversations of faith. Next meeting will be in October and we will be discussing C.S. Lewis’ Screwtape Letters. If you are interested or have questions, contact Carter or Kerry.

Children and Youth at First Presbyterian Church

Music and Recreation for Children in Grades 2-5 -

Calling all 2nd—5th graders! Music and Rec is starting September 14th. 4:30 to 5:45 in the Jr. Seeker room. We have new songs, new games, new projects, new friends, and lots of laughter. We can't wait to see you there!

Third Graders Welcomed to the Lord's Supper and Worship

Third graders and parents (and any other interested parents and children) are invited to join Liv, Kerry and Carter for a pizza supper and discussion concerning worship and the Lord's Supper on Sunday, September 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the church. Then, on Sunday, October 2, we will introduce the children to the congregation and "welcome" them to the Lord's Table. This is an important rite of passage as our young ones join the rest of the church family in celebrating the Lord's Supper. Please RSVP to the church office, and call Liv, Kerry or Carter if you have any questions.

Seekers News

CONFIRMATION

We begin this year's Confirmation Class with a retreat on Friday-Saturday, September 23-24 that you wouldn't want to miss even if it was not required! Look for a map coming in the mail!

JR. SEEKERS

Sept. 11- 4:00 p.m to 7:00 p.m. Church Picnic! You won't want to miss this. We will be tye-dyeing t-shirts for this year's theme- to kick off our year. Come hang out, eat, and get your Seeker t-shirt!

Sept. 18th- "Mystery Event" 6:30-8:00 p.m. Meet at the church

Advisors: Mike and Mindy Lipsky 610-323-5616

Seth and Elisha Rios - 716-939-1030, or 610-440-4036

SR. SEEKERS

August 28th- Seeker Pool Party Kick-off- meet in the fellowship hall after church and we'll head to the Ferreris' for an afternoon pool party! Lunch will be provided. Please bring some chips or a side to share.

Sept 11th- 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Church Picnic- Gary has a Seeker game planned...come and play, eat, and catch up with friends!

Sept. 25th- Geo-Caching- time tbd-

Johnny Mac has some sweet caches set up- come and play!

Advisor Info- John and Chris Macdonald- 610-987-0529 ccmacdonald@me.com

Gary and Donna Rhoadmarmar- 610-327-8157 dmrhoady@comcast.net

Tim and Gwen Allen 484-947-8298 reefleet21@gmail.com

Branches of the Vine—Reaching Out with Christ's Love

CAMP KIRKWOOD WORK DAY—OCTOBER 1 (rain date Oct 15)

Join Boss Zeigler as he leads us in projects to support our Presbytery camp. Projects will include replacing windows and repairing trusses in The Coop. Contact Tom Zeigler or Kerry for info.

TUTORS AT BARTH ELEMENTARY

The tutoring program will begin its fourteenth year in October. There are always more children who need mentoring and tutoring than there are tutors. We ask for volunteers to commit one hour per week. Studies show such a time commitment will have far more influence than you know. Or perhaps, you would like to lead a monthly book group for a group of fifth graders. Contact Coordinator Karen Keiser and say “YES, I’ll help!”

COMMUNITY MEALS

On the second Thursday of each month, we provide a free dinner in Fellowship Hall to those in need in our community (on other Thursdays, other congregations serve the meal in our church). If you can help cook on a second Thursday, please contact Doreen Duncan. If you can help serve and clean-up the meal (4:45—6:15), please contact Sara Grim. The more the merrier!

CLUSTER OUTREACH CENTER

The Cluster Outreach Center has moved into its new quarters at 57 N. Franklin Street, 610-970-5995. Volunteers are needed to help with various needs. Some of the opportunities:

- Serving food/putting food orders together
- Stocking/sorting food in the Food Pantry
- Meeting with clients to sign-up for Food pantry assistance
- Sorting clothing and household goods
- Administration and office assistance

If you can help, contact our church representatives to the Cluster, Doreen Duncan or Leigh Chanler, or contact the Cluster Outreach Center directly.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEERS

Join members of First Presbyterian Church and other community residents in working to turn an old house in Pottstown into “as good as new” for a poor working family. We try to work on one Saturday every other month (about 8:15 to 4:00). Skilled labor is not necessary—just a willingness to work. If you are interested, please let Tim Peckham or Carter know. We will not schedule a Habitat day until after October because of the Camp Kirkwood Work Day (see above).

CROP WALK, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 9

Please join the CROP walk on **Sunday afternoon, October 9** to raise money (through pledges for each kilometer) to support the Cluster Outreach Center and to feed the hungry throughout the world. The walk begins and ends at our church. More details next month.

Fellowship

DIRECTORY PICTURES BEING TAKEN OCTOBER 18-22

Help us complete our family picture by having your picture taken for the directory, October 18-22. All who have their picture taken get a free 8 x 10 portrait, a free directory, and the opportunity to purchase more pictures in time for the holidays. You can sign up on Sundays after worship, on September 18 and 25. Or you can sign up online by following the link on the church website at www.fpcpottstown.org. If you have questions, contact Jaylee Ferreri. If you have problems signing up, contact the church office after September 18.

COMING IN OCTOBER—ANOTHER WED. SPAGHETTI SUPPER!

Join us on Wednesday, October 5 after Music and Recreation or before Committee meetings or just for an inexpensive night out with good company! Dinner will be served from 4:30 to 6:30 (you can come and go when best for you). Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. The dinner is a fundraiser for Prime Timers and Kirkwood Camp Scholarships in 2012. Sign up on the church bulletin board.

PRIME TIMERS—

Sunday, September 25 at 7 p.m. at the church—”Remembering the Good Old Days”

The Prime Timers and other church members are invited to a dessert social on Sunday evening, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our program will be an opportunity to reminisce our memories of the good old days. You are asked to bring along an item that has a special meaning to you. It can be any item that been passed down through your family, something you made, a gift from a special person, a favorite book, a piece of jewelry, a childhood toy, or whatever brings back a special time to you. We will reminisce together as we show and share with the group our special memories. **Please sign up on the church bulletin board or by contacting the church office.**

MEN’S BREAKFAST

Come join Carter and other men for fun and fellowship on the second Saturday of each month. This month we meet on Saturday, September 10 at 8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We break at 9 a.m.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY—Tuesday, September 20 at 7 p.m.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has knitted and fleece shawls, ready to wrap someone in love and comfort. There are even shawls for new babies, cuddled by the love of this church family. Shawls can be personalized with a Bible verse and the recipient’s name. Join the group on the third Tuesday of the month in the church library. If you would like to help, or know of someone who could use being “wrapped in prayer” with a shawl, contact Jane Barndt.

Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following people who have been ill or hospitalized or receiving treatment: John Davis, Jacki Wagner, Kit Gingrich, Flossie Schumacher, Peg Deegan, Hank Phillips, Jim Gaut and Herman Siever.

We extend our sympathy to David Duncan and family over the loss of his mother, Mildred, and to Tom Craver over the loss of his aunt, Annabel Craver, who has been worshipping with us since moving to Pottstown.

Thanks to all those who kept our gardens watered and weeded this summer: Sue Moyer, Sandy Allebach, Kathy Benning, Jane and Joel Neiss, Sharon Holloway, Dick Clark, Becky Bostwick, John and Jane Marshall, Cindy Collins, Dee Phillips, Andy Lane, Tunde Oladipo, and Elaine Siever and thanks to Doreen Duncan for coordinating everything related to the gardens! Thanks as well to Barb Longstreth, Rick Moyer and Horace Fletcher for taking care of our community vegetable garden this summer.

Thank you to Rosie Roseo and all those who provided a great Vacation Bible School for our children: Paul Lepard, DeeAnne Orzechowski, Leanne Campbell, Jane Deegan, Marlene Wrigley, Virginia Lee Dugan, Dave Daniels, Linda Luey, Jo Ann Bathurst, Jenn Drago, April Thorum, Sue Hofmann, Sandro Roseo, Stephanie Adamski, Chloe Francis, Elizabeth Remelius, Abi Rose-Craver, Will Shutt, Cecilia Roseo, Kayla Hofmann, Connor Ferreri, and Torry Dugan.

Thank you to all who helped volunteered to help with Mission Mornings for our junior high youth— it was a great week! A big thanks to Robin Drowne, Lisa Livezey, Jen Osborn, Tom Zeigler, Jodie Daniels, Erin Weber, and Don and Sara Grim! Don and Sara...the kids all agree...your pool is awesome!

Picture Time: “We Are the Church Together”

This year’s Stewardship theme reminds us, in the words of the children’s song, “the church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.” In October, we are going to take a picture of everyone on a Sunday morning following worship—much as we took a congregational picture back in 1998 to celebrate our 150th anniversary. We will also be asking as many church members, groups, and ministries as possible to remind us “we are the church” through pictures. Look for more details in the weeks to follow. It will make for a memorable video...

...at the annual **Stewardship Dinner and Program, Sunday, November 6.** (save the date!!). Even now, Marlene Wrigley and her talented cast are preparing to bring you a memorable evening of song and sharing of talents that can be counted on to deliver a delightful evening of fun and fellowship.

We are the church together—Christ’s body on this earth—and each of us have been given something that we can offer to share with others to do Christ’s work on this earth—together.

Music Notes

Summer is over? Already? Chancel choir will be starting up on Thursday Sept. 8th , so if you are interested, please contact me or even just show up at the first choir rehearsal at 7:30 in the choir room (on the stage in Fellowship Hall). Everyone is welcome.

The first Handbell rehearsal will be Thursday , September 22nd at 6:30 PM. We can always use Handbell subs so please call me if you are interested. We presently do not have any permanent openings for ringers, but that could change at any time.

Thank you to all the soloists who provided the wonderful and inspiring music over the summer months. We have much to look forward to musically in the next few months, so come and be a part of the fellowship.

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

Lectionary Readings

For the week of August 29 to September 4:

Exodus 12: 1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13: 8-14, Matt. 28: 15-20

For the week of September 5 to 11:

Exodus 14: 19-31, Psalm 114, Romans 14: 1-12, Matt. 18: 21-35

For the week of September 12 to 18:

Exodus 16: 2-15, Psalm 105: 1-6, Phil. 1: 21-30, Matt. 20: 1-16

For the week of September 19 to 25:

Exodus 17: 1-7, Psalm 78: 1-4, Phil. 2: 1-15, Matt. 21: 23-32

For the week of September 26 to October 2:

Exodus 20: 1-4, Psalm 19, Phil. 3: 4b-14, Matt. 21: 33-46

News from the Community—Pottstown Open Doors, Sat., Sept. 10

Come to downtown Pottstown 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Opening ceremony with Pottstown Middle School Jazz Band at Smith Plaza at 11:00 a.m. Visit Pottstown Public Library, Tri-PAC, Gallery on High, Pottsgrove Manor, Montgomery County Community College, Genesis Housing, and the Hill School Art Gallery

Come to Pottstown High School, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Kid's activities, over 30 organizational information tables, display of police, fire, and military equipment, free entertainment, free food, and display of class cars. **7:00 p.m. Home football game.**

Free Trolley transportation, free food, free entertainment, giveaways, displays, tours, demonstrations, games and activities for youngsters, Moon Bounce and more!

News from the Library

My Favorite Things

Over the next few months various church members will write about their favorite books from our library. Here are two of my favorite books by James Patterson.

Sam's Letters To Jennifer—This is not a typical James Patterson book with a detective and a murder mystery. It is about a woman named Jennifer who finds out, while mourning the death of her husband, that her grandmother, Sam, is in a coma after taking a fall. Jennifer races to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin to be at her grandmother's side and while there she finds letters that Sam has written to her explaining that the love of her life was not her husband but a man called "Doc." After discovering shocking secrets about Sam she starts to fall in love with her neighbor, Brendan. In typical Patterson fashion the end is satisfying and unexpected. It's an easy read and a good book for a rainy day.

Sundays at Tiffany's—this is another romantic novel by James Patterson and Gabrielle Charbonnet. It centers around Jane Margaux, a daughter of a famous Broadway producer, who when 8 years old was usually by herself most of time because her mother was busy producing musicals and her father was on vacation with his new wife all the time. When Jane was by herself she was with her imaginary friend, Michael, who told her that she would forget him on her ninth birthday. However, twenty-three years Jane has not forgotten Michael and is on way to making her musical about her relationship with Michael into a film. Her life now is a mess and she is wondering if her imaginary friend was just a figment of her imagination or a real person.

—Laura Hazeltine

Did You Forget Anything This Summer?

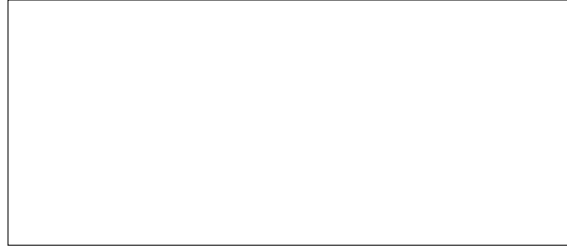
Many of us were away during the summer but the church's ministries continue 365 days a year. If your weekly contributions went missing while you were missing, can you "catch up" your giving this August and September—so that we can continue to do Christ's work in Pottstown and in the world? Thank you!

Save paper and postage by receiving your *Celtic Cross* by e-mail

Help us save some trees—and some money—by signing up to receive your copy of the *Celtic Cross* by e-mail. To do so, send your request to Peggy, our church secretary, at fpoffice@fpcpottstown.org. Don't forget to include your name.

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Meal 5 p.m.	2	3
4 Worship with Com- munion at 9:30 a.m.	5 Church Office Closed Labor Day	6	7 Prayer 7:15 p.m. Committees 7:30 p.m.	8 Meal 5 HENS Par- ent Night 7	9	10 Men's Break- fast, 8 –9 a.m. Picnic Set-up 9 a.m.
11 Rally Day 9:15 10:30 Wor- ship resumes Bible Study 3p.m. Picnic 4 pm	12 HENS begins Cubs 7	13 Girl Scouts 6 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	14 Music and Rec 4:30 Deacons meeting 7:30	15 Sisters Bible 9:15 Ladies Bible 9:30 Meal 5 Choir 7:30 Girl Scouts 7	16	17
18 Sun Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 a.m. New Member Reception @ Lester's 4 p.m. Jr. Seekers 6:30	19 Cubs 7	20 Girl Scouts 7 p.m. Prayer Shawl 7 p.m. Lectio Divina 7:30	21 Moms' Time- Out 9:30 @ Kerry's M/R 4:30 Session 7:30 p.m.	22 Bible Study 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30 Girl Scouts	23 Confirmation Retreat until Saturday af- ternoon	24
25 Sun. Sch. 9:15 Worship 10:30 Prep for Lord's Table 4:30 Sr. Seekers 6:30 Prime Timers' Event 7 p.m.	26 Cubs 7	27 Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	28 M/R 4:30 Theology Book Group @ Lester's 7:30 p.m.	29 Bible Study 9:15 Meal 5 Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30 Girl Scouts	30	



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