



# The Celtic Cross

Summer 2012

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## Letter from the Co-Pastors

It's summer, and summer's rhythms are suited to reading some poetry. Mary Oliver's simple poems paint word pictures that make us notice the beauty and wonder and poignancy of creation. Here's one:

### **At the Pond**

One summer

I went every morning  
to the edge of a pond where  
a huddle of just-hatched geese

would paddle to me  
and clamber  
up the marshy slope  
and over my body,

peeping and staring—  
such sweetness every day  
which the grown ones watched,  
for whatever reason,

serenely.

Not there, however, but here  
is where the story begins.  
Nature has many mysteries,

some of them severe.  
Five of the young geese grew  
heavy of chest and  
bold of wing

while the sixth waited and waited  
in its gauze-feathers, its body  
that would not grow.  
And then it was fall.

And this is what I think  
everything is about:  
the way  
I was glad

for those five and two  
that flew away,  
and the way I hold in my heart the wingless one  
that had to stay.

(cont. on p. 2)

## Worship Matters

**Worship in the summer is at 9:30 a.m.**

Sunday, August 5 — Service of the Lord's Day  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, August 12 — Service of the Lord's Day

Sunday, August 19 — Service of the Lord's Day  
Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Sunday, August 26 — Service of the Lord's Day

## **Service of Thanksgiving and Caring for Creation With a Blessing of the Animals Thursday, August 16, 7 p.m. in the Peace Garden**

You don't need to bring an animal to come but all God's creatures, great and small, are welcome—as long as they are on a leash, or in a carrier. Bring a blanket or folding chair. Lemonade, cookie, and kibbles 'n bits, following. Families and friends welcome! **This is a *fair weather* event. In case of rain, check the website or call the church office.**

## Children and Youth

**Rally Day! September 9th! 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall  
(note: worship will return to 10:30 that Sunday)**

Rally up! Sunday School is starting! Children, the teachers are eager to greet you and are looking forward to a special year with you! Parents, join us as we learn about the curriculum for the year and send children off to their first Sunday School class. Adults, come learn what Sunday School opportunities are available for you this year! It's time for another special year of four generations learning together as we follow Christ into the world.

**JR SEEKER MOVIE NIGHT! - July 20th 7p.m. to 10 p.m.**

At the church. Bring your pillow!

**MISSION MORNINGS— August 6th to 10th-** Sign up with Mrs. Liv

A flyer is coming soon in the mail!

## Letter from the Co-Pastors cont.

Isn't this what we do with, and for, one another? We help each other to notice the sweetness of Nature's mysteries and be glad in them, and when Nature's mysteries are severe, we hold one another in our hearts. May God give us eyes clear enough to see, and hearts strong enough to hold the fullness of this life we are given.

Peace to you, Kerry and Carter

### **Dead Sea Scrolls at the Franklin Institute, Aug.14, 5:30—8 p.m.**

Come join us for a night at the Franklin Institute to see one of the most comprehensive collections of ancient artifacts ever organized, including the oldest known copies of the Hebrew Bible and four never-before-seen scrolls. The Presbytery of Philadelphia has made arrangements for the Franklin Institute to be open just for members of the congregations of the Presbytery. Cost is \$20 and checks (Payable to "First Presbyterian Church") are due by August 2.

### **Blood Drive, Wednesday, August 15, 4-7 p.m.**

The need for blood does not take a vacation—and local blood supplies are dangerously low. If you can help, please sign up to give blood on Wednesday, August 15. To sign up for a specific time, contact Jeanette Feroe or the church office, or sign up on the church bulletin board.

### **Valley Forge Carillon Concert, Wednesday, August 15 (rain or shine)**

Join the Prime Timers to hear a free program, "Music of the British Isles," featuring the Carillon and the Irish Thunder Bag Pipe Band. Please bring your own picnic dinner, lawn chair, drinks, and outdoor spray. Those interested in carpooling, please meet in the church parking lot at 5 p.m.

### **Hold the Date—Women's Retreat, October 26-27**

Join other women to share fun and fellowship at Mariawald Renewal Center in Shillington. More details to follow in the September Celtic Cross

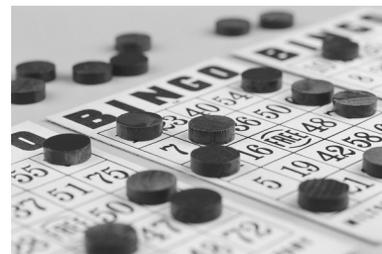
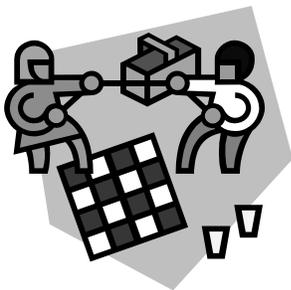
## **Annual Church Picnic**

Sunday, September 9  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Good friends and fellowship**

**Great food (and lots of it!)**

**Live Music from Michael Kropp**



**Games for all ages!**

**Please bring a side dish to serve 8 people. Deacons will supply chicken, dessert, and beverage. The picnic will take place rain or shine!**

## Deacons' Bench

### **Directories Available for all Households:**

Directories are available for all households in the congregation—whether or not your family posed for a picture. If you have not picked up a directory yet, please stop by the church office during the week on Sunday to pick up your copy.

### **Story Corps—An Idea for Families**

At a recent Deacons' meeting, the Deacons heard from Rosie Roseo about her family's participation in "Story Corps." We thought it is an idea worth sharing! Here are Rosie's reflections:

"As a lifelong NPR listener, I love listening to news stories, personal stories, comedy shows, and pretty much whatever programming comes on our local WHYI station during the day. A few years ago, I found myself more glued to the radio than usual on a Friday morning when I heard a StoryCorps broadcast for the first time. It was positively riveting—the story of a woman who had befriended her son's murderer. He was a boy only a year older than her son had been, and they had gotten into a bar fight which ended with her son's death and his killer's imprisonment for life. Over the years, she had come to forgive him and even spent her free time visiting him in prison, something his own family hadn't ever done.

I was hooked, and soon found myself looking up more stories to listen to online (at [www.StoryCorps.org](http://www.StoryCorps.org)). With the motto "Every story matters" this organization's mission and purpose are to help people record their own personal stories, from the amazing to the seemingly mundane, because they are right. Every story does matter.

In 2008, I decided to coerce my family into participating in their "National Day of Listening" and printed out the questions they suggested in their website. With varying degrees of success, the members of my family interviewed each other and we made a CD of them to give out that year at Christmas. As probably all of you know, we lost my Dad very suddenly this past December and were all feeling lost and terribly sad with missing him. Sandro, thankfully, remembered the interviews we had done and we dug out the CD to listen to it. What a gift!! We couldn't have imagined in 2008 the treasure we had created for ourselves, our children and someday for our children's children. To be able to hear my Dad talk about how he "had done pretty much everything he wanted to do" and to have, preserved for posterity, at least one of his famous embellished stories is something I will hold onto forever.

I had the opportunity to share these interviews and the StoryCorps concept with the Deacons during a recent meeting. The implications for interviewing and preserving these kinds of conversations with our church family are almost limitless and it is something I know we will be exploring in the future. If you are interested in finding out more about StoryCorps, their website is a great resource and I am sure you will find yourself immersed in the stories there ([www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org)).

—Rosie

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## **Please remember the church with your giving this summer**

We hope you have a wonderful and relaxing summer. Please remember the church this summer by keeping up your pledges and giving as you are able, because our expenses do not stop for this summer.

## Session Digest:

At its June meeting, the Session:

- Approved the following invitations to preach and lead worship during Kerry and Carter's absence: July 22, Rev. Byron Leasure; August 5, Rev. Tom Craver; August 12, Rev. Steve Garstad (Kerry and Carter present); and August 26, Rev. Kevin Porter.
- Approved the money needed from Capital Improvement Fund to replace the office computer.
- Ratified the Moderator's appointment of Sharon Sgriccia to chair Fun and Fellowship Committee with Don Grim and Ron Gower to serve as Session liaisons.
- Approved the celebration of the Lord's Supper on the workcamp, Friday, July 13.
- Endorsed the idea of inviting members of the congregation to participate in reading together "The Essential 100 Bible Reading Plan" in the Fall and Winter of 2012-13. Participants will read 5 passages a week over 20 weeks, split between 10 weeks of Old Testament readings in the Fall and 10 weeks of New Testament readings in the New Testament. For those 20 weeks, the sermons will draw from the 100 essential texts, and there will be opportunities at Bible studies, Sunday School classes, and online to discuss the 100 texts. More information will be available in the September *Celtic Cross*.
- Approved the purchase of an additional 50 "Sing the Faith" songbooks. 48 were donated by church members.
- Approved the allocation of up to \$8500 from the Capital Improvement fund to do exterior painting and caulking of the new wing and exterior rear wall of the sanctuary. Approved the allocation of up to \$5100 to replace old ceiling light fixtures and 15 ceiling tiles in Fellowship Hall.
- Reviewed the Treasurers' Report through May 31 and approved the monthly mission allocation.
- Elected Marlene Wrigley and Barb Longstreth to serve as commissioners to the July 25 Presbytery meeting, with Gina James elected as an alternate.
- Received oral or written reports from Administrative, Spiritual Formation, Mission, Endowment, and Worship Committees and the Deacons.
- Please keep in your prayers the following prayer requests: (Admin. Committee) thanksgiving that money is on hand to tackle needed maintenance; (Spiritual Formation) for VBS and family ministry efforts; (Worship) for our summer worship and for hospitality to be extended to our visiting worship leaders; (Fun and Fellowship) continued progress and growth under Sharon's leadership; (Endowment) for our new Acorns of Faith; (Personnel) for our dedicated staff; (Mission) for continued donations to the Cluster.

## Counters Corner

<u>Weeks of</u>	<u>Head Counter</u>	<u>Reg Counters</u>
Aug 5	Patti Picardi	Marlene Wrigley, Rob Wade, Dee Phillips
12	Jane Neiss	Marlene Wrigley, Rob Wade, Al Wrigley
19	Patti Picardi	Marlene Wrigley, Rob Wade, Dee Phillips
26	Jane Neiss	Marlene Wrigley, Rob Wade, Al Wrigley

## Lectionary Readings

**July 29 to August 5:** 2 Sam. 11: 16—12:13, Psalm 51: 1-12, Eph. 4: 1-16, John 6: 24-35

**August 6 to 12:** 2 Sam. 18: 5-9, Psalm 130, Eph. 4: 25—5: 2, John 6: 35, 41-51

**August 13 to 19:** 1 Kings 2: 10-12, Psalm 111, Eph. 5: 15-20, John 6: 51-58

**August 20 to 26:** 1 Kings 8: 1-6, Psalm 84, Eph. 6: 10-20, John 6: 58-69

**August 27 to Sept. 2:** Song of Sol. 2: 8-13, Psalm 45: 1-2, James 1: 17-27, Mark 7: 1-8

## Church Family News

Please keep in your prayers the following people who have been ill, hospitalized or in special need of prayers recently: Kathi Lurie, John Davis, DeeAnne Orzechowski, Eleanor Fletcher, Arnold Hatfield, and Lauren Chapis.

We remember Dr. Fred Winter and send condolences to Barbara and family.

## Endowment Committee Update

The Endowment Committee hosted a summer luncheon on June 24th for 29 members of our congregation. Two officers from Glenmede Trust, the investment management company of our Endowment Fund as well as the Philadelphia Presbytery Endowment, shared financial market highlights and planned giving strategies and opportunities. Five church members were welcomed into the "Acorns of Faith," which is made up of those who have indicated that they have made plans to give to the Endowment Fund.

God is faithful still and provides us with all that we truly need. As followers of Christ, we are entrusted with gifts we can use to strengthen his kingdom on earth. Let us rejoice in this privilege, seeking always to use our gifts wisely. To learn more about including the church in your estate plans, please contact Endowment Committee member, Kurt Holloway at [kholloway@whhslaw.com](mailto:kholloway@whhslaw.com)

## Financial Report (through May 31)

Budgeted income for the year:	538,905
Budgeted income through May 31:	224,544
Actual income through May 31:	217,139
Income this time last year:	162,365
Budgeted expenses for the year:	538,905
Budgeted expenses through May 31:	224,544
Actual expenses through May 31:	209,804
Expenses this time last year:	158,804
Surplus after Mission allocation paid:	\$1,491
Deficit this time last year:	(\$9,011)

# August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Switzerland Trip leaves  Comm Meals 5:00 p.m.	3	4
5 9:30 Worship- Communion Rev. Tom Craver preaching 5:00 Sr. Seek- ers Bible	6 Mission Morn- ings  .	7 Mission Mornings	8 Mission Morn- ings	9 Mission Mornings	10 Mission Mornings	11  <b>Switzer- land Trip returns</b>
12 9:30 Worship Rev. Steve Garstadt preaching 5:00 Sr. Seek- ers Bible Study	13	14 Dead Sea Scrolls Exhi- bition @ Franklin Inst. 5 p.m.	15 Bloodmobile 4-7 PT to Valley Forge Con- cert 5 p.m.	16 5 p.m. Community Meals  Animal Blessing 7 p.m.	17	18
19 9:30 Worship Biesecker Baptism 5:00 Senior Seekers Bible Study	20  .	21	22  7:30 Compas- sionate Friends	23  5 p.m. Community Meals	24	25
26 9:30 Worship Rev. Kevin Porter preaching	27	28	29	30 5 p.m. Community Meal	31	

