

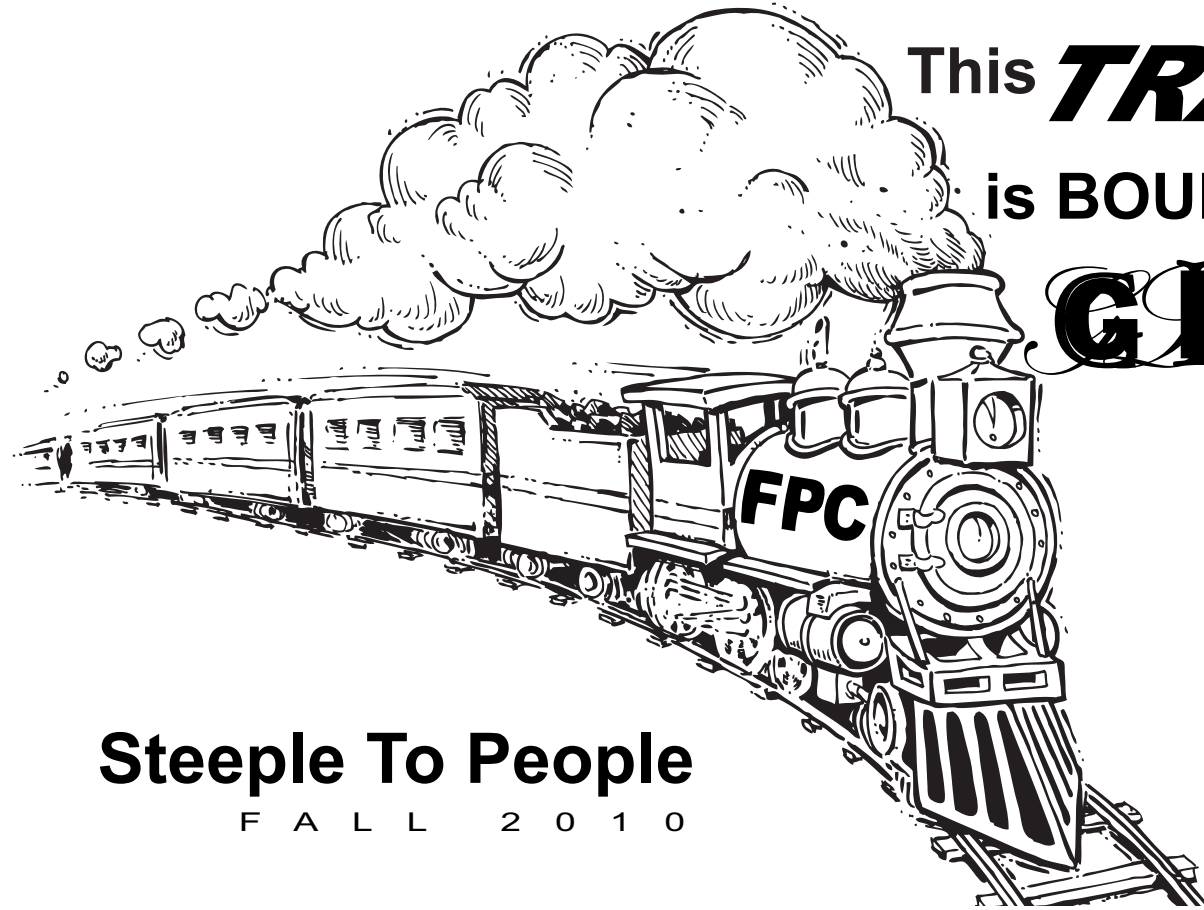
This ***TRAIN***

is BOUND for

GLORY

Steeple To People

F A L L 2 0 1 0



*Visit the church online for more info
about Ministry, Mission and Events*

www.fpcLIVE.org

Go Green - View Online!

If you would like to save paper and postage by viewing this newsletter online exclusively, please call or email Laura Meyers in the church office [see below]. We will remove you from the "snail mail" list and send you a reminder and link to the online version of the newsletter at publication time.

First Presbyterian Church

140 East Orange Street ▪ Lancaster, PA 17602 717.394.6854

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE OF STP

October 19, 2010

Please submit articles directly to
Laura in the church office
OR laura@fpclanc.org

Welcome

to the NEW Steeple to People!

Flip through and see what's happening at FPC!
Feel free to tear out pages and place them on
your fridge or stick them to your calendar -
anyplace they can serve as a reminder.

Please notice the sign-up card on the last page
Please use it [as an alternative to email and
phone] to sign up for the designated events
listed within the newsletter - it's pre-addressed
for your convenience!

As Always

**Additional details for all events
may be found at the Welcome Centers
[in the Foyer & outside Shirk Hall]**

AND

on the Church Website

www.fpcLIVE.org

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Pastor to People *Embracing Change*

Ouch! The other day a clerk asked me if I would like the “Senior Citizen Discount.” I didn't think it was that obvious that I had officially crossed over into that realm, but the 20 something clerk seemed to know that my time had come.

So rather than bemoan my fate, I have decided to embrace it. When I turned 21, I loved it when they asked to see my driver's license. Now my driver's license says I am 65, and if there is a “Senior Citizen Discount” to be had, I ask for it. In fact, I even ask for it if it isn't posted.

Change is difficult for many people no matter what their age. It is more difficult the older we get. We like routine. We like security. However, the 21st century is conspiring against us. Change is everywhere, and it is nearly every day. So we have a choice. We can embrace the change and make it work for us, or we can resist the change and be miserable.

This fall we are asking everyone to embrace the change which our new schedule will bring and the opportunities it will provide for our growth both spiritually and evangelistically. We need to grow in our capacity to sense where God is leading us in the next step on the journey of faith, and there will be opportunities for all ages to explore what that might mean. We need to help

our children and youth grow in their understanding of being part of a worshipping community, and it will require some adjustments on our part as we welcome children into the Traditional and Cherry Street Worship Services at 10:30 a.m. Finally, we need to grow in our reaching out to people who do not have a church home, and our new schedule gives us the opportunity to invite family, friends, and neighbors, as well as co-workers to come and see what we are doing.

In nature, the only things which are not changing are things which are dead. This church is far from dead, as I am sure all of you know. So as difficult as it might be for all of us, I pray that we will embrace the change we have chosen as a community of faith and make it work. We are a family, albeit a big family and families stick together through the changes that life brings.

Thanks for being willing to be a church which is always seeking the next best way to *Discover the Heart of Christ in the Heart of the City*. We will get through this change, and on the other side I am confident we will discover that God has some very exciting times of growth for us as we embrace the change God has revealed to us through listening for God's will.

come and see! **September 12**

Come and see what our new schedule change offers you, your neighbors, your co-workers, and your friends. There will be a preview of adult learning opportunities, an open house to meet teachers and see the classrooms for families with youth and children, a worship service celebrating 80 years of the George Mann Bible Study, and a luncheon in the foyer. Here is the schedule for the morning:

9:00am → **Shirk Hall**

*Sneak Preview of upcoming Adult Education opportunities
Continental Breakfast available. Children meet in the Activities
Room with Mrs. Ressler [Child care in the Nursery for little ones]*

10:30am → **Sanctuary**

*Combined Worship Service with celebration of 80 years of the George
Mann Bible Study Class.*

11:40am → **Foyer**
Lunch together!

*Open House in all education and Youth areas, but especially for
parents with children and youth. Classrooms will be open and teachers
present to talk about the first 5 weeks of our rotation learning model.*

Time For Our Schedule Change!

September marks the time to implement the change in schedule we have discussed for over a year. In the Spring/Summer of 2009, the Worship & Education Schedule Task Force held a series of meetings to gain input from the congregation on our readiness to accept change. In April, 2010 the Session adopted a new schedule to be implemented in the fall of 2010 with the worship times to be implemented in the summer of 2010.

The rationale for change was three fold:

- 1)** Create the opportunity for children and youth to learn the value of worship through the experience of worship (related to FPC Vision Strategy: Inspiring Worship)
- 2)** Create a Sunday morning opportunity for all ages (children, youth, and adults) to deepen their faith and take the next step in their spiritual journey (related to FPC Vision Strategy: Spiritual Growth)
- 3)** Simplify the schedule so that it is easily understandable for visitors and potential new members and facilitates the flow of Sunday morning activities for all (related to FPC Vision Strategy: Extravagant Hospitality)

For three months we have tested our worship schedule to be sure it works well. Now we are ready to implement the full schedule change.

Next Step 

ON PAGE 6

This *TRAIN* is BOUND for **G L O R Y**

“You, Lord, are my glory.” Psalm 3:3

Starting Sunday **September 19**

9:00am Early Worship in the Sanctuary

Education for all ages (Children, Youth, and Adults)

Youth Choir and Youth Arts for Adolescents (9:45 a.m.)

10:00am Hospitality for everyone (Foyer and Shirk Hall)

10:30am Concurrent Worship Services: Traditional & Cherry Street Worship (Sanctuary) (Shirk Hall)

Children are with their parents for the first 30 minutes in each worship service

Children's Choir and Children's Enrichment Activities (11:00 a.m.)

Adult Education opportunities

**SEE PAGES
8 & 9**
For a full listing of
Adult Education offerings
see page 27 for
full Children's Schedule

Miss this TRAIN and you'll miss this thrilling OPPORTUNITY to travel deeper & deeper still into the truly awesome, mysterious, magnificent HEART of GOD!

This Train Is Bound for Glory!

- * Travel with your family – your brothers & sisters in Christ – on a journey deeper & deeper into the heart of God.
- * Get to know Jesus Christ in more intimate & personally relevant ways as you get to know your fellow sojourners.
- * Learn ways to be the heart of Christ in the heart of our city & our world.
- * Where are we headed? Home to GLORY.
- * God is our glory, and home is the *Heart of Christ*.

“But you, O LORD, are a shield around me, my glory,
and the one who lifts my head high.” Psalm 3:3

Our new Sunday Schedule is built around the solid core of spiritual formation – becoming more mature in Christ, living & loving more like Christ, every day. It's a journey we are all on separately in our individual lives and together as the Body of Christ. We're on this journey at every age & every stage of our lives – trying to get closer & closer to the source of our strength, our joy, our hope, and our peace which is our Savior Jesus Christ.

M O R E !  7

Adult Spiritual Growth at First Presbyterian Church

Sundays @ 9am – Learning Communities

#1 TERM ONE (September 19 – October 24, 2010)

- 1** **George Mann Class (Adult Bible Study)** - **George Mann Room at Ground Level.** Deep truth. Bold faith. Changed lives. In this coed adult Bible study we will ponder our “Inescapable God” with studies in Exodus and Psalms. All adults are welcomed. The 9:00am study is preceded by fellowship and music at 8:30 am.
- 2** **The Gathering (Contemporary Issues)** - **Activities Room at Ground Level.** The Gathering is an adult study group with different outstanding speakers who address tough contemporary topics. There's dialogue with the leaders who share their thoughts with this lively group. Lancaster Theological Seminary professor, Dr. Lee Barrett, will teach on the New Shape of Global Christianity on September 19 & 26 and Rev. Jack Houdeshel will be updating us on the work of the July 2010 General Assembly.
- 3** **Healing Prayer Training** - **in the Well Spring Room on the Second Floor from September 19, to October 24.** We will use James Wagner's book, “An Adventure in Healing & Wholeness” as our guide as we are trained in praying with others in the context of healing ministry in the worship services.

8

M O R E !



Sundays @ 10:30am

- 4** **The Front Porch (Adult Bible Study)** - **Activities Room at Ground Level.** An adult study group that utilizes nationally known teachers via DVD to address and discuss important contemporary topics from a biblical perspective.

Weekdays

- 5** **Finding a New Life in Christ, Wednesday, 7:00-8:45pm in the Chapel** starting in late September. This course offers an intensive six-month immersion in getting to know Jesus and adopting intentional practices for spiritual transformation. For information and to sign up contact Bill Adams at 951.6560, wwadams@comcast.net. Books and study guides will be available for purchase the first day. Parking is free and childcare is not available.

- 6** **Women's Bible Study Thursdays, 9:30-11:00am at the Parish Resource Center** starting September 16. We are doing "Daniel" Bible study by Beth Moore. For information and to sign up contact Ruth Blazer at 284-1922, ruthblazer@comcast.net. Workbooks will be available for purchase the first day. Parking is free and childcare is not available.

M O R E !  **9**

7 **Early Word and Morning Prayer - Starts September 15** - Wednesday mornings 7:00 a.m. [during the program year]. An early look at the biblical text which will be the focus of the sermon the following Sunday. Led by Parish Associate, Jack Houdeshel. Morning Prayer follows Early Word at 8:00 0 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel. This half-hour service includes singing, scripture reading and prayers for those in need in our congregation. Why not make Early Word a part of your spiritual discipline?

Retreats & Workshops

8 **“Become What You Believe,” Saturday, October 23** - This workshop is designed not only for members of the Healing Ministry Team, but those who might have an interest in joining the team, and all who pray and long to grow in their understanding of our Lord's call to be His helpers in healing and wholeness. **Saturday, October 23—8:30 a.m. -1 :00 p.m. Use registration form on last page of this newsletter OR laura@fpclanc.org / Questions? Bryer Helmer-392-0860**

9 **Workshop for Care-givers of Loved Ones, Who Suffer From Memory Loss, Saturday, October 30 - 9am-Noon at Highland Presbyterian Church.** Pastor James Day, of Country Meadows Retirement Community, will present “Offering Validation” as his keynote address. The cost of pre-registration is \$10 per person. **Registration deadline is Oct. 12.** Use registration form on last page of this newsletter OR call Ellen Stephenson, 299-0105 or John Kinyon, 393-2493.

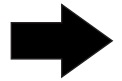
10

A Year With the Lectionary Sermons for the Sanctuary 2010-2011

Pastor Riggs has announced that he will spend a year with the Common Lectionary for his preaching texts in 2010-2011. For those unfamiliar with the lectionary, it is a prescribed set of readings for each Sunday which is observed by churches in what is considered the “main stream” denominations of the Christendom (Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic). The texts are designed to help a congregation read through the Bible over a three year cycle, and pastors are encouraged to draw their preaching from one of the assigned texts from the Old Testament, the Epistles, the Gospels, and the Psalms.

Pastor Riggs says he decided to return to the Common Lectionary this year because this is the training that so many preachers are receiving in seminary. He wants the congregation to know that preaching by lectionary is just as effective a preaching by series.

**A list of texts and topics
through the end of November**



11

PREACHING SCHEDULE

| DATE | LECTIONARY TEXT | PREACHING TEXT | PASTOR |
|--|--|---|--------|
| September 19 | WK-1) Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; WK-2) Psalm 79:1-9; WK-3) I Timothy 2:1-7; WK-4) Luke 16:1-13 | Luke 16:1-13 "Getting Honest with God" | Riggs |
| September 26 | WK-1) Jeremiah 32:1-3a;6-15; WK-2) Psalm 91:1-6; WK-3) I Timothy 6:6-19; WK-4) Luke 16:19-31 | Luke 16:19-31 "Examining our Priorities" | Riggs |
| October 3 World Communion Sunday | WK-1) Lamentations 1:1-6; WK-2) Psalm 137:1-6; WK-3) II Timothy 1:1-14; WK-4) Luke 17:5-10 | Luke 17: 5-10 "Mustard Seed Faith" | Riggs |
| October 10 | WK-1) Jerimiah 29:1, 4-7; WK-2) Psalm 66:1-12; II WK-3) Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19 | Luke 17:11-19 "The Attitude of Gratitude" | Riggs |
| October 17 | WK-1) Jeremiah 31:27-34; WK-2) Psalm 119:97-104; WK-3) II Timothy 3:14-4:6; WK-4) Luke 18:1-8 | Luke 18:1-8 "The Power of Persistent Prayer" | Riggs |
| October 24 | WK-1) Joel 2:23-32; WK-2) Psalm 65; WK-3) II Timothy 4:6-8; WK-4) Luke 18:9-14 | Luke 18:9-14 "Learning Humility" | Riggs |

PREACHING SCHEDULE

C O N T I N U E D

| DATE | LECTIONARY TEXT | PREACHING TEXT | PASTOR |
|---|---|--|----------------|
| October 31 Reformation Sunday | WK-1) Habakuk 1:1-4; WK-2) Psalm 119: 137-144; II WK-3) Thessalonians 1:1-4, WK-4) 11-12; Luke 19:1-10 | Luke 19:1-10 “A Wee Man with a Big Faith” | Hackett |
| November 7 All Saints Sunday | WK-1) Haggai 1:15b-2:9; WK-2) Psalm 145:1-5; 17-21; WK-3) II Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17; WK-4) Luke 20:27-38 | Luke 20:27-38 “Til Death Us Do Part” | Riggs |
| November 14 | WK-1) Isaiah 65:17-25; WK-2) No Psalm; WK-3) II Thess. 3:6-13; WK-4) Luke 21:5-19 | Luke 21:5-19 “Wearing Out, not Rusting Out” | Riggs |
| November 21 Christ the King | WK-1) Jerimiah 23:1-6; WK-2) Colossians 1:11-20; WK-3) Luke 23:33-43; WK-4) No Psalm | Colossians 1:11-20 “The Image of the Invisible” | Riggs |
| November 28 First Sunday in Advent | WK-1) Isaiah 2:1-5; WK-2) Psalm 122; WK-3) Romans 13:11-14; WK-4) Matthew 24:36-44 | Advent Lessons and Carols | Choir |

Worship Ministry Personnel Changes

At the July 28th meeting of the Session, a report was received by the Worship Ministry Personnel Task Force which had been appointed by the Session in April, 2010. The concern of the Session was the future staffing pattern for Worship and Music Ministries.

As a congregation, we have chosen to offer three distinctly different worship styles at our three services on Sunday mornings. This is quite different from when there was one style of worship; "one size fits all." The Task Force saw immediately the need for coordination of the various needs under one person; a role that has been filled by Dr. Timothy Sidebothom since he returned from his stroke in June, 2009

In January, 2011, Dr. Timothy Sidebothom will return full time to teach at Lancaster Bible College. The need for the coordination of the multiple service needs was a top priority for the Worship Ministry Personnel Task Force. The Task Force recommended the following structure for the balance of 2010, and the positions have been filled as follows:

Coordinator of Worship Ministry

Dr. Tim Sidebothom

Early Worship Service Personnel

Alisa Bair (Director); Matt Weaver (Organist)

Cherry Street Worship

Dan Snyder (Director)

Traditional Worship Personnel

Mark Williams (Chancel Choir Director),
Pam Williams (Hand Bell Choir Director),
Matt Weaver (Organist)

Children's Choir Director Susan Hurley

Youth Choir: Susan Hurley (coordinator)
John Meeder (Vol. Director)

Worship Ministry Personnel Changes C O N T I N U E D

When Dr. Sidebothom returns to full time teaching in January, Alisa Bair will assume added duties as the Director of Worship and the Arts and continue as Director of the Early Worship Service. The Task Force made other recommendation which will be considered by the Personnel Committee as the 2011 budget is prepared.

Alisa's departure from her duties as Associate in Worship Ministry required that we find a dynamic replacement for her role with our children and youth choirs. We feel privileged to have secured the services of Susan Hurley. Susan is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy and The American Musical & Dramatic Academy in New York City. She has performed extensively in musical theatre and dance, as well as taught for Opening Minds Through the Arts in public elementary schools. She has also written original productions for the middle school group, SonLife Singers, at the church in Tucson, Arizona she attended while her husband, Gregg, pursued his MA in Choreography at the University of Arizona. We believe you will find she is a person of high energy, talent, and organization, and will bring a variety of gifts in the arts to the children and youth of our church.

September 26 & October 3

Les Ellis Memorial Peacemaking Offering

On Sunday, September 26 and Sunday, October 3rd, the Blue Challenge Offering is the ***Les Ellis Memorial Peacemaking Offering***. By action of the Mission Funding Committee, it has been decided that the first \$1000 of the funds collected will be sent to the Presbyterian Church, USA Peacemaking Offering which funds programs all over the world which are designed to bring peace and understanding. Anything over \$1000 will be used to assist the Maasai people of the Rift Valley in Kenya.

Our mission with the Maasai began 15 years ago when our Presbyterian Women connected with SIMOO (Simba Maasai Outreach Organization) in the Rift Valley of Kenya. Faust helped us make the connection, and every year that our mission teams have gone to Kenya, we have included a visit with the Maasai. We have been impressed with their organization and their leadership under Francis Sakuda who has visited our church several times.

SIMOO is a self help group committed to helping the Massai people build sustainable communities so their children can be educated. They are teaching this nomadic people how to farm the land, build community around schools they help to construct, and providing them with water.

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M O R E !



The goal is a bit more modest this year: \$8,000. This amount allows us to give \$1,000 for the PCUSA Peacemaking efforts, and contribute \$7,000 to SIMOO which will use the funds to pipe water from a well they have dug to a school they have built where Maasai tribal women and children can collect water and take it to their homes. The women and children would have to walk nearly 6 miles if the project is not completed. In addition, it will purchase hard rubber cisterns for 20 families to store water and collect rain water when it rains. What a great way to honor Les Ellis again.

Les Ellis was a faithful member of this church until his death in 1998. He was a man who believed passionately in peacemaking. In the 1980's he was single-handedly responsible for drafting a vision statement for First Presbyterian Church which had peacemaking as its central theme. The Mission Funding Team seeks to participate in the Peacemaking Offering of the PCUSA by contributing to it and then designating its offering for one thing which may serve as a witness to the man whom this congregation loved and the kind of things in which he believed.

The congregation will receive a letter with an envelope, and Blue Challenge envelopes are available in the service. Help to honor Les Ellis and promote peace in these countries by giving to the Peacemaking Offering.

MORE BLUE CHALLENGE OFFERINGS



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Blue Challenge Offerings through November

September

5 (Labor Day) Blanket Sunday
12 Heads Up
19 Open Arms Scholarships
26 Peacemaking

October

3 Peacemaking (Worldwide
Communion)
10 Choices
17 Choices
24 Choices
31 Open Arms

November

7 Open Arms
14 Open Arms
21 Open Arms
28 FPC Homeless
Winter Shelter

Chapel Renovation Underway!!

At long last, through the generosity of two anonymous donors, the chapel is getting a much-needed facelift. By September 12, we should see fresh paint, enhanced lighting, comfortable chairs for 100 people, new carpet, a rolling media cart with big-screen TV & all the techno goodies needed to present media programs, a newly-interpreted, tastefully hand-wrought cross, and fine new musical instruments.

The windows will be refurbished using the present sashes but with clear glass replacing the badly-aging leaded pebbled glass. Sound transmission from chapel to foyer will decrease with the installation of new laminated glass doors in the same style but with improved seals all around.

We will see new carpet in the first floor foyer & all first floor hallways so that the entrances to our sacred spaces reflect our desire to take care of our church home and extend a gracious welcome to all who come through our doors.

The designers worked with a veritable army of FPC staff & members to accommodate the various needs of the people who use this space. From weddings, funerals, & hospitality functions that overflow the foyer to Open Arms Daycare Center and Sunday school programs, committee meetings, and small community worship, this chapel will handle it with fresh grace and style.

In addition to the chapel renovation, the money donated will help pay for changes to the office area as well as for moving the library into the parlor, and crafting a Sacred Space in the former library space. These spaces may need a bit more time to complete, but when they are finished, they will add immeasurably to our life at FPC.

Special thanks to our two donors; we will all benefit from your generosity and your loving concern for our church home.

Cantale al Señor

Children sing to the Lord at Resurrection Chapel —Alisa Bair



In spite of record high temps and no air-conditioning, FPC and Resurrection Chapel joined together every afternoon during the last week in June at their facility on Queen Street to engage children in worship through song. In a collaborative effort with Pastor Maria Chuquimia and Fabiola Felix from Resurrection Chapel, Christine Allison, Lori Baldwin, Brynn Hackett, and Todd and Olivia Umstead joined me in planting the seeds of worship in young lives and strengthening relationships. Thanks to the generosity of the Mission Funding team, we were able to support the food and extras that come with a week-long camp of this nature.

Abre mis ojos oh Christo, we sang in the hot sanctuary. I had learned the familiar song (*Open the Eyes of My Heart*) in Spanish ahead of time, and it felt rich and meaningful to sing it in another language. We had rhythm instruments, played movement games, sang all sorts of songs. But how to communicate what it is to sing to the Lord? *How can these kids learn to truly worship?* I prayed. *How can they connect meaningfully with the Host of Heaven? Abre mis ojos te pido... Open my eyes, I beg you...*

Suddenly, I looked up, and behind the balcony in the stained glass was Jesus praying at the rock in Gethsemane, his eyes trained toward heaven. “There!” I said to the kids. “Come up here and look at this.” They got out of their seats and climbed up on the platform. “See Jesus praying to God? I’m asking you to *sing* your prayers.” Something shifted in the atmosphere from that point on – seeds planted that we pray have fallen on fertile ground.

Handbell Choir

"My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul" Psalm 108:1



Won't you consider making music with all of your soul? The Tintinnabulators (handbell choir) NEED YOU! We need to replace three players this year in order to be able to continue to play the caliber of music that we are used to playing to enhance the worship experience for each of you. Please prayerfully consider becoming part of this warm, friendly group of Christian musicians. Details are as follows:

When: Monday evenings beginning September 13, 2010 from 7-8:30PM

Where: Bell room on the second floor (enter through the choir room)

Who: anyone from the ages of 15-? who loves music (music reading and good coordination are pluses)

Why: To make music to the glory of God

Contact Pam Williams, director, at 392-2774, the church office, Judy Kruse, Adrian Lindquist, or Ellen Stephenson for more information OR be brave and come to our first rehearsal to try playing! You will be more than welcome!

Pursuant to School Board policy and administrative procedures, this e-mail system is the property of the Columbia Borough School District and to be used for official business only. In addition, all users are cautioned that messages sent through this system are subject to the Public Records Law of the State of Pennsylvania and also to review by the school system. There should be no expectation of privacy.

M O R E !  21



Stephen Ministry

Four members of our congregation are enrolled in the fall Stephen Ministry Training class, which will begin on September 8.

At the completion of their 50-hour training in mid-December, *Suzanne Curry, Cindy Hatfield, Cathy Love* and *Becky Miller*, will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. They will then join our active Stephen Ministry team of 18, in providing one-to-one Christian care to those experiencing difficult times in their lives.

The impact of Stephen Ministry on our congregation has been tremendous. Folks whose needs might otherwise go unnoticed, are coming face-to-face with Jesus' love through their Stephen Ministers. Our new class will help us touch that many more lives. Please lift up our training class in your prayers over the coming months

We extend much thanks to Becky Mowrey, Stephen Leader Training Coordinator, and our Leadership team for their dedication in recruiting and awareness.

Presbyterian Women



Attention Women Elders Past and Present

In January we will celebrate 80 years of women serving as elders in the Presbyterian Church. We have a list of elders who served this church but we would like to honor all women members who have served in other Presbyterian Churches also. Please call Sarah at the church office [394-6854] or e-mail jackie.mccord@gmail.com with your name, the name of the church served and years.

Jane Faust Honored

In August The Presbyterian Women honored Jane Faust with a Recognition Gift. The plaque recognized her many contributions to the church and Presbyterian Women. A cash donation was given to Presbyterian Women of Donegal Presbytery in Jane's name by all the women of First Presbyterian.

Old Octorara Presbyterian Church

Annual Meeting and Worship Service

The historic Octorara Covenanter Presbyterian Shrine Church will hold its 49th annual meeting and worship service on Sunday afternoon, October 17th, starting at 3:30 PM. The Rev. Dr. Erin Cox-Holmes, Executive Presbyter of Donegal Presbytery, will be the featured speaker.

This year's service will again feature The Kirkin' O' Th' Tartans, a ceremony for Scots away from Scotland. Music will be provided by soloist Craig Williams. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

Join your friends from First Church and others of Scots – Irish heritage for this year's service. The “Old Octorara Church” is located across the road from the Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church on route 372, about four miles east of Quarryville. For additional information call Jeff Alexander at 393-5968.

No Longer Strangers

Alicia Conklin-Wood

Earlier this summer Pastor Riggs preached a sermon entitled "No Longer Strangers." His theme, in part, had to do with how we welcome gay and lesbian people into full participation in our church. Both his family and ours have gay or lesbian children, and the subject is close to our hearts. Now my husband, Len Wood and I would like to invite you- the families, or friends of, as well as self-identifying gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered people (GLBT)- to a gathering at our home on **Sunday October 17th, from 2:30-4:30PM.**

Come, find other friends, receive support for whatever your situation is. We should no longer be strangers, one to another. How can we help FPC become more welcoming to you and your family and friends? [So that we can plan for enough chairs and cookies, it is helpful, though not essential, for you to contact us if you plan to attend: 464 5907, or aliciaconklinwood@yahoo.com]

Caring in the City

During the month of September, the Caring in the City Committee will be holding a uniform drive to benefit students in grades K-6 in the School District of Lancaster. All donations will be taken to the uniform bank operated by Pearl St. United Methodist Church and distributed to students in need.

If you would like to help, please purchase a uniform item and bring it to the designated box in the foyer or Shirk Hall. The uniform consists of navy blue or khaki pants, shorts, skirts or jumpers, and white or blue collared shirts or blouses (no logos). All sizes, including husky, are needed for children ages 4-12 years.

Direct questions to Linda Wagenseller - 569-8520 or ljwags@verizon.net

In case you haven't gotten wind of the excitement!

**12 First Presbyterians are involved in launching
a world premiere musical in September . . .**

John Meeder - OperaLancaster President, Producer, and Cast Member

Bill and Susan Adams - Promotion, Fundraising

Todd and Heather Lindsley - Promotion, Fundraising

Alisa Bair - Music, Book and Lyrics

Anne Meeder - Director

Ashley Meeder - Choreographer

Susan Hurley - Leading Role of Young Georgia O'Keeffe

Gregg Hurley - Cast Member

Elizabeth & Stephen Lavender - Orchestra Members

**OperaLancaster is excited and proud to present
the WORLD PREMIERE of**

Georgia O'Keeffe: A Woman on Paper

Performance Dates: September 16-19, 2010

Performance Times: Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00PM;

Saturday and Sunday at 2:00PM

Performance Venue: The Roschel Performing Arts Center at F&M College

Tickets: www.operalancaster.com or call **392-0885**

PLEASE NOTE!

This is a musical drama
depicting adults in
adult situations.

While those situations
are handled in good
taste, the production is
not family theater,
and parents
should think of it in terms
of a PG-13 rating.

FPC Families

Sunday, September 12

Welcome to the 2010 – 2011 Program Year!

9 a.m.

Children: Come to the chapel to meet with Mrs. Ressler and children's leaders and prepare for special involvement in the day's Worship Service

Adults: Come to Shirk Hall for a Sneak Preview of Fall Opportunities for You. Enjoy a Continental Breakfast & Fellowship Together.

(Children remain with children's leaders)

10:30 a.m.

One Worship Service, Sanctuary
(Children join families for Communion)

11:30 a.m.

Lunch Together in the Foyer
Service Project (see school uniform article)
Open House for Children's and Youth Sun. School

M O R E !  **27**

OUR NEW SCHEDULE BEGINS! September 19

C'Mon Kids! Get on board 'cuz this Train is Bound for Glory!

TERM ONE: September 19 – October 24, 2010

Special SoulTrain-themed Activities for nursery and pre-schoolers.

K-6 Sunday School: Exciting, Meaningful Lessons & Activities the study of **Values of Christian Living** meant to help children learn that God promises that we are bound for glory, and as children at every age, He will empower and “train” us to live the Christian life every day.

9 a.m.

Preschool Sunday School (for children 3½ yrs.— 5 yrs, not yet in Kindergarten)

Children in Preschool, K, & 1st grade enjoy a Cherub Choir experience to begin their time in Sun. School. Following this 15 min. time of Music & Song, Kindergartners and 1st Graders join the Faith Journey Sun. School in progress on the Upper Level.

Faith Journey Sunday School (for children K – 6)

A Workshop Rotation Model of Teaching and Learning

Our First Rotation: *This Train is Bound for Glory!: Living with Christian Values*

10:30 a.m.

Children worship with families

Traditional Worship, Sanctuary OR

Cherry Street Worship, Shirk Hall

Following 30 minutes of Worship experience, all children are invited to a Sunday School Enrichment time OR Junior Choir (for children in 2nd – 6th). **CORRECTION [from post card sent out week of 8/23]:**

Parents pick up children from Sunday School and Junior Choir rooms at 11:45 a.m.

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION IN YOUR FALL FAMILY FIRST NEWSLETTER ABOUT THESE UPCOMING IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

September 26

Communion Education Program

For 2nd Graders and their Families

October 3

World Communion

2nd Graders Participate in Worship Services

October 24

Gift Bibles

Presented to all 3rd Graders

Nursery Ministry This Fall @ FPC

We welcome children, infant – 3 yrs.

Nursery Rooms Coordinator: Becky Snavelly

Caregivers: Jody Pabon, Julia Ressler, & Kim Devine

Our Nursery is open every

Sunday morning 8:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Locations: Infant Room, Main Level, Room #118

Toddler Room, Main Level, Room #117

Youth Ministry & Outreach Update

Youth Workcamps Summer 2010

Using the book of Ephesians, our Mythbusting interns Krista Ginn and Simeon Harrar, led our Junior & Senior Highs on an excursion of faith this summer. Busting myths like: "I have to earn my way to heaven." and "The church is only a building." We became the hands and feet of Christ as we experienced the grace of God while serving others.

Our Junior Highs painted Luther Lodge and added on a new deck at Westminster Highlands, a PCUSA Camp located in northwestern PA. The six-day experience included Bible study, worship experiences, hiking, creek exploration and the night flashlight game: commando. The youth arrived home with wet sneakers, clothes spotted with red paint, deeper faith, and satisfaction, knowing their hard work will benefit others who use the camp for years to come.

Our Senior Highs built three handicap ramps in Charleston SC. We discovered firsthand the great difference that a ramp can make for a wheelchair-bound person. As we were tearing off the stairs at the first house, we could see the man, who had been forced to stay inside for eight months, peering out the window. As we worked, he watched. At the end of the second day, when we completed the 45' long ramp he excitedly wheeled himself out and down as we, his family, and neighbors watched - this was a moment of great joy for all of us. Now, whenever he wanted, he would be able to come out into the fresh air, feel the breeze, enjoy the shade of his favorite tree, and talk with his

neighbors. It was one of our Senior Highs who expressed it first - "we *are* the hands and feet of Christ!" After the work camp David Bennett coined the phrase: "Building Ramps, Busting Myths, and Changing Lives"

Youth Workcamps are an important part of our ministry, because we believe that learning to serve others in the name of Christ changes the way we live. It is because of the church's generosity that we are able to serve others in this way.

Sundays for Youth: Come @9 and enjoy the morning!

Our Junior & Senior Highs will have the opportunity to regularly worship with their families starting Sunday morning, September 19th. Youth will learn at 9:00, sing at 9:45, and worship at 10:30.

First: Junior Highs, grades 7 & 8, will meet in Room 37, near Shirk Hall for relevant and active Bible lessons; Senior Highs, grades 9-12, will meet in the Youth Cafe for Bible oriented Discussion. Next in the Sunday morning line up is singing - the opportunity to be a part of the Youth Choir, in Room 37, and then, the *ultimate destination*, worship at Cherry Street or in the Sanctuary.

Our Youth Choir will be led by Susan Hurley and John Meeder. We are happy to have Susan on board and look forward to great year for the Choir!

As Youth families prepare for worship, please make arrangements for meeting and seating. As always, younger Youth should be picked up at Room 37 or the Youth Cafe.

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Sign Up!

N A M E _____

p h o n e _____ e m a i l _____

“Become What You Believe” RETREAT _____
October 23 @8:30 - 12:30 Number Attending

“Care-givers” WORKSHOP _____
For those caring for loved ones suffering from memory loss [Highland Pres. Church] Number Attending
October 30 @8:30 - 12:30
[Registration Cost of \$10]

Please Mail to the church or drop into a Welcome Center Mail Box [Foyer or outside Shirk Hall]

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

First Presbyterian Church
140 E. Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17602

