

tidings!

We are people who expect to learn from God's Word, expect to work as God's hands, expect to encounter God in all people, and expect to rejoice in God always.

APRIL 6, 2011

VOLUME 21, #7

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PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE—NEW OPPORTUNITIES

After a four-year process of discernment spanning 2007-2011, we are at a significant and exciting moment in the ministry of our church. On Wednesday, March 23, the Session unanimously and enthusiastically voted to reconfigure our Sunday morning worship schedule to accomplish a number of long-discussed objectives, setting the goal of effecting these changes by the second Sunday of September. The primary change is the addition of an alternative/contemporary service. Equally important objectives are to maintain early- and late-morning options for our traditional services, and provide accessible and meaningful education opportunities for all ages. In the next few days, I would invite you to be on the lookout for a letter from Session detailing the new configuration and the multiple opportunities for worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and mission this model will create. To that end, I wanted to use this Pastoral Reflections to chart out the discernment process that has brought us here, particularly four major focal points that resourced the Session's work concerning worship:

First, The Mission Study — Work on the Mission Study began in 2007 with surveys and focus groups, and culminated in a report adopted by Session in May 2008. One aspect of the study referenced contemporary/alternative worship in the following way: "There is a clearly articulated call for a contemporary worship experience — not as a substitute for traditional worship — but as an addition to the church's offerings." The study recommended that the church explore a contemporary service as an addition to the worship service schedule. This aspect also shaped the job description that led to my Call in the summer of 2009, and one of the responsibilities I was tasked with upon my arrival was to "consider possible alternative worship styles" in light of the data produced by the Mission Study.

Second, The Alternative Worship Discovery Team — In February 2010, with Session and Worship Committee endorsement, a broadly diverse group of 17 people (both staff and lay members) convened to produce a document on the who, what, when, where, and why of alternative worship. That group met weekly for three full months. Our time together included prayer, study, conversation, and site visits to various congregations that offer alternative worship as part of their regular worship lineup. In June 2010, this team produced a document recommending alternative worship that Session received and, in the same meeting, unanimously voted to implement, with a target date of fall 2011.

Third, the Congregation-Wide Survey on January 30, 2011 — The congregation survey done at the annual meeting was hugely important to this process as it isolated preferences in both style and time, and illuminated some of the core convictions our congregation holds when it comes to worship and Christian Education. Almost 600 people completed the survey, which produced a clear picture of both the non-negotiable and flexible aspects of our worship life.

Staff Considerations — With those major elements to work from, the staff has spent the past two months considering implications and best scenarios to maximize our gifts and strengths moving into a new scheduling model. We passed these recommendations to Session for consideration.

While many details remain to be worked out, Session acted, and we are moving forward! I am eager for you to see the fruit of all this labor. Again, watch for a letter in the coming days which will detail the schedule in full. I, along with staff and Session, are very excited and hopeful that this new opportunity will provide a deepening of our faith and life together.

See you in worship and the world, Tony

PORTRAITS STILL UNDERWAY FOR OUR DIRECTORY

Photography began already for our church's new pictorial directory. If you haven't signed up to have your portrait taken, there's still time left, but act fast, as dates have filled quickly. Professional photographers will take your family or individual portrait at no charge to you, and each family or individual will receive a choice of a free 8 X 10 or sheet of wallet-sized prints of the photo you select. You'll also have the opportunity to purchase additional prints directly from Lifetouch, the company helping us produce the directory.

Portraits will be taken at FPCA in rooms 118-122.

NEW DATES ADDED:

May 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

To sign up online, go to www.fpcallentown.org and click on the "Directory Portrait Sign-up" link to register for an available session. If you need help registering, call the church office at 610-395-3781.

Please plan to arrive on time.

2011 BREAD FOR THE WORLD WORKSHOP

Please join the Peace, Justice and Missionary Committee at the Bread for the World Offering of Letters Workshop, Hunger at Home: Food for our Neighbors. As change happens on the political scene in Washington, D.C., one constant is our need to speak out for hungry people here and around the world. This year's program will urge Congress to make our nation's foreign assistance program better focused on reducing hunger and poverty.



"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness." Isaiah 58:10

More effective assistance translates into more progress for the world's nearly 1 billion chronically hungry people. Through multimedia presentations and interactive exercises at the workshop, you will learn how reforming foreign aid can improve the lives of millions of hungry people. Join us at this workshop:

Saturday, April 9, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Room 115

First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

For more information go to www.pppj.org/bfw11.htm. Please RSVP now at www.bread.org/events or email rferris@bread.org or call 1-800-619-9239.

FPCA WOMEN STUDING THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

All women of the church are invited to Better Portion on Monday, April 18, 2011 at 7:15 p.m. in the Commons. We begin with a social time and light refreshments followed by our program. We will continue our study of *Hither & Yon - A Travel Guide for the Spiritual Journey* by Rev. Becca Stevens. Copies will be available at the meeting for \$11. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information, call Joyce Gobrecht (610-928-0664) or e-mail jegobrecht@gmail.com.

FPCA MEN ADDRESS FAITH AND LIFE

Come out for a half-day men's retreat with a full-breakfast and great conversation about "Finding Balance in Faith and Life." Tony Sundermeier will be facilitating this retreat on Saturday, April 30, 2011, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. To sign-up, call the church office (Caley Oels) 610-395-3781 or email Caley at caley.oels@fpcallentown.org.

UPCOMING MULTI-CHURCH PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING EVENT

The Networking for Life Ministry at FPC Bethlehem has invited members of FPC Allentown to attend a free networking event at their church, 2344 Center St, Bethlehem on Monday April 18th at 6:30 p.m. To register, please contact Bill Gruenewald at wgruenewal@aol.com or 610-217-2524. See www.fpc-bethlehem.org/compassionatecare/networkingforlife for more information about this ministry.

NEW MEMBERS' POT LUCK DINNER

There will be a potluck dinner welcoming First Presbyterian Church Allentown members that joined in 2010. The dinner will be held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 30 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. RSVP to jennyhenderson@gmail.com with the number of members of your family who are attending and the dish you would like to bring, e.g., salad, side dish, entree or dessert. Drinks will be provided. Please use the Fellowship Hall entrance in the back of the church.

COLLEGE OF ELDERS GATHERING

All currently serving Session members and folks who have been ordained as an Elder in the PCUSA (whether here at FPCA or another church) are invited to attend a gathering on April 23, 2011, 8:30-10:00 a.m. in Chapel. The topic of conversation will be Ordination Standards in the PCUSA and the Future of our Denomination.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND THE BLUE SCARF



Knitters- Pick Up Your Needles! The Child Advocacy Center of Lehigh County (www.caclc.org) serves children and families to help prevent child abuse and to provide healing and justice for victims of abuse. Since the blue ribbon is used to raise awareness about child abuse, one of CACLC's goals is to provide a blue scarf to every school child. Inside each scarf, a label will be sewn which provides the phone number to ChildLine, where suspected abuse can be reported. The scarves and labels are a sign of community efforts to prevent abuse.

You are invited to knit or crochet blue scarves, 4 inches by 48 inches, with a little optional fringe. Place completed scarves in the box in the church office closet. This is an ongoing project with no deadline; however, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, so how about starting your blue scarf now? If you purchase your blue yarn at Tucker's, 950 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, mention that you are participating in this project and you'll receive a discount. Your knitting will bring warmth and a message of care to a child. Questions: contact Gay Tuttle at: 610-435-4092, lguttule@ptd.net.

KELLER SCHOLARSHIP BROCHURES AND APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW

Brochures and applications are available for the 2011 Natalie Theresa Keller Scholarship, intended to assist those who desire to pursue a career focusing on the nurturing of children. This might include, though is not limited to, day care, childhood education, health care, social work, or ministry. Community service, church activities, and other activities and interests will be considered. The amount of the award is determined each year by the scholarship committee, with a minimum award of \$1,000.

Application forms are available at the Welcome Centers and the church office lobby. You can also download the application from the church's website (www.fpcallentown.org). The deadline for completed application forms and letters of reference is April 15. Applications will be reviewed by May 15, followed by personal interviews with the most qualified applicants. The scholarship(s) will be awarded in June.

EXTRA HELP NEEDED IN NURSERY ON EASTER DAY



One of the ways we show Christian hospitality is to offer childcare at each worship service. We often have new families and children with us on Easter morning, and we want to make sure they feel welcome and comfortable here. To do this we need your help! We are looking for Safe Sanctuary-trained volunteers to help in the nursery during these times:

Easter Sunday, April 24th
 8:15 - 9:45 a.m.
 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.
 10:45 a.m. - noon

Please contact Lindsay Harren-Lewis at 610-395-3781, ext. 15 for questions or to sign up.

COME TO THE EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m., beginning in the Fellowship Hall, bring your own basket or bag to collect the eggs. Participation is limited to two-year olds through second graders.

The Easter Egg Hunt is being offered as a free gift from our Middle School Fellowship, but registration is required. Please complete and return the registration form to the church office or e-mail caley.oels@fpcallentown.org the information below. Forms are also available in the church office lobby and on the church's website.

(Cut Here)

Easter Egg Hunt Registration

Child's Name _____

Choose ONE of the following:

Age (2, 3, 4, 5) OR Grade (K, 1st, 2nd) _____

Return to the church office no later than Sunday, April 17.



EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS: PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORM AND CONTRIBUTIONS BY APRIL 15!

Over the years, many of our church members and friends have remembered loved ones by giving flowers for the Easter services. After these plants brighten the church, volunteers will then take the flowers to our homebound and special needs members. If you would like to make a contribution to this year's Easter flower memorials, please send your contributions, along with the completed order form, to the church office by Friday, April 15. There is no fixed amount for contributions, as gifts range from \$5 to \$50 or more. If you have any questions, please contact Marti White (610-966-5998).

EASTER FLOWER DELIVERY

"Share the Good News of Easter" with our homebound members by delivering Easter flowers to them. Sign up in the Library on April 10th, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. Pick up the flowers that decorate our church on Easter at 12:00 p.m. and deliver at your own convenience. Call June Gordon @ 610-395-3519, with any questions.

In Loving Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



Given By: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I would like to help deliver Easter Flowers to our homebound members, please contact me.

UPCOMING LENTEN ORGAN CONCERTS

The Lenten Series continues on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

The next performing organists are:

- 🎵 April 12: Barry Holben, Vice President, Sales for the Allen Organ Company and organist for Christ United Church of Christ of Bethlehem
- 🎵 April 19: Michael Kuhnert, Organist and John Schwartz, Pianist from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Quakertown

Each Tuesday evening recital will begin with a brief time of worship led by various members of our congregation. An offering will not be received for these Lenten recitals. The programs are provided by the Concert Series and are intended to follow the small group study based on, "24 Hours That Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton. The concerts of organ music are expected to be a time for reflection and inspiration through the music of the Lenten season.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Friends,

All your prayers, cards, gifts and concern for me and for our family at the time of Dave's passing will always be remembered with sincere and heartfelt thanks. The promises of our faith and the love and support of each of you have held us and surrounded us during this difficult season in our lives. Words are completely inadequate when we attempt to express our deep appreciation for all of your love and care. Please accept our sincere and grateful thanks.

Fondly,
Gloria Snyder and family

LUTHER CREST TO HOST PASSOVER SEDER DINNER

Would you like to experience the beautiful tradition and the distinctive foods of a Passover Seder? (As you may know, Passover is a Jewish commemoration of deliverance from bondage. According to the gospels, the "Last Supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples occurred around the time of the celebration of Passover.)

On Thursday, April 14, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, Dr. Tamar Earnest will lead a model Seder service, which will include a full, buffet-style meal. Cost is \$15.00. For reservations or questions, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210) by Thursday, April 7, 2011.

MISSION MOMENT: WITH JUST A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT

The item about the death of Tony Silva in the last issue of Tidings prompted this further reflection on outcomes of First Presbyterian's mentoring program 10 years ago.

The people we mentored all left us with many memories and gave me a much deeper faith. Working with Damon, Zaiquan (AJ) and Isaiah for so many years helped me to see into their world and the difficulties that they faced each day. I learned so much from them.

There is a happier story to tell about Paris and Rodney, another family we worked with, as they have been doing very well. Their boys are both in high school. One continues to receive help and direction for his autism and is learning how he needs to handle some of his difficult issues. The other is very interested in Journalism and English, and will be the editor of the high school paper next year. Paris is anxious to get back to work after recently being injured on the job, having back surgery and going through physical therapy. She has been on the board for the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley and continues to mentor others who are going through some of the difficult times that they endured over the years. Rodney has had steady work driving a truck for the past few years, and enjoys his time behind the wheel. They have purchased a home in Bethlehem, and Rodney has made many improvements in his spare time. They are very grateful for the help from FPCA members over the years, and are a great example of how, with just a little encouragement from others and with major determination on their part, one family can change their lives in a very dramatic way. I am very fortunate to have them as my friends.

Sandy Meenen

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

On Palm Sunday, as palms wave in joy around the world, our children and youth will bring in their fish banks jingling with coins, given with love for people they don't know. Those coins are making a difference around the United States and the world. As part of the PC (USA) special offering, *One Great Hour of Sharing*, those coins are divided among three important programs: Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Self-Development of People works with economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people to promote long-term change in their lives and communities. One example of their many projects includes supporting a low-income group in Chicago with learning to compost and grow their own food. Any excess produce grown can be sold to increase the income of the group members. You can support *One Great Hour of Sharing* through special designated envelopes- and remember to encourage the children and youth to feed their fish banks!

GREENING CREATION TIP

Creating individual or community gardens? Use native plants, which are adapted to the typical rainfall of your area, meaning you water your garden less. Pollinators that are used to grow food have often co-evolved with native plants, so you are also helping to supply additional food and variety for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.



SPECIAL JULY VISIT BY OUR THAILAND/BURMA MISSIONARY

Last year, over 140 of you welcomed Amy Galetzka, our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Special Interest Missionary in Thailand working for Burma. This year Amy is returning to visit us on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 with her supervisor, the head of Free Burma Rangers, Dave Eubank. The Free Burma Rangers are the main aid group for Burma. Also, planning to join them on this visit, will be Myra Dahgaypaw from Washington D.C., who is the Campaigns Coordinator for U.S.

Campaign for Burma and 2010 Genocide Intervention Network Carl Wilkens Fellow. Amy and Dave's mission work includes interfacing with the Free Burma Rangers which is a non-profit pro-democracy resistance group in Burma. The Free Burma Rangers assist in bringing food, medicine and supplies to the displaced people of Burma. Myra provides special advocacy projects for the people of Burma. We are planning a panel discussion for that evening. Please mark Wednesday, on your calendar, to learn more about the situation in Burma and how we can help.

YOUTH AND ADULTS: STEPPING OUT IN FAITH TOGETHER (continued)

“I will go Lord, if you lead me.” Do you feel God calling you to step outside the doors of the church and do His work in the world, but you aren’t sure where to go and what to do? Here is an exciting opportunity for all *completed 9th-12th grade youth, their youth ministry leaders and adults age 21 and over. Your gifts and skills of all levels are needed* for the June 26-July 2 Youth and Adult Workcamp.

Carpooling in a caravan, our destination is Harvest House, Buffalo, New York. We’ll do our own cooking and sleep on the floor (air mattresses welcomed), as we answer God’s call through a variety of mission opportunities, including: construction renovation projects with Habitat for Humanity; interacting with people and playing with children at a local agency; and participating in a major cleaning project at First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo.

Together, youth and adults, we will put our faith into action.



We’ll enjoy intergenerational fellowship through our time working and seeing some of the sights of the Greater Buffalo area. We’ll watch a baseball game - the visiting team will be our local Iron Pigs! We’ll enjoy seeing Niagara Falls, (American side only, no passports needed) and we’ll take a ride on the infamous, Maid of the Mist, for a close-up experience of the fall’s awesome power. The Youth fee of \$150.00 is subsidized by Youth Ministry fundraising throughout the year. The Adult fee of \$250.00 may be lower depending upon fundraising. All adults will need to be Safe Sanctuaries trained which can be accomplished on-line at our church’s website.

A \$50.00 deposit is due by the registration deadline: April 17.

For more detailed information, please see the flyers in the Welcome Centers or on the Mission Committee Bulletin Boards near the kitchen and alongside Fellowship Hall.

Space is limited so contact Caley Oels in the church office at Caley.oels@fpcallentown.org or 610-395-3781, Ext. 11.

Step out in faith, let the Lord lead you and your heart will sing, “Here I am, Lord.”

YOUTH MINISTRY**INSTRUCTIONS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN**

All 6th – 8th graders who registered to participate on the Middle School Lock-In taking place Friday, April 15 into Saturday, April 16 are reminded to arrive at the church office entrance at 8:00 p.m. on Friday night. You will need to be picked up at the same location on Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. Contact Noha Khoury (610-395-3781, ext. 43; noha.khoury@fpcallentown.org, if you have any questions.

THE YOUTH TALENT SHOW — THANK YOU

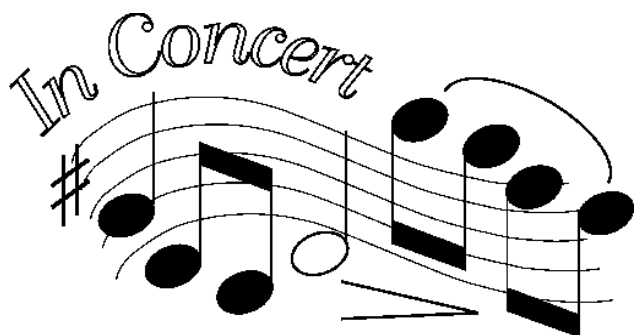
This year’s annual Youth Talent Show took place on Sunday, March 27, at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and was a great time of fellowship, desserts, and talent! A special thank you goes out to Caitlin Kohl for coordinating the acts and program, and Ginny Gugliemini for coordinating the desserts and refreshments! Also, a BIG thank you to Adam Groff and Dan Leiby for being this year’s MC’s and to all the youth who performed or volunteered with tech crew! And last but not least, events like these could not happen without all the support from our church family. So our youth extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped support the Youth Talent Show by providing baked goods and, most importantly, coming and enjoying the Show!

YOUTH SPIRIT CARDS FOR SALE

Stop by for your gift cards and help support our Summer Youth Ministry Program. Cards are for sale on Sundays in the hallway outside Fellowship Hall from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

April 17

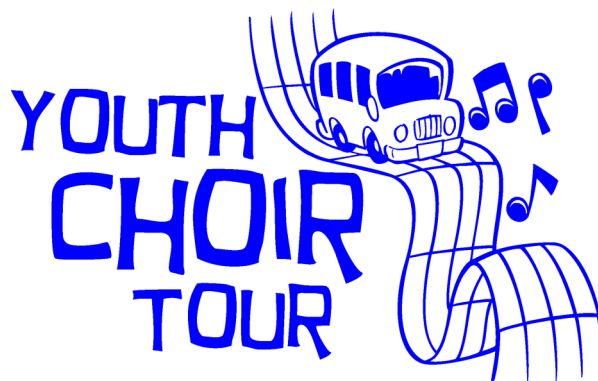
36th Youth Choir Tour Program



4:00 p.m.

**In the Sanctuary
Sunday, April 17**

Before our Youth Choir heads off on their 36th Tour, this year to Richmond, Virginia from April 28-May 1, they will share their offering of music with all of us.



During the Youth Choir Tour Program the youth and adults participating on this year's Tour will be commissioned for this important ministry.

Please invite other family and friends to come and hear one of the largest youth choirs in the Presbyterian Church (USA) sing to the glory of God.

2011 NOMINATION OF MEMBERS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

The Congregational Nominating Committee is searching for individuals (including youth who are confirmed members of our congregation) with the skills and spiritual gifts needed for service as Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and members of next year's Congregational Nominating Committee.

Nominees should be willing to give significant amounts of time in service and leadership, representing a wide spectrum of ages, backgrounds, interests, and previous service.

Description of the offices:

- **Elders** are the spiritual leaders of the congregation and serve on the session, the church's governing body. The term of office is three years.
- **Deacons** extend ministry to those in need, the sick, the friendless, and those in distress. The term of office is three years.
- **Trustees** perform the corporate duties of the church; overseeing the management of the building and grounds and investment of funds. The term of office is three years
- **At-large members of the Congregational Nominating Committee** present a slate of potential officers to the congregation in the Fall. The commitment involves approximately 4 meetings starting in April and May and continuing through October. The term is one year.

It is not necessary to secure the permission of another member before submitting their name for a given office. If you feel called to serve, you are encouraged to submit your own name.

Although we are not able to nominate every person whose name is submitted, we will carefully and prayerfully consider each recommendation. It will be helpful if you can give us some information about the person you are naming so that we can make informed decisions.

Church Officer Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____ Telephone: _____

Nominating for the following church office (choose one or more as appropriate):

- Elder Deacon Trustee Member, Nominating Committee

Using the space below or on additional paper as needed, tell us about your candidate (faith commitment, spiritual gifts, interests, talents, church activities, previous experience, commitments to attendance at worship and other qualities:

Deadline for nominations is Sunday, May 15th

Please submit your completed form to the church office or place it in the offering plate at worship.

The 2011 Nominating Committee – Tom Myers, Chairperson (610-366-0585) teek@rcn.com

Additional forms are available in the Welcome Centers and Church Office.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 AM

ADULT SEMINAR:

Fellowship Hall

April 10: "Revelations as Written in the Qur'an" on the end of Times for now.

These April seminars are presented by Walter Wagner.

April 17: "Revelations as Written in the Book of Mormon" on the end of Times for now.

The series opens us to key points and challenges about "End Times" from three religions that claim to have divinely revealed scriptural views about the end of this world. Each "End Time" version calls for actions NOW.

NOTE: **April 3, 2011** session was: **"Revelations as Written in the Bible."**

Biography of Walter Wagner: A previous presenter of many Seminars at First Presbyterian.

Walter Wagner's undergraduate work was at Gettysburg College. He holds Master's degrees from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton Theological Seminary. He was granted a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Drew University. Walter is the author of three books: *After the Apostles: Christianity in the Second Century*; *The Zinzendorf-Muhlenberg Encounter: a Controversy In Search Of Understanding*. *His Opening the Qur'an: Introducing Islam's Holy Book*, published by University of Notre Dame Press, has won two "Best Book Awards." It was issued in paperback in Fall 2010. Currently he is working on a study of death and the afterlife in Christianity and Islam.

BIBLE DISCOVERY: WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

Room 124/Thrygve Meeker

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE BIBLE CLASS

Room 115/ Becky Ensley

EXPLORING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Room 217/ Mike Loomis

We are journeying through the Book of Acts, and learning how the early church grew through the actions of the apostles and the Holy Spirit. If you've been meaning to read the Bible and could benefit from the insight and encouragement of others to keep you on track, this is the class for you. Newcomers are welcome!

PRESBY PERK: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT BEING CHRISTIAN

Commons/ Pam Weiss

Join us Sunday mornings in the Commons for Coffee House style discussions. Pam Weiss leads us in looking at issues that directly affect how we understand ourselves as Christians, especially as they relate to how we live our daily lives.

TREXLER BIBLE CLASS

Witherspoon Room/ Tom Ritter

WEEKDAY CLASSES

RETIRED PERSONS BIBLE STUDY: THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Chapel

Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

All are welcome – retired, semi-retired, or not retired at all!

April 13, *The Good Samaritan* (Luke 10:25-37), Tony Sundermeier.

WEDNESDAY MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP – 6:45 a.m.

Commons /Tony Sundermeier

WEDNESDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – 7:30 p.m.

Witherspoon Room/ Mike Loomis

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY – 7:00 p.m.

Room 124/ Curtis and Darlis Fouts

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Fridays 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Room 115/ Marijo Taylor, Pam Weiss

SATURDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP – Every other Saturday, 7:30- 9:00 a.m.

Room 217

Please call Mike Loomis (610-398-1366) for further details.

LENTEN DINNER AND STUDY

Lenten Dinners and Studies meet every Tuesday from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. in Room 115, beginning with a light meal. At 5:30 p.m., a brief study on the theme of "paradox" is presented. Sign-up sheets are located in the Atrium and Church Office.

April 12: Matthew 20:16, Richard Smith; **April 19:** Philippians 2:5-11, Tony Sundermeier.



IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY (Parish #)

(as of 12:00 p.m. Tuesday)

OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS are with those who have been hospitalized recently. So that we might keep each other in prayer, it is the custom of this congregation to publish hospitalizations unless requested not to do so. *At Lehigh Valley Hospital (I-78)*: Russ Smart (#9), Robert Shurts (#24), Ralph Longworth (#8), Leslie Nichols (#11), Matthew Kane; *At Good Shepherd Rehab Hospital*: Bill Somers (#8); *At Luther Crest H.C.C.*: Mari (McDowell) Stammerjohn (#19); *At Lehigh Center*: Helen Potts (#10); *At Commonwealth Health Rehab Center, Fairfax, VA*: Edith Nebhut (#33).

HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL: Joann Merlet (#18), Jon Dubbs (#1), Grayce Motsay (#28), Nayfeh Abraham (#3), Martin Krueger (#25).

BIRTHS: Congratulations to Dori and Kevin Kiska (#8) on the birth of their granddaughter, Ava Grace Collier, on March 11. Parents are daughter and son-in-law, Amy and Doug Collier and big brother Drew; Gayle and Pat Toselli and family (#11) on the birth of their granddaughter, Ainslee Gabrielle Foote on March 26. Parents are daughter and son-in-law, Brian and Megan (Toselli) Foote.

MILESTONES: Dianne & Alex Ceschin will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on April 14.

SYMPATHY OF THE PASTORS AND CONGREGATION TO: Jean Merriman and family (#19) on the death of Donald R. Merriman, husband of Jean on March 24; to Lauren and Ron Kreitz (#24) and Kelley Kreitz (#24), Amy, Jake, Jaxon and Jamie Kimball (#29) on the death of Juanita Kelley, mother of Lauren, grandmother of Kelley and Amy, and great-grandmother of Jaxon and Jamie on March 27, Thomas K. Johnson and wife, Mary Ann and family (#11), on the death of Helen K. Johnson, mother of Thomas on March 27.

THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT: Donald R. Merriman (#19) on March 24; Juanita Kelley (#18) on March 27; Helen K. Johnson (#19) on March 27.

If you'd like to send cards or letters to those in the hospital, please contact Kathy Mammele, Director of Pastoral Care (610-395-3781 Ext. 39).

STAFF PRAYER LIST

On April 12, 2011 the staff will pray for the following members of our church family who comprise a **PORTION** of Parish #19. Coordinators are Connie and Bob Bear. Christine, Jeff, Cameron, Curt and Collin McConnell; Ken, Krissy, Bryan, Erin and Kaitlyn McCreary; Christine Medinger; Jim and Jane Meloskie and Edith Frederick; Jean Merriman; Marge Miller; Elizabeth Moatz; Kate, Shaun, Brooke and Julia O'Brien; Brian, Amy, Maxwell and Samantha Paine; Dorothy Papp.

On April 19, 2011 the staff will pray for the following members of our church family who comprise a **PORTION** of Parish #19. Coordinators are Connie and Bob Bear. Wendi, Gary, Brian and Christina Powell; Adam and Becky Rath; Lois Rich; Elizabeth, David, Allan, Emilie, Brandon and Olivia Rush; Terry, Tammi, Andrew and Abby Schantz; Kimberly and Drew Schmidt; Mike and Rachel Sechrist; Jean Sideroff; Todd and Sonya Siegfried; Terry and Diane Slager.



GREEN PUBLICATIONS: *Tidings!* is available online! If you'd like to help our contributed dollars go to our church's work instead of the cost of office supplies and postage, and help the environment too, please contact the church office to have your name added to our online *Tidings!* list (610-395-3781 or office@fpcallentown.org.)

Sunday, April 10

Baptism Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Easter Flower Delivery Sign-up
- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Arabic Worship Service
Church School (All Ages)
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Retreat Returns
- 1:30 p.m. Summer Intern Committee
- 4:00 p.m. Cantate Domino Rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Middle & High School Fellowships
- 6:45 p.m. Board of Deacons

Monday, April 11

- All Day Church Photo Directory
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 11:30 a.m. Weekday Preschool Lunch Bunch
- 6:00 p.m. Property and Landscaping Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Jr. Girl Scout Troop #611
- 7:00 p.m. Family to Family
Peace and Justice Prayer Vigil
Trustees
Monday Night Serenity
(Al-Anon)
- 7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesday, April 12

- All Day Church Photo Directory
- 8:30 a.m. Aerobic Dance Class
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
Pre-School
- 9:15 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Club
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner and Program
- 5:30 p.m. ESL Class
Tuesday Night Together
- 6:00 p.m. Third Sunday Band
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Organ Concert
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee
Tuesday Night Together
Adult Education Committee

Wednesday, April 13

- All Day Church Photo Directory
- 6:45 a.m. Men's Discipleship Group
- 9:00 a.m. Sewing & Quilting
Weekday Preschool
- 9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Co-op
- 9:30 a.m. Belles
- 10:00 a.m. Craft Group
- 10:30 a.m. Autumn Gospel Group
- 12:00 p.m. Lehigh Co. Mental Retardation
- 4:30 p.m. Safety Committee
- 5:30 p.m. Yoga Class
Safety Committee
- 6:30 p.m. Brownie Girl Scouts #6232
Daisy G.S. Troop #6027

Thursday, April 14

- 8:30 a.m. Aerobic Dance Class
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 12:00 p.m. Lenten Midday Prayer Service
- 12:30 p.m. Spiritual Formation Staff
- 5:30 p.m. ESL Class
- 6:30 p.m. Daisy #6051
Handbells
- 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training
Thursday Bible Study
Arabic Women's Bible Study
Multicultural Task Force
Communications Committee
Boy Scout Troop #107
GS Service Unit Meeting
Al-Anon
- 7:30 p.m. Adult Handbells
Local Mission Team
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

Friday, April 15

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study
- 8:00 p.m. Middle School Lock -in Begins

Saturday, April 16

- 7:30 a.m. Saturday Men's Group
- 8:30 a.m. Inquirer's Meeting
Middle School Lock-in Ends
- 10:00 a.m. Dower Memorial Service

Sunday, April 17

Palm/Passion Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Arabic Worship Service
Church School (All Ages)
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Choir Tour Program
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir Tour Meeting

Monday, April 18

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 11:30 a.m. Weekday Preschool Lunch
Bunch
- 6:30 p.m. Jr. Girl Scout #611
- 7:00 p.m. Family to Family
Monday Night Serenity
(Al-Anon)
The Better Portion
- 7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesday, April 19

- 8:00 a.m. Crime Victims Council Flower
Sale
- 8:30 a.m. Aerobic Dance Class
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
- 9:15 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Club
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner and Study

Tuesday, April 19, continued

- 5:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Leader Meeting
ESL Class
- 6:00 p.m. Third Sunday Band
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Organ Concert
- 7:00 p.m. Because I Love You
Staff Committee

Wednesday, April 20

- 6:45 a.m. Men's Discipleship Group
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Preschool
Sewing & Quilting
- 9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Co-op
- 9:30 a.m. Belles
- 10:00 a.m. Craft Group
- 10:30 a.m. Autumn Gospel Group
- 5:30 p.m. Yoga Class
Greening Creation
- 6:30 p.m. Daisy G.S. Troop #6973
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
DBSA
Spiritual Formation Vision Team
- 7:30 p.m. Refugee Steering Committee
- 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Men's Bible Study

Thursday, April 21

Maundy Thursday

- 8:30 a.m. Aerobic Dance Class
- 10:00 a.m. Worship - Communion
- 12:30 p.m. Spiritual Formation Staff
- 5:30 p.m. ESL Class
- 6:45 p.m. Chancel/Youth Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training
Communications Committee
Al-Anon
Thursday Bible Study
- 7:30 p.m. Worship - Communion
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

Friday, April 22

Good Friday

- 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Vigil
- 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae

Saturday, April 23

- 8:30 a.m. College of Elders
- 9:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt Set-up
- 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
- 8:30 p.m. College of Elders Gathering

Sunday, April 24

Easter Sunday

- 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise—Communion
- 8:30 a.m. Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Arabic Worship Service
Church School (All Ages)
- 10:30 a.m. All Church School Classes
Dismissed
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

THIS SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

April 10, 2011

Baptism Sunday

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. services

Rev. Michael Drake

Sermon: *The Torture and Humiliation of the King*

Scripture: Mark 15:16-23

Music at 8:30: Cantate Domino

Music at 11:00: Chancel Choir

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

April 17, 2011

Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. services

Rev. Tony Sundermeier

Sermon: *Palm Sunday and The Crucifixion*

Scripture: Mark 15:25-39;
Mark 11:1-11

Music at 8:30: Youth Choir
Choristers

Adult Handbell Choir

Music at 11:00: Chancel Choir

Westminster Choir

Adult Handbell Choir

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Ushers – April 10

8:30 a.m. - *Randy Schneider, Captain*; Mary Ellen Bacon; Lily & Lydia Day; Bev & Dave Dries; Sharon Hardenberg; Janet Imdorf; Marilyn, Rick, Daniel, & Mark Leiby; Enid & Niels Nielson; Karen & Scott Richards; Reneé Saleh; Emily Schneider.

11:00 a.m. - *Kevin Boucher, Captain*; Christopher, Laurie & Noelle Boucher; Dorrie Graul; Jim Guill; Jim Joseph; Clyde Myers; Roseann Sandt; Barbara & Chris Showalter.

Ushers – April 17

8:30 a.m. - *Robert Bungerz, Captain*; Larry & Sherry Deal; Joe Fortenbaugh; Lisa Gilchrist; Alan & Denise Jennings; Ed Kelchner; Judi Kramer; Larry & Marion Oxley; Tom Ritter; Kathy Schmied; Tracey Shreve; Jane & Paul Slick.

11:00 a.m. - *Linda Trower, Captain*; Catherine & William Bleiler; Lauren & Suzanne Jones; Alex, Mary, Richard & Will Newbegin; Dom Pascarella; Gail Preuninger; Bruce Rodenberger.

Office Volunteers

April 10: Judi Kramer (8:00); Luella Shoemaker (10:00)

April 17: Emily Schneider (8:00); *Volunteer Needed* (10:00)

Dial-A-Ride Volunteers

April 10: John Lovis & Linda Trower

April 17: George & Sharon Baker

Audio Room Volunteers

April 10: Jim Henry (8:30); Bruce Miller (11:00)

April 17: Mark Monahan (8:30); Tim Fritz (11:00)