



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEEP RUN

October 2010
Deep Runner



“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.” Hebrews 12:1-2

Some thoughts.....

My grandson just went to college at the University of Vermont. It is a big transition for everyone. I gave him a couple of gifts that I thought would be helpful and then added a map of Vermont. I thought that it might be helpful for him to have a map to help acclimate himself to an entirely new environment. It was something I learned when I went to college, “Get a map. Every gas station gives them away.”

I know the world has changed since I was his age. I know about GPS, Mapquest, Google maps, Smart phones. But when I thought about things that would be helpful to him going away from home for the first time my mind instinctively went to “give him a map.”

I think that’s how we human beings are. Once we have learned something we tend to revert to it even when we know the world has changed. The music we loved as young adults is still appealing in spite of the fact that it’s no longer popular. It seems our brains love to automatically revert to those original comfort zones.

That love of our comfort zones can create pretty deep ruts over the years and get us into well entrenched patterns. And getting out of those ruts is hard, hard work.

A few years ago Tom Bandy wrote a book, Kicking Habits, in which he described those well-entrenched patterns as addictive. He said churches need to be just as careful of them as addicts are with the substance of choice. Those old patterns—get a map, listen to the golden oldies, (you pick your favorite pattern) are so seductive we revert to old things even when we don’t want to.

I know my questions over the last two years have created lots of hard work and questioned the old routine. Hopefully, they have helped you all rethink some of the old routines.

I’m also aware that the arrival of a new pastor will do two things. One, it will create lots of excitement and energy about a new phase of ministry at PCDR. Two, there will be an inevitable tendency to return to the old routines.

In this transition it is very important for everyone to remember that the new pastor may ask questions and push ideas that I have never thought about. Your next pastor may do, say, or ask things that you never thought about.

What we have to do is trust that God is at work through all of this, leading PCDR into a deeper commitment to ministry. We have to trust that God is active in all that is happening in this whole transition and that God will not leave us.

Shalom,
Byron

Another thought.....

What I just wrote and something I said Sunday leads me to add this comment, because I think I should include it for everyone not just those who heard me Sunday.

I said that this PNC you all elected has been the most thorough and deliberate PNC I have seen in their discernment process. From the beginning I thought they were an excellent group, but as I have observed their thoroughness I have been more and more impressed at their thorough, deliberate process. I have no doubt they will bring you an excellent candidate at the end of their process.

I think you should congratulate them for their thoroughness.

Shalom,
Byron

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## Thank You Notes:

Dear Friends at Deep Run,

We would like to thank you all for your outpouring support for our family at the death of our son Donald. The cards, prayers, calls, dinners have been most thoughtful.

With grateful thanks,  
in HIS love,  
The SantaCroce family

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers, cards, phone calls, get well wishes and prayers during my visit to the hospital in July.

Since that time, I have been hooked up to oxygen 24/7 and it is not easy for me to get around. As a result, you won't be seeing me too often.

I do want you to know that your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again.

- Mary Lutterer



Search Process of just how things work so no one is surprised at the end.

A congregation chooses a Pastor Nominating Committee to search for its next pastor. That committee is trained and works confidentially at its pace, discerning the candidate God has for the next pastor.

When they have finished their process they present their candidate to the Presbytery Committee of Ministry and to the congregation for approval. The candidate leads worship and then there is a congregational meeting.

The committee **does not present** several candidates from which the congregation chooses one. The committee does all the screening for the congregation and presents their best candidate.

Shalom,  
Byron

## From the Pastor Nominating Committee

You may be asking yourself what the PNC has been doing for the past twelve months or so. As we approach the end stage of our process, we thought it would be helpful to share with you what we have been doing.

We spent a good deal of time in the months of September and October of 2009 getting to know one another personally. We prayed together, dwelled in the Word, and worked on team building exercises with our Committee on Ministry liaison, Sarah Weber. This was done to familiarize each of us with other PNC members and to learn the Presbyterian nominating/discernment process.

From October of 2009 to January of 2010, the PNC wrote the Church Information Form ("CIF") and prepared for the interviewing process. Our CIF was approved by Presbytery and published in February of 2010. We soon began to receive Personal Information Forms ("PIF") from potential candidates.

Our PIF Review Policy was as follows:

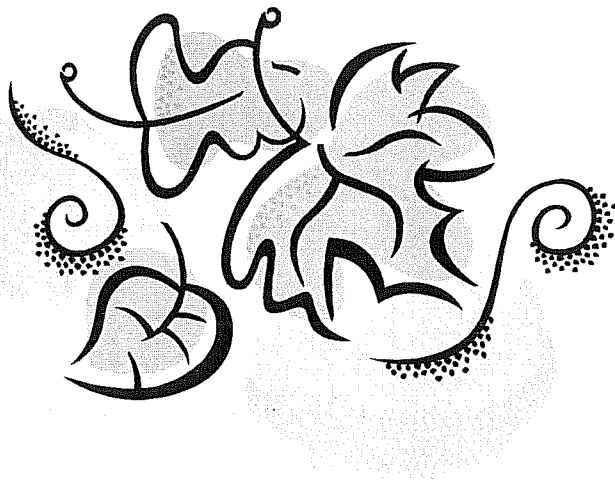
1. Each PIF was assigned to one of two teams for review by each team member.
2. Each team would review and score assigned PIFs based upon experience, education, theology, and compatibility with our CIF and Deep Run.
3. Every week, each team would report its findings to the whole PNC on assigned PIFs. Each candidate was discussed and any member of the PNC had the right to ask that a particular PIF be reconsidered by the full committee.
4. After a thorough review of a PIF (usually over a three-week period), the PNC decided for each candidate to either (1) proceed further, (2) hold

## Associate Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Sharyl will be taking the second week of Interim Training at Princeton, October 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. She will also be in Boston from October 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> to attend a family wedding.

## Pastor Search Conclusion

Given Rick Kempes' announcement on September 12<sup>th</sup>, I thought it appropriate that I remind everyone who may not be familiar with the Presbyterian Pastoral



or (3) end consideration of that candidate. Those in the “hold” or “end consideration” categories were notified. Telephone interviews were scheduled for those moving on.

Over 120 PIFs were reviewed using the process outlined above.

Our next step was to schedule a group telephone interview using our telephone conferencing system. PNC members unable to physically attend the interview for a particular candidate frequently participated by cell phone. Questions were standardized with PNC members being assigned specific questions, note taking and scoring responsibilities. Between May and July, over 25 telephone interviews were conducted with candidates. Most interviews exceeded one hour.

After the phone conference, each candidate was discussed by the PNC after a “cooling off” period of at least two days. Each member shared his or her interview notes during this discussion. Candidates meriting continued review were asked to provide sermons. Sermon tapes and CDs were listened individually or as a group. Sermon DVDs were listened to only as we wanted all candidates to be treated equally.

If PNC interest in a candidate continued after listening to sermons, we requested clearance on the candidate by Presbytery. If clearance was forthcoming, we scheduled a second interview using “Skype”, a system that permitted the PNC and the candidate to interact in a “semi-live” format. Five candidates were “Skyped”, a process that took about one and one-half hours per candidate. Areas of questioning for each candidate were specifically prepared based on all prior contact with the candidate.

After the “Skype” interview, candidates in whom we were still interested were discussed further. Each candidate’s references were personally contacted by a PNC member and notes of the reference telephone call were shared with other PNC members. Several meetings were then held to determine which candidates would be invited to visit Pennsylvania.

Live visits included interviews, tours of Bucks County and the Deep Run campus, and preaching at a neutral site. These visits usually included meals with the candidate on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Areas of live questioning were pre-approved based on all knowledge of the candidate and information provided by references. On Sunday, the candidate would be transported to the neutral church and PNC members would listen to the candidate preach. Altogether, an opportunity for extended, intense interaction between the PNC members and the candidate.

So, that’s what we’ve been doing. Although we are not yet at liberty to request our discharge as a PNC, be assured that we all believe that we are close. We have felt and continue to be moved by the Holy Spirit in this

process. We have learned to care for one another and have made every effort to treat each candidate with dignity and respect.

Please continue to pray for the PNC and for Deep Run. Your continued prayers and support have sustained us on our journey to find a new pastor for our wonderful Deep Run.

## Thoughts from the Elders

### Nancy Brosius:

I hope you have been noticing over the last 2 ½ years that your Session members have become much more visible to you in the worship services and announcements, etc. than in the past. Since Keith’s departure the elders, deacons and other lay people in our church have really stepped up and taken leadership roles in all phases of our church’s life. As a former Session member now rejoining this group, I have become aware of how much hard work and tough decisions this group has had to make over the past 2 years and how much more conscientious they all are toward their positions as church leaders. It is our plan and hope to be able to continue this strong lay leadership role after the new pastor arrives. But none of this matters unless the entire congregation is aware of how much responsibility your elders have shouldered and will continue to shoulder, so please remember us and all the other leaders of our church regularly in your prayers, make us aware of your concerns, and hug an elder today!!

### Pat Edwards:

I have been blessed to be a member of this church for many, many years. I grew up in our church and not only have I grown physically from a child to an adult here, but have grown spiritually, also. To say that I have seen changes over the years would be an understatement. But, the changes that have occurred over the past two years during this interim process have been profound and will serve to move us into the next phase of our work in the church.

This is my second time serving as an elder. During my first experience, I was the Personnel Elder. I was in charge of the church staff and the nursery school staff. This is what I took care of. While I served with others on the Session, I was most concerned with just this aspect of the church. The other elders would take care of the other aspects - Adult Education, Christian Education, Property, etc. We would each report to the other members about what was happening in our areas of responsibility. When I was elected to the Session this time, I came on as Outreach Elder and the scenario was the same until our beloved pastor left. At that time the

elders were left with the choice of keeping things the same or really taking the opportunity to take a hard look at what we were doing and making some changes. We opted for the latter choice.

Over the last two years we have become more concerned with leading the church as a whole - making hard decisions, in many cases, having open, honest communication with each other, and always praying together - asking the Lord to give us the guidance we need to lead the congregation as He would have us do. We have reorganized and while we still have all the committees that we had in the past, those committees have their own chairs. Reports are given to us before the meetings and we only discuss those items for which decisions need to be made. We all participate in these discussions and are not just focusing on our own particular aspect of the church. There is much discernment about where we are now, where God wants us to be, and what is holding us back from allowing the Spirit to move us in the right direction. We have had conflict in the past, but had a hard time dealing with it. We now have procedures in place to guide us in dealing with any conflict that may occur in the future. We have encouraged, and will continue to encourage, the entire congregation to participate as lay leaders, serve on committees, and participate in mission projects, to name a few.

I see Session more unified than ever before. We are committed to the changes that have been made and know that no longer can we rely on the pastor to do everything for us. The work of the church is for us to do as we will remain here as pastors come and go. We know that the new pastor will expect to walk with us as we move forward, not carry the load for us. The changes that have been made will only make us stronger and give us renewed purpose to do God's work in our community.

We hope that the congregation is as committed as we are to grow and move forward in faith.

**Debbie Hahn:**

When I became a member of Session in January 2008 I did not expect the challenges that our church would soon face. At that time I was the chair of the Nominating Committee and was responsible for communications and technology as well – a three-in-one job. While we struggled to re-define our church we also worked on re-defining our roles as its leaders. We all received our own copies of the *Book of Order* and looked at what the role of the Session was meant to be in the Presbyterian Church. With much prayer and discussion we agreed on a new direction for ourselves and our church. Among other changes, the elders no longer chair committees but work as part of the various teams. I am grateful for the experience I've had to work hard with a wonderful group of people. It gave me the

opportunity to learn that a church is not the building or the pastors but the body of believers.

**Margie Mosher:**

This is my second term as an elder. In comparing my two terms, there is an amazing difference. The last time I was an elder specifically for membership and was responsible for the work of that committee. That along with the decisions and work of the Session was overwhelming. Now lay people head up the committees with elders as liaisons to the Session. Many more members are involved which means more ideas and more enthusiasm. I believe it has added to more energy and fellowship among the members.

**Walt Murphy:**

The Session members wanted to take a few minutes and give the congregation a quick update and synopsis of our individual perspectives. First, let me begin by letting everyone know the Session has been very active over the summer. In the last several months we have had to make many tough and arduous decisions. We realize there have been hurt feelings, questions and misunderstandings with the decisions which were made. I would like the entire Deep Run family to know these decisions were not made quickly or without an enormous amount of prayer and discussion. In addition, I think it is important for everyone to realize the Session is charged with doing what is best for our church for both the long and short terms. In saying that, we have been working on implementing new policies as well as listening to the committees and their reports and ideas. All of the changes we're going through are for the well-being and growth of our church and its members.

In saying all of the above, I feel we are prepared to welcome a new pastor with confidence that our structure and policies are solid and we're ready to move forward. We are very aware that it would be easy to slip back into old habits and we certainly hope this will not happen. There is still quite a bit of work to be completed and ideas to be implemented. We encourage all of our members to get involved so their voices and opinions are heard and talents used. It is very easy to sit back and critique. One of my college professors used to say, "*those that complain the most do the least.*"

I can tell you first hand that service and volunteer work is stressful, frustrating and aggravating as well as rewarding, uplifting and positive. You will experience emotional highs and lows as well as get to know some great people and earn solid friendships.

**Kim Musser:**

Over the past two years Session has had to make decisions that have changed the way Deep Run manages itself. We have chosen a PNC that has worked hard and

long, discerning what is best for our future. Both groups of leaders are on the same page; committed to a better vision for Deep Run. The Session is committed to continuing forward in our work for God and His church.

Our new pastor will come along side Session and, as a team, we will go into our future full of excitement, hope, and faith. We are all one body in Christ. Let us go forward in faith knowing that God is leading us to do great things!

### Mike Post:

The past several years have been an exhilarating period for me as a member and elder of Deep Run. My faith has grown so much working to find and follow God's path for Deep Run. It was clear that we had become sleepy and complacent in our service to God. We always served Him well at the level where we were comfortable but now we are working harder to strive to serve Him at a level that meets God's needs.

The goal of Session is to create an atmosphere in which a new pastor can arrive and move forward with tons of positive energy. We members of Deep Run have made much progress towards our goal. There is so much more to be done.

I am convinced that we are rapidly approaching one of the most exciting times in Deep Run history. More exciting than in 1732 when a group of Scottish immigrants became William Tennet's upper congregation. More exciting than when brave souls left Doylestown PC in 1956 and reinvigorated Deep Run Presbyterian Church. We have a wonderful church here at Deep Run full of caring people who are working together at an exciting level. I am convinced that we need to not only maintain the energy that we are serving God in our community, but need to increase the energy.

When I opened the PCDR website this morning the inspirational message for the day was "The kingdom of God is within you – Luke 17:21." Let us all continue to focus on this wonderful blessing and strive to serve God's will.

### Carol Ramsey:

*"Growth is the only evidence of life."*

- John Henry Newman

There are so many things going on here at PCDR. Every group has something cooking! Youth groups, Adult Education, Property, Finance, Nursery School, Children's Ministry. Have you noticed the church's presence online? My goodness, it's fabulous! Are you on a team that shares communion with our members who cannot come out sometimes to Sunday services? The appreciation expressed, the friendships fostered, the kind and dear hands that prepare communion. Now that's the "fellowship of saints." My communion

visitation group has a high school student on it. You can join, too!

One of the biggest changes last year and continuing this October is the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Wow! It is fun. It is exciting. It's putting service to others into practice.

The Deacons have set up Member Care Teams throughout the church to better address concerns, prayers and real hands-on help.

These areas of change and growth came from the leadership, a leadership that looked at Session and Deacon roles in the *Book of Order* and dreamed. They dreamed and interpreted the *Book of Order* to mean that we wanted a dynamic church which meets the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century congregation. And Session wanted to share the committee leadership. Many areas of growth are spearheaded by congregants - not the Session. Many new ideas are coming from you - not Session. We love that!

Our church has grown in size since I joined in the early 80's. The growing pains have not always been comfortable or easy. One of my responsibilities on Session is Nursery School. The board and teachers met many many times this summer and produced a 14 page document that addresses policies and procedures, insurance and financial procedures, and a child and adult protection policy. They also wrote a 17 page handbook for the staff regarding procedures and protocols. Both of these documents have been to Presbytery several times for approval and to be certain we are doing what was right for our children and staff. The person who led the way on this time-consuming and worthwhile endeavor was not a Session member. It was Geneva Allen.

I am reminded of a song I learned as a child,

*"I am the church, you are the church,  
We are the church-together."*

## Worship Notes

On **October 10<sup>th</sup>** our 1<sup>st</sup> graders will receive their first Bibles from PCDR!

Bring a Friend Sunday will be on **October 17<sup>th</sup>**! So please bring along a friend or family member and share Deep Run with them!

On **October 31<sup>st</sup>**, All Saint's Day, the worship service will honor and remember members of the congregation who passed away in 2010.

Also, mark your calendar: on **March 6, 2011** we will once again celebrate with a service of Scottish Communion.



## Search Begins for Music Director

The Personnel Committee is currently in search of a Music Director. We will be taking applications, but do not plan to hire someone until the new year. This way, our new Pastor will be able to be involved in the selection of the Music Director.

We would like to thank the following people for leading our music program during this interim: Samantha Brannon, Adult Choir; Bill Brosius, Adult Choir and Youth Orchestra; Laurel Stehr, Youth Music; Alaina Wert, Youth Music. All of these people are members of our church and know that this cannot be a long term position, but are willing to help us now when we need it most. We greatly appreciate their help.

## Children's Ministry News

### 5<sup>th</sup> Graders and World Communion Sunday

There aren't a lot of rites of passage in our culture but I appreciate that we as a church do have some markers that encourage our young people in their steps of faith. Communion class is one of those steps. As we explored Matthew 3, Matthew 28, and especially Matthew 26 we had a great conversation about Jesus' love, promises and instructions. Sunday October 3<sup>rd</sup> is World Communion Sunday. We will ask the 5<sup>th</sup> graders to sit as a class and come forward first to celebrate not only that the Christian world is mindful of each other this day at the table but to also celebrate with our young people as they take a step forward in claiming their faith as their own. The students will gather in the 2<sup>nd</sup> pew a little before 9:00.

I hope that you will celebrate with our church family this special service where we are mindful that we are the body of Christ around the world and celebrate with our students this next step in their faith journey.

### 2011 Summer Mission Trip Informational Meeting

Come one, come all to find out about our 2011 mission trip and adventure on Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:32 to 11:07 AM in the library.

Start praying now if you are called to this team!!!

## Youth Choir

We are trying to get a youth choir up and running for this year. This choir is for youth 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up. We will be meeting for 45 minutes on Thursdays. We are having a longer practice time so that we can practice a couple of songs at a time and also have time to warm-up

and explore songs for future performances. There is no exact schedule for when the youth sing yet, but it will be announced in advance, so that everyone can place it on their calendars.

If there are enough older singers, we can also look at the possibility of splitting this group into two groups. The current goal is to have them sing in November, before Thanksgiving and in December, before Christmas.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurel Stehr at [Lnb987@aim.com](mailto:Lnb987@aim.com).

## Youth Groups

There are youth groups for all children of this church: K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade; 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade; and 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 4:00 PM. Calendars for each group will be mailed out and posted on the web site.

We had a great kick-off with a "Sundae on a Sunday," some games, and conversation.

All are welcome to join us on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 PM.

### **K - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Youth Group**

Attention parents of kids in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade! It is not too late to join in on the fun we are planning for the K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Youth Group. We will have music, crafts, games and more throughout the coming year. We will be meeting from 4:00-5:00 PM on the first and third Sundays of each month. We are also looking for parent helpers to run some of the activities on certain weeks. It is easy and fun, so please join in and sign-up to help out if you are interested. Contact Eileen Paynton at [etpaynton@aol.com](mailto:etpaynton@aol.com) or Margo Wensel at [wensel@gmail.com](mailto:wensel@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group**

In September, we had a great combined youth group meeting. There were ice cream, games and a chance for parents to get together to talk about this year's youth groups. In October we will have both our meetings early in the month due to scheduling conflicts. Here is what the schedule looks like:

#### **Sunday October 3 (the first Sunday)**

Our first meeting will be on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Since the Interfaith Housing Network is using a number of rooms in October, please stay tuned for the exact meeting location that day. We will be carving/decorating pumpkins, playing some games, and discussing how we can let God's light shine through us.

We are also shorthanded for this meeting. If there is any way you can stay and lend a hand during this meeting, please contact Laurel at Lnb987@netscape.net.

### **Saturday, October 9**

Our second meeting will be on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. This is our Fall Festival party and is being hosted by the Payntons. This was a very popular event last year - the kids all had a great time. Every family is asked to help out by providing either a nut-free snack or juice boxes. Please RSVP to Eileen at etpaynton@aol.com by Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> to let her know if you are coming, how many will be there and if you are bringing a nut-free snack or juice boxes. We want to try to avoid a having all juice boxes or all nut-free snacks (this is the reason for giving Eileen a heads up about what you are bringing).

Looking ahead to November, be ready to wear your old clothes! We will be painting. We have all of the approvals necessary to do a little painting in our room, the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. There will be a short lesson about stained glass, and then we get a chance to create our own stained glass pattern using paint on one of the walls in the classroom. This is an event where we can really use extra help to guide our youth through the painting process.

There are just a couple of final notes. First, the youth are welcome to bring friends with them to youth group. All we ask are two things – that the friend be in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade and that if someone is hosting the event you ask their permission to bring a friend. The other note is in regards to lessons. You do not need to be a teacher to teach a lesson. You do not need to create your own lesson plan. We have a lot of resources available to us for simple lessons and activities. They lay out activities, talking points and games. If you have an idea of a topic for the youth to discuss, I'm sure we can find a simple lesson for it.

### **7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group**

#### **October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Get to know you - 4:00-6:00 PM**

Come and hang out with some old friends and make some new ones! We will be doing some get to know you activities and doing some planning on our activities for the rest of the year.

#### **October 10<sup>th</sup> - CROP Walk - family option**

#### **October 17 - Scavenger Hunt for FISH 4:00-6:00 PM**

A new twist on collecting items for FISH! We will need parent drivers.

#### **October 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> - Interfaith Hospitality Weekend**

From 5:00 PM on the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM we will be working with the Interfaith Hospitality Network

by helping out with the families staying at our church.

We will be sleeping over, making dinners and breakfasts, and doing activities with the families. Come help with all or part of the weekend. Meet at church at 5:00 PM on Friday and we will finish by the 9:00 AM service on Sunday! Bring a snack, overnight gear, walking shoes, and food items which will be worked out later.

## **From the Nursery School**

It's that most wonderful time of the year - the school year is upon us! After a busy summer of meetings and writing policies, (a special thank you to Pastor Byron, members of Session, Besse Brindle, our nursery school board (+Rick), and church members who provided invaluable help to us), we are glad to get back to the classroom!

We have a lot of exciting fall activities ahead of us - trips to see the scarecrows at Peddler's Village, picking pumpkins at Penn Vermont Farms, taking a Look and Listen walk at Peace Valley Park, a visit from the Dublin Firefighters (with their big red truck!) and our big Halloween party - all in the month of October!

We have just launched our fall fundraiser - Yankee candles! If you are interested in buying some candles, brochures are on the table by the nursery school classrooms. We appreciate your support.

We no longer have any openings in our four year-old classes, but we do have a few openings left in our two year-old toddler class and our three year-old classes.

Stop by and take a peek into our classrooms if you are in the building during the week - all those little happy people will put a smile on your face for sure!

## **Women's Ministry**

### **Women's Ministry Fall Retreat:**

**Tell Me the Stories of Jesus...**

**Parables:** you've heard about them since Sunday school. You know that Jesus told those interesting stories, called parables, to teach us moral lessons. But we underestimate the power of those parables, and the Fall Women's Retreat offers an opportunity to stretch our minds around the idea that parables are profound, often complex, stories that can change our lives. We can never learn too much about the Bible, and a day set aside solely for spiritual growth is a chance to do just that.

The Fall Women's Retreat on October 16, 2010, will focus on **The Gospel of Luke: Parables of Treasure, Decision, Reversal**, presented and led by Carol Ramsey,

Margie Mosher, and Joanna McCormick. We will meet in Hoopes Hall from 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM; the cost is \$20 which includes a continental breakfast and delicious lunch. Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex and the downstairs bulletin board near Hoopes Hall. If child care prevents your attendance, we can help; please let us know on the sign-up sheet if you need child care and it will be provided. Join us for a day of spiritual growth as we discover deeper meanings to the parables of Jesus. We pray you will be there.

Part of the prayer which Jesus taught us contains these words: *Give us each day our daily bread.* Taking His words literally, we ask each Retreat participant to bring something for FISH, and at the end of that day, each participant will have an opportunity to take home a container to fill for Aid for Friends. The Women's Ministry Committee has set a goal of fifty pounds of food - fifty pounds of daily bread to share with those who are in need. With your help, we can meet that goal.

## Men's Ministry

We did hold a meeting for the Men's Breakfast Group in Hoopes Hall at 7:30 AM on September 11. Jim and Eric Larson brought hot coffee, juice, bagel sandwiches and donut holes. The food was great. The lesson was an oldie but goodie, the evolution of the Christian faith in Greece. Dave Stotts was the tour guide in this presentation. It was very informative. Eric went over the review questions for us at the end. The subject was discussed to offer other events for men, at different days and times. Some good ideas came up. If you have a suggestion, contact Eric or myself. We will be happy to look into those possibilities.

Our next meeting will take place in Hoopes Hall at 7:30 AM on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. We will continue our lesson about how our faith played a big role in the founding of this country. You do not have to worry about not seeing earlier segments; each one is complete by itself. Please plan to join us for this wonderful event.

We have a great group of men. I will send an email to the men of the church. If you want to be added to our email list, contact me, Frank Blow, at [fbzplumber@aol.com](mailto:fbzplumber@aol.com). You are welcome to invite friends and relatives; they do not have to be members of our church or faith. All are welcome, but we need to know how many are coming.

The Men's Bible Study Group will meet 6:30 each Monday morning at the Dublin Diner. Contact Glenn Argue at [gargue@comecast.net](mailto:gargue@comecast.net).

I hope you had a great summer.

God Bless,  
Frank Blow

## SALT (Seasoned Adults Learning Together)

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 14, 2010 - Noon**

We opened this season with a field trip to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. We saw a short film on the Shrine and property and then Father Jon took us on a very informative tour of the main sanctuary and the Lower Chapel. In both areas, we saw the Black Madonna. We also visited St. Ann's Chapel, the Stations of the Cross, and the Grotto. We then enjoyed a scrumptious lunch including fried chicken, stuffed cabbage (golabki), and pierogies.

At our October gathering, we will put together goodie boxes for our college students. Mai Cole, Janet Pagenkemper and Val Smith will bring soup. Bread will be provided by Marje Beck, Eleanor Merbler, and Sandy Poust. Tam Larson and Evelyn Tregaskis will bring desserts. We look forward to more seniors joining us.

## Shawl Ministry

We deeply appreciate Georgette Stilwell getting this worthwhile ministry established at our church and coordinating it the past seven years. In response to Georgette's request for someone to continue coordinating the shawl ministry at Deep Run, I volunteered.

Being the hands to do God's work we spend hours knitting and crocheting shawls for our church members and community to show our love and support. Some women make shawls in their free time at home but one of the benefits of doing it together is that we not only see the shawls grow but friendships as well.

We meet in the library prior to the weekly WOW meeting. Doris Cairns and I try to come every week and would welcome you to join us.

See you at 9:15 next Wednesday morning?

- Donna Drexler

## Save the Date

Saturday, November 13, 2010 at 2:30 PM, is the date for the second ONE JOYFUL CHOIR concert. This will be

held as a benefit for the Presbyterian Hospital in Haiti, and will be presented at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. We hope as many as possible will support your church's members who are participating, as well as the hospital. For more information and tickets contact Nancy Brosius.



## Bible 101

The Adult Christian Education Action Team of Deep Run would like to invite all who are interested to a basic Bible 101 course. The study will be Wednesday nights in the library from 7:00 to 8:30 and will run 6 weeks starting October 13<sup>th</sup> and finishing November 17<sup>th</sup>. A brief description of the course is as follows:

*Your Bible! The Study Begins* offers an introduction to the library of books which are the foundation of our faith and provides a refreshing orientation to the book and opens a door of understanding to all other Bible study. Participants will explore basic issues with contents including:

1. What Is the Bible?
2. How Did the Bible Come to Be?
3. What is the Old Testament About?
4. What is the New Testament About?
5. How Has the Bible Been Preserved and Handed On?
6. How Shall We Study the Bible?
7. What Is the Place of the Bible in Our Lives?

There will be child care if requested.

If you are interested in the course, please sign up at the table in fellowship hall following first service or in the narthex following second service.

## Mission

### FISH Update:

From June to August, 280 pounds of food and dry goods were donated to FISH by our congregation.

Current needs:

canned fruit, no applesauce  
canned vegetables  
fruit juices - individual servings  
canned fish, no tuna  
canned meat, no Spam  
pasta sauce  
paper towels and toilet paper  
coffee, tea, and hot chocolate  
cookies and treats  
diapers sizes 3,4,5,6      wipes  
Jello                              cereal  
cake mixes                      bath soap

### Aid For Friends Update:

In our search for a local church that has an active list of clients and are in need of meals and soup, we have located a church in Montgomery County. St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in North Wales provides 15 - 22 clients with meals and soup and was very happy to receive our donations. They had a refrigerator failure

this summer and lost 200 meals. We delivered 58 meals and 33 soup bowls in September. Please keep them coming!

If you know of any potential clients with low income and a need for a visitor and hot meals, please contact me, Karen Johnson, through the church office.

## Presbyterian 102

### Decently and In Order - Part 1

In making decisions Presbyterians listen to each other, to the Bible and to the church's Constitution. Presbyterians are not do-it-yourselfers. We make decisions as a community. Our representative form of government puts significant responsibility on all members of the church. It is not easy to be a Presbyterian. We are continually called upon to decide whom we should elect and what side of multiple issues we should support.

The Presbyterian way of making decisions looks a lot like the way the New Testament church made decisions as recorded in Acts 15:1-21. When there is a disagreement, we turn it over to a chosen group of representatives. In Acts those representatives were the apostles and the elders. They listened to expert testimony from those who knew the issue best – Peter and Paul and Barnabas. There was a lot of dissension and debate. People understood the Old Testament Scriptures differently.

In the end the apostles and elders discerned that a new thing was happening, the conversion of the Gentiles. They discovered that it was in accord with God's plan as revealed in Scripture. Then they made some practical compromises so that the values of differing groups were honored. Their decisions opened the door of the church to us.

Making decisions as Presbyterians is often a slow process that takes a great deal of work. Making decisions this way, however, usually yields wise judgments rooted in God's revelation and our best human reflection. If we listen attentively to the Spirit of God, as we hear the greatest diversity of voices and earnestly seek to be faithful to the Bible and our constitution, we are as likely as humans can be to make good decisions.

- Jack Rogers, *Presbyterians Today*  
[www.pcusa.org/Today](http://www.pcusa.org/Today)

To be continued - Part 2 next month

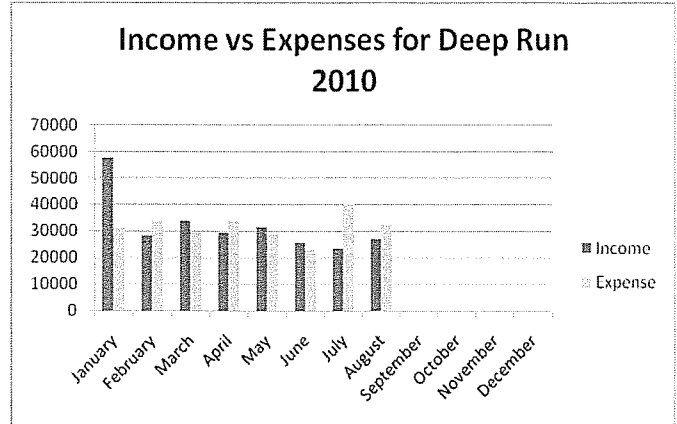
FORWARD IN FAITH  
WITH CHRIST

# Financial Secretary's Report

We want to say "thank you" to all who are supporting Deep Run this fiscal year. We appreciate those of you who are sending in pledges when you are unable to attend a worship service. Deep Run is a good church but let's make it an outstanding church by EVERYONE getting into the practice of supporting financially our work at Deep Run.

As you can see our percentage for offering for the year is at 96%. Our budget was small this past year and we are very glad that we are close to meeting our budget. However we need to meet our budget and go beyond for our programs to be well-financed and our staff paid.

Third quarter statements will be out in the beginning of October. Look at your statement and pray about what your commitment will be for 2011.



- Stewardship Committee

## August 2010 Financial Income Report

	<u>Aug 10</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>				
<b>40000 · Offering</b>				
40010 · Pledge cash/checks	22,150.00	27,121.00	-4,971.00	81.67%
40020 · Non-Pledge cash/checks	995.00	1,666.50	-671.50	59.71%
40030 · Plate cash/checks	525.25	1,250.00	-724.75	42.02%
40040 · Sunday School	26.05	166.50	-140.45	15.65%
40050 · Initial Offering	0.00	86.50	-86.50	0.0%
<b>Total 40000 · Offering</b>	<b>23,696.30</b>	<b>30,290.50</b>	<b>-6,594.20</b>	<b>78.23%</b>

## January through August 2010 Financial Income Report

	<u>Jan - Aug 10</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>				
<b>40000 · Offering</b>				
40010 · Pledge cash/checks	214,497.00	216,968.00	-2,471.00	98.86%
40020 · Non-Pledge cash/checks	10,288.00	13,332.00	-3,044.00	77.17%
40030 · Plate cash/checks	6,582.00	10,000.00	-3,418.00	65.82%
40040 · Sunday School	1,119.16	1,332.00	-212.84	84.02%
40050 · Initial Offering	1,048.00	692.00	356.00	151.45%
<b>Total 40000 · Offering</b>	<b>233,534.16</b>	<b>242,324.00</b>	<b>-8,789.84</b>	<b>96.37%</b>

## Ushers' Corner

- Nanette Reed

**First Service and Second Service Ushers:** If you do not already have a name tag, please use one from the ushers' table in the narthex. Even though most of us know each other, it is a great help to those who may not. Also, a reminder to the usher who stands by the elevator - when returning to the sanctuary for the beginning of the service, please remember to close the door.

**Second Service Ushers:** Please remember to take the yellow usher attendance folder, all reusable Sunday bulletin inserts, and all fellowship sign-in sheets to the Administrative Assistant's mailbox located in the old library after the service. The remaining part of the bulletins can be put in the recycle bin next to the ushers' table. Don't forget to gather up the remaining bulletins on the small table by the elevator.

Thank you to all who unselfishly volunteer their time and care to ushering. We are all truly grateful to each and every one of you.

If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Nanette Reed at [nkrygierreed@verizon.net](mailto:nkrygierreed@verizon.net).

*If you are unable to usher at the time you are scheduled, please look over the ushering schedule to see if you could possibly switch dates with someone assigned to a date more convenient for you. If this is not possible, you should contact **Nanette Reed**. Thank you.*

### October 2010

9:00AM 10:30AM

#### October 3

Walter Murphy*	Mike Kosinski*
Pat Schuck	Lori Kosinski
Sue Shade	Andrew Kosinski
Evelyn Tregaskis	John Kosinski

#### October 10

Jamie Bradley*	Dave Wert*
Joanna Bartholomew	June Follin
Carol Blair	Meg Sellers-Bruch
Eleanor Merbler	Alaina Wert

#### October 17

Jim Lee*	Jay Smith*
Bill Dill	Carol Schmitt
Sue Laderer	Miriam Sursa
Doris Reith	Deb Walters

#### October 24

Nick Stilwell*	Chris Nichols*
Sherri Schmell	John McCormick
Leanore Horabin	Joanna McCormick
Margaret Tuttle	Janet Pagenkemper

#### October 31

Scott Wilbur*	Bill Goble*
Ron Feindt	Mai Cole
Patti Skow	Sandy Goble
Charlene Wilbur	Margie Mosher

### November 2010

9:00AM 10:30AM

#### November 7

Phil Edwards*	Mike Kosinski*
Pat Edwards	Lori Kosinski
Matt Edwards	Andrew Kosinski
Michelle Edwards	John Kosinski

#### November 14

Paul Faulkner*	Brian Buchanan*
Beth Faulkner	Doris Buchanan
Jim Pritchard	Jeff Berger
Jean Pritchard	Ed Christiansen

#### November 21

Bill Lutterer*	Marv Moyer*
Bernie Lutterer	Judy Moyer
Jim Lee	Mai Cole
Don Strouse	Carol Schmitt

#### November 28

Jeff Schmitt*	Rick Allen*
Jennifer Schmitt	Genevra Allen
Leanore Horabin	June Follin
Eleanor Merbler	Chris Nichols

\* Lead Usher

## Nursery Volunteers

- Laura Mill, Nursery Scheduler

### October 3

<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	Dave Wert
	Alaina Wert

### October 10

Karen, Kim, Zack Johnson	Doris Cairns Valerie Smith
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### October 17

Al Warnick Denise Warnick	Maggie Argue Sandy Wilson
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### October 24

Dot Tenley Lynne Hager	Pam Rossiter Deb Walters
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### October 31

Amy Price Margo Wensel	Pat Edwards Doris Reith
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### November 7

Andrew Kleppinger Kristin Kleppinger	Nancy Christiansen Lisa Maketa
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### November 14

Leif Drexler Donna Drexler	Margie Mosher Carol Ramsey
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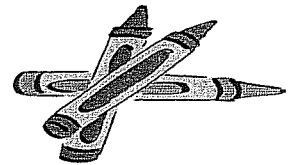
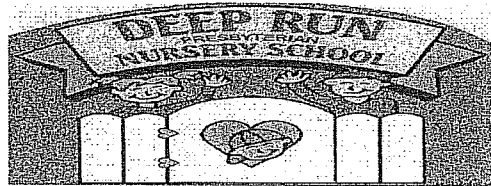
### November 21

Laura Mill Sandi Schaeffer	Dave Wert Alaina Wert
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### November 28

Greg Hess Kristie Hess	Doris Cairns Valerie Smith
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# Openings are Still Available in "Time for Toddlers"



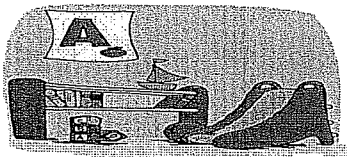
## A CLASS FOR 2 YR OLDS & THEIR CAREGIVERS

**DATE:** Classes are Tuesday or Thursday from 9:15 to 10:15 am.

**WHEN:** There are 5 different 6 week sessions, beginning in September

**COST:** The cost is \$60.00 per session. Class size is limited to 10.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Christy Phillips



**\*\*Classes consist of Free Play, Crafts, Stories,  
Games, Songs, Finger Plays & Movement.**

**CALL Christy @ 215-249-9497 to register.**

# THE PARISH PAPER

## IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Coeditors: Herb Miller, Lyle E. Schaller, Cynthia Woolever - [www.TheParishPaper.com](http://www.TheParishPaper.com)

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### Why Are Worship Visitors Important?

*Question:* Someone told me that *only one in ten* first-time worship visitors return a second time, a third time, and eventually become members. We don't want our church membership to keep shrinking during the next few years. But does that formula mean we must have 100 first-time visitors in order to add 10 new members?

*Answer:* Like so many generalities, that formula contains some truth, but not enough! Review the following list of additional and equally important factors. Decide which of these predict your church's future.

**1. What percent of its members does your church lose each year (deaths, transfers to other churches, moving out of town, or becoming inactive)?** To stay the same size, a church must break even (replace its membership losses with new members). The average congregation across the U.S. loses 7 percent of its members each year. But many churches near military bases lose 15 percent. Many small-town churches in rural areas lose only 2 percent. Your church's annual losses illustrate the importance of first-time worship visitors to its future!

**2. What percent of your worshippers are visiting for the first visit?** On average, 2 percent of worshippers in churches across the U.S. have never previously attended that congregation. Without that 2 percent of first-time visitors, most churches grow smaller each year.

**3. What percent of worshippers previously attended this church but are not yet members?** On average—in addition to the 2 percent that have never previously attended that church—another 8 percent of each week's worshippers in churches across the U. S. are *not* members of that congregation.

**4. What percent of first-time visitors return a second time, a third time, and eventually—after several months or years—become members?** On average, the answer is 10 percent. But a few congregations achieve 20 percent. And in a micro-list of fast-growing congregations, 30 percent of first-time worship visitors eventually become members. That percent is more important to your church's future than its number of first-time visitors.

Example: What if your church averages three first-time worship visitors per week (106 for the year) and 10

percent of those first-time visitors became members each year? That translates into *sixteen* new members per year. But if 20 percent of those first-time visitors became members, your church receives *thirty-two* new members per year!

*Note:* In addition to those new members resulting from first-time worshippers, a few children and youth join through pastor's class each year. But most of them leave town after graduating from high school; thus, nullifying that statistical growth.

**5. What causes an increase in first-time worship visitors?** A major cause is your congregation's positive reputation in the community. When that is the case (a) members derive significant spiritual meaning from their church, (b) more members spontaneously invite, and (c) more people respond to those invitations.

More than 75 percent of new members in churches across the U.S. visit a worship service the first time because they were invited by someone who worships in that congregation. If you are skeptical about this statistic, conduct an opinion poll. Ask the last twenty people



"Please don't put that in, Sir. We ask our first-time visitors to take out what they intend to put into the offering plate for the next three Sundays."

who joined your church this question: “Through whom, or by what means, did you first visit our church? What got you on the property the first time?” The results of your survey will reveal that more than 75 percent of your new members say that they came the first time because someone invited them.

Therefore, motivating more members to adopt the habit of inviting increases the number of invitations they extend and increases the number of first-time worship visitors. The following methods have increased the volume of inviting in countless churches.

**The Personal Delivery Invitation:** Two Sundays before a Christmas Eve candlelight service, print on church stationary a bulk of invitations to this special service. (Three times the number of morning worship attendees is usually a sufficient number of cards.) Place each invitation in a business-sized envelope. Print in large letters on the front “Personal Delivery Invitation.”

At an appropriate time in the worship service, the pastor asks worshippers to invite to the Christmas Eve candlelight service people they know who do not regularly attend church. The pastor says, “Tell them that our church is having a special Christmas Eve Service. Then say, ‘I thought you folks might enjoy it. Here is a Personal Delivery Invitation. I hope you can attend.’”

Following or during that explanation, the pastor asks the ushers to come forward and distribute the bundle of invitations to each pew. Invite each worshiper to take three of the envelopes and hand them to people during the next few days.

**Christmas-Card Reach-Out:** Some churches prefer the following variation of the above method. The pastor urges worshippers to take three special Christmas cards and either (a) hand-carry them to people or (b) address and stamp the cards and put them in the mail. Some members prefer to deliver them to friends’ front doors. When no one is home, they slip the cards into a plastic doorknob hanger that pictures the three kings with these words above them: “Peace be with you always!”

For a dozen other ideas that can increase first-time worship visitors, download, free of charge, *Church Effectiveness Nuggets: Volume 8, How to Attract First-Time Worship Visitors* at the [www.TheParishPaper.com](http://www.TheParishPaper.com) Web site.

**6. What causes an increase in the percent of your church’s first-time visitors who eventually become members?** Begin by recognizing that neither church members nor churches *do* evangelization. God does! Transforming people’s lives spiritually *begins* with Grace. God’s Spirit raises their consciousness of spiritual need, sometimes totally apart from any kind of human effort. After that initial spark, spiritual transformation *continues* when people connect with Christ through the ministry of a congregation.

Leaders of non-declining churches do not confuse their efforts and methods with God’s power. They know

that they are assistants to, not creators of, peoples’ spiritual transformation. But those assistants recognize the important role that three methods play in the evangelization process:

- *Methods that encourage people to visit their worship service for the first time.* Few people join a church until they have visited it at least once.

- *Methods that encourage people who visit their worship service to return a second and third time.* Visitors base their decisions to return on a different set of reasons than those that brought them the first time. Most people attended the first time because someone invited them. People who attend a second and third time base that decision on their own impressions of and experiences with that congregation.

- *Methods that encourage people to (a) connect with Christ and (b) become fully devoted disciples.* Without meaningful spiritual, fellowship, and program participation, few visitors continue to attend.

Effective leaders use all three methods.

**7. What other factors increase the number of first-time visitors?** Inviting people is an essential. But by themselves, methods are like an airplane without an engine. First-time worship visitors result from a mixture of numerous factors within four major influences:

*God’s Spirit:* What God does by the Spirit’s interaction with the flow of each individual’s life, circumstances, and needs is the invisible influence without which no inviting methods work.

*The Congregation’s Actions:* What the congregation does to help meet the spiritual, psychological, emotional, and relational needs of individuals increases their receptivity to the influence of God’s Spirit.

*The Staff and Governing Board’s Theological Motivation:* If the pastor, staff, and governing board members have a strong spiritually based motivation to help people connect with God, they will find and continue to use effective methods. If, however, a church’s leaders are motivated only by the need to balance the budget or reach a membership-growth goal, they soon stop using effective methods—even when they see that those methods work.

*Power of Prayer:* If you want your congregation to find and retain the use of effective methods, influence your members to pray for God’s Spirit to touch the lives of people who need God’s presence.

**The Bottom Line:** God provides the spark of Grace for spiritual transformation. But God expects assistance from assistants.