



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEEP RUN

November 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

Session Report

It is with excitement that Deep Run welcomes Reverend Elizabeth Lyman!

On Sunday, October 24, Reverend Lyman led worship at both services. Following the second service, a congregational meeting was held to elect Reverend Lyman as Head of Staff. The members of the congregation enthusiastically voted Reverend Lyman as Pastor of Deep Run. The Terms of Call for Reverend Lyman were also approved. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) closed the meeting in prayer as everybody prayed together to support Reverend Lyman.

The PNC was dismissed of their duties and thanked for their prayerful work. The members of the PNC were then nominated to form the nucleus of the brand new Pastor Transition team.

Following the meeting, a luncheon reception was held to welcome Reverend Elizabeth Lyman to our community here at Deep Run. Reverend Lyman will begin in the office mid-November and will lead worship beginning Sunday, November 21st.

- Deb Walters, Clerk of Session

Some thoughts.....

Peter Steinke said, “Put people together and inevitably anxiety will arise. Anxiety can be infectious. We can give it to others and catch it from them...Common activators are significant changes and losses.”

Churches put people together and churches, like any other group, are filled with anxiety. Speak in front of the congregation, teach a class, serve communion, do almost any task for the first time and it makes us anxious. That’s a normal human reaction. Change and loss add more anxiety to the normal mix.

PCDR is in the midst of normal anxiety and also change and loss. There will be a new pastor. I will be leaving. A two year old routine is changing. Something

new will happen. The PNC is very excited. Other people will be excited. Excitement adds to the anxiety.

Anxiety produces questions. What will this be like? What about...? What if...? Those questions can produce more anxiety.

The psychologist Rollo May, an expert on anxiety, said, “Anxiety cannot be avoided, but it can be reduced.” That is the key in the midst of any anxiety, change, or loss.

There are things we can do to reduce our fear and anxiety, our discomfort and uneasiness. That is particularly true for this, or any, church.

Maybe you’ve heard the saying, “If you pray, why worry. If you worry, why pray.” Sort of simplistic, but it does get to the heart of the matter.

You know the phrase, “Let go and let God.” Practicing that as well as we can allows us to let go of lots of anxiety and fear because it allows us to turn things over to God.

If we truly trust in God; if we really believe that our lives and the lives of all those around us are in the hands of God, we can begin to let go of some of our worry, fear, and anxiety. If each one of us in PCDR is doing what God wants then we can trust God is holding everyone’s hand through this process. God is working among us and with us, therefore, in the words of Julian of Norwich, the great 14th century English mystic, “All will be well. All will be well. And in all manner of things, all shall be well.”

I do not doubt for a moment that God has been actively involved in PCDR for the last couple of years. God was involved in my call here, in all that has happened, in the work of the PNC, the call of the new pastor. I do not doubt that God will continue to be actively involved in the future of PCDR.

Peter Steinke also says, “We are created to be healthy. Churches are created to be healthy. When two or three of us are gathered in God’s name, the spirit will be with us and we will thrive and be healthy.”

We do not walk alone. God walks with us. We are safe and secure because we are never alone.

Shalom,
Byron

Thank You Notes:

I want to thank everyone for all the cards, notes, and gifts that you have given me. Thanks for all the memories. It was a great farewell. Now have a great future.

Shalom,
Byron

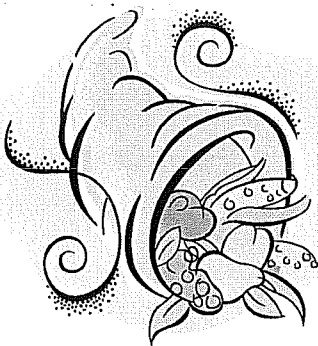
To Our Deep Run Church Family,

We want to express our gratitude for the many kindnesses we received from so many people since our return to this area. Most recently was Ruth's move to Harbinger Terrace to be more accessible to Don since he was admitted to Skilled Nursing at The Lutheran Community at Telford.

So many people helped Ruth in getting relocated and even supplied their own trucks. The ladies put the sheets on the bed so it was ready to crawl into when night came.

We also want to thank those who supplied dinners; those who sat with Don while Ruth went to a Tai Chi class to help her balance; we are also grateful to those who came to visit to help Don pass the long days of sitting, napping and frustration because he is blind and can't get around without assistance. We pray that friends will continue to visit. He loves to talk about old times because he can't remember the present. We also appreciate the get-well cards, cards of encouragement and the cards from the Shepherding Committee. Many, many thanks for all the good memories of Deep Run and for the wonderful people whom we have met there. God bless each and every one of you.

- Don & Ruth Long



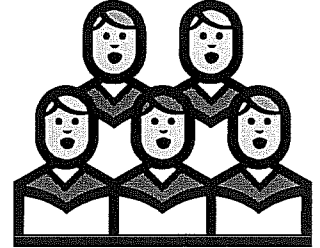
Children's Ministry News

Children's Ministry Committee Meeting:
November 4, 2010 @ 7 PM in the library

To All Sunday School Teachers, Substitutes & Hall Monitors: you are invited to the first of three Sunday School Trimester Meetings! It will be held in the library between services on Sunday, November 14th. Our meetings are brief and the perfect time to let the Children's Ministry Committee know how things are going. We will also be discussing the upcoming Christmas season activities! Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Wilson.

Youth Choir

Youth choir has started! We are practicing on Thursday afternoon at 5:15 PM. Our practices last for 45 minutes, so there is plenty of time left to eat dinner and get your homework done. So far, we have picked songs to sing in October, November, and December. Picking a song for December was really tough. We had lots of songs we liked, so we are working on two songs. We are looking forward to singing for the congregation. Keep an eye open for us starting the end of October!



We are four strong now, and would love to have company – the more the merrier! The only requirement is that you are at least in fourth grade. Won't you join us? We'd love to sing with you!

November practice dates:

- November 4, 5:15-6:00 PM
- November 11, 5:15-6:00 PM
- November 18, 5:15-6:00 PM

Youth Groups

K - 3rd Grade Youth Group

Attention Parents of Kindergarten-3rd graders! If you haven't joined in yet, it is not too late. The K-3rd Grade Youth Group meets on the first and third Sundays of each month. We meet in the church library from 4:00 to 5 PM for some games, crafts, and fun. Following this time, there is choir practice for those K-3rd graders who would like to be in the Children's Choir. Hope to see you on November 7th and 21st!

We had a wonderful time at the first K-3 Youth Group meeting, and a lot of tractor-riding, marshmallow-toasting fun at the Youth Group Fall Fest. Join in on the fun! Call or email Eileen at etpaynton@aol.com with any questions.

4th - 6th Grade Youth Group

In October, we carved pumpkins and played games at our first meeting. We also had a Fall Fest with the K-3 Youth Group. The youth had a great time. The tractor ride was as popular as ever – kids were lining up for the ride before it was time for rides to start. They also toasted marshmallows, made bracelets and necklaces and just had time to enjoy playing with one another. Thank you to the Paynton family for hosting this event again this year! Thank you to the parents for supplying all of those yummy snacks – they were great!

For November – we are mixing things up a little. We will be fixing up the 5th/6th grade classroom by painting a stained-glass pattern on one of the walls. Pastor Sharyl will get us started off on this project by telling us a little bit about stained glass. Since this is such a large project, we will be spending both November meetings painting. We will also be having pizza with the K-3 Youth Group after one of our meetings (tentatively November 21st). So, wear some old clothes and bring a paint brush. Parents, this is an event where we really can use extra help. If you can come and help us it would really be appreciated.

November meeting dates:

- November 7, 4:00-6:00 PM
- November 21, 4:00-6:00 PM
- Pizza – tentatively November 21st after youth group. There will be a sign-up sheet, so we know how much pizza we need. Stay tuned for details.

7th - 12th Grade Youth Group

Here is what we did in October

We started the month off by doing some activities meant for us to get to know each other better and learning about being a part of a group. Lori and some of the kids participated in the CROP walk. We had a nice adventure doing a scavenger hunt for FISH where we got to visit with some members of this church and collect food for FISH at the same time! A BIG thank you to Pam Rossiter, Susan Radcliffe, and Jeff & Sherri Schmell for driving for us and a thank you to the members whose homes we stopped at and collected food! We are going to participate with the Interfaith Hospitality group for the last weekend in October. We will be staying for the whole weekend and will be doing transportation, cooking, sleeping over, Bible studies, and some great fellowship!

Please note: what follows is the correct information - we made a switch from the original calendar.

November 7 (4:00 - 6:00 PM)

Talk Thanks Time!

Come and discover ways to relax, refresh and renew as we talk about what we are really thankful for and play some games.

November 13 (7:00 PM) - November 14 (7:00 AM)

Sleep out for Homelessness

We will be participating with Keystone Opportunity Center and other area youth in the experience of sleeping outside for a night to remember that there are families in our local community with no place to sleep or call home. The evening includes awareness activities, group activities, a movie and the cardboard shelter building contest. Parent drivers may be needed.

November 21 (4:00 - 6:00 PM)

Mystery Guest Night!

We will spend time with another member of the congregation and learn about their faith and life. Come join the fellowship and explore how faith is a guide and influence throughout our lives. Bring questions and an open heart!

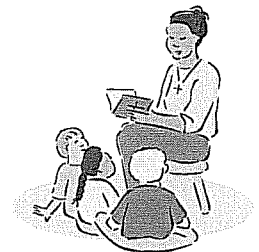
November 28

Advent Fair - Family Event - details TBA

Attend the church family Advent Workshop and create an advent wreath.

From the Nursery School

October was a lively month for the nursery school set— a fire truck came to visit (thanks, Don Strouse for yet another year of teaching us about fire safety!), and all the excitement that comes with Halloween!



November will be a quieter month for us, as we learn about the Thanksgiving story, and reflect on the many blessings in our lives. To extend what we are learning, we will talk about all the good things in our lives that we are thankful for, and share some of those things with those in less fortunate circumstances by holding a food drive for a local food pantry and a clothing drive for homeless people in Harlem, NY. If anyone would like to contribute anything, boxes will be set up in the nursery school hallway.

Speaking of being thankful, we are very thankful for the many people who are responsible for the “woodchipping” of the playground. You have made our world a safer place! We are also very thankful for Pastor Byron, who so patiently worked with us and guided us

through that maze of paper work this summer. We will miss you! We are looking forward to meeting and working with the new pastor.

Our next fundraiser will be a Longaberger basket fundraiser, and we will also be selling WAWA hoagie coupons. If you are interested, flyers will be in the nursery school hallway, or ask any of the nursery school staff. Thanks for your support!

Adult Education

As you may remember, last spring Byron called a meeting on adult education. It seemed that people kept saying things to him like, "I'd go to Bible Study, but Mondays don't work for me," or, "With this economy, should we offer a class on finances?" To address the congregation's needs, the Adult Christian Education (ACE) Action Team formed.

ACE researched different ways that churches do adult education, and settled on a model in the book *Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups* by Nelson Searcy and Kerrick Thomas. Based on that model, Deep Run will have classes organized into semesters (fall, spring and summer) with breaks and enrollment periods in between. This fall is our pilot semester, which began mid-October and will continue until shortly before Thanksgiving.

Before deciding on our first new small group education offering, this summer ACE collected data from you, the congregation, in a survey regarding needs and requests for adult education. Based on the about 85 responses we received, we chose "Bible 101." Eleven people are enrolled. In future semesters we hope to add more class choices and times to increase participation.

On page 5 you will find the results of that survey. We would be happy to answer any questions that you might have, and, of course, please feel free to contact us with any ideas you have on adult education.

- Adult Christian Education (ACE) Action Team -
Jeff Schmitt, Julie Lowry, Pat Edwards, Sam Brubaker, Amy Price, Susan Abel

Women's Ministry

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus...

Saturday, October 16th, saw the women present at the retreat learning much about Jesus' parables. While

many were from the book of Luke, our presenters, Carol Ramsey, Margie Mosher and Joanna McCormick pulled from both the New Testament AND the Old Testament to enlighten us to the numerous examples of lessons to be learned – even today! As we read, studied and participated in discussions throughout the day, we were asked to look closely at the particular parable from our own perspective. Did the meaning come to us as a lightning bolt, or as a lesson for everyday life, or did the parable point the way to a direction that should be taken? Some of the parables seemed to hit on all three! The history of the customs and culture of the times helped clarify the reason certain examples were used in the parable being told. Discovering that knowledge was, in and of itself, truly interesting. Our presenters did an excellent job in holding our interest and attention throughout the day. Deep Run is blessed to have such willing women among us, sharing their talents and gifts with the rest of us! We thank them!

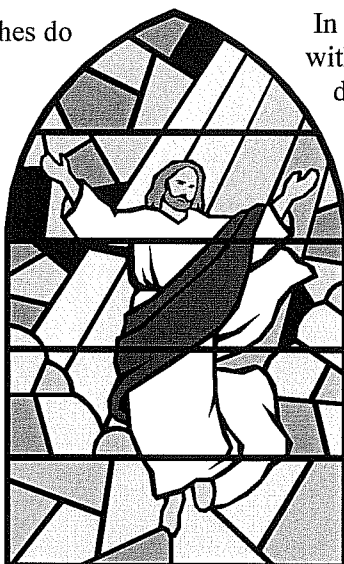
In addition to the sessions, we had fun in visiting with one another at the breakfast bar, at lunch and during the breaks. There were songs sung (rather weakly, however, as many of us were in poor voice, recuperating from colds). Prayers were offered up and door prizes distributed. The Women's Ministry committee had asked each lady to bring a non-perishable item to add to the F.I.S.H. food basket – with a goal of 50 pounds being collected. As of Sunday morning, **51.3 pounds** of food had been collected!

Something new for this retreat was the offering of babysitting services; this allowed an opportunity for those women with young children to attend. Girl Scout Cadet Troop #7020, under the leadership of Pam Rossiter, provided this service for us. They and three (3) small ones, ages 2, 4 and 6 years, seemed to have a great time that day!

Ladies, if you missed out on this retreat but want an idea of the material covered, there are extra retreat booklets available in the narthex, please feel free to pick one up.

Our next event will be the Christmas Tea to be held in Hoopes Hall on Sunday afternoon, December 12th from 2:00-4:00 PM. Please mark your calendars now. More information will follow in the upcoming weeks. Until then, may each of you find life's simple beauty in unexpected places.

We judge of man's wisdom by his hope.
-Ralph Waldo Emerson



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEEP RUN Survey on Adult Education

An action team has been set up to look into adult education opportunities here at Deep Run. We would appreciate your input. Please fill out the following survey so that we may know what types of opportunities you would like to pursue and when the best time might be to hold these programs. Please return this survey to any of the Action Team members: Jeff Schmidt, Julie Lowry, Sam Brubaker, Pat Edwards

1. Please mark which opportunities you would like to see offered at Deep Run.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <u>23</u> Book studies | <u>37</u> Bible studies ^(Bethel) | <u>19</u> Bible 101 class |
| <u>29</u> Small group discussion | <u>12</u> Video studies | <u>30</u> Guest speakers |
| <u>2</u> Pod Casts | <u>28</u> Women's retreat | <u>6</u> Men's retreat |
| <u>1</u> On-line studies | <u>14</u> 1 day workshop | <u>8</u> Family studies |
| <u>8</u> Couples studies | <u>10</u> Intergenerational studies | <u>11</u> Co-Ed studies |

2. In addition to Bible studies, which other topics would you like to see offered (ex.: Financial Planning Seminar)? _____

3. Would you like to see us develop a mentorship program (one on one guidance for someone who wants to develop his or her understanding of the Bible)?

30 yes 22 no maybe 2

4. Would you be willing to be a mentor if we established a program?

3 yes 51 no 2

5. Would you need child care to participate in studies/small groups?

8 yes 55 no

6. Would you be willing to help provide child care for others

23 yes 29 no

7. Would you be willing to facilitate a study?

7 yes 47 no 4

8. When would you be able to participate in studies/small groups? 27 weekday evenings

16 weekday mornings 7 weekends 17 Sunday mornings other Sunday PM 2

9. Would you attend Sunday School (on Sunday) if the class were held at

12 8 a.m. 12 9 a.m. 11 10:30 a.m. 10 Sunday evening?

10. What keeps you from attending a Bible study?

^{time} 4 ^{other} ^{couls} 3 ^{no excuse} ^{nothing} 6 ^{work} 2 ^{family} 6 ^{choir} 2

11. What does the Bible mean to you? basis of life, everything

12. Do you own your own Bible? 72 yes 1 no 0 I borrow someone else's

13. Would you be willing to serve on the Adult Education Action Team to help plan Adult Education activities?

5 yes ___ no

Name (optional, unless you want to help) _____

Amy Price
Susan Able
Kit Dickey (limited)
Linda Davis (maybe)

Phone number _____ Email _____

Marketing: parents

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Men's Ministry

We did hold a meeting for the Men's Breakfast Group in Hoopes Hall at 7:30 AM on October 9th. Jim and Eric Larson brought hot coffee, juice, bagel sandwiches and donut holes. The food was great. The lesson was about the difference between Christianity and other major religions around the world. 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 me. We will be happy to look into those possibilities.

Our next meeting will take place in Hoopes Hall at 7:30 AM on Saturday, November 13th. We will continue the lesson about Christianity vs. other faiths. 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 e-mail list, contact me, Frank Blow, at 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@comcast.net.

Have a great day and God Bless.

- Frank Blow

SALT (Seasoned Adults Learning Together)

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 11, 2010 - Noon

At our October meeting, there are always concerns - will we have enough shoe boxes and will we have enough goodies to fill the boxes? God always provides! We assembled twenty (20) boxes containing popcorn, crackers, cookies, Tastykakes, pens, and candies for our college students to let them know we think of them and love them. We included the flyer on Rev. Elizabeth Lyman and a letter written by Pastor Sharyl which all of us signed.

Colleen Algeo, Creative Director at Peter Becker Retirement Community, will speak at our November meeting. She'll show a video and discuss preparations for the Flower Show held at Peter Becker each spring. She comes up with ways to make beautiful decorations using items that would normally be thrown away. Joan Dahl, Jean Pritchard, and Doris Reith will bring soup. Bread will be provided by Mai Cole and Debbie Hahn. Tam Larson, Janet Pagenkemper, and Sandy Poust will bring desserts.

Attendance seems to be dwindling and those of us who attend can't understand why. We have such a good time. Please consider joining us.

One Joyful Choir

Mark your calendars for November 13, when the second ONE JOYFUL CHOIR concert takes place in Verizon Hall of the Kimmel Center, Philadelphia, at 2:30 PM. Presented by the churches of The Presbytery of Philadelphia, this choir of over 500 voices from all over the Philadelphia area will sing many of your personal favorite pieces of church music, including "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" from the Brahms "Requiem" and Beethoven's "Ode To Joy." Five of your very own choir members - Marje Beck, Ike Blair, Nancy Brosius, Todd Hurley, and Eric Power - will participate, along with several other members and friends from Deep Run. Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Iowa, will conduct, and composer John Ferguson has been commissioned to do a special arrangement of "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices." Renowned theologian Martin E. Marty will narrate special readings which he has written for this occasion.

The last One Joyful Choir concert was presented in 2007 and raised \$40,000. All proceeds from the upcoming event will benefit Hopital Sainte Croix in Leogane, Haiti, which was affected by the earthquake there. For more information and a link to tickets, go to www.onejoyfulchoir.com or see one of the participating members. We hope to have a big Deep Run crowd cheering us on.



Advent Craft Faire and a Soup Supper to Welcome Elizabeth!!

This is the perfect way to start Advent! Sunday November 28th from 4:00-6:00 PM! Come have some fun and fellowship and welcome Elizabeth to Deep Run!!!

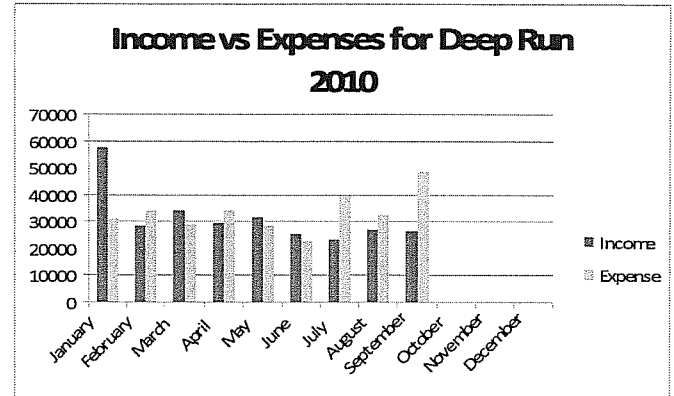


Starting at 4 o'clock we will make family Advent wreaths. We will have crafts for the kids and then enjoy an evening of fellowship as a church family as we welcome Elizabeth at our soup supper. Fill your crock pot with your favorite soup. Bring your gloves, wreath frames, candle holders and clippers for a time of creating and fun. It's a night for the whole church family! Sign up sheets are downstairs. Can't wait to enjoy the evening with you and start Advent right!!

Financial Secretary's Report

We "Thank You" for your generous contributions in the past. We hope you have all started to think about next year and the gifts and talents you will share with Deep Run in 2011.

If you do not use envelopes and would like to use them in 2011, please see Evelyn Tregaskis so that you can be included when envelopes are distributed near the end of the year.



September 2010 Financial Income Report

	<u>Sep 10</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Income				
40000 · Offering				
40010 · Pledge cash/checks	23,908.00	27,121.00	-3,213.00	88.15%
40020 · Non-Pledge cash/checks	966.00	1,666.50	-700.50	57.97%
40030 · Plate cash/checks	715.00	1,250.00	-535.00	57.2%
40040 · Sunday School	155.20	166.50	-11.30	93.21%
40050 · Initial Offering	0.00	86.50	-86.50	0.0%
Total 40000 · Offering	25,744.20	30,290.50	-4,546.30	84.99%

January through September 2010 Financial Income Report

	<u>Jan - Sep 10</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Income				
40000 · Offering				
40010 · Pledge cash/checks	238,505.00	244,089.00	-5,584.00	97.71%
40020 · Non-Pledge cash/checks	11,254.00	14,998.50	-3,744.50	75.03%
40030 · Plate cash/checks	7,297.00	11,250.00	-3,953.00	64.86%
40040 · Sunday School	1,274.36	1,498.50	-224.14	85.04%
40050 · Initial Offering	1,048.00	778.50	269.50	134.62%
Total 40000 · Offering	259,378.36	272,614.50	-13,236.14	95.15%

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.

*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.*

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
Leaore Horabin	June Follin
Eleanor Merbler	Chris Nichols

December 2010

9:00AM 10:30AM

December 5

Jamie Bradley*	Bill Brosius*
Joanna Bartholomew	Nancy Brosius
Carol Blair	Meg Sellers-Bruch
Evelyn Tregaskis	Mai Cole

December 12

Walter Murphy*	Jeff Schmitt*
Heather Murphy	Jennifer Schmitt
Pat Schuck	John McCormick
Sue Shade	Joanna McCormick

December 19

Bill Dill*	Ross Painter*
Sue Laderer	Janet Pagenkemper
Doris Reith	Bill Goble
Margaret Tuttle	Sandy Goble

December 21 (Service of Light)

7:00 PM - Main Sanctuary
2 Volunteers needed

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5:00 PM - Main Sanctuary
4 Volunteers needed
7:00 PM - Irish Meeting House
2 Volunteers needed
10:00 PM - Main Sanctuary
4 Volunteers needed

December 26 - One Service - Time TBA

Jim Lee, Sherri Schmell, Scott and Charlene Wilbur

* Lead Usher

Nursery Volunteers

- Laura Mill, Nursery Scheduler

November 2010

9:00AM 10:30AM

November 7

Andrew Kleppinger	Nancy Christiansen
Kristin Kleppinger	Lisa Maketa

Nursery Volunteers (continued)

9:00AM

10:30AM

November 14

Leif Drexler
Donna Drexler

Margie Mosher
Carol Ramsey

November 21

Laura Mill
Sandi Schaeffer

Dave Wert
Alaina Wert

November 28

Greg Hess
Kristie Hess

Doris Cairns
Valerie Smith

December 5

Michelle Cramer
Amy Price

Maggie Argue
Sandy Wilson

December 12

Karen, Kim and
Zack Johnson

Pam Rossiter
Deb Walters

December 19

Alan Warnick
Denise Warnick

Pat Edwards
Doris Reith

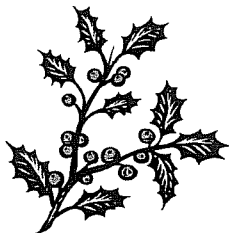
December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5:00 PM - **Volunteers needed**
7:00 PM - **Volunteers needed**

December 26 - One Service - Time TBA

Lynne Hager
Dot Tenley

FORWARD IN FAITH
WITH CHRIST

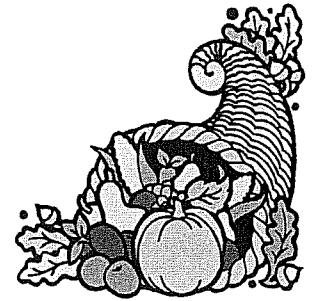


Greens Needed!!!!

As you trim your evergreens and holly, please think about bringing them to the church. Our November 28th Advent wreath-making project will make good use of them. We will accept them from Saturday the 20th until Sunday the 28th - you can drop them off by the lower doors. Thanks!!!! Think of all the homes you'll bless as you share your greens.

Thanksgiving Thought

We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts. How can God entrust great things to one who will not thankfully receive from him the little things?

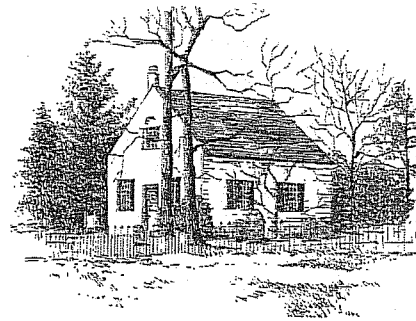


If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even where there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep complaining to God that everything is too paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

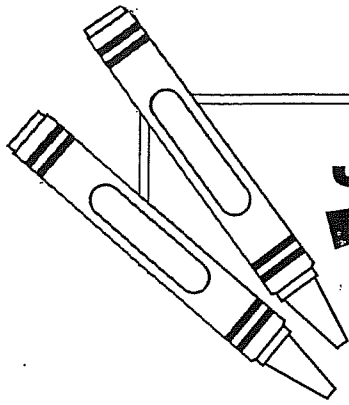
Mission

Our Alternative Gift Giving Market will again be held during fellowship time on three consecutive Sundays beginning November 28th. Look for us near to the Angel Tree!



An Irish Meetinghouse Christmas

Please mark your calendars and come join us, December 5th at 7:00 PM in the Meetinghouse for an Irish Meetinghouse Christmas, an evening of carols and reflections as we make our way through Advent. The evening's offering will go to mission. Cookies and fellowship will be shared in the Red School House following the time of worship.



Just for KIDS

Just for Kids

Give thanks

Find the words that are missing from the verses below. Use the graph to find the letters. For example: 3, 11 = b.

1) "I $\frac{3,5}{\text{I}}$ $\frac{2,6}{\text{am}}$ $\frac{3,4}{\text{thank}}$ $\frac{1,7}{\text{you}}$ $\frac{2,7}{\text{and}}$ my $\frac{1,10}{\text{God}}$ $\frac{2,5}{\text{and}}$ $\frac{2,8}{\text{my}}$
 $\frac{3,4}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{1,4}{\text{and}}$ $\frac{3,8}{\text{my}}$ $\frac{3,4}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{1,9}{\text{and}}$ $\frac{1,6}{\text{my}}$ when I $\frac{2,9}{\text{am}}$ $\frac{2,4}{\text{thank}}$ $\frac{3,9}{\text{you}}$ $\frac{2,4}{\text{and}}$ $\frac{3,9}{\text{my}}$ $\frac{3,11}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{2,4}{\text{and}}$ $\frac{2,9}{\text{my}}$
 you in my $\frac{2,10}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{2,9}{\text{and}}$ $\frac{3,4}{\text{my}}$ $\frac{1,9}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{2,4}{\text{and}}$ $\frac{2,9}{\text{my}}$ $\frac{1,6}{\text{brother}}$ " (Philemon 1:4)

2) "Be $\frac{3,10}{\text{filled}}$ $\frac{1,11}{\text{with}}$ $\frac{1,4}{\text{the}}$ $\frac{1,4}{\text{spirit}}$ $\frac{2,4}{\text{and}}$ $\frac{2,8}{\text{grace}}$ with the
 $\frac{1,6}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{2,10}{\text{and}}$ $\frac{1,11}{\text{my}}$ $\frac{2,9}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{1,11}{\text{and}}$ $\frac{3,5}{\text{brother}}$... always and for
 $\frac{2,4}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{3,6}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{2,4}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{2,9}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{1,9}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{3,5}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{2,6}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{1,11}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{1,7}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{1,8}{\text{brother}}$ giving
 $\frac{3,5}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{2,6}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{3,4}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{1,7}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{2,7}{\text{brother}}$ $\frac{1,6}{\text{brother}}$ " (Ephesians 5:18, 20)

3) "Give $\frac{3,5}{\text{thanks}}$ $\frac{2,6}{\text{always}}$ $\frac{3,4}{\text{to}}$ $\frac{1,7}{\text{God}}$ $\frac{2,7}{\text{and}}$ $\frac{1,6}{\text{to}}$ in all
 $\frac{2,11}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{1,11}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{2,9}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{2,11}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{3,7}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{3,9}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{1,6}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{3,5}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{3,4}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{1,7}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{2,11}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{2,4}{\text{circumstances}}$ $\frac{1,6}{\text{circumstances}}$ "
 (1 Thessalonians 5:18)



Graph								
1	I	J	s	n	g	y	G	i
2	e	o	h	k	d	r	p	c
3	a	t	v	u	w	m	f	b
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	

Answers:

- 1) thank; God; always; remember; prayers
- 2) filled; spirit; everything; thanks
- 3) thanks; circumstances

THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

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What Are the Big-Picture Trends in Congregations?

Old First Church's beloved senior pastor retired in 2002. An interim pastor served the congregation for the next two years, but many long-term members disliked his leadership style and left. The church called a new pastor in 2005, someone whose gifts and vision more closely matched the congregation's core values. Six months later, the associate pastor resigned because of her husband's job transfer to another state.

But during those three years of rollercoaster change, the congregation paid off its building debt for the remodeled educational wing. Then, over the next five years, the church expanded many aspects of its ministry. An immigrant group began holding services in its building. Several teams of adults and youth traveled to areas of the state devastated by floods and aided in the rebuilding.

The staff and members feel that—despite their congregation's major internal changes and a severe national economic downturn—their church is building a positive future on its strong ministries.

Question: Are the rapid changes at Old First Church normal? Does change move at that speed in all churches?

What Changed between 2001 and Today?

Research reveals that during the past eight years, congregations across the United States experienced rapid change in seven major ways.¹

1. Increasing Use of Electronic Technology: In one of their biggest changes since 2001, U.S. churches embraced the Internet as a way to enhance their mission. In 2001 only 43 percent of U.S. congregations had established a Web site; by 2008 that figure almost doubled—to 77 percent.

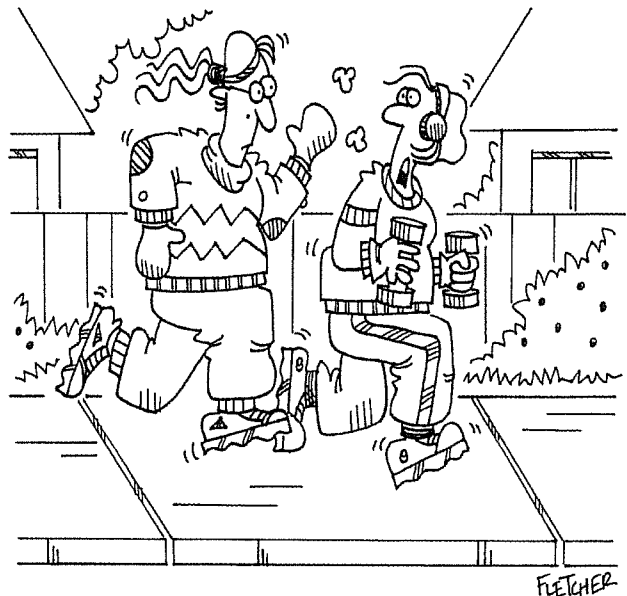
Congregations use their Web sites as electronic billboards to help people in the community know about their services and programs. Their Web sites also help regular attendees know what is going on in the congregation. For example, 83 percent of congregations with Web sites post a calendar highlighting upcoming events. More than one-half of those Web sites list volunteer needs or service opportunities. One-half post sermons—in text, audio, or video formats. Others post newsletters (52 percent). A small percentage (one church in ten) allow worshipers to make financial contributions online.

Seventy-four percent of congregations also use E-mail to stay in touch with their people. Most of those churches

use E-mail to disseminate information (96 percent) and to publicize events (84 percent). E-mail also enables churches to inform their members about the joys and concerns of other worshipers, help them engage in ministries, offer opportunities to register for events, solicit feedback, and send out devotional messages.

2. Increasing Diversification in Worship: A majority of attendees still prefer traditional hymns, but the percentage of worshipers favoring traditional music dropped from 61 percent in 2001 to 56 percent today. Just 45 percent of worshipers ages twenty-five to forty-four prefer traditional hymns—which predicts a continued decline in traditional-hymn preference in the future.

Several changes suggest less formality in worship. Compared to 2001, fewer of today's congregations regularly include singing by a choir or soloist, Communion or the Lord's Supper, the use of hymnals or hymnbooks, and a printed bulletin or worship-service outline in their largest worship service. More churches include a special time for children, silent prayer or meditation, and the use of visual projection equipment on a regular basis.



OUR CHURCH SEEMS TO BE IN A PERIOD OF RAPID CHANGE...
WE SWITCHED FROM FORMAL TO CASUAL DRESS,
FROM HYMNS TO PRAISE MUSIC,
AND FROM NEWSLETTERS TO EMAILS...
ALL DURING THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP SERVICE.

3. Increase in Caring Ministries: The involvement of worshipers in activities and programs that serve members and neighbors has increased. The largest increase is in services for children and youth—such as job training, literacy programs, scouting, and sports. In 2001, three in ten congregations provided such programs; today, more than one-half do.

Health-related services grew at about the same pace. In 2001, three in ten churches sponsored blood drives, health screenings, or health-education programs; today, one-half of congregations provide those types of health-related services.

Two other areas widened almost as much: emergency relief activities—including food, meals, clothing, or other assistance for people in crisis; and cultural activities such as music and arts programs.

4. Decreasing Size and Financial Strength: Many news stories report a growth in the number of and size of megachurches. However, on average, congregations are smaller today than they were in 2001. While four in ten congregations averaged 100 or fewer worshipers in 2001, today six in ten congregations fall into that small-church category.

The total financial income that congregations receive today is greater than in 2001, even when adjusted for inflation. The median size annual budget for congregations nearly doubled—from \$121,000 in 2001 to \$226,000 today. But the operating expenses climbed as well. More money flows into the typical congregation than before, but more money is expended.

In 2001, one-half of congregations described themselves as having “a stable financial base,” while one in three told of “an increasing financial base.” Today, the percentage of congregations deemed financially stable remains about the same. But far fewer congregations—just 12 percent—say that they are blessed with an increasing financial base, and almost one in three face a declining financial base.

5. More Older Worshipers: Today’s worshipers are older, on average, than the general U.S. population.

But perhaps more important—the average age of worshipers is older now than in 2001: The average age of worshipers increased from fifty in 2001 to fifty-three today. Almost seven in ten worshipers are now forty-four years of age or older, up from six in ten worshipers of that age in 2001.

6. More Educated Worshipers: Among worshipers who are age twenty-five or more, the percentage of college-educated worshipers increased from 38 percent in 2001 to 47 percent today.

7. Less-Frequent Attendance: Fewer of today’s worshipers report attending services on a weekly basis. In 2001, 83 percent came to worship services “usually every week” or “more than once a week.” That number has dropped to 76 percent.

Question: Looking at those seven changes what ideas might strengthen our congregation’s future?

What Did Not Change since 2001?

Despite several significant changes among U.S. congregations, a portrait of worshipers across the country exhibits stability in the following ways.

1. Unchanged Demographics: The gender ratio, the marital-status profile, and the household composition of worshipers remain unchanged.

2. Participating Non-Members: In 2001 about 11 percent of worshipers who actively participated in their congregations were neither (a) members nor (b) in the process of joining. Some 2001 experts predicted a big increase in that percentage but it didn’t happen. Today, about 12 percent of worshipers are non-members.

Yet differences between younger and older worshipers indicate that the percentage of participating non-members could grow in the future: Currently, one in ten worshipers in the forty-five or older age range are active participants but not church members. Twice as many younger worshipers (18 percent) are active participants but are not church members.

3. Congregational Involvement: Other than a decrease in weekly worship attendance, little change has occurred in the ways worshipers involve themselves in church activities. In both 2001 and today, about four in ten worshipers hold leadership roles in their congregations; about four in ten worshipers participate in the congregation’s small groups; and almost one-half give at least 5 percent of their income to the congregation.

Question: Looking at those three signs of stability, what ideas might strengthen our congregation’s future?

What Is Our Congregation’s Handprint?

In 1940, four teenage boys discovered prehistoric art in caves near Lascaux in southwestern France. Anthropologists believe the paintings are about 16,000 years old and think early people used the cave as a kind of church.

When the boys hoisted their lanterns in the dark cavern, they saw more than 2,000 animals decorating the cave’s walls. Among the images left by the artists are their own handprints, which they made by tracing around their own fingers.

Just as early artists left a record, what handprint do we expect our congregation to leave behind in worshipers’ lives?

As we trace around our congregation’s profile, what long-lasting impact do we see our congregation making in our neighborhood, region, and world?

¹Findings drawn from *A Field Guide to U.S. Congregations (2nd Edition)* by Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010).

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