



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEEP RUN

December 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

From Pastor Elizabeth’s Study

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Moving is always such a stressful experience. It was a good trip across country, although bringing three dogs in a van is not easy. And my belongings will finally arrive this week. I am so excited to be here and am looking forward to being able to “nest” in the manse. Among all the pieces of settling into this church, of trying to remember names and learn your stories, I will make time to turn the manse into a home – my home.

Advent and Christmas is always about homecoming to me. Not always the homecoming of family arriving (there have been some Christmas’s when I had no family around), but rather the homecoming to the church – to the body of Christ as it celebrates this season of God’s coming into our homes, our lives our very being.

We all long for this – the feeling of God dwelling with us. We may find it hard to sense sometimes, hiding there among the Christmas “to do” lists, buried in a box of old ornaments, a particular ingredient in Grandma’s ginger cookie recipe. But if we look, we see that all the preparations of about welcoming God into our home, our heart.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew Bible, God has a specific dwelling place on earth. It is the Tabernacle, the temple, in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, God does an amazing thing and “tabernacles” in the person of Jesus Christ, and in all who follow Him. It is a radical move. Bigger than trips across country or stuff coming on a moving van. It changes our whole understanding of home, from a place to a person. It is the miracle of Emmanuel – God with us. Always and forever - God is our home.

So the boxes may not get unpacked immediately in the manse. I won’t be able to put up a lot of Christmas

decorations this season. I will probably only bake one batch of my son’s favorite cookies and call it done.

I am already home. In Christ, I never left it.

Lord Jesus, because we could not come to you, you came to us. Because we could not find our way home, you made your home with us. This Christmastide our joy is full, our hope us fulfilled, our yearning is met in your great grace for the word has become flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. Amen.

*Advent and Christmas blessings to all of you!
- Pastor Elizabeth*

Advent Worship Schedule

November 28 - First Sunday in Advent

Matthew 24:36-44 - “Wake Up!”

Rev. Lyman preaching Prelude: Youth Band

December 3 - Second Sunday in Advent

Communion

Matthew 3:1-12 - “A Most Unlikely Ornament”

Rev. Lyman preaching

December 12 - Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

(1st Service)

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55; Matthew 11:2-11

“Are You the One?” Rev. Lyman preaching

(2nd Service)

December 20 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

Christmas Joy Offering – Stewardship Dedication

Matthew 1:18-25 “God’s Yes”

Rev. Lyman preaching

Elizabeth Lyman, Senior Pastor Sharyl Marshall, Associate Pastor

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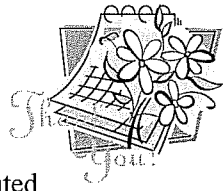
Looking Ahead

January 1 - Material for Annual Report Due

January 9 - Un-Birthday Party!

January 16 - Annual Report Distributed

January 30 - Congregational Meeting



An Irish Meetinghouse Christmas

Please mark your calendars and come join us, **December 5th at 7PM** 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.

Pastors' Schedules

Pastor Elizabeth's day off will be Friday and Pastor Sharyl's will be Monday.

Pastor Sharyl will be preaching the 26th of December and then flying off to Texas to spend a few days with family and New Years with friends.

Closing Policy

In the event of inclement weather, the church office will follow the schedule set by the Pennridge School District. If they are closed, we will be closed. If they are delayed two hours, we will delay opening for two hours. For questionable weather on Saturdays when events are scheduled or on Sunday for worship and scheduled events, please check the website or call the church office and after the greeting, press 4 for cancellation announcements.

Children's Ministry News


Our students will present the annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 12th during the 9 o'clock church service. Pageant rehearsal will be held on Saturday morning, December 11th at 10 o'clock.

Here we come a' caroling! Come out for an afternoon of Christmas caroling on Saturday, December 18th. We will meet at the church at 2 o'clock.

Youth Choir

Youth choir has started! We are practicing on Sunday evenings at 6:30 PM. Our practices last for 45 minutes and are in either the choir room or the sanctuary. We have also started singing once a month for the congregation.

We are five strong now and would love to have company – the more the merrier! The only requirement



Christmas Service Schedule

December 5, 7 PM
Irish Meetinghouse Christmas

December 21, 7 PM
Service of Light/Longest Night
Pastor Sharyl

December 24
5 PM Family Service
Pastor Sharyl

7 PM Worship in Irish Meetinghouse
Pastor Elizabeth

10 PM Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion
Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Sharyl

December 26, 9AM One service
Pastor Sharyl

January 2, 9AM One service
Pastor Elizabeth

Announcements

In order to allow enough time for our worship service, the following are suggested:

- Person making announcement should sit in front row and use microphone.
- Announcement should be made at both services.
- Announcement should be short and concise.
- If announcement is in bulletin, simply call attention to it and don't review the entire announcement.

is that you are at least in fourth grade. Won't you join us? We'd love to sing with you!

December practice dates:

- December 5, 6:30 PM
- December 12, 6:30 PM

December singing date:

- December 5, 7 PM service in the Irish Meeting House

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 usually meets on the first and third Sundays of each month. See below for December's schedule. 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.

- no youth group on 5th or 19th of December
- youth group on 12th
- caroling on the 18th
- details will be sent via email

4th - 6th Grade Youth Group

In November we tried our hand at painting. We painted a stained glass mural on one wall in the 5th/6th grade classroom. We had a great time. We even got a surprise visit from Pastor Elizabeth! Thank you to everyone who helped us out for this project. We really appreciated it!

In December we will have only one meeting – our Christmas party on December 12th at 4 PM. Please stay tuned to your email for more details. The church is also having Christmas caroling on December 18 at 2 PM. We will **not** be doing this as a youth group, but encourage families to join others in this event.

December meeting dates:

- December 5, no meeting
- December 12, 4–6 PM
- December 18, 1 PM - Fellowship activity - families are invited to go Christmas Caroling
- December 19, no meeting



7th - 12th Grade Youth Group

Here is what we did in November. . .

In November we started off by thinking about what we are thankful for. It was interesting to hear all the different things each of us is thankful for.

We added an extra event the second weekend of the month by participating in the "Sleep out for Homelessness." We made signs and took part in a rally at a street corner in Souderton, built shelters for us to sleep in out of cardboard boxes, heard someone talk who has been through the Interfaith Network, watched the movie "The Blind Side" and slept in our homemade shelters.

Before Thanksgiving we had a mystery guest from our congregation - our new minister Rev. Lyman! The kids enjoyed getting to know their new pastor.

Look at our website for photos of our activities!

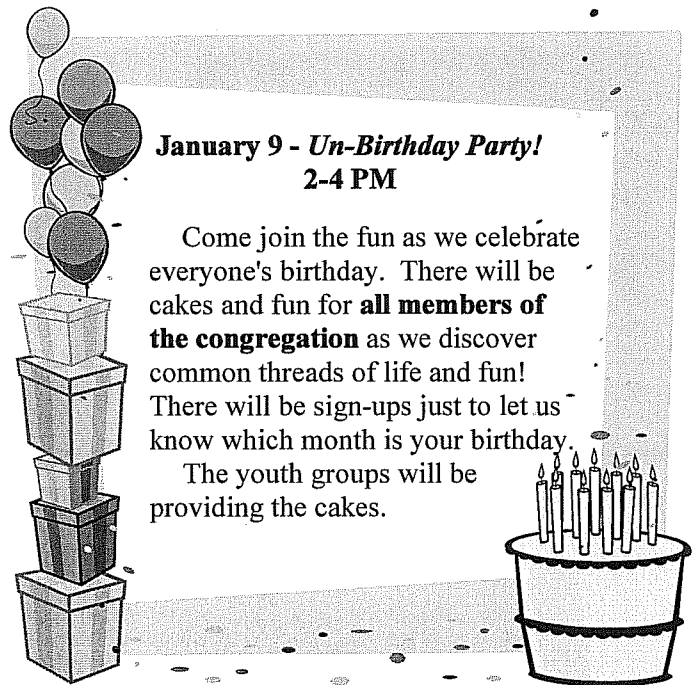
December 5 -Let's Go FISHING! - 4-6 PM

We will be traveling to FISH program site to help sort food and toys as this local ministry prepares for its holiday gift and food distribution. Parent drivers needed.

December 19 - Caroling - 1 PM

We will meet at church and then be divided into groups. Parent drivers needed.

Looking Ahead . . .



January 9 - Un-Birthday Party! 2-4 PM

Come join the fun as we celebrate everyone's birthday. There will be cakes and fun for **all members of the congregation** as we discover common threads of life and fun! There will be sign-ups just to let us know which month is your birthday.

The youth groups will be providing the cakes.

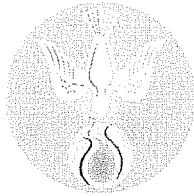
Confirmation is Coming!!!

Anyone in 9th - 12th grade is welcome to join us to seriously think, study, talk, ask questions, and pray about their personal relationships with Jesus Christ. It is a time to clarify what they have learned and experienced about God, about the church and about life. It's an opportunity to ask big questions and explore what it means for them to know God for themselves. This is an exciting and an important milestone in their journey of faith. And at the end, if they choose, it is a chance to affirm publicly the vows taken on their behalf as a child in baptism or to be baptized.

This year we will be meeting on Sunday from 9 to 10:30 AM. We will begin the 6th of February and meet through May. If you or your daughter or son would like to be a part of the group or if you have questions about any of this, please feel free to talk with me. I'm really excited about this class. I have always loved teaching with the Confirmation team and being a part of the conversation of what and how our faith is lived out in the midst of the big questions and every day life.

Thank you,

Pastor Sharyl



great opportunity to be part of that growth from the ground up. We meet Tuesdays at 7 PM at the church. If you would like additional information, contact Susan Abel or Jeff Schmitt.

The committee is excited to announce our next class:

Into the Deep - Exploring Prayer

Prayer is all the rage. Bookstores sell volumes about it. Experts offer workshops on it. National leaders invoke it in a crisis. But what is prayer? What can it do for us? What can it do for God? *Into the Deep* is an interactive Bible study that explores the meaning and use of prayer to deepen our relationship with God and bring ourselves in line with God's will for the world.

Led by Jo Ann Beistline, this class will begin Thursday, January 20th at 7 PM and meet for six consecutive Thursdays, location to be determined. Email Susan Abel at partyenjoyment@yahoo.com to sign up. Please include your name, phone number, and if child care is needed. You may also contact Jeff Schmitt. Additional sign-ups will become available in the future.

Calling Adults of All Ages!!!

Did you have adults help out in your confirmation classes when you were a kid? Did you have adults who helped you work out some of your questions of faith? Did you have an adult who invested in you as you dug into the journey of discipleship? If it was our own parents, grandparents, Sunday School teachers or church members, there have been folks who have helped us along the way. Come help our youth in the process and be blessed yourself!!!! We are hoping to have various adults help alongside the Confirmation Class to help our students seriously think, study, talk, ask questions, and pray about their personal relationships with Jesus Christ. It is a time to clarify what they have learned and experienced about God, about the church and about life. It's an opportunity to ask big questions and explore what it means for them to know God for themselves and we would love to have **YOU** be a part of their faith adventure. Contact Pastor Sharyl for more information!

Adult Education

The Adult Christian Education (ACE) Committee is looking for a few more members. If you would like to help grow the adult education of our church, this is a

Member Care Group Update

The member care groups have been in place for almost 6 months now. The Deacons hope that you are taking part in your group. Many of the church officers assigned to serve as resources to each of the member care leaders/co-leaders report some amazing things happening within the groups. There have been group get-togethers, some have been providing meals for those needing help during illnesses and/or challenging times, there are some groups who have a prayer chain within their group and some are making sure that members within their group are receiving birthday cards. This is evidence that Deep Run is a nurturing church that cares not only for the surrounding community but that we care for each other, as well.

After the first of the year, there will be some tweaking of some of the groups as there have been those who need to be added to a group and some who need to be moved from one group to another as they have relocated geographically. There will, also, be some changes in church officers assignments as some others rotate off and new officers take their place. Hopefully, these adjustments will be made during January – stay tuned, while keeping up the good work of caring!

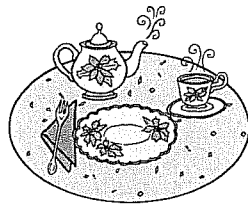
Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

Honor one another above yourselves.

(Romans 12:10 NIV)

Women's Ministry

A Cup of Christmas Joy



The tradition continues...

Come join us, celebrate with us on Sunday afternoon, December 12th, from 2-4 in Hoopes Hall. This year's tea promises to be another one filled with fellowship, good food, some carols and a special short program with Pastor Elizabeth Layman. Child care will be provided by Girl Scout Cadette Troop #7020. If you need child care for the afternoon, please provide the requested information for each child.

Sign up: to come; to bring a Christmas "Goodie," to help set up or to help clean up. Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex and on the bulletin board by Hoopes Hall. This event is free to women of all ages. So come, invite a friend to join us in our celebration.

The sign-up sheets are awaiting your name!

*His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV)*

Men's Ministry

We held a meeting for the Men's Breakfast Group in Hoopes Hall on November 13. 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. We were all surprised with some of the things we learned.

The subject to offer other events for men at different days and times was discussed. We are still waiting for some good ideas. It does not have to be at church or church-type activities. 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, December 11. 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 email 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@comecast.net.

Have a great day and God Bless,

- Frank Blow

SALT (Seasoned Adults Learning Together)

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 9, 2010 - Noon

At our November luncheon, Colleen Algeo, Creative Director at Peter Becker Retirement Community, gave a presentation on how the Peter Becker Community Flower Show comes together. The residents of the Community spend six weeks working and it's always amazing to see how all of their efforts produce a great show. In March 2011, the theme will be "Gulliver's Travels."

If you don't attend our December meeting, you'll miss a sweet treat! Linda Anders, the "chocolate lady" will be with us. We'll have a chocolate quiz, learn the history of chocolate and even get to dip some chocolate. How can you say NO to that? Soup will be provided by Mai Cole, Pastor Sharyl, and Evelyn Tregaskis. Doris Cairns, Eleanor Merbler, and Jean Pritchard will bring bread. Marje Beck and Tam Larson will bring dessert. You really don't want to miss this fun time.

Mission

There will be a 2011 Summer Mission Trip Informational Meeting on December 12th, at 10:21 AM in the library.

Come one, come all to find out about our 2011 mission trip and adventure. Mark your calendars for July 17-23rd.

Start praying now if you are called to this team!!! It's going to be a powerful and life changing week in so many ways.

Come after the Pageant on the 12th, get the rest of the details and sign up!

Celebration

Wonderful news! Griffin Smith, 7-year-old son of Linda Curcio and Ian Smith, and grandson of Valerie and Jay Smith, is now considered cured of cancer! Five years ago, Griffin was diagnosed with neuroblastoma; he spent much of the next year in the hospital for treatment.

Praise the Lord for this wonderful blessing, and thanks to all who prayed for Griffin!



From the Nursery School

We just seem to go from holiday to holiday at this time of the year! We jumped from Halloween right into our Thanksgiving unit, learning about the first Thanksgiving, Pilgrims and Native Americans, and the true meaning of our Thanksgiving feasts; a celebration of the many blessings in our lives...family, friends and food. We shared some of our blessings with those who are less fortunate by holding a food/children's book collection for the Quakertown Food Pantry and a clothing drive for the homeless who are served by St. Mark's Church in Harlem, NY. Many thanks to everyone who contributed— your generosity is sincerely appreciated by those organizations.



December is coming up fast, bringing our next holiday...the biggest one of all in the nursery school world...Christmas! Our Christmas unit explores the many Christmas traditions we all enjoy, focusing on the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We will be busy making presents, cards and ornaments for our families. Our 4+ class and 4 year old enrichment class will spread some holiday cheer by visiting the Hidden Meadows on the Ridge assisted living facility. We will bring homemade cookies and crafts for the residents, as well as sing the holiday songs we have learned in school. We will end our unit with our school-wide Christmas party, featuring a puppet show and a visit from a very special friend!

We continue to enroll students for next year. Please feel free to pick up a nursery school brochure in the classroom hallway and share it with anyone you know who may have a child who will be 3 or 4 by next September. Copies of the brochure are also available in the secretary's office. We appreciate your help in finding prospective students. We also have another Toddler Time session (for 2 year olds and their caregivers) starting on Tuesday, January 4, 2011.

Check out the new shelves in the Toddler Time room sometime—we were very fortunate (and thankful!) to have one of our nursery school dads, John O'Donnell, make those shelves for us, donating his time and labor. We are very grateful for his help!

We are also very grateful to all the parents and friends of the nursery school who made our Yankee Candle and Longaberger fundraisers so successful. Thank you! We are in the process of developing a fundraiser to help raise money for the replacement of the old playground equipment. We will keep you posted!

The nursery school community wishes you and your families a very joyous and blessed Christmas season!

Presbyterian 102

Decently and In Order - Part 2

1. By the Book:

Presbyterians rely on the Bible and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) for authority and guidance. The constitution consists of two books. *The Book of Confessions* contains 11 documents, dating from the 4th century to the late 20th century, that give us the main theological themes our ancestors in the faith found central in Scripture. The *Book of Order* gives us guidance for ordering our life as a community according to Scripture and the confessions. It sets out democratic principals of representative government and applies them to life in the church.

2. Presbyterian Government is NOT:

Episcopal, with government from the top down. In the Roman Catholic, Episcopal and United Methodist churches individual bishops exercise significant authority.

Congregational, with government from the bottom up. In congregational polity the local church's decisions are final, with everyone getting to vote on everything. This is characteristic of Baptists and the United Church of Christ, among other denominations.

3. Representative government:

Presbyterian polity is representative government, very similar to the United States government. Authority flows both up and down. We elect representatives to make decisions on our behalf.

One difference in emphasis between our national and church governments is that the persons Presbyterians elect to represent them are expected to vote according to their consciences as they are informed by the Holy Spirit. They cannot be instructed by their constituency on how to vote, nor are they bound to vote in the same way as the majority of those who elected them.

The American Presbyterian system developed from the bottom up, with congregations forming presbyteries, then synods and finally General Assembly. This is in contrast with the Scots Presbyterian experience. In Scotland the Scottish Parliament imposed Presbyterian government on the state church, starting with a General Assembly, and creating under it synods and presbyteries.

4. Ordination – not just for ministers:

In most denominations only clergy are ordained. In the Presbyterian Church elders and deacons, as well as ministers, are ordained. Deacons are ordained to a ministry of service. Elders are ordained to a ministry of

governance. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament are ordained to service and governance and also to a ministry of teaching and pastoral care.

5. Your congregation:

The pastor moderates meetings of the church session (the elders), but is not the boss. In fact some smaller congregations function effectively without leadership of a full time pastor. The congregation votes to call or dismiss the pastor, and the session votes on decisions affecting the spiritual and programmatic life of the congregation. In most Presbyterian congregations committees reporting to the session oversee the church's mission, Christian education, stewardship, worship and other activities.

6. We are all connected:

Presbyterians stress the importance of a unified body of Christ. As church members, we do not choose to affiliate with each other because we like each other or agree with each other's views. We are one body because God has called us together in Jesus Christ.

- Jack Rogers, *Presbyterians Today*
www.pcusa.org/Today

Recycling Reminders

Thanks to everyone who is bringing their clean waste paper to our Abitibi paper recycling dumpster on the parking lot. Please remember that the church is paid by Abitibi each time the dumpster is filled!

They accept newspaper, junk mail, magazines, office paper, construction paper and catalogs. Please do not recycle phonebooks or paperbacks unless they have been ripped into thin sections.

The blue wastebaskets in the Payne Building are for clean paper only as well. Please do NOT use the dumpster or blue wastebaskets in the Payne Building for cans, bottles, used paper cups and plates, tissues, paper towels or other trash.

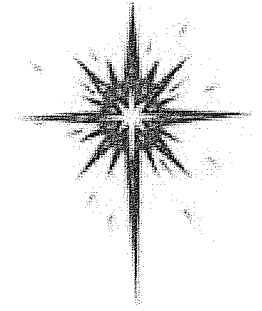
Using the recycling receptacles appropriately will help the cleaning staff do their jobs efficiently, and help the church earn money.

- Genevra Allen

FORWARD IN FAITH
WITH CHRIST

Christmas Joy Offering

Are You Prepared for Christmas Joy?



For more than seventy years an offering at Christmas has been a Presbyterian tradition. Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering support eight racial ethnic schools and colleges related to the PC (USA) and the Assistance Programs of the Board of Pensions, which benefit active and retired workers of the PC (USA) during times of need. Through the Board of Pensions Financial Assistance Programs, the Christmas Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times.

To help retired church workers and their surviving spouses, the board offers Income Supplements to raise incomes to a level where retirees can live modestly and continue to maintain their independence.

The Shared Grant Program is open to all current and retired church workers. Governing bodies, congregations, and employing organizations offer the grants to church workers who have financial need or an emergency. The board shares the funding equally with this partner organization.

Many times, Shared Grants and Emergency Assistance Grants meet needs that might be considered routine, such as additional medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance. Perhaps a retiree needs a little help paying for equipment or services not covered by traditional insurance. Other times, grants may help a church worker meet unexpected financial needs or recover from a natural disaster.

Each of these grants is an expression of Presbyterians' faithful witness to and sharing of the love of Christ for all people. Shared and Emergency Assistance Grants can help people with various financial needs resulting from unavoidable problems: an unemployed spouse, a flood or tornado, a seriously ill child, or unexpected family expenses. Again and again, recipients of grants large and small say that as important as the financial assistance was, what really sustained them was the knowledge that the church was standing with them in their time of need.

Our Joy Offering will be taken on December 19.



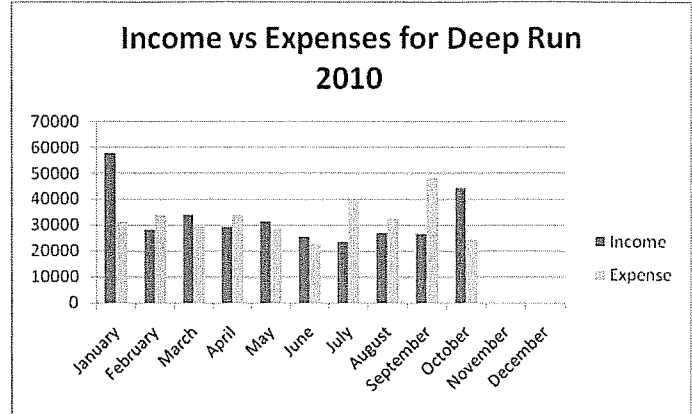
Financial Secretary's Report

As I write this, it is Thanksgiving time and a time to reflect and thank God for all our many blessings. We thank the PNC for their devotion to our church community by bringing Pastor Elizabeth to us. We thank God for Pastor Sharyl, our children, grandchildren, families, our food and home. How many more can you name? How can you say, "Thank You"?

One way is to help support the work of our church community. Our budget will be greater this year since we now have two full-time pastors and activities aplenty. Please consider what you can do to help keep the work of Deep Run going for our children and grandchildren. We must consider that the cost for lights, fuel, and salaries never decreases. Pray and give the best you can with a grateful heart.

Thank you for your generous support in the past and we look forward to the years ahead for Deep Run.

- Evelyn Tregaskis



October 2010 Financial Income Report

	<u>Oct 10</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Income				
40000 · Offering				
40010 · Pledge cash/checks	33,113.50	27,121.00	5,992.50	122.1%
40020 · Non-Pledge cash/checks	1,707.00	1,666.50	40.50	102.43%
40030 · Plate cash/checks	1,171.16	1,250.00	-78.84	93.69%
40040 · Sunday School	150.31	166.50	-16.19	90.28%
40050 · Initial Offering	0.00	86.50	-86.50	0.0%
Total 40000 · Offering	36,141.97	30,290.50	5,851.47	119.32%

January through October 2010 Financial Income Report

	<u>Jan - Oct 10</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Income				
40000 · Offering				
40010 · Pledge cash/checks	271,618.50	271,210.00	408.50	100.15%
40020 · Non-Pledge cash/checks	12,961.00	16,665.00	-3,704.00	77.77%
40030 · Plate cash/checks	8,468.16	12,500.00	-4,031.84	67.75%
40040 · Sunday School	1,424.67	1,665.00	-240.33	85.57%
40050 · Initial Offering	1,048.00	865.00	183.00	121.16%
Total 40000 · Offering	295,520.33	302,905.00	-7,384.67	97.56%

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.*

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
Sandy Fickes, Janet Pagenkemper

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5:00 PM - Main Sanctuary
Jim and Jean Pritchard
2 Volunteers needed
7:00 PM - Irish Meeting House
2 Volunteers needed
10:00 PM - Main Sanctuary
Bernie Lutterer June Follin
Krissy Lutterer **Volunteer needed**

December 26 - One Service - 9:00 AM

Jim Lee*
Sherri Schmell
Scott and Charlene Wilbur

January 2011

January 2 - One Service - 9:00 AM

Ron Feindt*
Patti Skow
Don Strouse
Miriam Sursa

9:00AM

10:30AM

January 9

Paul Faulkner*	Brian Buchanan*
Beth Faulkner	Doris Buchanan
Eleanor Merbler	Jeff Berger
Pat Schuck	Mai Cole

January 16

Dave Wert*	Marv Moyer*
Alaina Wert	Judy Moyer
Jeff Schmitt	Carol Schmitt
Jen Schmitt	Chris Nichols

January 23

Bill Lutterer*	Rick Allen*
Bernie Lutterer	Genevra Allen
Jim Pritchard	Rick Kempes
Jean Pritchard	Margie Mosher

January 30

Phil Edwards*	Jay Smith*
Pat Edwards	Valerie Smith
Matt Edwards	Bill Goble
Michelle Edwards	Sandy Goble

* Lead Usher

Nursery Volunteers

- Laura Mill, Nursery Scheduler

9:00AM

10:30AM

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 - 9:00 AM

Lynne Hager
Dot Tenley

January 2 - One Service - 9:00 AM

Nanette Reed
Margo Wensel

January 9

Kristin Kleppinger
Andrew Kleppinger

Nancy Christiansen
Lisa Maketa

January 16

Donna Drexler
Leif Drexler

Tam Larson
Jim Larson

January 23

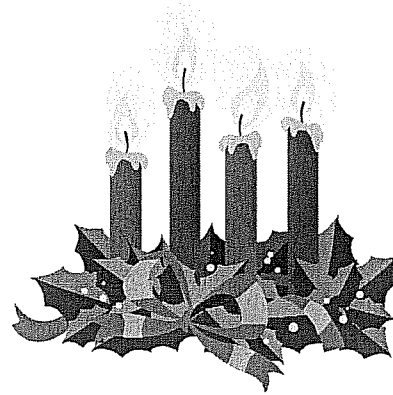
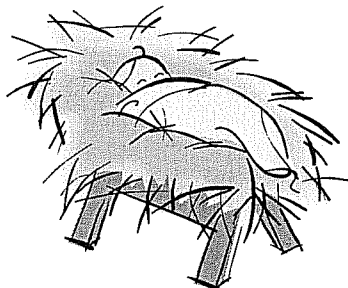
Kristie Hess
Greg Hess

Margie Mosher
Carol Ramsey

January 30

Michelle Cramer
Laura Mill

Alaina Wert
Dave Wert



Lighting Advent Candles with Children - A Litany for Home

We will spend time making Advent wreaths at church this year. Here is a wonderful way to use them with your children at home. At the beginning of each lighting of the candles say together with your children: *We give thanks for the light of Christ, shining in the lives of all God's people.*

On the First Sunday of Advent, and at successive lightings: *With the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, we watch and wait for the coming of Christ who will bring light and peace to all the world.* Light the first candle.

On the Second Sunday of Advent, and at successive lightings: *With John the Baptist, we cry out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."* Light the second candle.

On the Third Sunday of Advent, and at successive lightings: *With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we rejoice, for the Mighty One has done great things for us. How holy is God's name!* Light the third candle.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and at successive lightings: *With Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we tell the story of Jesus, the child of Bethlehem, who came to save us, and is coming again in glory.* Light the fourth candle.

On the eve of Christmas, or on Christmas Day: *With the choirs of angels, we sing: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth!"* Light the center candle.

On each occasion the lighting of the candles may be concluded with the following song: [Tune: "Frere Jacques"] *Light of Jesus (echo: light of Jesus), show the way (show the way). Shine in us forever (shine in us forever); this we pray (this we pray).*



THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Coeditors: Herb Miller, Lyle E. Schaller, Cynthia Woolever - www.TheParishPaper.com

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Fifty Years Later: What Has Changed?

By 2005 Americans were beginning to accept the fact that “We are now living in the twenty-first century.”

Five decades earlier we were firmly entrenched in the middle of the twentieth century.

How has the passage of a half century changed the context for local church ministry?

1. Back in 2000 the late Peter Drucker said that for the first time in history a large and growing number of human beings are convinced that they really have a choice regarding their future. Instead of inheriting their future—as a result of when, where, and to whom they were born—people now are able to design their own future. What are the consequences of that big change?

- The nearly quadrupled number of independent nations on this planet between 1945 and 2005
- The sharp increase in resistance to outside authority
- The spread of terrorism
- The rising demand for internal leadership—instead of leadership by outside political forces similar to what many European countries exerted when they pulled the strings of financial-puppet colonies on distant continents

On the religious scene in America, the most widely studied consequence of that resistance to external authority has been the emergence of thousands of completely autonomous nondenominational Protestant congregations averaging more than 500 at weekend worship.

Perhaps the second most widely studied consequence has been the relocation of millions of Americans who were born, baptized, reared, and confirmed in a parish of the Roman Catholic Church to active participation in an independent Protestant megachurch.

A third consequence has been the erosion of inherited institutional loyalties—similar to the loss of loyalty to the famous “Big Three” which consisted of General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford; loss of loyalty to daily newspapers; and loss of loyalty to service clubs, restaurants, airlines, political parties, and religious organizations (including theological seminaries).

2. Perhaps the most widely ignored change is a product of two trends: the freedom to choose and the growth of large institutions. Several generations ago, nineteenth century America began an era of building a completely new type of institution:

- A few institutions—such as the railroads, the national government, and a modest proportion of factories—were big.

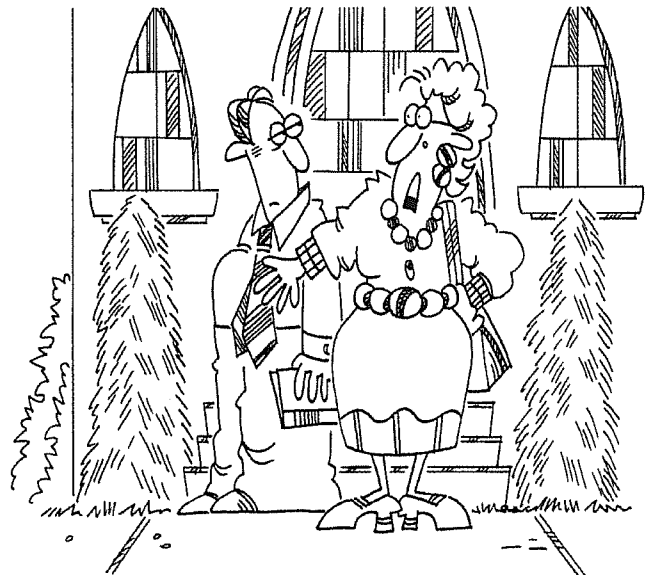
- But at that time most of the institutions were small. The long list of examples included public schools, Protestant congregations, family owned and operated general stores, dairy farms, post offices, and the owner-operated factory that employed three or four people.

One big indicator of this change to large institutions: The number of one-teacher public schools in the U. S. plunged from 200,100 in 1916 to only 474 in 1996.

A more highly visible example of the shift to big institutions is the public high school with 3,000 students.

Another example of this shift toward big institutions is the emergence of Protestant megachurches averaging 2,000 to 18,000 at weekend worship.

A highly visible consequence of this shift to larger institutions is the growing number of Protestant congregations with a 40- to 100-acre site that often includes a Christian day school and three different times and venues for the corporate worship of God.



TEN PARKING SPACES WAS PLENTY IN 1920...
MOST PEOPLE LIVED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
AND WALKED TO CHURCH...
ARE YOU SAYING WE NEED A LARGER PARKING LOT?

Still another consequence of this shift to larger institutions is the growing number of large Protestant congregations with two-to-eight “satellite” worship services miles away from the congregation’s central campus.

Another major consequence of this trend toward larger institutions: Most Americans born before 1940 grew up in a culture of small institutions—such as the one-room school and the small church. But the children born in America since the 1950s have been reared in a culture of big institutions. Thus, about 16 percent of all Protestant congregations now account for at least one half of the combined worship attendance of all Protestant churches in America on the typical weekend. The big are growing in size and the small are struggling to survive.

3. The growth of one-person households. In 1959 one out of every eight households in the United States consisted of one person. In 2005 that proportion had increased to one out of four. Among the numerous explanations for that change are affluence, people getting married later, and a six-year increase in the average life expectancy of sixty-five-year-old Americans.

Another part of this changed context: The capability of Americans to meet and make new friends tends to diminish with age. One consequence is a sharp increase in the number of mature adults in America who live alone. Another consequence is a sharp increase in the number of retired women who gather regularly to sew, knit, or make quilts (working together on a common task is one way to meet and make new friends).

Then, too, an uncounted number of households now include adherents of two or three congregations.

These changes help explain to us why congregations now need a larger number of households to produce a hundred worshipers on the typical weekend than was true in the 1950s.

4. A change in the sequence by which unmarried women become married women and mothers. People concerned about family life note a major change in what they have long viewed as the normal sequence:

- For unmarried women age 20-24, the annual birth rate per 1,000 women climbed from 10 in 1940-41, to 41 in 1980, to 73 in 2005.

- For unmarried women age 25-29, the annual birth-rate per 1,000 women climbed from 7.2 in 1940, to 34 in 1980, to 68 in 2005.

- For unmarried women age 30-34, the annual birth-rate increase per 1,000 women was 5 in 1940, 21 in 1980, and 47 in 2005.

- For unmarried women age 35-39, the birth-rate increased from an annual average of 3.4 births per 1,000 women in 1940, to 10 in 1982, to 24 in 2005.

Yes, people still get married and have children, but not necessarily in that order. Nor do as many people who have children get married at all, compared to people in the American population fifty years ago.

5. The growing demand for “improved service to the customer.” What many commentators have called “consumerism,” plus the arrival into adulthood of the babies born after World War II, plus the fact that the number of licensed motor vehicles in the U. S. now exceeds the number of licensed drivers, has expanded the service area of most Protestant congregations.

How far do people travel to come to your church? A typical response is, “About two or three times the distance they traveled in 1955.” (A common exception to that formula is “Old First Church Downtown.”)

One consequence is the demand for more church-owned off-street parking. Another is greater competition among the churches for future constituents.

6. A huge increase in the number of Christian congregations in the United States that have established a continuing relationship with one or more “sister churches” on other continents. Typically, this includes a seven-to-fifteen-day trip by those American laity to work in ministry with fellow Christians in that sister church. One consequence: the large number of Americans, many of whom were born before 1950, who return and say, “That experience has transformed me from a believer into a disciple.”

7. The change in focus from “a new beginning happens by moving people into church membership” to “a new beginning happens by transforming Christian believers into deeply committed disciples of Jesus Christ.” One widely used conceptual framework affirms the concept that one’s personal faith journey consists of five stages: (1) seeker, (2) new believer, (3) eager learner, (4) disciple, and (5) apostle. (Other observers see this as a six-stage sequence.)

Thus, a growing number of Protestant congregations now schedule three worship experiences each weekend. The sermon in one of those services is directed at people in stages 1 and 2 (seekers and new believers). The message in the second of those three services is designed for the “eager learners.” The sermon in the third worship service is designed for “disciples and apostles.”

One consequence of this change has been the creation of two categories of membership: “Community” for people in the first three stages and “Covenant” for people in the fourth stage. Only those in the fourth stage have a vote at congregational meetings.

Yes, congregations are now in the twenty-first century! That makes big differences in how worshipers view their congregations and how congregations do their ministries!

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