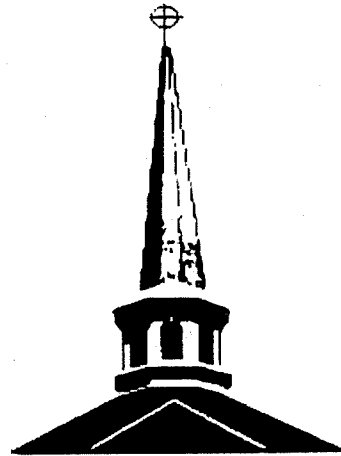


Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-6007

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

January 2005

KERRY ON...

Most of us probably make some New Year's resolutions and then quickly forget them. This year I have chosen a few lines from familiar hymns as guideposts for 2005. You might want to post them on your refrigerator or somewhere else where you can reflect on them throughout the year.

This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

God of our life, through all the circling years,
We trust in thee.

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Grant us wisdom; grant us courage for the living of these days.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Hymnbook: 293, 275, 555, 263, 100, 420, 553

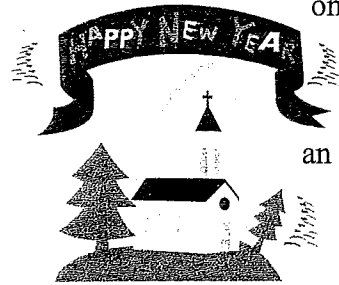
Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

Remember Those in Need in 2005!

The **Mission Committee** is looking for volunteers to prepare meals for **Sophia House** in Rockville. Sophia House is a congregation and community supported shelter that provides rehabilitative services for homeless women in our community. PPC provides and serves dinner for 30 women the first Sunday of each month. (When we deliver dinner we also provide breakfast for the next morning). We're looking for individuals, families, Girl Scout troops, or youth groups who are interested in helping us continue this mission in our community. Please pick a date and sign up on the Sophia House sheet in fellowship hall. If you have questions, contact Tracy Spencer at 301-251-9340.

Marilyn's Message

At the beginning of a new year, we often try to break bad habits and develop new good ones. I offer here a few suggestions for developing new habits that might have a profound effect on 2005:



Bring your children to Sunday School every week: We offer an interesting and fun way to learn Bible stories through computers, video, drama, art, games, cooking, and other ways that will engage your children and give them insights into the major stories and concepts of the Bible. Try it – they'll love it!

Find a Bible class for yourself: Adults never stop learning, so drop in on the adult seminar class on Sunday mornings, or join the Wednesday morning Bible study - we're beginning a study of the book of Mark on January 5. Beginning this winter, we will be offering an evening Bible study as well. Watch your bulletin for more information.

Volunteer for something new: The next time someone in the church asks you to do something, say yes! You might love it, and if you don't, at least you have tried! Think of something that would enhance your faith development in the church, and volunteer to try to get it started. All of the committees are open to new ideas, and if it's something that interests you, chances are there are others in the church who would like it, too.

Reach out to someone: Step out of your comfort zone, and try visiting at the nursing home with our church group, or serve lunch at the Lord's Table. Offer to share your experience and expertise with the youth group. Adopt a college student or a shut-in. There are many opportunities through the mission, worship, Christian education, and fellowship committees.

Take time daily for prayer: Make it a priority to give even 20 minutes of your day to God, asking for what you need, praying for the needs of others, but also giving thanks for the abundance of blessings which you have been given. God cares about you, and wants to hear from you!

Adult Education

Jan. 2

No Class

Jan. 9

Film

Jan. 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6

Dewey Wallace – "Hodge, Nevin and Bushnell:
Three Reformed Theologians in the Ante-bellum U.S."

DEACON'S CORNER

The Advent season and our annual celebration of the miracle of Baby Jesus are now behind us, as are the many whirlwind holiday activities with family and friends. We have now entered 2005 and may be reflecting on the events of last year, be they times of joy and success, or sorrow and toil. As we wish for all good things in the New Year, let us remember the words from Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within me." Whatever our aspirations for the New Year--perhaps to go beyond our boss's or our own expectations at work, earn more A's at school, give more of ourselves to our community, spend more simple quiet time with family and friends, shed those extra pounds, or finally clean out that extra closet--let us take comfort and be inspired by Isaiah 40, Verse 31:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;

They shall mount up with wings as eagles;

They shall run, and not be weary;

And they shall walk, and not faint.

As you strive to be all that you can be, the Deacons wish you a happy, healthy and successful New Year.

Kitty Cowie

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with... Bob Hazard, Barbara Shamel, Ruth Newell, Dawn Thompson, and Marcia Boogaard's sister, Elizabeth Sanders, all at home; Jack Crawford at Shady Grove Adventist Rehab. Center; George and Wilma Boddiger at Wilson Healthcare Center; Jim Jochum in Sorocaba, Brazil (jimjoch@aol.com); Melissa Dorman's husband, Pete Attilio, in Baghdad as part of the Army medical staff; the family of Ruth B. Jones, a long time former member of PPC, who died on Nov. 15; Nelia Chichester Scioli, whose father, Ernest Andberg, died recently; Helen Thuerk, whose husband, Hugh, passed away on Nov. 27. Helen's address is 57 Forest Edge, Plymouth, MA 02360.

We celebrate with joy...

the baptism of Natalie Ann Eagleson, daughter of Thomas and Christine Eagleson. We celebrate with joy the following births: Alexander Augustine, son of Mark Alarie and Rene Augustine, and grandson of Meg and Norm Augustine; Annette Katherine Leber, daughter of Michael and Susan Leber, and granddaughter of Charles and Gloria Leber; Lily Morgan Rice, daughter of Matthew and Pam Self Rice; Finley Hallam Hoffman, granddaughter of Nelia Scioli, and daughter of Whitney and Ted Hoffman; Gordon Mackenzie, son of Elizabeth and Lennox Stuart, and grandson of Calvin and Janet Koonce.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

Courtney Chapin, who graduated from the University of Miami;
Andrew Grier who graduated from the University of Michigan.

New Phone Number: Taylor and Bettie Ann Johnson 910-256-6881



Rozner Scholarship Endowment Assists Polish Theological Student

The Rozner Scholarship Endowment memorializes the life of Alexander Rozner by providing scholarships to Presbyterian theology students. Every year our Session designates a Presbyterian theological seminary or student as the recipient of the annual earnings of the fund.

Alexander and his mother Klara came to this country from their native Poland with Alexander's wife, Solveig, sometime after World War II. They all became members of the Potomac Presbyterian Church and actively participated in the mission of the congregation. Everyone remembers the wood Easter eggs owned by Klara and used by Pastor Kerry in his Easter children's sermon. Alexander died suddenly and unexpectedly on March 24, 2000, while traveling in Europe. Klara died on December 12, 2004, on her 101st birthday.

The Mission Committee considered it appropriate to find a Polish student studying for the Presbyterian ministry and award the fund's 2004 income to that student. Fortunately, the committee located two small Polish Presbyterian congregations—one in Poznan and the other in Wroclaw. These two congregations receive some support and ministerial guidance from the congregation and pastor of the Llandaff Presbyterian Church (Reformed) in Cardiff, Wales.

The Mission Committee established email contact with the Llandaff pastor, The Reverend Dr. Peter Naylor. He furnished the committee with information about the two Polish congregations and a Polish theological student. These contacts culminated in the committee designating the fund's 2004 income to that student.

Like other endowment funds of our congregation, the Rozner Endowment remains open to contributions by the congregation in memory of Alexander and, now, Klara.

The committee will seek contact with the Polish student and provide the congregation with further information.

IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Klara Rozner. We commend her to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

WORKCAMP NEWS

Twenty-nine youth and four adults have registered for Workcamp for the summer of 2005 in Bristol, Tennessee. All of the youth openings are full, and we still need one more male and one female adult to attend. The fundraising efforts of our workcampers have been going very well this year, and we will have no trouble raising our needed funds of just over \$12,000. Thank you again for your generous support.

If you won "Youth for Hire" hours at the Bingo Night, you might want to redeem them while the college students are home on break. Five of our college freshmen are going to Workcamp this summer with us, and they'd love some opportunities to earn part of their way. If you would like a couple of young people to do some work around your house, contact Marilyn Johns at the church, and we'll try to match you up with willing helpers.

Our January fundraiser is a "Rock-In, Lock-In" in which youth will find sponsors to pledge some amount of money per hour for them to rock in rocking chairs at the church. We will be rocking for 12 hours during the night on January 21, while we play rock music (of course), and play sitting-down games. It promises to be a lot of fun!

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT



There will be another opportunity for parents to bring children to the church on Friday, January 14, from 6-9 pm. Our youth are offering this free service so that parents can spend some quality time together, and children will be well cared for. There is a sign-up poster in the Fellowship Hall for Parents' Night Out.

PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN

Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our children in Fourth and Fifth Grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

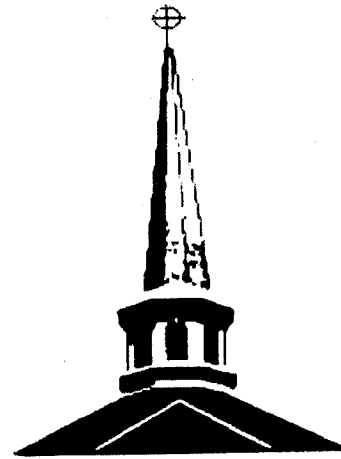
Michael Donahue, Jane Drumheller, Hannah Jung, Samantha Klein, Amanda Kuhn, Kayla Mason, Lucy Miller, Hunter Casten, Brandon Eng, Maggie Hay, Joe Haynes, Stephen Kirchner, Ashton Kline, Victoria Kuhn, Amanda Lee, Katherine Ling, Molly Miller, Chasen Mindnich, Brandon Parr, Luke Pereles, Emily Petti, Abigail Singerling, Allison Srouer



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2005</h1>						1
2 11:00 a.m. Worship/Sacrament of Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship No Youth Groups	3 School Begins	4 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	5 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:30 p.m. CE Committee (1 st Wed)	6 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir 8:00 p.m. St. Luke Christmas Eve	7 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. St. Luke X-mas	8 8:30 - 3:00 Deacons Retreat at home of Roberta Meredith
9 9:00 a.m. New Officer Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Ordination and Installation of Officers 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	10 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	11 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.)	12 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	13 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	14 6:00-9:00 p.m. Parent's Night Out	15
16 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Sr. High Progressive Dinner	17 10:00-12:00 p.m. DAR Meeting 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	18 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3 rd Tues.)	19 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Reformed Institute Program Committee 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	20 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	21 9:00 p.m. Youth Rock-In Lock-In	22
23 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts No Youth Groups	24 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.)	25 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 10:00 a.m. Presbytery (National)	26 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	27 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	28	29 9:30 a.m. Reformed Institute Convocation Fairfax Presbyterian Church
30 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Lunch and Annual Congregational Meeting 12:15 p.m. Youth Groups (combined)	31	TSUNAMI DISASTER RELIEF: PASTOR KERRY AND THE MISSION COMMITTEE ENCOURAGE PPC MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER RELIEF FUND TO AID THOSE IN NEED IN ASIA. MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO PPC AND WRITE "DISASTER RELIEF" IN THE NOTE PORTION OF THE CHECK. CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE CHANNIELED				

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

February 2005

KERRY ON...

The Apostle Paul tells us “to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.” (Romans 12:15) The earthquake and Tsunami in South Asia have brought weeping almost beyond our imagination. The numbers of dead and injured and homeless are staggering. Yet individual stories of a child or parent with tears in their eyes bring home to us the grief and sorrow. I believe that God weeps as well in the face of such suffering. Perhaps we should be reminded that God weeps daily for any of his children who suffer and die.

Could it be that the outpouring of relief and support throughout the world gives new meaning to the rejoicing part of Paul’s admonition? Usually we think of it as being glad for our family and friends when they experience something good. Can we not also rejoice as we watch the TV accounts of those who are hungry and thirsty receiving food and water? Rejoicing can take the form of our children and youth preparing health kits. It can be made real as we write a check for disaster relief.

I believe that there is hope for new understanding among nations as the human community responds to this tragedy with care and compassion. As Christians we are called to love our neighbors and reach out to those who suffer. Jesus shocked his contemporaries by radically expanding the definition of neighbor in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Our witness in his name can be no less expansive as we consider, “who is my neighbor.”

Contributions for Presbyterian Tsunami Relief may be given to PPC and noted “Tsunami Relief.” According to the IRS, gifts made until January 31 may be included on 2004 tax returns. If you wish to do so, write “2004” on your check. As of January 17, total contributions from PPC stand at \$8600.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 30, 2005, 12:00 noon

A light lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall, with the meeting to follow. Committee chairs will make brief reports. Comments, questions and discussion are welcome. Come and celebrate the ministry of Potomac Presbyterian Church!

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

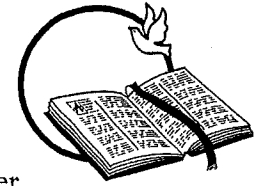
Marilyn's Message

February is the month of love, so I decided to share some glimpses of love-ly things I have observed over the past month or so.

- ♥ 3 to 6 year old siblings hugging and helping each other during the Christmas Shopper's Sitter Service.
- ♥ A delightful concert by the Choral Arts Society, which featured a youth orchestra from our area that was absolutely incredible.
- ♥ A chance to spend five whole days with my daughter, Liz, who is much too busy in vet school to make it home very often.
- ♥ The shining eyes of children of all ages hearing the Christmas story at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Some were hearing it for the very first time. Others have heard it for many, many years. All had a sense of awe and wonder at this marvelous story.
- ♥ Fourteen college students reunited for lunch at Tally-Ho following the worship service they led, laughing and joking together as if they had never been apart.
- ♥ Lots of good time with Rachel, who was home for a month, helping me to forget that empty-nest thing.
- ♥ A nice, though hectic, visit with my family in Buffalo – and NOT being snowed in!
- ♥ The inspiring words of our newest elders and deacons as they shared with the session their understanding of their upcoming service as officers.
- ♥ A fond thank-you (accompanied by lots of goodies!) from the Christian Education Committee to Judi Miller, who has served as our elder for the past year, and is going to the Fellowship Committee in 2005.

Where have you glimpsed love-liness in your life? Take the time to notice and be thankful to God for those love-ly moments; they are all around us!

In the Church Family



Our prayers are with...

Bob Hazard at home; Dawn Thompson at Ingleside Healthcare Center (Room 187 for those who wish to visit); Barbara Shamel at home; Jack Crawford at home; Jim Jochum in Sorocaba, Brazil (jimjoch@aol.com); Marcia Boogaard's sister, Elizabeth Sanders, at home; Wilma Boddiger at Wilson Healthcare Center; Bob Garcia at Suburban Hospital.

We give thanks that Melissa Dorman's husband, Pete Atillio, is home from Iraq and will be on assignment at Walter Reed Hospital.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

Craig and Connie Kendall on the birth of their son Clifford Bryan Kendall, on December 14. Proud grandparents are Cliff and Camille Kendall.

Roger Machlin who graduated from the University of Tampa in December.

IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of George Boddiger. George has been a member of PPC since 1971 and served on the Session from 1978-80 and 1990-1992. We commend him to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

New address:

Melissa Norvell and Chad Mills
87 Crestview Lane
Brunswick, ME 04011
207-319-7412

DEACON'S CORNER

In January, the Annual Deacons' Retreat is held. This is the first time the newly elected deacons and the continuing deacons gather as a group. During this last retreat, each deacon was asked to share his/her goals for the coming New Year. As we shared with each other, it became clear that for the new deacons, the role of a deacon was unclear. Upon reflection, I wondered how many of you were unsure of the deacons' mission. The purpose of the office of deacon is described as one of "sympathy, witness, and service" after the example of Jesus Christ (as set forth in Scripture.)

Jackie Evans, Deacon Class of 1995, wrote, "Deacons serve as representatives of the church, facilitating communication between church leadership and parish members. They are hosts and hostesses, welcoming other members and visitors. They sponsor and take part in various functions that foster and strengthen relationships between members of the congregation and the church, and between each other. They express the concern, joy and compassion that the church feels for all of its members."

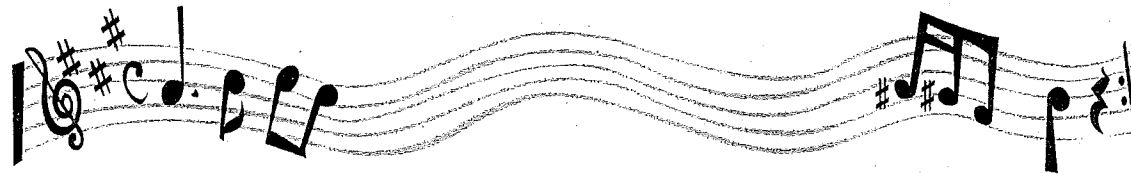
Our mission is implemented in various ways. We not only host Coffee Hours but encourage church members to serve each other by being hosts with us. In the spring and the fall we hold All Deacons' Coffees. After school starts in the fall, we sent our college/graduate students care packages. Workcampers head off each June to repair homes with a deacon-prepared bag of goodies and donuts to munch on during their trip. Along with the elders, we help serve Communion. Together we participate in the Church's ministry to Sophia House. A favorite activity for all is the Williamsburg Breakfast! Though all these jobs are important, one of the most vital jobs is communicating directly with the congregation. When information must be disseminated immediately to you, each deacon personally calls the members. We prepare for the reception following Memorial Services. Finally, along with the prayer team, your deacon prays for your needs.

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
I Thessalonians 5:11*

Roberta Meredith

GREETERS NEEDED: Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

LOST: The Deacons are looking for the Deacon Notebook that was created several years ago. If you happen to have any information of its whereabouts, please contact Chris Cyrway (301-365-6743) or Roberta Meredith (301-963-8666).



The Wright Note

Are you ever confused by the musical titles and credits listed in our worship bulletins? Some of you keen observers and careful readers are puzzled – and for good reason.

An organ selection or an anthem title is printed on the left side of the page. To the right is printed the composer or arranger's name. In the case of hymns, however, the hymn title appears on the left; its tune name, not the composer's, is printed to the right.

Isn't the tune name the same as the title of the hymn? It can be, but most often it is different. The composer of the music to which the text is set decides what that tune should be called. Thus, you may find more than one hymn text that can be sung to a particular tune which accommodates the text's scheme of syllable distribution.

How do you identify the tune name? In our hymnal, it is listed in capital letters directly under the title. The composer, arranger or general tune origin is found to the right, with the text origin to the left. If there is no known composer, then a descriptive phrase such as African American Spiritual or American folk melody is printed.

The next time you see the familiar hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", you will recognize that its tune name, EIN' FESTE BURG, will be listed to the right in the bulletin. The composer of the tune and the text writer just happen to be Martin Luther. His name appears twice on the hymn page, once to the left and once to the right. Only the tune name, not Martin Luther's name, is printed in our bulletin.

After reading this article, do you feel as if you are preparing for a course in Hymnody 101? My hope is that you will sing our hymns with even greater enthusiasm now that you understand that many of those German title captions actually refer to the hymn tune title. You may even decide to consult the hymn tune index in the back of the hymnal to discover other hymn texts that are set to the same tune.

Cindy





The Prayer Team

We're looking for new members! Being a part of the team is a wonderful way of serving the needs of the church without even having to leave your home. If you have any questions or would like to be a part of the team, please call Roberta Meredith (301-963-8666 or 301-463-0966.)

Ephesians 6:18: "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

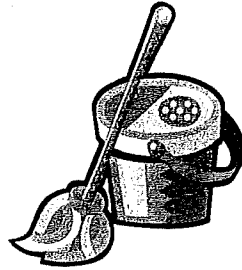
INDOOR SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday, March 12, from 9 to 12

The Property and Fellowship Committees cordially invite all who would rather dust than dig to join them as they wax the piano, dust blinds, and clean scuff marks off the pews. Oh, let's not forget the windows (inside only, of course)...What fun! We will tackle those areas not usually handled by our wonderful part time cleaning staff.

Bring any favorite cleaning supplies you think you may need and we will provide the rest. Wear comfortable old clothes and come hang out with us for an hour or 2...whatever! We may even have some hot coffee and goodies to reward you. Together we will have fun making our church home sparkle!

Questions? Call Gail Cannon 301-365-8632 or Nettie Propps 301-365-0367



SPRING CLEANING?

Don't throw those treasures away! Save them for the Workcamp Yard Sale on April 16 and 17. Your trash may be someone else's treasure! All proceeds from the sale benefit the Youth Workcamp to Bristol, Tennessee in late June.



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Parents Night Out for February will be held on Friday, February 18. Youth from our church will entertain your children from 6 till 9 p.m. while you take some much-needed time alone. Mark your calendar and sign up on the poster in the Fellowship Hall.



YOUTH SUNDAY

Don't miss the Youth Sunday worship service
February 27 at 11:00 a.m.

INQUIRERS' SERIES

For those who want to learn more about, and are interested in membership at Potomac Presbyterian Church, a three-part Inquirers' Series will be held on Feb. 27, March 6, and March 13. The Sunday morning, 9:45 am classes, held in the church parlor, are taught by Pastor Stoltzfus. After the series has been completed, those wishing to unite with the church will meet with the Session on Sunday, March 20th and then be recognized as new members during the 11 am service. Please contact Louise Plumb, 301-762-2769, or Pastor Stoltzfus, 301-299-6007 with any questions.

PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN

Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our children in Sixth and Seventh Grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

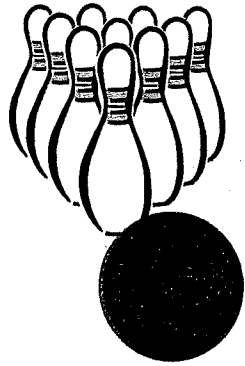
John Arnold, Julianna Bond, Megan Boyd, Michelle Boyd, Samantha Bretscher, Alexandra Broseker, Colleen Cronin, Matthew Jeffers, Angelica Klein, Blake Kline, Mackenzie Phillips, Meili Sohl, Kathleen Arnold, Dixon Drumheller, Brett Kirchner, Nick Kovacs, Will Kovacs, Andrew Lee, Kevin Wyatt



PPC ON PINS AND NEEDLES!

LET'S GO BOWLING!!!

"Spare" a night with PPC Bowling at A.F.M. Lanes on Shady Grove Rd.



Saturday, February 26 at 6pm. "Strike" up new friendships while having a "ball"!

Bring the whole family, bring a friend! This is for all ages, 1 to 99. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. Don't be a "gutter ball"! For more information please contact Judi Miller (301)-949-6865; millerofmd@comcast.net or

Marnel Williams (301)-258-9547; wmarnel@aol.com.

Check the bulletin for additional information.

LET'S KNIT TOGETHER!

KNIT and RIP~~~~ Feb. 2nd and 9th, 11:00-12:00 noon in the library.

Beginning or experienced knitters (or somewhere in-between) are invited to come learn to knit, get help with a knitting project, or, just come for the fun of it.

FIRST TIME KNITTERS: Bring size 5-7 needles and smooth yarn.

SCARVES: Interested in learning to knit the new fuzzy scarves?

Bring large needles and a skein or two of 'eyelash' yarn available at Michael's, A. C. Moore or any yarn shop.

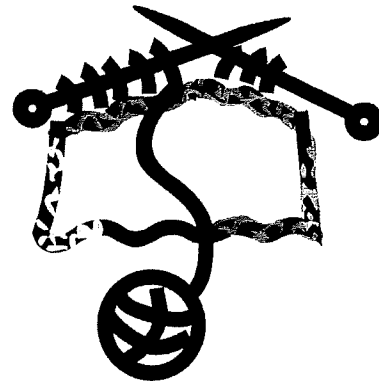
Questions?

Kathy McMahon (301-762-2076) or

Ruthanne Stoltzfus (301-424-8492).

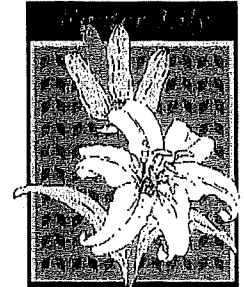
Individual projects are welcome.

Come join us!



Come! Join Us for a Season of Renewal!

The Worship Committee invites you to join us for the special services during the season of Lent. In our church, this period of forty days includes meditation, prayer, and spiritual renewals, following the example of Christ.



The color of the season is violet. During this solemn time, we prepare our hearts for the Resurrection, which we commemorate at Easter. PPC invites you to join the following services and to focus on your spiritual life:

February 9	Ash Wednesday Communion Service:	7:30 p.m.
March 20	Palm Sunday Service:	11:00 a.m.
March 24	Maundy Thursday:	
	Supper provided by the Fellowship Committee	7:00 p.m.
	Communion Service following supper	8:00 p.m.
March 27	Easter Sunday Services	9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Daily Lenten Meditations will be available in the narthex on February 9th.

The Worship Committee Needs Your Help

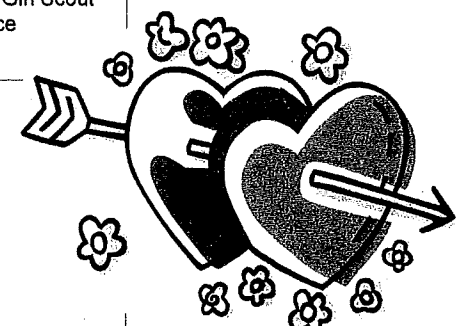
Preparing Communion: A couple of dependable people are needed to prepare communion for the eight days a year it is served at Sunday services.

Ash Wednesday Communion Service on February 9th: We need one **usher**, one scripture **reader**, and **two parishioners to prepare the communion**.

Please email **Fran Ligler** at fligler@cbmse.nrl.navy.mil or phone in the evenings at **301-983-3482** if you can help in any way. It takes the contributions of many to make our services meaningful for all! Thank you!

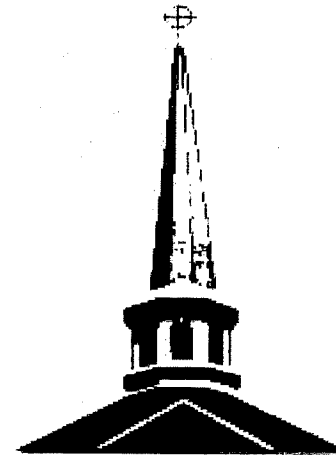
Also, if you would like to **usher at Sunday services**, please sign up at the kiosk in the coffee room. If you wish to **donate flowers** for Sunday Services, please sign the sheet outside the main office.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2005</h1>						
		1 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	2 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:00-12:00 p.m. Knitting Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir	3 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	4	5
6 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship SOUPER BOWL OF CARING NO Youth Groups CBS Shelter Week >>> Sat. 2/12	7	8 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.)	9 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:00-12:00 p.m. Knitting Class 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	10 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	11 8:00 p.m. Jr. High Lock In Till 8:00 a.m. (2/12)	12 9:00 a.m. Reformed Institute Class at Old Presbyterian Meeting House - John Yieh
13 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Confirmation trip to National Cathedral 1:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Workcamp Meeting	14 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	15 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.) 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline 7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3 rd Tues.)	16 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	17 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	18 6:00-9:00 p.m. Parent's Night Out	19
20 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Youth Groups (Combined) 3:00 p.m. Manor Care	21 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	22 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class	23 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	24 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	25 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Girl Scout Father/Daughter Dance	26
27 YOUTH SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	28 7:30 p.m. CE Committee (4 th Mon.) 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.)					



Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
March 2005

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

February 27 **YOUTH SUNDAY** **11:00 a.m.**

EASTER SERVICES

March 20 **Palm Sunday Service:** **11:00 a.m.**
March 24 **Maundy Thursday:**
 Supper provided by the Fellowship Committee **7:00 p.m.**
 Communion Service following supper **8:00 p.m.**
March 27 **Easter Sunday Services** **9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepoop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.

KERRY ON...

On Sunday, February 13, I announced to the congregation that Marilyn Johns, our Director of Youth and Christian Education, has submitted her resignation to the Session in order to accept a position at the Virginia Theological Seminary. Her last day at PPC will be Sunday, March 13, 2005.

We will always be grateful for the wonderful ministry that Marilyn has had in our congregation over the last 6 and ½ years. She has built a strong youth ministry and Christian education program that has exceeded our expectations when she was called in August of 1998. The development of strong lay leadership has been a hallmark and will be important during this time of transition.

We are proud that Marilyn has been called to this new position and glad for her as she begins a new and challenging adventure. Her letter on page two will give you more information about her work at Virginia Seminary.

The Session will begin the process of implementing a transition and discussion of steps that will lead to filling this staff position.

A reception in celebration of Marilyn's ministry will follow the morning worship service on Sunday, March 13.

We would like to present a book of memories and words of thanks at the reception. Please send letters, notes and pictures to the church office to the attention of Teresa Seldomridge, our Administrative Assistant.

Marilyn's Message

To: Kerry and Session Members
From: Marilyn Johns

It is with very mixed feelings that I ask you to accept my resignation as your Director of Youth and Christian Education effective March 13, 2005. My six and one-half years at Potomac Presbyterian Church have been, without question, the best years of my career. It is not often that a Christian educator is given the opportunities I have had at PPC. Not only have Kerry and the staff been wonderful friends and colleagues, but you, the session, have always been supportive and open to new ideas. You have been more than generous to me in my compensation, and in allowing me to work at the presbytery and denominational levels, and you have encouraged and supported me in the pursuit of my Doctor of Ministry degree. From even before we arrived here in 1998, the congregation of this church has made my family and me feel genuinely welcome and a part of this family of faith.

I have been approached by the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria to manage a grant they have received from the Lilly Endowment. This is a six-year grant which will focus on encouraging the work of small church pastors in Protestant denominations. In this position I will use my skills in conference planning, as well as the relational ministry I love, and I will be pushed to develop new skills, including grant management and working with small churches. I believe that after 14 years in church educational ministry, God is calling me to this new thing. I am excited and more than a little bit scared about leaving the security of that which I know very well to go to a new position doing something quite different than I've ever done before. I am certain God will support me in this ministry, but I do ask for your prayers.

For the time being, our family will continue to live in Damascus, and Liz and Rachel will remain active members of this congregation. My church membership will stay at Idylwood Presbyterian Church, and I look forward to worshipping with them on the Sundays that I am in town.

Over the next month I will do everything I can to prepare the Christian Education committee and others to carry on the educational ministry that is such an integral part of the life of this church. All of the present programs will continue for the time being, and the committee will be challenged to look at programs and evaluate them and perhaps make changes. It can be a breath of fresh air when there is a transition in leadership, and I trust the people on the committee to do their best to discern God's will for this congregation. You will be in my prayers, but I am confident that the excellent volunteers in the educational programs will rise to the tasks which lie before them.

The members and friends of this church – youth, children, and adults – will always be a part of me. We have done valuable ministry together, and we can and will do valuable ministry apart. May God continue to bless each one of us as we minister in his name.

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

the family of Wilma Boddiger; Bob Hazard at home; Dawn Thompson at Ingleside Healthcare Center (Room 187, if you wish to visit); Barbara Shamel at home; Jack Crawford at home; Jim Jochum in Sorocaba, Brazil (jimjoch@aol.com); Marcia Boogaard's sister, Elizabeth Sanders, at home; Bob Garcia at Mariner Health Center; Tom Cole, whose mother, Elizabeth Cole, died; Dick Gimer, whose father, Thomas W. Gimer, died; David Fowler, whose brother, John Fowler, died; Ruthanne Stoltzfus, whose aunt, Mildred Delaney, died; and Pastor Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus's nephew, Captain Brian Wilson, who will be leaving for Iraq at the end of February.

We celebrate with joy...

the birth of Aidan Louis Wright, on January 31, son of Jeremy and Dianna Wright, and brother of Jackson. Proud grandparents are Lynn and Cindy Wright. We also celebrate with joy the birth of Benjamin Rankin Coons, on January 1, son of Carrie Smith Coons and Shawn Coons. Carrie served as our summer intern in 2001. Carrie's address is 209 Church St., Holly, MI 48442.



IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Wilma Boddiger. We commend her to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

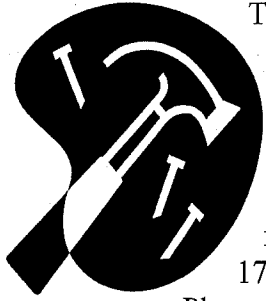
"REFORMED CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA FROM THE FOUNDING TO THE CIVIL WAR" --Dr. Bruce Douglass, Georgetown University

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| February 27: | Reformed Christianity in a New Setting |
| March 6: | Great Awakening and Rise of Popular Christianity |
| March 13: | Theological Turmoil-- and Schisms |
| March 20: | Fight over Slavery |

"OUT OF THE BLUE" CONCERT

Oxford University's premier, all male, exciting, excellent, and successful a cappella singing group, "Out of the Blue," founded by PPC member Derek Smith, will be back in the U.S.A. and in our church to perform on **Friday, April 8 at 8 p.m.** Don't miss it!!

WORKCAMP NEWS



The workcampers are gearing up for another exciting summer serving God by repairing the homes of the poor or elderly in Bristol, Tennessee. We have 28 youth and 5 adults signed up to go, and are in need of one more adult (preferably male) to go as a workcamper and adult advisor.

We are very grateful to all in the congregation who have helped with fundraisers. We have a few more to go: the yard sale on April 16 and 17, a car wash/bake sale on May 22, and the church picnic on June 12.

Please participate in as many of these as you can. All of the profits from the fundraisers are used to pay for registrations and getting the youth to Bristol. Any extra money we earn is used as seed money for the following year's workcamp. We have two vehicle needs to bring to your attention:

1. We will need to borrow vans to help transport our workcampers to Bristol, and to be used during the week to get a work crew (led by one of our adults) to and from their worksite. Vehicles need to have at least six seat belts, and will only be driven by adults from our church.
2. The Jochums have generously offered to donate their large trailer to the church for use by the workcampers. In the past, this trailer has been so helpful in carrying our tools, sleeping bags, and luggage so that the van drivers don't have to try to stuff all of the gear into their vehicles. What we need now is somewhere for this trailer to be stored when we are not using it. If anyone has room to store this trailer for us, please let **Marilyn Johns** or **Chris Dowd (301-299-3835)** know as soon as possible.

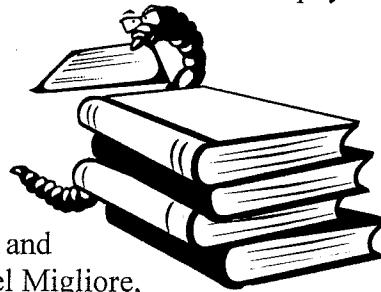
LIBRARY NEWS

Come visit our library! Many new books have been added which may meet your needs. **Elders and deacons**, on or around call number (C.N.) 253-262.15, find books to help you with your new responsibilities.

Wednesday Bible Study Group, check out one of the Mark commentaries (C.N. 226.3).

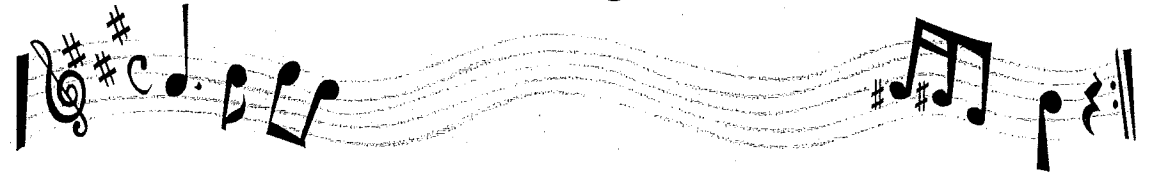
Everyone: Dr. Timothy Johnson of ABC's "Good Morning America" has written about his personal faith in Finding God in the Questions (C.N. 230). He encourages us to ask questions, noting that, "We don't know what the answers are, and sometimes we don't even know what questions to ask." Daniel Migliore, in Faith Seeking Understanding (C.N. 230.22), tries "to present theology in language that can be readily grasped by the theological beginner. Hurrah!!" ("Theology Today").

When borrowing a book from the library, please write that day's date, your name, and your phone number on the card in the back of the book.



Nancy Tietjen

The Wright Note



A Peek into the Wonderful Wednesdays Choir Experience

There are only six of us: Sara, Jackson, Grace, Noah, Lauren and Bryan. We are a mixture of kindergarten, first and second graders who come every Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock to sing with Mrs. Wright. She's funny. She usually brings toys or special props to help us learn how to use our singing voices – not our playground voices. We float up to high notes when she brings her balloon. We lift our voices high when she lets us lift her 2-lbs. weights. We even grab the edges of a hoopla-hoop to move it up and down as the melody moves up and down.

To experience the movement of a melody line in steps or skips, we sometimes sing a song on the various steps leading from the narthex to the hallway above. We are getting pretty good at this, and can now relate our scampering up and down the church steps to the notes moving up and down on the musical staff.

Do you know what is really fun? It is when Mrs. Wright gives us each a sheet of paper with a musical staff printed on it. As we sing one of the songs we are learning, she gives us tiny marshmallows or cheerios or even valentine hearts to use as notes on our staff. As we sing each note, we place that candy or cereal on the right line or space of the staff. When we place the notes correctly, we get to eat our tune! We often play our notes on choir chimes, too.

Are we learning about God and the teachings of Jesus? Hum, we don't think about that very much, but we actually are. We sing songs about God's love, songs that tell stories from the Bible and songs about how Jesus lived and how we should live as Christians. We try to treat each other kindly. We never laugh when any one of us is trying to match a pitch or if anyone makes a mistake. We always pray at the close of every choir practice. We form a little circle and join hands. (Oh, no! Does a boy really have to hold a girl's hand?) The prayer that we sing goes like this:

Thank you, God, for music.
Thank you, God, for song.
May the joy we feel while singing
Last the whole week long. Amen

Cindy

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Save the date! Vacation Bible School is set for the week of **July 18-22** in the mornings. The theme is Kingdom of the Son - a safari adventure to learn the Lord's Prayer. Children ages 3 through rising 5th grade are welcome to attend (younger children of workers will also have a class), and youth are encouraged to help during the week. There will be fun skits, Bible storytelling, music, snacks, recreation, and arts and crafts, all designed to help children learn about Jesus Christ.

Tracy Spencer is our VBS Director this year, so when she calls you and asks you to help, be ready with an enthusiastic "Yes!" Vacation Bible School is for the children of the PPC family, but is also a major outreach tool for our church, so invite your friends and neighbors to the Kingdom of the Son!

CHURCH YARD SALE

Gather up those past treasures that you CAN live without, and plan to donate them to the Church Yard Sale, which takes place on **April 16**. All donations of clothes, household items, art work, whatever, as long as they are in good condition, are welcome. Donated items may be brought to the church during the week of April 10 (but please, not before). Any leftovers from the Saturday sale will be available for sale in the Fellowship Hall on April 17 at rock bottom prices. **Gayle Goff, Christa Sohl, and Susan Haynes** are leading this fundraiser, the proceeds of which go to help the 2005 workcampers to serve God in Bristol, Tennessee.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Parents, mark your calendars for **Friday, March 18**. Responsible youth will be available to watch your children from 6-9 p.m. while you have some adult time together. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, March 13.

THANK YOU

FROM ROZNER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, RAFAL SELICKI

In December of last year the Mission Committee made a scholarship grant to a Polish theological student studying in Wales. This scholarship came from the Rozner Scholarship Endowment established in memory of Alexander Rozner. We were especially hopeful that we could identify a Polish Presbyterian theology student so that we could support the growth of the Church in Poland, the native country of Klara and Alexander. We are pleased that with the help of Tom Miles we have been able to get in touch with Rafal Selicki, a theology student from Wroclaw, in the southwest of Poland, studying in Cardiff, Wales. This is an excerpt from his thank you note to PPC.

Dear Brethren,

I am writing to thank you for the generous and kind gift I received from you. I must admit I was greatly amazed at this expression of your Christian love, which was especially breathtaking when I realized that we have never met and had opportunity to get to know each other. Such moments like this helps me to understand anew how unsearchable is our God in his plans and wisdom. I have still a lot of work to do (on my Ph.D. dissertation) and it is so easy to be discouraged but I try to remember Paul's words: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13) I would be grateful if you could also remember me in your prayers. I would especially need them when I go back to Poland. ...I pray that God would use me to spread the Gospel message to my fellow countrymen when I am back in my county. Again, thank you for your gift! I pray that God would bless you mightily and supply all your needs in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

With Christian regards, Rafal Selicki

PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN

Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our children in Eighth Grade.

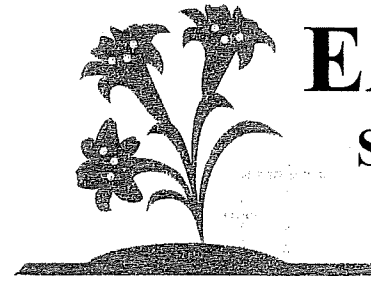
Please pray for their parents and families, too. Daniel Bond, Jenni Cronin, Stephanie Dorman, Kendall Forward, Kathryn Haynes, Will Johnson, Mike Kovacs, Britten Mindnich, Elizabeth Naegeli, Joseph Naegeli, Meggy Newton.





**BRIGHT
SMILES AND A
HANDWRITTEN
THANK YOU
CARD FROM
THE CHILDREN
OF BETHLEHEM
IN SOROCABO,
BRAZIL**

**THE CABINETS BEHIND THE GIRLS WERE PROVIDED BY PPC THROUGH
JIM JOCHUM, WHO IS SERVING THERE UNTIL JUNE**



EASTER

Season for Renewal

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES

Circle **Thursday, March 24th** on your calendar, **7:00-8:30 p.m.** Maundy Thursday is the evening of Christ's Last Supper when all of our church family is encouraged to attend a fellowship meal prepared by the Fellowship Committee and a communion service in the sanctuary. The evening will begin with a light service for a nominal fee of \$3. The worship service will include scripture reading, extinguishing of candles, poignant spirituals sung by the Sanctuary Choir, and Communion. Please sign up in the Narthex for the meal and indicate the number of people attending. Child care will be provided for young children.

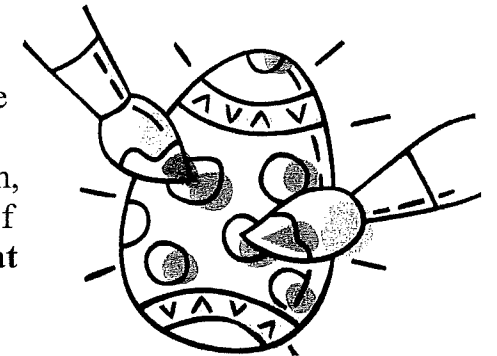
USHERS ARE NEEDED for the Maundy Thursday Service. Please call **John Sohl** at 301-765-7645 or **Gary Niskanen** at 301-258-7836. *Many Thanks!*

EASTER FLOWERS

The Easter Sunday Flower Fund is a very special PPC tradition. Friends and family members who have influenced our lives in special ways are remembered through the flowers decorating our sanctuary, with their names listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Surplus funds are donated to the Montgomery Hospice Society. Please complete the flower envelopes, located in the pews, and place them in the offering plate. Or, mail the envelopes to PPC, attention Teresa Seldomridge, marked "Easter Flowers" on the outside. Donations must be at PPC by Palm Sunday, March 20th.

FIRST ANNUAL EASTER EGG DECORATING

Hippity-Hop on over to Fellowship Hall to decorate eggs on Friday, March 11 from 7pm to 8:30pm. This fun activity is for the young and the young at heart. Paint, stamp, sprinkle, and create your own masterpiece. The eggs have been blown, so these will become family heirloom treasures. If you have any questions, please call **Judi Miller** at 301-949-6865.



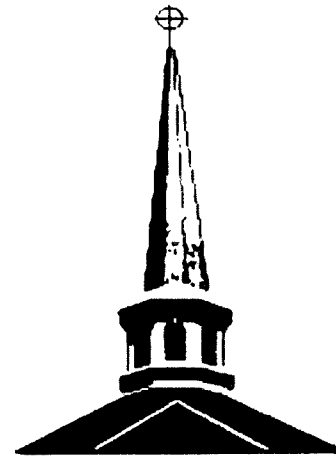
TSUNAMI DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATE

The earthquake and tsunami disaster that struck South Asia and the Indian Ocean region on the day after Christmas last year has killed hundreds of thousands of people and destroyed countless of other lives, homes and communities. The suffering has been, and continues to be, unbelievable as so many families struggle to cope with their loss and come to terms with rebuilding their lives in the face of hardship, disease, lack of adequate food and clean water and economic resources. The response of Christians throughout the world has been incredible as churches and communities have come together to help those affected by the disaster. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program had set a goal of raising \$2.5 million dollars to respond to the disaster and as of Feb 2 they have reported that they have surpassed that goal. I am pleased to report that our own church has raised over \$20,600 through your generous gifts and offerings. In addition, our Sunday School classes have assembled health kits that are used to provide immediate medical assistance when disasters strike. Your response has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated by all those who will receive the benefit of your Christian love and caring. Thank you.

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13 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship/Reception for Marilyn Johns 1:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups	14 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	15 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.) 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline 7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3 rd Tues.)	16 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Reformed Institute Program Committee 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir	17 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	18	19
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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

April 2005

KERRY ON...

How shall we offer our prayers of gratitude in a world where the plagues of hunger and disease, war and terrorism persist and their images appear on TV and our computer screens. We want to balance gratitude with service; thankfulness for our blessings with commitment to serve others.

I recently discovered a prayer written by former hostage Terry Waite which articulates a way to offer our prayers.

O Lord:

In a world where many are lonely:
We thank you for friendships.

In a world where many are captive:
We thank you for our freedom.

In a world where many are hungry:
We thank you for provision.

We pray that you will:
Enlarge our sympathy,
Deepen our compassion,
And give us grateful hearts.
In Christ's name.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



WELCOME BETH WILLIAMS

The Session is pleased to announce a unanimous and enthusiastic call to Elisabeth Williams as Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education. Beth will begin her ministry at PPC on Monday, April 4, and will be introduced to the congregation on Sunday, April 10.

The Interim Search Committee was composed of four elders from the Session, two youth Deacons and the Pastor. The committee and Session believe that God has guided us and Beth to continue her calling to youth and educational ministry in this congregation.

For the past five years she has served as Director of Youth Ministries and Outreach at St. Mark Presbyterian Church. She has known Marilyn Johns as a colleague over those years and they are familiar with each others ministry.

Beth finds youth very easy to be with and respects their contribution to the life of the congregation. She has an open and accepting leadership style and involves youth in planning along with adult sponsors and parents. Work camp has been a vital part of the youth programs at St. Mark, which is so important to our youth and in fact our whole congregation. At the same time Beth has a vision of education for all ages. She works well with the children's education program and will be a strong resource and supporter of our Adult Education ministry.

The Session believes that Beth has the ideal qualifications, temperament and leadership style to serve as our Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education. Pastor Stoltzfus joins with the Session in gratitude for God's leading and in our hopes for youth and educational ministry over the next year. An Interim position will allow us to continue the momentum of this vital part of our congregation's life and give us the opportunity for thoughtful consideration of our permanent staffing needs.

Please welcome Beth when you meet her on Sundays and when you may be at church during the week.

Save the date! Vacation Bible School is set for the week of **July 18-22** in the mornings. The theme is Kingdom of the Son - a safari adventure to learn the Lord's Prayer. Children ages 3 through rising 5th grade are welcome to attend (younger children of workers will also have a class), and youth are encouraged to help during the week. There will be fun skits, Bible storytelling, music, snacks, recreation, and arts and crafts, all designed to help children learn about Jesus Christ.

Tracy Spencer is our VBS Director this year, so when she calls you and asks you to help, be ready with an enthusiastic "Yes!" Vacation Bible School is for the children of the PPC family, but is also a major outreach tool for our church, so invite your friends and neighbors to the Kingdom of the Son!

"OUT OF THE BLUE" CONCERT

April 8 -- 8:00 pm

Potomac Presbyterian Church

Tickets: \$10 adult \$8 student



OUT OF THE BLUE is Oxford University's premier all male a cappella singing group, composed of thirteen Oxford graduate and undergraduate students. Out of the Blue (OOTB) is non-profit, entirely student run, and since its founding in October of 2000 by Derek Smith, member of our church and son of Mary Margaret and Del Smith, has drawn members from eight different countries.

OOTB sings everything from traditional barbershop to rock and pop. Tickets will be available at the door, but since seating is limited, tickets can also be purchased from Ferrell's Specialty Gift Shop in Potomac Village and in Fellowship Hall after church on Sundays. Further information can be found on website: www.ootb.org.uk

KERRY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY ALBUM

On behalf of the Fellowship Committee, I would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of appreciation expressed for Pastor Kerry with beautiful, heartfelt memory pages. The books are a physical reminder that Pastor Kerry is God's Child Most Dear.

If you haven't turned in your scrapbook page for Pastor Kerry's 20th anniversary memory book, it's not too late. There are extra blank pages in the office. Please leave your completed page in my mailbox there and I will gladly add it to Kerry's albums. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-949-6865. *Judi Miller*



APRIL ADULT EDUCATION

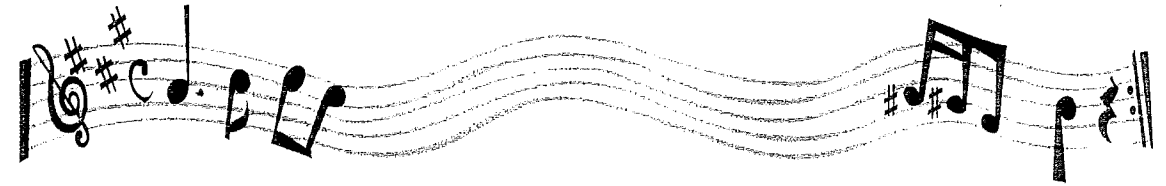
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April 3, 10, 17, and 24 **9:45 A.M.** **Louise Winfield**

WORKCAMP YARD SALE



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Questions? Call Christa Sohl or Gayle Goff (301-765-7645), or Susan Haynes (301-963-7198).



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As we head into spring, I have been asked to share with you a winter memory from the Sunday of February 6. The weather was so bad that only a few of you brave souls were in church to hear the following surprise introit sung by the Sanctuary Choir to the hymn #377, "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore." (The hymn as printed in the hymnal was later sung in the worship service.)



Lord, we have come to the church house,
Even though it is snowy and windy,
We humbly ask now that You would bless us.

O Lord, warm our hearts with Your presence,
And while singing, may we praise Your name,
In our worship, may we offer thanksgiving
For the love that in Your name we share.

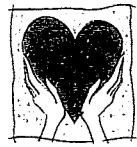
Maybe it is a good thing that the choir does not sing in the middle of the hot summer. Imagine what kind of introit they would deliver during a heat wave! But some of you vacationing parishioners might soon sing this version of hymn #377:

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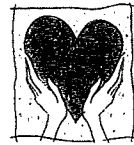
O Lord, cool our minds on vacation,
And while swimming, may we understand
That You love us in the pew or on beach towels,
We'll return soon and obey Your commands.



Cindy



Marilyn's Message



Many of you know that I love musicals. Last year for Rachel's graduation gift, we went to New York to see a Broadway musical called "Wicked." It's a kind of prequel to the Wizard of Oz story.

There is a song in "Wicked" near the end, when two friends are parting, and the gist of the song is that because of their relationship with one another, both of them have been changed for the better. The song begins:

I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason,
Bringing something we must learn,
and we are led to those who help us most to grow,
If we let them, and we help them in return.
Well, I don't know if I believe that's true,
But I know I'm who I am today because I knew you.

For several weeks now – no, for 6 ½ years -- people in this church have been very eager to thank me for what I've done to teach their children, youth, and themselves. I've never felt so appreciated in any place I've worked.

But you must know that I've learned at least as much from you as you have learned from me. I have learned about open-mindedness from you. When I first came here in 1998, I broke the cardinal rule of new ministry - I came in and said, "We're going to do workcamp next summer." I didn't wait the requisite year before starting something new, I just jumped right in, and you were open to that. Thanks to Rich McPherson and other leaders of the youth program, combined with the testimony from my own daughter who had been to workcamp, you accepted the idea, and not only gave lip service to it, but enthusiastically supported it, and with your help, it has changed the lives of many people inside and outside of this church. You have shown me that it is better to start off saying yes than looking for all of the reasons why something will not work.

I have learned that it is possible to be pretty diverse theologically and politically, and still peacefully coexist in one church. You have shown me that we are all one in Jesus Christ, and it has given me the ability to work with all kinds of people.

In the Church Family



Our prayers are with...

Bob Hazard, at home; Dawn Thompson at Ingleside Healthcare Center (Room 187); Barbara Shamel, at home; Jack Crawford, at home; Bob Garcia at Mariner Health Center; Pastor Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus's nephew, Captain Brian Wilson, in Iraq; Jim Dart and family--Jim's father, Jack Dart, died; Karen Wise and family--Karen's father, Hurdis Earl Wise, died, and her uncle, Stanley Knight, also died; Melissa Gimer, in Suburban Hospital; Lorna Young, at Washington Hospital Center; Pat Maxwell, whose mother died; Marnel Williams, whose mother, Alvira James, died.

Farewell and Godspeed to...

Emajean Harvie who is moving to Arkansas. Her new address will be Parkway Village, 14300 Chenal Parkway, Apt.# 3213, Little Rock, AK 72211.

We celebrate with joy...

God's love in Jesus Christ for Grace Caroline Evans and Lily Morgan Rice, who were baptized on March 6th at PPC. We rejoice with Grace's parents, David and Judy Evans, and with Lily's parents, Matthew and Pam Rice, and sister Hannah. Children's Bibles were presented to Grace and Lily by PPC through the William Martin Brill Endowment.

IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Jack Dart. We commend him to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

The family of Jack C. Dart would like to express our sincere gratitude to all members of the congregation for their support following our father's death. The cards, meals, flowers and reflections have offered much comfort during this emotional period. As our father enjoyed the growth of his own family, I am sure he was very proud to witness the growth of his Christian Family here at Potomac Presbyterian Church.

Sincerely,
James Dart and Family

DEACON'S CORNER

Spring is in the air...finally! Along with the beautiful and colorful flowers and warmer temperatures, I feel my spirit is renewed as well. I would like to take this opportunity to say how honored I am to be serving as a Deacon here at Potomac Presbyterian Church. I already survived my first coffee hour month in February, and want to thank everyone who helped me bake, serve and clean up!

On April 10th we will be hosting our annual All Deacons' Coffee Hour. This year's theme is "New Beginnings". The deacons will be paired up and each pair will decorate their "table" and will offer some wonderful goodies and refreshments. This is a great time for fellowship with your deacon and with others within the congregation. We all tend to be so busy with other "things" and distractions in our lives, and this hour gives us a wonderful opportunity to pause and enjoy the people within our Church family. Please plan to attend!

Wendy Kuhn

"Again I say, we are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and hear, so that you may share the fellowship and the joys we have with the Father and with Jesus Christ his son. And if you do as I say in this letter, then you, too, will be full of joy, and so will we."
1 John 1:3-4

Women of Faith will be at MCI Center in Washington DC on July 29 and 30. Olivia Mabeus is organizing a group to go so that we can get the group rate. If you are interested in going or obtaining information about Women of Faith, call Olivia Mabeus at 301-926-8160.

PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN

Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our children in Ninth Grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

Eric Bernstein, Meredith Bond, Brendan Burnett, Kyle Cissel, Colin Dowd, Chelsea Drumheller, Megan Griswold, Eric Jeffers, Christopher Kent, Stephen Kent, Beau Kline, Steve Kovacs, Donald McMahon, Thomas Niskanen, Robbie Rosecrans, Elizabeth Rust, Hannah Self.



I have learned that wealth does not necessarily mean exclusivity. You welcomed my children and me into the family of this church with open arms, and except for the occasional snide remark from some of the youth about cows wantonly roaming the streets of Damascus, you have made it easy for us to feel like a part of this community. You have shown me that success and abundance mean a lot more than having money.

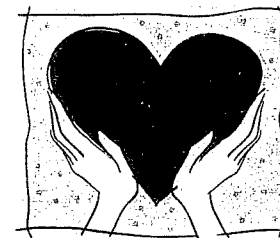
You have taught me about leadership and ministry. Because Kerry has always allowed me to try new things, and not only allowed it but supported me wholeheartedly, it has given me the confidence to think creatively. Because the staff works together with mutual respect and love, I have been able to count on everyone to do their part without any one of us micromanaging. And because the session and deacons, and Stephen Ministers, and all of the many, many volunteers have taken your commitments seriously, you have allowed my ministry to focus on equipping the saints rather than trying to do it all myself.

And you have shown me that it is possible to work, and work hard, and have fun at the same time. The children of this church are just delightful, and it has been a joy to watch them grow. Their enthusiasm is infectious! The youth have kept me laughing and worrying and thinking and loving every minute. I have always stressed to them wherever we went, whether to workcamp in West Virginia or to a Mystics game at the MCI Center, we are showing Jesus Christ to the world in the way we act as a Christian youth group. They have never let me down – they have always been respectful and have always made me proud. The adults have been eager to learn and to speak your minds, and you have challenged me and helped to strengthen my own faith.

So you can see that you have given me as much or more than I have given you. The song from Wicked also includes these lines:

Let me say before we part,
so much of me is made of what I learned from you,
You'll be with me, like a handprint on my heart.

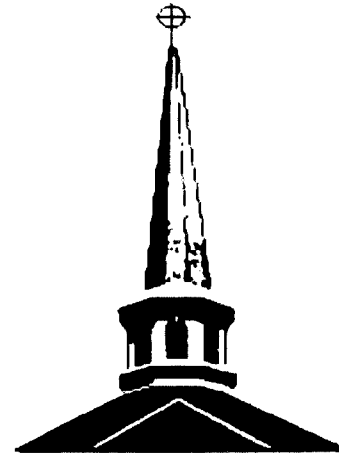
I will never forget you; as we both continue our ministry in different places, you'll always be that handprint on my heart.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>April 2005</i>						
					1	2 <i>Don't Forget to Set Clocks Forward!</i>
3 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	4 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	5 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends	6 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	7 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	8 8:00 p.m. "Out of the Blue" Concert	9
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Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-6007

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

April 2005

KERRY ON...

How shall we offer our prayers of gratitude in a world where the plagues of hunger and disease, war and terrorism persist and their images appear on TV and our computer screens. We want to balance gratitude with service; thankfulness for our blessings with commitment to serve others.

I recently discovered a prayer written by former hostage Terry Waite which articulates a way to offer our prayers.

O Lord:

In a world where many are lonely:
We thank you for friendships.

In a world where many are captive:
We thank you for our freedom.

In a world where many are hungry:
We thank you for provision.

We pray that you will:
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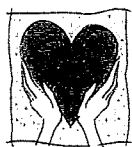
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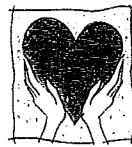
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Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our children in Ninth Grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

Eric Bernstein, Meredith Bond, Brendan Burnett, Kyle Cissel, Colin Dowd, Chelsea Drumheller, Megan Griswold, Eric Jeffers, Christopher Kent, Stephen Kent, Beau Kline, Steve Kovacs, Donald McMahon, Thomas Niskanen, Robbie Rosecrans, Elizabeth Rust, Hannah Self.



I have learned that wealth does not necessarily mean exclusivity. You welcomed my children and me into the family of this church with open arms, and except for the occasional snide remark from some of the youth about cows wantonly roaming the streets of Damascus, you have made it easy for us to feel like a part of this community. You have shown me that success and abundance mean a lot more than having money.

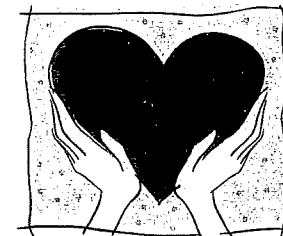
You have taught me about leadership and ministry. Because Kerry has always allowed me to try new things, and not only allowed it but supported me wholeheartedly, it has given me the confidence to think creatively. Because the staff works together with mutual respect and love, I have been able to count on everyone to do their part without any one of us micromanaging. And because the session and deacons, and Stephen Ministers, and all of the many, many volunteers have taken your commitments seriously, you have allowed my ministry to focus on equipping the saints rather than trying to do it all myself.

And you have shown me that it is possible to work, and work hard, and have fun at the same time. The children of this church are just delightful, and it has been a joy to watch them grow. Their enthusiasm is infectious! The youth have kept me laughing and worrying and thinking and loving every minute. I have always stressed to them wherever we went, whether to workcamp in West Virginia or to a Mystics game at the MCI Center, we are showing Jesus Christ to the world in the way we act as a Christian youth group. They have never let me down – they have always been respectful and have always made me proud. The adults have been eager to learn and to speak your minds, and you have challenged me and helped to strengthen my own faith.

So you can see that you have given me as much or more than I have given you. The song from Wicked also includes these lines:

Let me say before we part,
so much of me is made of what I learned from you,
You'll be with me, like a handprint on my heart.

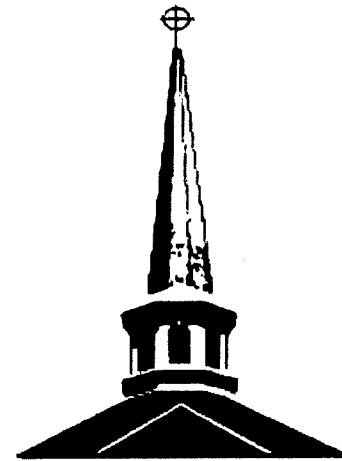
I will never forget you; as we both continue our ministry in different places, you'll always be that handprint on my heart.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>April 2005</i>						
					1	2 <i>Don't Forget to Set Clocks Forward!</i>
3 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	4 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	5 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends	6 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	7 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	8 8:00 p.m. "Out of the Blue" Concert	9
10 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship/ All Deacon Coffee Hour 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	11 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	12 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.)	13 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir	14 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	15 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline	16 Yard Sale (Youth Fundraiser)
17 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner	18 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	19 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3 rd Tues.)	20 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	21 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	22	23
24 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Synagogue/Passover Seder	25 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.)	26	27 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	28 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	29 Confirmation Retreat 7:00 p.m. St. Luke Good Friday Service	30 Confirmation Retreat 7:00 p.m. St. Luke Easter Vigil

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

June 2005

KERRY ON...

A word to our graduates.

Whether high school or college when we reflect on years of study someone said, “**In essence, we are not what we think we are, so much as what we think, we are.**” Wrestling with new ideas and challenging concepts shapes our values and goals. Listening to the wisdom of those who have gone before us helps to guide our way in a complex world.

Paul wrote to the Philippians (4:8),

Whatever is true, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing,
whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if
there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

The Apostle is commending Christians to use their minds and reason and echoes the Great Commandment that includes loving God with all our heart, **mind**, soul and strength. Christians are encouraged to welcome new knowledge and intellectual discoveries. John Calvin wrote “All truth is God’s truth” and Presbyterians have a long history of placing high value on education.

Graduation marks the base camp of a lifelong journey of thinking and reasoning. Formal education gives us the tools to pursue new vistas and to make a difference in the work to which God calls us. We give thanks for learning and ask God to grant us wisdom.

Congratulations to our graduates and may God bless you.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Marilyn Johns, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in “Steeple to People” box in the church office.

BETH

I give my husband a hard time, because he does not understand that there are summer foods and winter foods. Trust me, there are. Even in this age when we get fruit year round from all over the world, there is still nothing like a juicy peach or a bowl full of dark red cherries - in the summer time. Fruit is a summer food - particularly this summer at PPC. Galatians 5:22-23 - the Fruit of the Spirit - is the theme for our youth this year with Group Workcamps. It is the focus of our summer Enrichment program with our young children as well. I hope it will be a "fruitful" summer for all of you and that you will experience and live out fully the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control.

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – June 5 at 9:45 am All the classes, students and parents, are invited to come to breakfast on June 5. Bring a dish to share and help us honor those who have taught our children, youth, and adults this year. In addition to sharing a meal together we will gather around tables for a "Quiz Bowl" Tournament. Test your knowledge of the Bible, current events, and trivia in general. This should truly be an intergenerational celebration.



Church Picnic – June 12



To help celebrate as we begin a season of summer worship, the workcampers will host the Church Picnic following the 10:00 worship service on June 12. There will be lots of delicious food and fun and games for people of all ages. We hope to have a moon bounce so it will definitely be worth sticking around for. Suggested donation is \$6.00 per person with a maximum of \$20 per family.

Vacation Bible School – July 18 to July 22, 2005

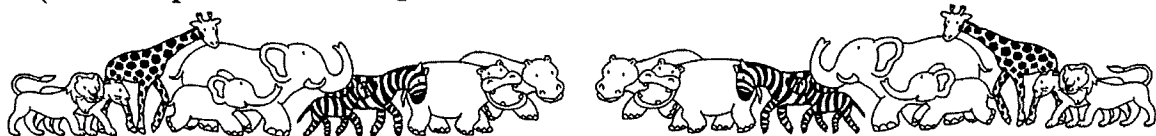
Kingdom of the Son: A Prayer Safari that leads kids to Jesus

Based on the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6: 9 – 13)

Regular 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Extended Care 12:30-5:00 pm

Special Safari Celebration Program – Friday, July 22 at 6:30 pm

(Cost \$20 per child or \$40 per family – plus an additional \$30 for Extended Care)



In the Church Family



Our prayers are with...

Dawn Thompson at Ingleside Healthcare Center (Room 187); Jack Crawford, Bob Hazard, Barbara Shamel, and Lorna Young all at home; Steve Clark, Ed and Janet Clark's son, undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments; Kathy McPherson's mother undergoing physical therapy; Colleen Mitchel, Kay Mitchel's granddaughter, at home; the family of Rosa Egan, who died last week; and Pastor Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus's nephew, Captain Brian Wilson, in Iraq.

We celebrate with joy...

The return of Jim Jochum who is back home from Brazil. The birth of Natalie Rose Singerling on April 15. Proud grandfather is Jim Singerling. Grateful parents are Sandy and Chris Singerling. Proud sister is Kay. The birth of Preston David Kuhn on April 24. Grateful parents are Tom and Wendy Kuhn, and proud siblings are Amanda, Victoria, and Chandler. The baptisms of Alexander Augustine Alarie, Finley Hallam Hoffman, Margaret Scott Koonce, and Eileen Jaclyn Lee. Alexander is the son of Mark Alarie and Rene Augustine. Finley's parents are Edward and Whitney Hoffman. Margaret's parents are Scott and Courtney Koonce. Eileen's parents are John Lee and Claire Crawford-Lee.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

Jennifer Cannon and Adam Eshenshade who were married May 21 in Nashville, TN.



New Address: Gail Yates 2014 Bay Colony Lane, Wilmington, NC 28405.

Phone: 910-509-9837

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all you friends for the love and prayers for me. After long hospital stays, I am home and trying to get strong again. Thank you, also, Pastor Kerry for all your visits, the flowers and prayers. Paul and I are privileged to be members of this loving, caring church. *Lorna Young*

IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Rosa Egan. We commend her to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

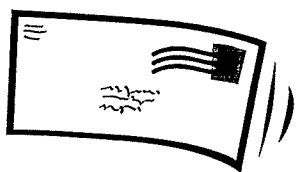
Workcampers Going to Bristol, TN

The workcampers will be heading to Bristol, Tennessee, departing the weekend of June 25 and returning on Saturday, July 2. We will be working to repair the homes of the poor, elderly, and the disadvantaged. We now have a total of 35 people on this year's trip - 29 youth and 6 adults - who would love to hear from you while we are at camp:

Brittney and Eric Bernstein; Courtney Chapin; Kimi and Kyle Cissel; Christina Crean; Joe Curry; Jennifer Dart; Carole and Walker Dempsey; Carolyn Dorman; Chris, Colin and Damon Dowd; Brian Dunlop; Anna Ferrara; Rachel Johns; Geoff, Sherry, Trevor and Will Johnson; Chris, Liz, and Stephen Kent; Beth and Katie MacFarlan; Jackie McMahon; Elyse Meredith; Peter Rosecrans; Peter Russo; Hannah Self; Christa Sohl; David and Rob Wescott; and Beth Williams.

Thank you for supporting all our fundraisers throughout the year and making this trip possible. The workcampers want to especially thank the following people for the "loan" of their vehicles: **Kathy McPherson** for the use of her Dodge Durango; **Beth Rudnic** for the use of her Cadillac Escalade; **Carolyn Ewels** for the use of her Acura MDX; **Gayle Goff** for the use of her Dodge Grand Caravan.

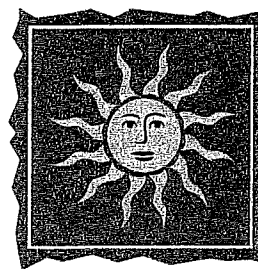
For those wishing to write to the workcampers, the workcamp 2005 mailing address, effective as of Sunday, June 26 is as follows:



[Workcamper's Name]
"Blue Ridge Workcamp"
Tennessee High School
1112 Edgemont Avenue
Bristol, TN 37620

NOTE: In order to ensure delivery, do not mail anything earlier than Thursday, June 23 or later than Tuesday, June 28. Or, you can email them by going to www.groupworkcamps.com and click on the "Send a Message to a Camper" link. You'll be directed to a list of camps. Click on our camp location - Bristol, TN - and fill out the form to create a message. Don't forget to put the camper's name in the subject line. The staff will print and post the messages for pick up each day of camp.

This year the workcampers will be leading the worship service on July 3, sharing their experiences and what they learn as they spend a week serving God's world and studying what it is to live out the Fruit of the Spirit, this year's workcamp theme.



SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Ice-Cream Sundae Sunday – June 5

Dinner at 6:00 Youth Group at 6:30 pm.

Join us for an Ice-Cream Social to welcome the rising 6th and 7th graders to youth group. Yes, I said 6th! Beginning now all middle schoolers 6-8th grade will be part of the Middle School Sunday School Class and the Youth Group. Come on June 5 for a "taste" of what youth group is all about and join us for the various other activities over the summer.

SPLASH – Be ready to get wet! We will be meeting poolside once a week to swim and play together and to study stories from scripture, that, guess what, involve getting wet! There will be both a senior high and a middle school SPLASH beginning in July. Watch the youth newsletter for exact times and places.



Vacation Bible School – July 18-22

Youth helpers are needed to guide our Prayer Safari through the Kingdom of the Son. This year we have added extended care and youth are needed to help all day, in the mornings with the regular program and in the afternoon with the extended care. Service Learning hours can be earned for the extended care hours. Please let Beth Williams know if you are available to help.

Youth Local Mission Week – July 25-29

Join us for a week of service and fellowship. If you will be entering middle school through finishing high school, you are eligible to participate. We will be working at a variety of sites in both the local and the metropolitan DC area, helping with the homeless, the hungry, the elderly, and the sick. Then, if that isn't enough, we will be going to the movies, swimming, bowling, picnicking and so on. The cost is \$30. Registration forms and a sign-up sheet are available on the bulletin board by the youth Sunday School rooms. Please do sign-up if you think you are interested so that transportation arrangements and reservations at the mission sites can be made properly. Questions? Call Beth Williams.

Busch Gardens and Water Country USA Overnight Trip – August 8-9

Save the date and watch for permission slips and a sign-up on the bulletin board by the Youth Sunday School rooms. We will have two days of fun with a bounce pass between the two parks. Cost is \$90 per person and includes the park passes and lodging. Additional money will be needed for food and souvenirs.





Congratulations to our High School Graduates and prayers for them this month as they celebrate, say good-bye to old friends, and prepare for new adventures and new friends.

Graduate:

Brittney Bernstein
 Lauren Branning
 Kimi Cissel
 Jennifer Dart
 Damon Dowd
 Katherine King
 JoJo Kovacs
 Beth MacFarlan
 Katie MacFarlan
 Jeff Machlin

Going to:

Boston Univ.
 Univ. of MD
 Univ. of GA
 ECU
 Rhodes
 Washington College
 Cornell
 Lynchburg
 Wagner College
 University of Miami
 in Florida
 Old Dominion Univ.
 Davidson
 Bowdoin - Maine
 Univ. of Richmond
 Babsom College
 Miami Univ. - OH
 Wake Forest
 Bucknell

Graduating from:

Bullis
 Quince Orchard
 Churchill
 Richard Montgomery
 Gonzaga College HS
 Stoneridge
 Churchill
 Churchill
 Churchill
 Churchill
 Churchill
 Choate
 Landon
 Wootton
 Landon
 Bullis
 Churchill
 West Springfield

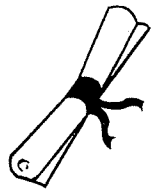
College and Post Grad Graduates:

Graduate:

Jennifer Cannon
 Chris Atwood
 Rebecca Curry
 Catherine Dorman
 Jonathan King
 Adam Ligler
 Erin Lyons
 Katie McKenna
 Sharon Reid

Graduating from:

Vanderbilt University Medical School
 Carnegie Mellon University
 University of Maryland
 Towson University
 Syracuse University
 Furman University
 University of Chicago
 Wake Forest
 Syracuse University



DEACON'S CORNER

Ever wonder where all the time goes? We seem to live by increasingly hectic schedules. We need a personal organizer to keep it all straight, a cell phone to be reachable, and a high speed internet connection to stay up on current events... not to mention the dreaded emails.

We always seem to be in a rush, going to work, school, meetings, activities, not wanting to miss anything important, and with little time to spare. Even on Sunday, for us it's ... *"Hurry, everyone in the car... we're going to be late for church!"*

Recently, I was glancing through a book called, The Power of A Positive Mom, which has some good quotes for dads, too. One quote really caught my eye: *"One of the greatest gifts we can give our families is to stop rushing down the fast lane and start doing what matters most."*

Think about it. What matters most... to your immediate family, and as members of this wonderful congregation, our church family?

During our prayers, we can ask God to guide us to do what matters most.

Corey Eng



**PLEASE JOIN US!
 5th ANNUAL CURE AUTISM NOW
 5K RACE AND 1 MILE WALK**



For the past four years, PPC members have been big supporters of this event. Join us Monday, July 4th, 8:00 a.m. at the Potomac Library. Runners and Walkers of all ages are welcome! Start your 4th by helping to raise money for Cure Autism Now, a national non-profit organization that funds research, outreach, and awareness. If you are unable to join us, please consider sponsoring a runner or walker or making a donation. For more information, call Susan Pereles at 301-299-4133, or register on-line at www.canrun.org. You can also register or make a donation after church during coffee hour in the month of June.



**COME JOIN US AND CURE AUTISM NOW –
 ONE STRIDE AT A TIME!**

Theological Education Sunday

Sunday, May 1 was the first annual special day devoted to the recognition, understanding, and appreciation of the Theological Seminaries that prepare and sustain our pastors, missionaries, educators, and lay leaders. Seminaries also provide theological and biblical research and resources critical to the vitality and growth of the whole Church. Theological Education Sunday was a time to celebrate our past gifts from PPC members and our mission budget---and to consider our responsibility to expand both. The need continues to increase. Kerry's sermon is further recommended reading on the PPC website.

Potomac Presbyterian has responded

- Annually – PPC gives \$4,500 from our church mission budget to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Boston), Princeton Theological Seminary (Princeton), McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago), Union Theological Seminary (Richmond), and provides International Student Aid which rotates annually among these four seminaries - established in 2003.
- 2000 – *The Kerry L. Stoltzfus Scholarship Fund* was created by 175 PPC members and friends as an open endowment. The fund has grown to \$30,000, is administered by and for Gordon-Conwell, and currently provides \$1,500 in annual scholarships.
- 2001 – *The Alexander Rozner Endowment* provides funding for seminary scholarships and rotates among Gordon-Conwell, Princeton, McCormick and Union seminaries.
- 2001 – *The William Albright Endowment* provides funding for summer interns at PPC, special continuing education for staff, seminary scholarships for PPC students, as well as other opportunities such as theologian in residence programs.

What we as individual Christians can do

- Designate gifts to PPC for these or other seminaries
- Establish an endowment at PPC for seminaries and/or seminarians
- Your gift can be given in a variety of ways: cash, check, marketable securities, or life insurance; corporate matching grants (i.e. Verizon, IBM, SAIC); charitable lead trust, gift annuity, or remainder trust; bequest through a will or living trust.

The need continues to increase

- Typically, seminaries receive only 10% of their annual operating budgets from Presbyterian denominational support (in years past it was as high as 20%), are dependent on annual gifts from individual churches and church members for 30% of their budgets, and need 30% provided from tuition and fees. They use endowment income and grants to cover 30% of their budgets, face substantial annual increases in all expenses, and are fighting to keep tuition and fees low.
- Typical full time seminarians are paying substantial tuition and fees, are faced with annual increases in tuition and fees, depend on scholarships and outside work to continue their educations, graduate with significant personal debt, and are looking ahead to lean earnings with which to repay their student loans.

Theological seminaries and PPC endowments have already enriched the ministries of many congregations through the services of: Kerry Stoltzfus – Gordon-Conwell & McCormick, Tom Miles – Princeton, Beth Williams – Wesley (Washington, DC), Marilyn Johns – Union, Diane Hutchins – Wesley (Washington, DC), Debra McKune – Union, Gordon-Conwell Seminarians - (Six—So Far), Rich McPherson - Summer Intern, Carrie Smith - Summer Intern, Rafal Sielicki - Polish Presbyterian Seminarian.

So Many More Need Our Help

For questions about how you can help, please contact:
Ed Clark, 301-315-0512 or ed@edwardjclark.com

The Wright Note



Celebrate Father's Day with a Song

For me summer officially starts with Father's Day. I love this day because I have the privilege of directing fathers and sons in the Father's Day Chorus. It is such a refreshing time because men of the church – young and old – come through the door of the fellowship hall at 9:00 a.m. anticipating some sort of musical miracle. There is no audition, not even a requirement to read musical notation. I only ask that singers tolerate my silly antics to inspire them to sing enthusiastically, musically and in tuneful harmony.

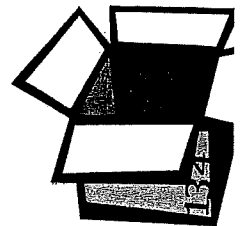
Can such a volunteer men's chorus successfully learn an anthem in just one rehearsal and then sing it in the worship service that follows? Of course! This minor miracle has occurred each year since 1992. Our records show that an average of twenty men have participated each year and have come away from this choral experience totally amazed at their meaningful presentation in worship.

Watch for the sign-up chart to appear in the narthex. Seeing the names will help me create a vocal arrangement that will be quickly learned and beautifully sung. Celebrate Father's Day with a song. Sign your name, and sing on June 19th. Rehearsal is at 9:00 a.m. Worship follows at 10:00 a.m.

Cindy

VISIT THE BIG YELLOW BOX

Please help **Stepping Stones Shelter** by making a donation to the **BIG YELLOW BOX** which is located in Fellowship Hall by the Mission Kiosk. A **List of Needs** is attached to the side of the box.



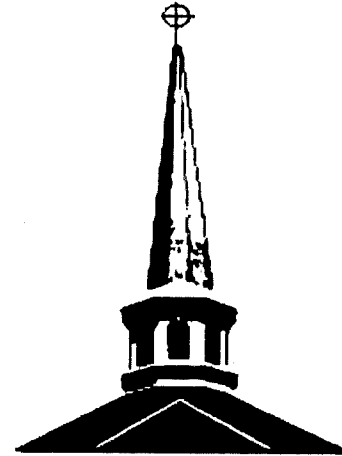
CMMC FURNITURE EXCHANGE

Please call us at **240-361-1736** or e-mail us at furnitureexchange@communityministrymc.org to donate gently used furniture to needy families. Free pickups. We especially need beds, mattresses and dressers in excellent or good condition. We cannot accept sofa beds, exercise equipment or appliances.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2005</h1>						
			1	2 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	3 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout Scrapbooking and Sleepover till 11:00 a.m. Saturday	4
5 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Breakfast 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Youth Groups Dinner & Ice-Cream Social	6	7 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	8 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed)	9 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	10	11
12 <i>SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS</i> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 p.m. Church Picnic	13 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	14 Christian Living Luncheon	15 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	16 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.)	17	18
19 <i>FATHER'S DAY</i> 9:00 a.m. Father's Day Chorus Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 p.m. Fellowship	20	21	22 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	23 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:30 p.m. VBS Teacher Training	24	25 <i>WORKCAMP BEGINS</i>
26 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 11:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care	27 7:30 p.m. Session	28 6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National)	29	30 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting		

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

SUMMER 2005

KERRY ON...

... Most Christian churches no longer sing the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers." Some say it is a victim of political correctness. Others argue that warlike images do not accord with the message of Jesus. I tend to agree with the latter. Then again I had some second thoughts the other day when I read something about the Salvation Army and its founder William Booth. Perhaps the "army" gets it right for they are a very peaceable lot in spite of their name and military protocol. The image is of hardy souls ringing a bell outside stores during the Christmas season and asking for donations to help the poor. They have a worldwide ministry of countless soup kitchens, shelters and relief efforts. The "army" has had an untainted reputation in fiscal matters and is highly respected for their humanitarian efforts.

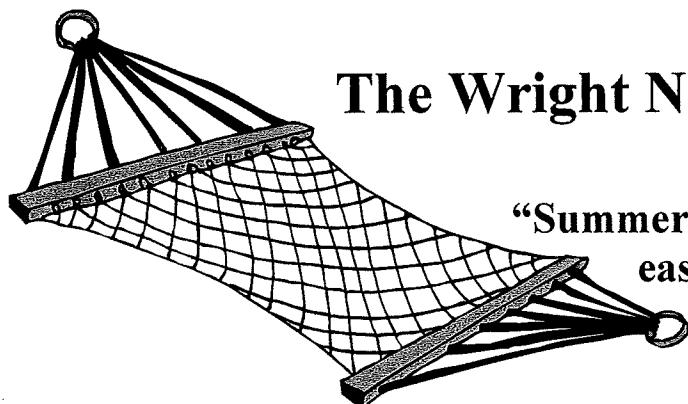
Perhaps they exemplify the kind of army that the hymn portrays. They are out to wage war, but not in the way of military operations that we understand in our world. William Booth declared in his last public speech the kind of war that was to be waged.

While women weep as they do now, I'll fight!
While little children go hungry as they do now, I'll Fight!
While men go to prison, in and out, I'll fight!
While there is a drunkard left,
While there is a poor girl left upon the streets,
While there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight!
I'll fight to the very end.

Something to think about.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

STEEPLES TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.



The Wright Note

“Summertime, and the livin’ is easy?”

No, I don’t think so. Just because the choirs are taking a summer break does not mean that the director of music is sitting in her hammock hoping that all of the music from the past season will file itself; that choir robes will clean themselves; that instruments will tune and repair themselves; that music department bills will be paid without requisition; that summer soloists and ensembles will just magically materialize; that program planning and music ordering for the fall season doesn’t really have to be done in the summer; that worship services don’t need research and that effective organ playing does not need practice. If this were true, I would have fallen out of my hammock long ago.

I do plan to take some time away from the organ bench this summer to study and to travel. For those weeks, a great deal of planning has to happen so that all runs smoothly while I am gone. One week in July will be spent at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, where I will be attending the Presbyterian Association of Musicians’ Conference on Worship and Music. This is a valuable time of learning, singing and worship. I thank this congregation for giving me this opportunity for continuing education in the church music field.

I know you will enjoy hearing many of our talented church musicians sing or play instruments this summer. I appreciate those of you who participate so willingly in this musical contribution to



worship.

Cindy Wright



DEACON’S CORNER

Summer is here and we don’t need the calendar to tell us. We know it’s summer just by the weather! I like summer but I don’t like the hot and muggy climate we have in this area. Summer can seem endless. But before you know it summer will be over and I do hate to see it end. The heat and humidity can go but the longer days can remain. This is how I feel about the time I have served on the Board of Deacons. When I began my three year term it seemed like it would be a really long time. Now that my time is getting close to the end, it seems like it went awfully fast. I have enjoyed getting to know my Parish members better through Coffee Hours, telephone calls, All Deacon Coffee Hours and other functions. I have also enjoyed working with the current Board of Deacons as well as those who retired in the past two years. It has been a real pleasure to serve as deacon and I appreciate the opportunity to meet and get to know other members. The time has been very rewarding and a lot of fun. I will miss our time together.

Beth Dart

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY!

New Addresses:

Melissa and Gareth Conway,
Roman and Blake
5112 Battery Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814-2406
(301)-654-0605

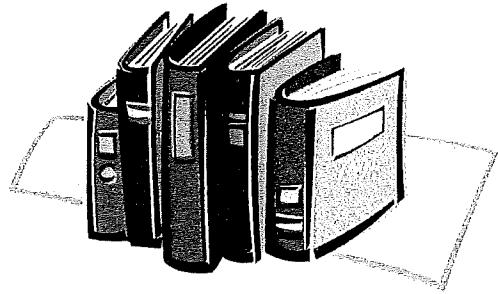
Barbara Garcia
8515 Rosebud Ct.
Middletown, MD 21769
(301)-371-3282

New E-mail:

Gail Yates gyates@ec.rr.com

Our Prayer Team invites you to share your needs and concerns. Prayer request cards, available in the pew racks, may be filled out and placed in the offering plate. All prayer requests are strictly confidential. If you have any questions regarding this ministry call **Roberta Meredith** at (301)-963-8666.

The Flower Fund for flower arrangements in the sanctuary for Sunday worship offers many opportunities for you to honor individuals and groups, celebrate occasions, and remember loved ones. After Sunday service, the arrangements are taken to shut-ins and others who would appreciate them. A gift of \$25 for each Sunday is requested. You may sign up for Sundays through June 2006 on the chart outside the office door or drop a flower fund envelope in the collection plate.



LIBRARY NEWS

It is so exciting to see so many new books in our library!! I certainly hope you have been in to browse through the collection, or to use the old fashioned card catalog to find a book either by subject, author or title. Eugene Peterson's latest book, Christ Plays in Ten

Thousand Places, reunites spirituality and theology in a cultural context. Whose Bible Is It: A History of the Scriptures Through the Ages by Jaroslav Pelikan had an excellent review in the New York Times Book Review: "Pelikan has an engaging style and a host of telling quotations, from Milton to Oscar Wilde to his own Aunt Vanda. There is nothing pompous here..." Other titles are: A Different Jesus: The Christ of the Latter Day Saints by Robert Millet; Galileo, Darwin and Hawkins: The Interplay of Science, Reason and Religion by Phil Dowe.

Don't forget to put the date you take the book, and your name and phone number on the book card, found in the back of the book. Place the book card in the box on top of the card catalog, which is located on the counter under the windows.

Nancy Eietjen

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

We would like to update you on some great progress recently. Our hard working committee is moving into the interview stage with three very qualified candidates. There is still a lot of work to be done before we choose a finalist but we feel good about our progress to date and look forward to bringing our search to a successful close in the next few months. Please keep us and our patient candidates in your prayers.

Gail Cannon



BETH

I feel really silly, but something just happened to me that I thought only happened in the movies or on TV. My cat, Felicity, got stuck up in a tree. It was, of course, a very tall tree with no branches until about 25 feet high. We could not simply climb up and get her. So yes, it really does happen, and no, the fire department will not come. Being a product of the younger generation, my children googled "cats stuck in a tree" to find out what to do. The best advice we got was: put some food at the bottom of the tree and they will come down. We did that and thirty-six hours later the food had been consumed by a variety of wild life, but our cat was still up the tree meowing her heart out. So I broke down and began calling tree services wondering how much it was going to cost me to get this cat out of the tree.

As this was going on, we were the entertainment for the whole neighborhood. Finally, after many phone calls and anxious waiting, we found someone who could come to rescue Felicity. But before the tree man even started up the tree, he warned us of two potential risks: one, that often the cat will climb higher when it sees someone coming after it; and two, that fifty per cent of the time, the cat will jump.

So what does any of this have to do with faith or church? I couldn't help but wonder if God doesn't feel about us the way I did in this situation. I gave the kitten her freedom. I let her go outside and explore this wonderful creation. I told her what trees she should avoid. But she still ended up stuck! Then when I sent someone to rescue her, what did she do? She ran even higher placing herself and the tree man in greater danger. Nonetheless, the tree man, after some mild cursing, faithfully climbed even higher until he could reach her and bring her safely home. Is this how God feels when he looks at us? He sees us stuck in our trees, calling out for help, but we do not climb down and take the food that has been offered to us. Instead, we run the other way, into even greater danger. God then sends the real "Tree Man" to rescue us and bring us home. This was costly for God: He sent his only son Jesus Christ to be our tree man. He climbed the tree, not just risking his life for us, but giving his life for us, so that we might come safely home. I will sleep better tonight knowing Felicity is home. When each of us comes home to God, we are the prodigal son, the wayward cat...and God rejoices.

Beth Williams



Vacation Bible School Prayer Safari, July 18-22

If you have not yet registered for VBS, it is not too late. Be bold and take a walk on the wild side and join all the Kingdom of the Son adventurers for safari fun! We have a great group of kids signed up and safari guides ready to lead you through this adventure. Please keep the children and the leaders in your prayers this week. May it be a joyous opportunity for all to get to know God better through prayer.

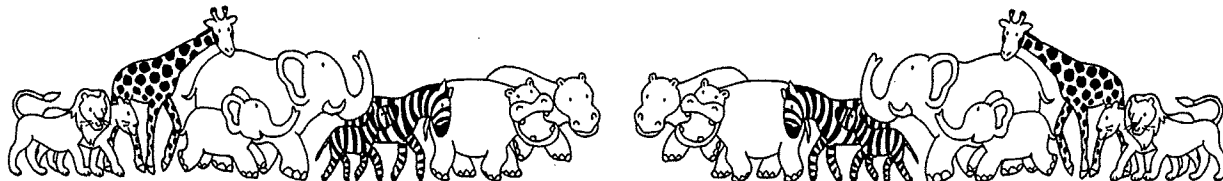
Youth News

SPLASH: Be ready to get wet! We will be meeting poolside once a week to study stories from scripture. Besides getting wet, we will eat, swim, and play together. It all begins the first week of July. Senior high SPLASH will meet on Wednesday evenings at the McPhersons' home; middle school SPLASH will meet on Tuesday evenings at the Merediths' home. Come whenever you can and have fun diving into scripture.

Youth Local Mission Week – July 25-29: Join us for a week of service and fellowship. You are eligible to participate if you are in the years between entering middle school and finishing high school. We will be working at a variety of sites in both the local and the metropolitan DC area, helping with the homeless, the hungry, the elderly, and the sick. You will receive 20 hours of community service learning hours. In addition, we will be going to the movies, swimming, bowling, picnicking and other such activities. The cost is \$30. Registration forms and a sign-up sheet are available in the narthex. If you have any questions, please call Beth Williams.

Busch Gardens and Water Country USA Overnight Trip – August 8-9:

Save the date and watch for permission slips and a sign-up. We will have two days of fun with a bounce pass between the two parks. Cost is \$90 per person and includes the park passes and lodging. Additional money will be needed for food and souvenirs.



In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Bob Hazard at home; Barbara Shamel at home; Jack Crawford at home; the family of Dawn Thompson; Pastor Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus's nephew, Captain Brian Wilson, in Iraq; and Mike and Nancy Hanniger, our missionaries in the Republic of Congo. Mike is receiving chemotherapy for lymphoma at the Ohio State University Hospital. They continue to work with their partners in Congo and hope to return after the course of treatment.



We celebrate with joy the baptism of...

...Emma Katharyn Gentry, daughter of Scott Allen Gentry and Elizabeth Kaye Gentry.

We celebrate with joy the births of...

...Margaret Elizabeth Bowen. Proud grandparents are John and Kay Norvell; grateful parents are Kristina and Patrick Bowen.

...Blake McKnight Conway. Grateful parents are Melissa and Gareth Conway; proud grandparents are Dell and Mary Margaret Smith.

...Malcolm Curtenius Fry. Proud grandparents are John and Jean Hummon. Grateful parents are Peter and Gretchen Fry.

...Ryan Michael Kunst. Grateful parents are Stephanie Hampton and Michael Kunst.

...Elise Makana Sumiko Jenkins. Proud grandparents are Bob and Joyce Jenkins; grateful parents are Ben and Wendy Jenkins.

...Isabella Marie Tennent, daughter of Edward and Alison Tennent; proud grandparents are Ed and Linda Tennent.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

...Jane Simpson and Justin Gray who were married on June 18, 2005 in Tulum, Mexico.

...David and Jackie Fowler, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 12th.

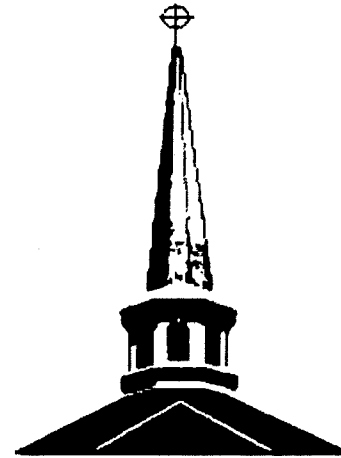
...Allison Lyons and Chris Seaman who were married on July 9.

IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Dawn Thompson. We commend them to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-6007

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER 2005

KERRY ON...

I believe that all of us are looking forward to being together again this fall. Most of us have had wonderful opportunities to travel and get away from the demands of our regular schedules. **The fall schedule resumes on September 11 with Rally Day at 9:45 and worship at 11:00.** Special prayers of remembrance will be offered on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

Fall represents a kind of family homecoming and points to the many ways that we can all be strengthened in our faith and encouraged in our mission. If you are discovering God's love and the fellowship of God's people in this congregation I invite you to ask a friend, family member, neighbor or colleague to come for a visit. Be intentional and extend the invitation for a specific Sunday such as September 11 and offer to bring your friends or meet them at the church door. Plan to sit together and then introduce them to others at the coffee hour. Brochures of our programs and other literature are available in the narthex for you to share. Please introduce your friends to me and to Beth Williams and we will be glad to answer questions.

Let's also remember to pray for our college students who will be away at school this fall. They continue to be part of our church family and we look forward to seeing them when they return home on school breaks. Also let us pray for our children and youth as they face the challenges of school and a culture that is often not supportive of the Christian values we encourage in our education and youth ministry.

I will let the ushers know that we may need extra chairs for seating on Sunday, September 11. Let us join together to give glory to God.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of James K. Leitch. We commend him to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Dr. James K. Leitch, who was our organizing minister at Potomac Presbyterian, died on July 15 at the age of 104, in Gainesville, Florida.

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.

BETH'S BLURB

I remember the first Presidential election that I became interested in as a child. I lay awake in my bed long past my bedtime listening with great fear and trepidation to the election returns on the transistor radio hidden under my pillow. I had heard that one of the candidates was in favor of year round school, and I was praying that he would not win! This was something I could not even imagine as a child and I still can't today. I have thoroughly enjoyed my summer. Going on Workcamp, VBS adventuring, SPLASHING with middle schoolers, high schoolers, and even the college kids, and serving our community with our young people during Local Mission Week, have all been wonderful, fun activities.

I am now ready, and hope that you all are too, for the start of a new school year and a new year of wonderful educational opportunities here at the church. The Christian Education brochures are included in this edition of Steeple to People, and I hope you take a moment to look through them and find somewhere you would like to participate. **Rally Day is Sunday, September 11, at 9:45 am** in the Fellowship Hall. This is for all ages, children, youth and adults. Our theme this year is "Love Bears All Things" from 1 Corinthians 13:7. The children are invited to bring a new teddy bear to donate to the police who will give them to children who are involved in automobile accidents. Last year's Sunday School offering will buy additional bears to donate. At the 11:00 service we will dedicate our teaching staff and present the **Third Graders with Bibles**.

Beth Williams



Vacation Bible School Safari Report – Many thanks to all the people who helped with this year's Vacation Bible School. We had a wonderful time exploring the Lord's Prayer! This year, for the VBS offering, we selected a project that will benefit the children of Africa. In Africa books have become so expensive that churches and schools often go without them. Even church leaders cannot afford to buy books. The book shortage is so serious that some people have described it as a "book famine." The \$253 we collected in Vacation Bible School will be used to buy Bibles and Songbooks for children in the

Congolese village of Tshikaji. Potomac Presbyterian Church supports medical missionaries Mike and Nancy Haninger who made us aware of this book shortage and offered to coordinate our efforts with two local Presbyterian churches where they live in the Congo. At the closing program of our Vacation Bible School we were thrilled to be able to present this offering to Bert Klein, our mission elder. **(continued)**



In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Bob Hazard, Barbara Shamel, and Jack Crawford, all at home; all who are serving in the Armed Forces; Pastor Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus's nephew, Captain Brian Wilson, in Iraq; and Mike and Nancy Hanniger, our missionaries in the Republic of Congo. Mike is receiving chemotherapy for lymphoma at the Ohio State University Hospital. They continue to work with their partners in Congo and hope to return after the course of treatment. Also, our prayers are with Karen Pitelka at National Rehabilitation Hospital, Room 228 (102 Irving Street, NW, Washington, DC 20010) phone 202-877-1255.



We celebrate with joy the birth of...

...Norah Katherine Mills. Proud grandparents are John and Kay Norvell. Grateful parents are Melissa Norvell and Chad Mills.

Congratulations and God's blessings on...

...Allison Lyons and Chris Seaman who were married in July in Stevensville, MD.

Stephen Ministry

Come join us on Wednesday evening, October 5 as we begin our new training classes for Stephen Ministers. We are excited about the new training class and hope you will consider being a part of this exciting fellowship. It is unlike anything you have done before! For more information please contact Pastor Kerry or any of our current Stephen Ministers. Please let us know immediately if you are interested. There is a brief application to process and we would like to complete all of this as soon as possible. Also, a special "Thank You!" to our Stephen Leaders Ruthanne Stoltzfus and George Hunt (from Geneva Presbyterian Church) who presented information about our Stephen Ministry program on Sunday, August 14 during Geneva's worship service.



IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life of Janet Harrison. We commend her to the loving care of our Lord. For Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Bill and Janet were charter members of Potomac Presbyterian Church and long time supporters of our ministry. Bill died in 1999. We remember Martha Bentzen, Janet's daughter, and her family in our prayers. **The memorial service will be held on September 17 at 2:00 p.m.**



SAFEWAY ESCRIP Funds for Workcampers

Always at the food store? Now you can earn funds for the workcampers while you shop at Safeway. There is **no cost** to you and our youth will benefit. Safeway will contribute a percentage of your purchases to Potomac Presbyterian Church.

We earn about \$600 each school year in this way!

Here's how to sign up:

- If you don't already have one, you must first obtain a Safeway club card by going in to any Safeway store.
- After you have your card, fill in the information on the form below and **mail it to me, e-mail it to me, give me a call, or drop it off at the church office.**
- That's all there is to it! Thank you for supporting our workcampers!

Karen Wise

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Safeway Club Card #: _____ (11 digits)

Have I signed you up in the past? Great! I saved all your information, but PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF I MAY RENEW YOU FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR. I will NOT automatically renew anyone this year until I have heard from you that it is OK to do so. Talk to me in church, e-mail, or call and say "RENEW ME", or write "RENEW" on the above form, and I'll take care of it. Thank you for all you do for our workcampers!

Karen Wise
9812 Clydesdale Street
Potomac, MD 20854
karensuewise@hotmail.com,
301-299-2826.

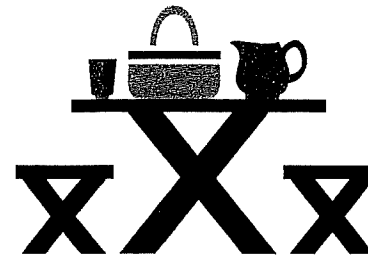


(Vacation Bible School Safari Report - continued)

Thanks to all who helped out this year:

Director: Tracy Spencer; Decorations: Julie McMahon and Cyndy Mamalian; Skit Director: Debbie McKune; Music: Cyndy Mamalian and Jackie McMahon; Art: Greta Van Brunt, Penny, Megan and Michelle Boyd, Patricia Eng, Janet Swisher, Aura Chapa; Bible: Jackie Williams and Wendy Kuhn; Recreation: Molly, Abigail and Hannah Singerling, Margaret Sargeant; Snacks: Bert Klein, Tracy Spencer, and Cathryn White; Preschoolers: Rachel Johns, Meili Sohl, and Molly Miller; Safari Guides: Debbie McKune and Christa Sohl; Childcare: Angelica Klein, Thomas Niskanen.

Youth News



Youth Group Kick-off Picnic and Game Night – Sunday, September 11 at 4:30pm. Both middle schoolers (6th-8th grade) and senior highs (9th-12th grade) will kick-off the year with a picnic and games. Bring your friends and be prepared to have fun!

Workcamp Meeting – Sunday, September 25. An interest meeting for next summer's workcamp to Lockport, New York, June 24- July 1, will be held after church on Sunday, September 25. Youth who are currently in 8th grade or older, and their parents, are invited to attend this meeting. Any adults interested in being advisors should also attend. We will talk about fundraisers and hear from some of our veteran workcampers about what it's really like. Lunch will be provided. If you'd like to go to workcamp but can't attend this meeting, please call or email Beth Williams at the church (beth@potomacpresbyterian.org).

Worship Committee – Seeks Volunteer with Table Saw

The Worship Committee is looking for a volunteer with a table saw to make a pair of trays for the table at the sanctuary entrance. If you are able to help, please contact Bill Malone at (301) 365-1175 or malone@alum.mit.edu





THE WRIGHT NOTE

Make Time for Choir!

Isn't it amazing that the same mechanism that allows us to speak on so many levels and in so many languages can also be used to produce a singing tone that eventually can make melody and tones that harmonize with a melody? Singing is truly an amazing, ever satisfying accomplishment.

Some of us are better singers than others. This may be due to genes or to how, when, or if we were ever effectively introduced to singing at all. Singing does not feel the same as talking. Some of you may have never felt the true sensation of the singing part of your voice. Thus, you may have talked your way through "Jesus Loves Me" as a five-year-old and never realized that that low, drone-like quality with no pitch differentiation was not your singing voice.

The sooner a child starts to experiment with voice inflection and fluctuation, the better. In our K-2nd grade choir we do just that, and begin the long, wonderful road to good singing. That choir is called the Wonderful Wednesdays Choir and meets from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons in the fellowship hall. I direct that choir in an atmosphere of fun and Christian fellowship. The first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 21st. Children in grades K – 2nd grade will be receiving reminder postcards.

The next step from the K – 2nd grade choir is the Sunrise Singers Choir which meets on Sunday mornings from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. in the choir robe room. This choir involves boys and girls in grades 3 – 6. Being familiar now with the feel of the singing voice, these children begin to read music from the printed score and sing several times throughout the year in worship. They also take an active part in supporting the Christmas pageant and sing in a spring choral festival sponsored by Choristers Guild. Watch for postcards to arrive at the home of 3rd – 6th graders reminding them of the September 18th starting date for choir.

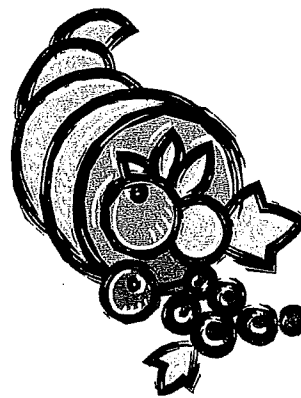
Our Sanctuary Choir will begin rehearsals on Sept. 8th at 8:00 p.m. What a great group of dedicated Christian friends! We enjoy working together to prepare the anthems we sing in every worship service. We realize that we are true worship leaders, even though our voices resound from the back of the Sanctuary. Many of our members have been singing in the choir for more years than they want me to print. They encourage more of you pew dwellers to join the ranks of choir singers this year. We have a wonderful time learning new music, singing the great music from the past and improving our vocal technique. Maybe this is the year to make time for choir.

(continued)

DEACON'S CORNER

At this time of the year, I am overwhelmed with the Lord's bounty. All summer long we enjoy wonderful local fruits and vegetables. We visit the farmer's market on Thursday afternoons in Potomac, and a farmer's stand in Garrett County where the husband and wife have a friendly disagreement on which is the better tasting corn. In the Fall we will see mounds of pumpkins, squash, and apples along with corn stalks and hay, more reminders of the harvest and an abundance of food. Aren't we blessed?

However, the picture on the front page of the August 11, Washington Post gives a different perspective. "A malnourished boy in Dakor, in southern Niger, lies on the ground in exhaustion as his brother looks on." It is difficult to erase this image from my mind and to ease the feeling of helplessness. If only, when our parents told us to "eat all your food because there are starving children in China", we could have actually *sent* our food to those children! We must remember to...



*...be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice
with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.*

Romans 12:12-15.

In our prayers let us remember those young boys, and all starving and exhausted people, along with the organizations that are struggling to help them.

Vicki Dorman

Prayer Team

Our prayer team invites you to share your needs and concerns. Prayer request cards, available in the pew racks, may be filled out and placed in the offering plate. All prayer requests are strictly confidential. If you have any questions regarding this ministry or if you would like to join the Prayer Team, call Roberta Meredith at 301-963-8666.



Ephesians 6:18: "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."



UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY!

Richmond & Janet McPherson
30949 Minuteman Way
Westlake Village, CA 91361
Phone: 818-597-2469

Josh & Maria Stoltzfus
8610 Bradford Road
Silver Spring, MD 20901
Phone: 301-495-5704

Cure Autism Now – A Heartfelt Thanks to the PPC Community

On July 4th, the 5th Annual Cure Autism Now 5K Run/1 mile walk was a huge success. Over 1500 people ran, walked or volunteered on a spectacular holiday morning. With your help, we raised over \$165,000 which far exceeded my expectations! Over the course of the morning, I saw so many familiar faces from the PPC community. In fact, over 20 of you (both adults and children) joined us for the festivities as part of TEAM PPC. I would like to thank all of you who participated that morning and also those who were unable to attend but still sponsored individual walkers or runners at the event. You were with us in spirit. Your efforts and support will surely make a difference as researchers search for a cure for autism. Words cannot express my gratitude.

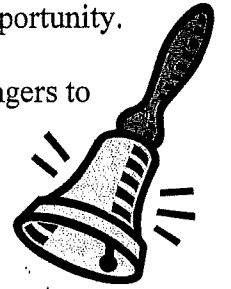
Susan



September Adult Education

September 18 and 25 - John Yieh – Sermon on the Mount

(The Wright Note - continued) Handbell ringing is a unique musical opportunity. Yes, the ability to read music is necessary. Maybe you play or played an instrument in the past. This would be helpful. We presently have nine ringers to ring three octaves of bells. We could always use one or two more regular ringers, and of course ringers who are willing to substitute when regular ringers are away. Please contact Cindy Wright if you have an interest in this choir. The first rehearsal for the season is Thursday, September 22nd.



Cindy Wright

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Hello! Remember us? We are still working and are sooooo close to bringing our search to a very satisfying end! Your brave and loyal committee has reviewed dozens of resumes and interviewed many well deserving candidates since May 2004. As of today we are looking at one particular person very, very closely. We are thinking long and hard about the responsibilities our candidate will be undertaking if asked to be our Associate Pastor for Congregational Care.

Please review below what we will be asking this person to be responsible for if they are offered and accept this call.

This person will:

- Participate in direct pastoral care to any member of our congregation.
- Guide, facilitate, and organize lay pastoral care (including our Deacons and Stephen Ministers) using training, education and congregational awareness to achieve our goal of a greater ministry to one another.
- Lead worship several times a year. This may include preaching at worship services at Manor Care, special worship services at PPC and regular Sunday services when coordinated with Kerry and Tom.
- Follow up with prospective and new members and renew relationships with long standing members.
- Work within the parameters of a half time position!

We continue to ask for your prayers for this committee and the candidate who may be joining our church family in the near future.

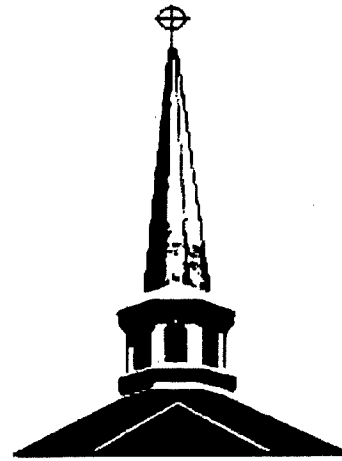
Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee:

Gail Cannon, Tom McPherson, John Hummon, Mary Margaret Smith, Cyndy Mamalian, Mark Shalaby, Bob Tietjen, Susan Pereles, Kenny Kent.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2005</h1>						
				1 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.)	2	3
4	5 LABOR DAY <i>~ Office Closed ~</i>	6 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	7 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Reformed Institute Program Committee	8 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir (1st)	9	10
11 RALLY DAY 9:45 a.m. Opening Ceremonies 11:00 a.m. Worship/Bibles for 3 rd Graders 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Youth Group Kick-off Picnic and Game Night	12 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	13 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.)	14 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed.)	15 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.)	16	17 2:00 p.m. Memorial Service Janet Harrison
18 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care	19 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	20 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3 rd Tues.)	21 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	22 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir (1st) 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	23	24
25 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Workcamp Meeting	26 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.)	27 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 10:00 a.m. Presbytery (Nat'l) 7:00 p.m. Wooton Tri-M Music Honor Society Event	28 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir	29 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	30	

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-6007

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

OCTOBER 2005

KERRY ON...

*The Lord is near to the broken-hearted.
And saves the crushed in spirit.*

Psalm 34:1

May we all continue in prayer for everyone affected by the hurricane Katrina disaster – the victims, the survivors, the Disaster Response Personnel (including police, firefighters, ambulance and hospital workers as well as those who are responding from disaster response teams), and the families and friends who live at a distance and must wait to hear how their loved ones are doing.

Our presbytery team of volunteers includes Jim Jochum and Fred Newton, and they are working with the Rev. Chris Bullock and the Gautier, Mississippi Presbyterian Church. The church facility was totally destroyed. Along with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the team is setting up a tent village to house volunteers who will be coming to the area over the next weeks and months. They are also involved in a variety of projects that are helping families in the area. More volunteers are needed during the month of October.

For up-to-date information on ways to help, contact:

www.pcusa.org - PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance);

www.thepresbytery.org - for current information on the team in Mississippi;

Linda Marsh, 301-774-0160, lmm0160@yahoo.com, for information on housing opportunities.

The Session and Mission Committee have designated \$2,000 from PPC Mission for the relief effort. Your contributions may be made for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Please write checks to Potomac Presbyterian Church and note "Hurricane Relief" on the memo line.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*

O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*

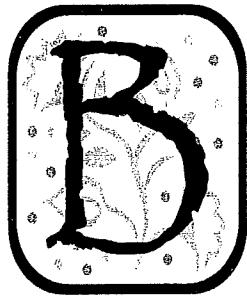
Beth Williams, *Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education*

Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

OCTOBER ADULT EDUCATION

- October 2:** Dr. David Stump & Mrs. Carolyn Stump, PPC members,
"Stem Cell Research"
- October 9 and 16:** Dr. John Yieh, Asst. Professor, Virginia Theological
Seminary, "Sermon on the Mount," (continued)
- October 23:** Dr. Jeff Hensley, Asst. Professor, Virginia Theological
Seminary, (TBA)
- October 30:** Beth Williams, PPC Interim Director of Christian
Education, "The Reformation in a Nutshell"

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.



ETH'S BLURB

Fall – It is a season of change. The leaves change colors, children change grades, and some of us change life status, empty-nesting now. The white pants get hung up in the back of the closet until next summer and the rake replaces the watering can by my door. It is always hard for me to say good-bye to the summer, for change is never easy for me. As I watch that first tree turn yellow, my initial reaction is not to savor the beauty of the leaves, but instead to sigh with sadness at the end that it signifies. But I should take a lesson from the trees. They are so much better at “letting go” than I am. Joyce Rupp, in her book “Daily Bread” says it this way. “Trees readily allow autumn to have their summer leaves. . . . They allow the season to make it appear that all is lost, and that there is no green growth left. But they know better, for even at their most barren moment, when one can look among the branches and see scars and knotholes the leaves once hid, the trees already show terminal buds with the secret of next spring’s leafing in them.”

We can learn a lot from the trees. We have to be willing to let go, to be open to change, in order that new growth can come. So maybe this fall, as I walk down the street and see the changing leaves, instead of grieving the loss, I can see the promise. Maybe, just maybe, I can let go of some of my own leaves to which I have been clinging, and trust God to bring about new growth in me.



First 2006 Workcamp Fundraiser is the biannual Car Wash/Bake Sale

Keep those cars dirty for a couple of weeks longer – the youth are having a car wash and bake sale this month. Watch the bulletins for the date. Bring your car, give us the keys, and then go to adult education or worship and we’ll have your car spiffy and clean when you come out. The car wash is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. Yummy homemade baked goods are available for sale in the Fellowship Hall after worship. All proceeds go to send our 2006 Workcampers to Lockport, New York, the Erie Canal Workcamp Challenge. The historic city of Lockport was founded in the early 1800’s to make a home for some of the 1200 people who built the Erie Canal, which runs through the heart of the city. Because of the area’s harsh winters, many homes have been hard hit and are in need of repairs. As a challenge camp, this year’s workcamp will involve more intensive construction projects. If you are interested, youth or adults, in attending this year’s workcamp, June 24- July 1, please see Beth Williams or Joe Curry.

Beth Williams

DEACON’S CORNER

As is the case with all of us, our family is saddened by the suffering of those in the Gulf Coast Region. Like many of you we have friends and co-workers who have been impacted on a personal level. Family members were missing and family homes destroyed. It seems everyday the news has been getting worse than the day before and in some cases the lack of news has been unbearable.

Yet today, September 12th, as I began writing this note, the heading of USA Today’s coverage is “Hope Rises as Water Recedes”. The article goes on to point out hospitals are functioning, the airport is opening, widespread disease has been avoided and electricity is starting to be restored. It is a start, but for those who have lost loved ones or possessions, the road to recovery is just beginning.

Our family, like yours, is praying for those who have been devastated, and giving as generously as we can. We are also hugging each other just a little more it seems. It shouldn’t be this way, but it seems tragedies such as this help us all to understand just how blessed and fortunate we are. God bless.

Bob Rosecrans

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Bob Hazard and Barbara Shamel, at home; Jack Crawford, at Shady Grove Hospital; all who are serving in the Armed Forces; Pastor Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus’s nephew, Captain Brian Wilson, in Iraq; and Mike and Nancy Hanniger, our missionaries in the Republic of Congo. They expect to return to work with their partners in Congo in the near future. Our prayers are also with Karen Pitelka as she moves to Wisconsin.



We celebrate with joy the baptism of...

Blake McKnight Conway. We rejoice with Blake’s parents, Gareth and Melissa Conway; and, Kevin Porter Young. We rejoice with Kevin’s parents, Gary and Karen Young.

We celebrate with joy the birth of...

Taylor Brooke Sarvis. Proud grandparents are Harry and Merrily Tovmassian. Grateful parents are Tiffany and Corvis Sarvis.

New Address...

Rob and Tricia Kirchner (Brett and Stephen), Clarendon, Beech Close,
Cobham, Surrey KT11 2 EN, United Kingdom

PRAYING FOR THE CHILDREN

Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our children from birth to four years old. Please pray for their parents and families, too.



Eileen Lee, Alexander Alarie, Lily Rice, Kevin Young, Preston Kuhn, Blake Conway, Ryan Kunst, Roman Conway, Matthew Mamalian, Megan Bedingfield, Morgan Bedingfield, Patterson Koonce, Chandler Kuhn, Christian Alarie, Emily Cyrway, Paige Hooper, Andrew Kline, Alexandra Mamalian, Abigail Spencer, Kyle Venit

PPC PUMPKIN PATCH AND HAYRIDE

at the HOMESTEAD FARM

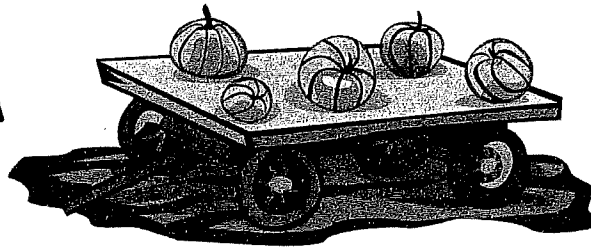
Saturday, Oct 8th, 4:30pm
Hayride at 5pm

Ages 1-99 Welcome, invite friends!

The Fellowship Committee will provide dinner and all the fixing's for S'mores!
Enjoy a time of fellowship while enjoying a hayride, picking the perfect pumpkin and singing songs around a campfire.

Cost is \$8/person

Look for more details and a sign up poster in Fellowship Hall later this month.



POTOMAC DAY: Saturday October 29th

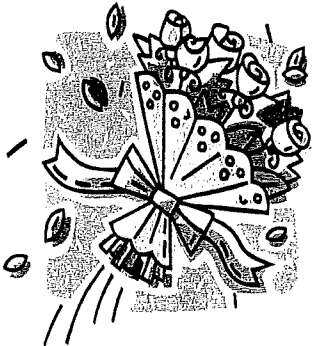
Outreach Committee **NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to staff the church booth at the annual "Potomac Day" festivities in Potomac Village on Saturday, October 29th. We need help in 1-hr and 2-hr shifts from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If interested, see committee members Frank McKenna, Joe Curry, Lew Chapin, Kathy Kruse, or Harry Tovmassian, or look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Families, youth, and adults of all ages are heartily urged to participate. Duties will include hosting the cider booth and providing information about our church. We will have displays, hand-out materials, and cider under a 10x10 EZ-Up canopy in the parking lot of Potomac Village, near the Potomac Pizza restaurant (our standard location each year). Come help us show others what a friendly and welcoming community of faith we have at PPC. Please contact **Joe Curry** at **301-793-8993** if you have any questions.

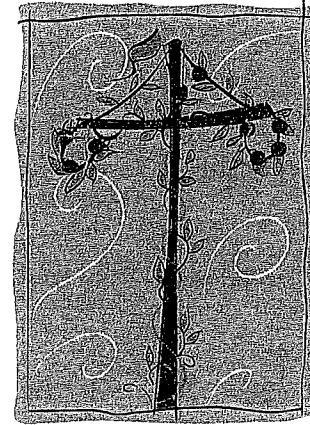
Flower Sharers Needed

The lovely flowers donated for Sunday worship continue to be enjoyed well into the week, thanks to volunteers who share the flowers with those who cannot be with us on Sunday morning, and who are very happy to be visited. We need two new volunteers and a sharing coordinator. Our members team up and share the flowers on a schedule that involves only two months a year. Please contact **Fran Ligler** at **301-983-3482** or **fligler@cbmse.nrl.navy.mil**.

Fran Ligler



NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CONGREGATIONAL CARE



WELCOME, LESLIANNE BRAUNSTEIN!

On Sunday, September 18, our congregation extended a call to Leslianne Braunstein to serve as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care. The Presbytery will act on this call and examine Leslianne for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament on September 27. We expect that she will begin her ministry at PPC on October 1. A service of ordination and installation is scheduled for **Sunday, Nov. 13, at 3:30p.m.**

THE WRIGHT NOTE



At the time of this writing, I am anticipating the beginning of the children's choir season for 2005-2006. I can't wait to hear the clear tones of the third through sixth graders in the Sunrise Singers as they gather at 9:00 a.m. this Sunday. Then on Wednesday, I look forward to seeing the expectant expressions on the faces of the new kindergartners, first graders, and second graders as they gather at 4:00 p.m. for Wonderful Wednesdays Choir. In both choirs we will sing the following song, sung to the Old 100th (Doxology) tune. Try it yourselves:

God bless us in this brand new year.
May we together bring good cheer
To those who need a Christian friend.
May we a helping hand extend.

Yes, there is a special spirit of friendship and helping in all of our choirs. As we work to prepare music for worship, we also build relationships with each other in the spirit of Christian service and community. This is good for our children and for us adults, too.

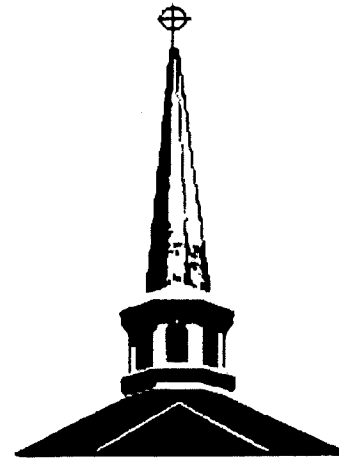
Our handbell and sanctuary choirs have both lost members this season due to moving, illness and travel schedules. Please consider sharing your time and talent in this way. You will find this musical activity enriching and enjoyable. I welcome a call from anyone who might be interested in ringing or singing.

Cindy Wright

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2005						1 7:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
2 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-I 11:00 a.m. Worship/ World Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	3	4 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 10:00 a.m. Presbytery (National) 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	5 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	6 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	7	8 4:30 p.m. PPC Hayride - Homestead Farm
9 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:00 a.m. Youth Worship 9:30 a.m. Workcamp Car Wash 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-II 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship/Bakesale 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	10 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	11 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.)	12 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	13 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	14 6:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	15 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline 4:30 p.m. Farentino Wedding
16 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Inquirers' Class-III 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	17 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	18 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Christian Living (3 rd Tues.)	19 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Reformed Institute Program Committee 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	20 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	21	22
23 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singer 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. New members/Session 11:00 a.m. Worship/New Members Received 12:00 p.m. Congregational Mtg. 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	24 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.)	25 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class	26 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:00-3:00 p.m. Presbytery Transforming Congregations Workshop 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. "Pumpkin Caroling" Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	27 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	28	29 <i>Potomac Day</i>
30 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> Stewardship Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joint Youth Groups	31					

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

NOVEMBER 2005

KERRY ON...

“All Good Gifts” is our stewardship theme this year and it is based on a text from the Letter of James 1:17, 18

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change with the shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

What if reality is defined by a generous God who is constantly giving gifts? Each morning we wake up and are presented with the gift of a new day and many possibilities. To acknowledge this gift is to frame our work and leisure in a particular way. It will shape how we go about working our way through our “to do list.” How we relate to family and friends and colleagues takes on new meaning if we start from the base of each day being God’s gift. Simply looking around at the changing leaves and sunny skies will be a reminder of all good gifts. Giving thanks before a meal will remind us and our children of God’s generosity.

Cultivating an attitude of thankfulness will grow a multitude of fruits to be shared. When gratitude is a way of life the fruit to be shared is multiplied. We sometimes say that we are blessed to be a blessing. This is true in families and in acts of caring in our community. Sometimes the sharing is expressed for our neighbor next door and sometimes our neighbors on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Sharing with our family of faith strengthens and grows our ministry.

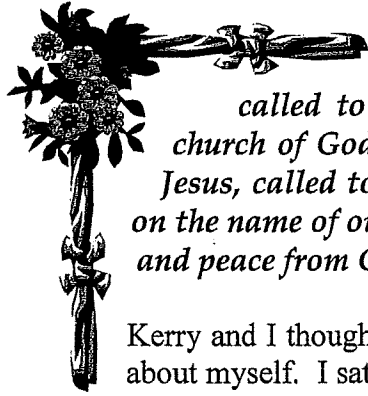
Our pledges to support the ministry of Potomac Presbyterian Church are expressions of gratitude for “every good and perfect gift.” I invite you to prayerfully consider how God who is generous beyond our imagining is calling you to share the gifts you have received.

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
Leslianne Braunstein, *Associate Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

ADULT EDUCATION

November 6, 13 - Dr. John Norvell – “*Religion and Science*”
November 20, 27 - Dr. Thomas Miles – “*The Church and the Challenges of Cultural Change*”

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in “Steeple to People” box in the church office.



Leslianne

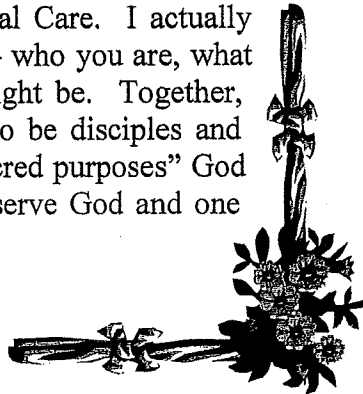
called to be a disciple of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the church of God that is in Potomac, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Kerry and I thought this would be an excellent opportunity for me to tell you a little about myself. I sat at my computer for a *very* long time before I realized it would be impossible to distill a life into a few hundred words, so I had to come up with something that would first tell you the most important things about who I am. I tried to compose something original and catchy, but I couldn't come up with anything better than Paul's opening sentence in his letter to the church at Corinth. I am Leslianne, a person called by God to be a disciple of Christ and to share that calling with all of you, the community at Potomac Presbyterian Church who are sanctified – consecrated, set apart for sacred purposes. Together we share this calling with Christians in every place. And, together we try to live as both recipients and bearers of the grace and peace that is our heritage from God in Christ through the encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

Yikes! (An expression I use frequently.) That's quite a lot to digest in one sitting. The good news is that none of this was intended to be grasped in a moment of time. Instead, what all this means is to be understood, and experienced and lived and reexamined over a lifetime of following our Lord as we pursue our daily tasks.

I am a pilgrim on this journey just as you all are. I look forward to having the opportunity to explore with you what all this means. This is a particular joy of your call to me to be the Associate Pastor for Congregational Care. I actually have the privilege of spending my time getting to know you – who you are, what makes you tick, what gives you joy, what your concerns might be. Together, individually and corporately, we will be able to learn how to be disciples and what it means to be a saint. We will together discern the "sacred purposes" God sets before us and, relying on God's grace, we will seek to serve God and one another with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

It promises to be an experience of – and for – a lifetime!
Grace and peace,
Leslianne

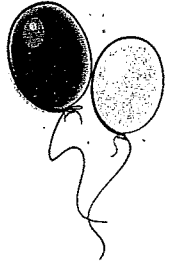


Ninth Annual Cabaret for the Cure – to benefit the American Cancer Society

Sunday November 6, 2:00 pm – The Hilton McLean

A wonderful afternoon of musical entertainment, food, beverages, and friends. No admission fee, but your generous donation gratefully appreciated. Make checks payable to: *American Cancer Society*. Your donation will grow: Booz Allen Hamilton is again offering a Corporate Challenge...as we reach our goals, they will add up to \$2500!

For details call Ann Hazard 301-424-2827



Usher on Christmas Eve

Looking for a way to get into the Christmas spirit, and put a smile on someone's face? Come usher on Christmas Eve at PPC! We need your help!

We have three services at 5, 7 & 11 PM.

Give Gary Niskanen (301-258-7836) or


John Sohl (301-765-7645) a call to get more information.

Alternative Gift Cards


This month the workcampers will be selling alternative gift cards for the holidays. Don't know what to get that person who has everything? Donate money to workcamp and receive a beautiful handmade card to give them letting them know about this special gift made in their name. This is a wonderful way to recognize special people in your life as well as support our young people who will be giving a week of their summer repairing homes for those in need in Lockport, NY.



New Addresses:



Eric and Greta Van Brunt
McCartney and Nathan
15161 Winesap Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-987-7017



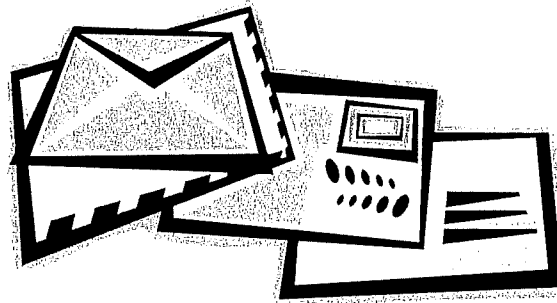
Bob and Florence Sanders
14115 Aden Road
Nokesville, VA 20181

GODSPEED

and our prayers go with...

Gene and Wilma Sharer
1816 John Hancock Court
Governor's Land
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Bill Rohrbaugh
334 Illinois Ave.
Westerville, OH 43081
614-899-8983



Karen Pitelka
134 Regent Pl.
Neenah, WI 54956
karenjp@aol.com

THE WRIGHT NOTE



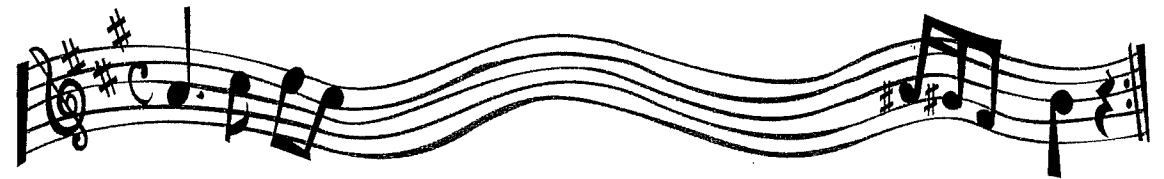
On November 6th we will celebrate All Saints Sunday in our 11:00 o'clock worship service. Guest trumpeter, Jeff Summers, will join the Sanctuary Choir and organ to support this service of praise and remembrance. Mr. Summers will also share Communion meditation music.

The following Sunday, Nov. 13th, the Sanctuary Choir will be present to participate in the afternoon Service of Ordination for Leslieanne Braunstein. Choir members will also sing for morning worship that same day. Have you thanked a choir member lately for his or her continued loyalty and support to our worship? As their director, I need to remind myself to do just that. I have been more concerned these days with the declining number of singers in the bass section and the impact that has on the repertoire we can prepare for upcoming services.

Our other choirs have been rehearsing since early September. The Wonderful Wednesdays Choir has just four singers this year. They are very enthusiastic, however, and sing with sweet, clear tone. The Sunrise Singers have eleven registered participants. They sang in worship on October 30. The Handbell Choir is still struggling to reach the goal of nine regular ringers. I am confident that soon we will be able to find the remaining missing ringer so that we can ring "We Gather Together" on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

I want to say my personal thanks to all choir members for their participation in the choir program of our church. Music is indeed a vital part of our worship.

Cindy





ETH'S BLURB

Several months ago the Washington Post added a new type of puzzle - the Su Do Ku - a grid formed such that every vertical column, every horizontal column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9. In my spare time I would find myself doing these puzzles. Sometimes I would solve them fairly quickly. Other times it might take me several days. Whatever the case, I kept on doing the puzzles. Then I noticed the Post had added a new element to the puzzle. They began rating them by difficulty level varying from "very easy" to "hard". That explained the variations in my "solving time" and it added a new dimension to the puzzle. Now, as I open the paper and turn to the page with the Su Do Ku, I first look at the difficulty level. When the puzzle is listed as "very easy" or "easy", my decision is simple - I do the puzzle. When it is listed as "medium", I usually tackle it anyway. When the puzzle is "hard", however, I really have to think about it. Do I have the time and resources (brain power) to try to solve this particular puzzle?

Why is any of this relevant? I have found this is a good analogy for many of the problems we face each day. The easy ones we step up to and solve "easily." The "medium" ones might take more effort, but we solve them. It is those "hard", seemingly nearly impossible problems that we step back from, feeling like we don't have what it takes to solve them.

This, to me, is where problems such as homelessness and AIDS fall. I have to remind myself that before the Su Do Ku started labeling the puzzles, I finished every one. As Christians we cannot let the "difficult" label keep us from trying to solve problems. We must tackle them for indeed we know all things are possible with God. Like the Su Do Ku we can take it one square at a time and if we don't give up, or let the label intimidate us, we can get it done.

This month the young people will be taking a small step in the direction of solving the issue of homelessness in our area as they walk in the **Help the Homeless Walkathon** downtown on Nov. 19. They will be taking pledges and designating the money that they raise to go to Stepping Stones Shelter. The sponsors of the walk, the Fannie Mae Foundation, will donate \$1 for every walker in the Walkathon to organizations supporting Gulf Coast hurricane relief efforts.

(continued)

In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Bob Hazard and Barbara Shamel at home; Jack Crawford at Shady Grove Nursing Center; Colleen Mitchel at Johns Hopkins Medical Center; Karen Pitelka, as she moves to Wisconsin; Marcia Boogaard, whose mother, Josephine Pullman Tucker, died recently; all who are serving in the Armed Forces; Mike and Nancy Hanniger, our missionaries in the Republic of Congo. They expect to return to work with their partners in Congo in the near future.



We celebrate with joy the baptisms of...

Lucy Catherine Smith. We rejoice with Lucy's parents, Peter and Sarah Smith. Ryan Michael Kunst. We rejoice with Ryan's parents, Michael Kunst and Stephanie Hampton.

Prayers of thanksgiving for...

Captain Brian Wilson, nephew of Pastor Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus. Brian recently returned to the U.S. after serving in Iraq.



Please remember the children of our congregation.

This month we are invited to pray for our children in kindergarten through first grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

Emily Donahue, Caitlin Hooper, Charlotte Koonce, Zachary Nannen, Megan Reilly, Samuel Spencer, Rebecca Chan, Jackie Fasano, Travis Nannen, Sarah Nasson, Noah Pereles, Meredith White.

Deacon's Corner

Each October the Deacons send care packages to all PPC college and graduate students. We include essential academic supplies such as pens, note pads, Kleenex, Chap-stick, candy, fruit wraps, and Silly Putty. We also include a letter letting the students know that PPC members are thinking of them and wish them success in their studies.

This year we will send boxes to forty-five students in colleges and universities across the country from Boston to Malibu. We are proud of these young people who are the products of PPC's youth ministry. Under the leadership of Marilyn Johns and now Beth Williams, we are fortunate to have a great program for kids throughout their school years from Sunday School, to Youth Fellowship, to Work Camp. We have seen this program develop and flourish over the years, and we rejoice in its success. We now have active high school and middle school groups headed by our Youth Deacons that are remarkable in their ability to attract kids and keep them involved in spite of competing activities and the many distractions of high school life.

We hope that our care packages will let our students know that our church appreciates all that they have contributed to the spirit and fellowship of the church and that we heartily support them in their new endeavors.

Kay Norvell

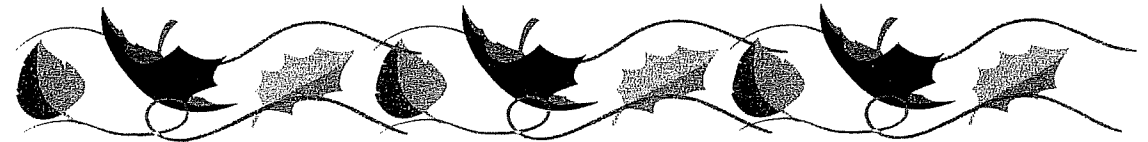


Beth's Blurb, continued.

Everyone is welcome to join us on the walk and can register by going to www.helpthehomelessdc.org and clicking on "Join a Team" and adding your name to the Potomac Presbyterian Church team. Please select STEP as the agency you would like to designate your funds to. We will meet at the metro and walk together. The walk begins at 9:00 am.

Parenting Class

Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the parlor in the month of November and will resume after the holidays. How many times have you wished your child came with an instruction manual? This class may not be a complete how-to book but it will offer insight, advice, support, and a Christian perspective on a variety of topics such as communication, values, cooperation, discipline, and self-esteem. Whether your children are just entering preschool or preteens this class can help you be a better parent and enjoy your children more. Led by Beth Williams



Habitat for Humanity - Pull out your hammers and prepare to climb a ladder! The Montgomery County affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is about to embark on another project, this time constructing 12 (out of an eventual 24) townhomes in Burtonsville. All

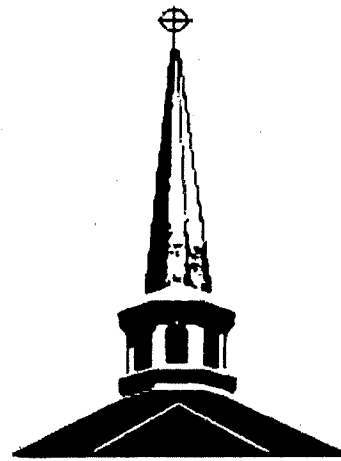


PPC veterans of the Poolesville-2 project recall the enjoyment of working alongside the Caro family; we'll now work with 12 families! The Mission Committee has once again pledged financial support to this faith-based organization dedicated to providing affordable housing through a combination of interest-free loans and "sweat equity" by the future home owners. Robert and Susan Mitchell will serve as PPC's team leaders for the project, tentatively scheduled to begin in November. Indicate your willingness to join the PPC team by sending an email to them at rpm911@gmail.com or susan.a.mitchell@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2005</h1>						
		1 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table (1 st Tues.) 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues.)	2 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	3 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	4	5 8:30-3:30 p.m. Session Retreat
6 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth	7	8 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 nd Tues.) 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group	9 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2 nd Wed) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	10 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	11	12
13 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:30 p.m. Service of Ordination and Installation for Leslianne Braunstein No Youth Groups	14 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.) 7:30 p.m. CE Committee	15 12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline 6:00 p.m. Presbytery (National)	16 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. MD Ornithological Society (3 rd Wed.)	17 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 3:30-4:45 p.m. Brownie Troop (1 st & 3 rd Thurs.) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	18 7:00-9:00 p.m. Ornament Making	19 9:30 a.m. - noon Reformed Institute Board Mtg. Help the Homeless Walkathon
20 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts 3:00 p.m. Manor Care No Youth Groups	21	22 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir (Rescheduled) 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir (Rescheduled)	23 4:00 p.m. <u>NO</u> Wonderful Wednesdays Choir	24 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting ~ THANKSGIVING ~ (Office Closed)	25 (Office Closed)	26
27 ~ Advent I ~ 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship No Youth Groups	28 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.) 7:30 p.m. New Officer Training	29	30 9:30-12:30 p.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study			

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-6007

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
DECEMBER 2005

KERRY ON...

I am pleased to share with you the prayer offered by our National Capital Presbytery moderator, Mark Stunder, at the Ordination and Installation of Leslianne Braunstein on November 13, 2005. It was a moving prayer of thanksgiving for all that God has done and promises to do in and through Potomac Presbyterian Church:

Lord of all the years.... You stood with those 27 people in January 1963 as the Scripture was first read and the Word first preached. Your light shined throughout this new church, this place called Potomac Presbyterian Church. Your light reflected off the pulpit and Your message has been carried as the light of truth whenever the Word was preached by the ministers over the years.

You were there in March 1967 for the first service in this sanctuary with no pews, yet plenty of spirit. There in the 1970's with the startup of many church programs, there in the 1980's guiding constructions programs, Scottish programs, programs with surrounding Jewish congregations. You were there, Lord, in the 1990's with an explosion of mission programs for Kurdish Refugees, Manna Food Center, Community Based Shelter, Mt Zion Baptist in Texas, among other efforts. And you are here today with all the current mission programs, Lord's Table, Stepping Stones, senior high work camp, Montgomery Hospice. Lord, the list goes on and on, for PPC is a mission church.

You were here Lord....when candles shined in the beaming faces of all the newlyweds. Here... when candles illuminated the faces of babies and their parents at baptism or children at their confirmation. And while Silent Night was sung by candlelight on Christmas Eve, You stood at the church door and blessed the happy children and all who sung the Christmas carols.

In 1999 this church embarked upon Stephen Ministry, a wonderful ministry outreach of this church. Potomac Presbyterian has been there when sometimes
(continued on next page)

Kerry L. Stoltzfus, *Pastor*
O. Thomas Milles, *Parish Associate*
Beth Williams, *Interim Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

ADULT EDUCATION

(NO CLASSES ON December 4, 18, and 25)

December 11: Dr. David van Houten, Calvin Scholar in Residence,
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Reformed Institute

USHER ON CHRISTMAS EVE

We need your help for our three services at 5, 7 & 11 PM. Please call Gary Niskanen (301-258-7836) or John Sohl (301-765-7645)

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepoop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.

Special Opportunity for Giving to PPC--and Get a 2005 Tax Break. Deadline is 12/31/2005 (See p. 8)

Kerry On, continued:

no one else has. I ask that You be with all Stephen Ministers and all members of this congregation, so that they may continue to use their gifts and reach out and care for those in need. Help them to continue to make an impact.

And Lord... .., when candles illuminated sad faces... .. faces wet with tears... .., tears shed for those departed or tears shed for this church itselfyou were there.

Lord, You were there in April 1985 when Kerry passed through these doors and became Pastor. We give You thanks for his leadership of this church. And this Presbytery gives you thanks for all that he has done in the service of the Presbytery. Give him continued strength to be your faithful servant and to continue to lead this congregation in the future.

And now Lord God you call Leslieanne to pass through these church doors this Sunday afternoon and out into the world as an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church USA. You have called her to become an associate pastor of congregational care and to minister to those in need and to those unchurched trying to find comfort in you.

Give Leslieanne wisdom Lord to do what is right and to help those in need. Give her renewed energy Lord to witness Your Word and to bring to those at Potomac and beyond an experience that makes the love of Christ visible and real. And most importantly Lord continue to clothe Leslieanne, her husband and family in Your love, a love that she shares everyday with all who know her.

We know Lord that You have caused a great and wonderful thing to happen here today and over all these years. A great and wonderful thing. May Your light continue to reflect on the cross here in the front of the sanctuary. Bless this church and all they do, It is in Christ's name we pray, AMEN!

Christmas Caroling: Join Pastor Kerry and other PPC friends on **Sunday, Dec. 11, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at Manor Care** to bring the joy of Christmas in song. You will see the true spirit of Christmas in the faces of the residents as they listen and join in singing the old, familiar carols. Families with children are especially encouraged to participate. For more information, please call **Joel or Judi Miller at 301-949-6865.**



Remember Those in Need in 2006: The Mission Committee needs individuals, families, or group volunteers to prepare meals for **Sophia House**. Sophia House is a congregation- and community-supported shelter in Rockville which provides rehabilitative services for homeless women in our community. We prepare and serve dinner for 30 women the first Sunday of each month, and we also provide breakfast food for the following morning. Please help us continue this important mission in our community. Look for sign-up sheet in fellowship hall, located on the Mission Committee section of the kiosk, or contact **Tracy Spencer at tracyspencer@comcast.net** or **301-251-9340**. Thank you in advance for supporting the women of Sophia House.

DEACON'S CORNER

A few weeks ago, Kerry quoted a friend of his who, when asked, "How are you?" always responds, "Grateful." I thought it was a good reminder and started to think about all that we have to be grateful for, especially as we enter the holiday season. As I sit here, I can hear my husband getting our children ready for bed. I am grateful for the sound of their laughter and the pitter-patter of their feet upstairs. I am grateful for my husband for too many reasons to explain! I can hear both of my crazy beagles barking outside. I'm grateful for their company, even when they drive me insane. I'm grateful for this church, again for many reasons, but in large part because of the people who are a part of it.

On Sunday, December 4th at 9:30 a.m. the Deacons will be hosting the annual Williamsburg Breakfast. It is an opportunity to sit down with many church friends and perhaps remember how grateful we are. It is also a time for remembering those who may not have the fellowship and community that we are fortunate to know. The Mission Committee sets up and coordinates the **Christmas Gift Giving Tree**. The tree will be decorated with the names of families and children. Church families pick a name from the tree and buy an appropriate gift for the child or make up a food basket for the family. The gifts and food are then returned to church on Sunday, **December 11** when volunteers will distribute them. Please join us for this time of fellowship and sharing.

Tracy Spencer

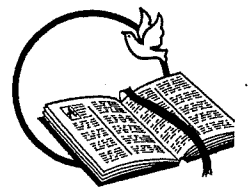
In the Church Family

Our prayers are with...

Jack Crawford, Bob Hazard, and Colleen Mitchel at home; all who are serving in the Armed Forces; Beth William's husband, Michael, recovering from surgery; Ann Hazard, whose mother, Martha McConnell Robbins died; Cindy Wright, whose aunt, Gladys Crist died; and Betty Yadlosky, whose sister, Marjorie Krause, died. Our prayers are also with Mike and Nancy Hanniger, our missionaries who have returned to Congo. Mike will continue to receive cancer treatment over the next month.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of...

Preston David Kuhn. We rejoice with Preston's parents, Thomas and Wendy Kuhn.



Please Remember the Children of Our Congregation

This month we are invited to pray for our children in 2nd and 3rd grade. Please pray for their parents and families, too:

Isabella Alarie, Stefanie Baarman, Nathan Bretscher, Delaney Casten, Katherine Donahue, Bryan Eng, Lauren Eng, Nicholas Mason, Jackson Miller, Dalton Novalis, Dylan Parr, Meredith Srou, Nathan Van Brunt, Austin Venit, Jack White, Sara Cyrway, Grace Pereles, Jordan Reilly.



WELCOME

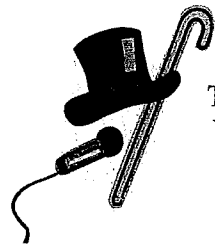
NEW MEMBERS—October, 2005

Elisia (Jung) Dick, 16943 Horn Point Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20848 (301) 519-0493
Jung grew up in Maryland, attended college in Boston and returned to the area to earn a master's degree from John Hopkins. She joins her husband, George, and his family, who are members of PPC. Jung works in the special education department at Sally Ride Elementary School. During her leisure time, she enjoys spending time outdoors, listening to music and going to the theater.

Tony and Mae Lau, 11520 Ridge Mist Terrace, Potomac, MD 20854 (301) 610-6688
Tony and Mae moved from Boston to Potomac in 1998. Tony was born in Hong Kong and moved to the U.S. in the 1970's. Mae was born in Wyoming. Both received advanced degrees from universities in Boston. Tony works in investment banking and Mae is a counsel with the US Department of Treasury. The Laus have three children: Megan is a sophomore at Boston University; Ashley is a junior at Montgomery Blair High School; and Justin attends the Takoma Park Middle School. The Laus enjoy golf, hiking and traveling.

Marjorie Van Egmond, Gardens of Traville, Rockville, MD 20850 (301) 424-4448
Marjorie recently moved from Little Rock, Arkansas to be near her children and grandchildren in the Washington area. She and her late husband lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts before moving to Little Rock where they were active in the Second Presbyterian Church. Marjorie has enjoyed participating in the choir at PPC for the last year.

DINE WITH NINE IS COMING IN EARLY JANUARY! Look for upcoming info from **Judi Miller (301-949-6865)** about these evenings of dinner, fun, and fellowship-- a wonderful way to meet new members and make new friends! **All new members are especially welcomed!**



Ninth Annual Cabaret for the Cure--Thank You!!

The American Cancer Society fundraiser raised almost \$14,000. Many thanks-- and **YOU CAN STILL CONTRIBUTE!** Make your check to A. C. S. and get it to **Ann Hazard** to help fight this terrible disease. *Work for a World Without Cancer.*

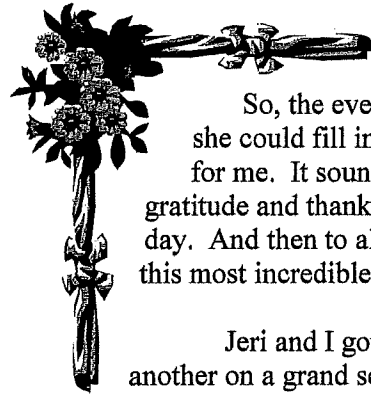
Church Christmas Decorating

Enjoy fellowship with our church family, and refreshments!

Help decorate our sanctuary, fellowship hall, and the church exterior on:

SATURDAY, DEC. 3--9:00 A.M and FRIDAY, DEC. 23--12:30 P.M.

Please call **Pam Drumheller (301-977-7973)** or **Roberta Meredith (301-963-8666, home, or 301-461-0933, cell)** to volunteer or ask questions.



Leslianne

So, the evening after the ordination I went out to dinner with my good friend Jeri so she could fill in the spaces of the event I missed. Whole chunks of the day were a blur for me. It sounds like we all had a grand time! I just have this overwhelming sense of gratitude and thanks – first to God who called and tugged and pushed and pulled me to this day. And then to all the people who have been, and will continue to be, my companions on this most incredible journey.

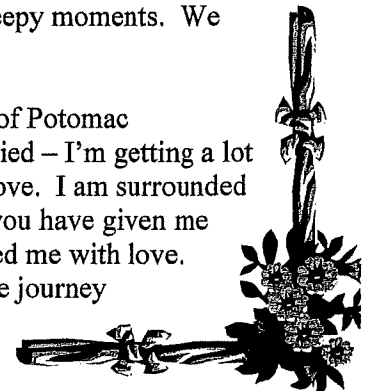
Jeri and I got to talking about how we have so few occasions in life to honor one another on a grand scale. This tends only to happen at weddings and funerals (when it's a little too late for the honoree to appreciate the praise!) – and maybe the occasional BIG birthday. These are events when all the pieces of our lives come together. People come from our childhood, and our teenage years. People we've worked with will show up. Sometimes people we haven't thought about in years grace our table of joy. I was in the sanctuary greeting family members that snuck in without my seeing them, and when I went back into the narthex, standing there was the biggest surprise of the day -- EJ Lugo, my good friend from California. EJ befriended me when I first arrived at Hollywood Presbyterian Church, and we quickly became partners in all kinds of mischief as the "social committee" of the Lamplighters Sunday school class. What a gift to have EJ with me for this momentous occasion! Particularly when I remember that it was at Hollywood Presbyterian church that I received the challenge that resulted in a deeper relationship with Christ, and my call to ministry.

Another gift of the day was Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski, OSB from Mount Saint Benedict's Monastery in Erie, Pennsylvania. I hope you all got to meet her. She is an amazingly strong and faithful woman who serves God and God's people in a bazillion ways as a Benedictine nun. I'm sure if you spent any time at all greeting her, you've received an invitation to the Mount – a place of refuge and companionship. Maybe I'll see you there.

Gifts abounded on Sunday. I wish I could tell you about all of them – my friends (old and new) who participated in the service of ordination, my parents, my brother and sister-in-law were present. My Uncle Raymond, an ordained Baptist minister, laid his hands on my shoulder during the ordination prayer. (Uncle Raymond's wife, Elaine and I shared weepy moments. We both tend to choke up watching Coca Cola commercials.)

And then there are the gifts I continue to "unwrap" – the gifts of Potomac Presbyterian Church. You might say I'm finally getting the ribbon untied – I'm getting a lot of your names down. But there is so much more of you to know and love. I am surrounded by boxes and boxes of surprises and I am grateful for the opportunity you have given me to be a part of this wonderful community of faith. You have surrounded me with love. We have "plighted our troth," and we will continue this most incredible journey together. Thanks be to God!

Leslianne Braunstein



BETH'S BLURB

I always approach the Christmas season with a certain amount of apprehension. I love the season and all that it signifies, but like many of you, I find the busy-ness of shopping, decorating, baking, even spending time with family, can be overwhelming. By the time Christmas Day arrives, I am exhausted. So now I take a new approach, my "12 Days of Christmas" approach. I think of Christmas as a season, 12 days that begin on December 25 and go through Epiphany, just as it is in the church calendar. Now I have time to relax and savor the season. I leave my decorations up until January 6, I keep playing the Christmas music, and I spend some time at a local mission site. The rest of the world may already have moved on to Valentine's Day, but I don't care. I am enjoying Christmas, all twelve days of it.

Christmas Shoppers' Sitter Service: December 10, 10:00 - 2:00

The youth of the church are giving a gift of babysitting to the families of PPC so that parents can get some Christmas shopping done, or just relax. Leave your children for a day of age-appropriate Christmas games, crafts, stories, and baking. Snacks and drinks will be provided, but each child should bring a bag lunch. Please sign-up on the poster in fellowship hall, or register your child(ren) by calling **Beth** at 301-299-6007 or e-mail beth@potomacpresbyterian.org.

Senior High Beach Retreat. Theme: "Fire of the Spirit"

Friday, December 2nd, 6 p.m. till Sunday, December 4th, 11 a.m.

"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"
Luke 12:49



We will be staying at the Jochums' house in Bethany Beach. Sign-up on the youth bulletin board and complete a permission slip. Cost is \$25.

Youth Ski Trip: February 17-20, at Canaan Valley, West Virginia

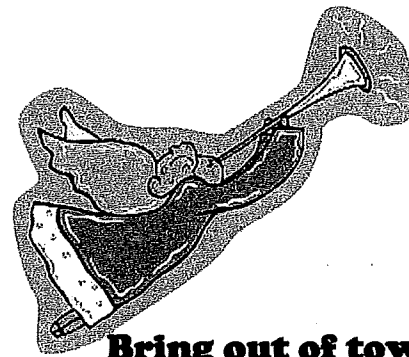
Depart Friday evening. Return Monday p.m. 2 full days of Skiing!

Costs: Transportation and Lodging for three nights, 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners: \$150.00, plus cost of Lift Tickets and Rentals. See registration form for more specifics. Also, you will need money for dinner on the drive up and 3 lunches. Tubing is extra. To register: sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board and turn in a registration form.

Alternative Gift Cards for the Holidays:

Give an alternative gift to that person who has everything! Donate money to Workcamp in their name. You will receive a beautiful handmade card to let them know about your gift. This is a wonderful way to recognize special people in your life as well as to support our young people who will be giving a week of their summer repairing homes for those in need in Lockport, N. Y. Gift cards will be available for purchase during coffee hour in fellowship hall **Nov. 20 to Dec. 11.**

REMINDER: No Sunday School on Dec 18, 25, or Jan. 1. On Dec. 18 there will be a special service at 9:30 am which will include the Children's Christmas Pageant. *Beth Williams*

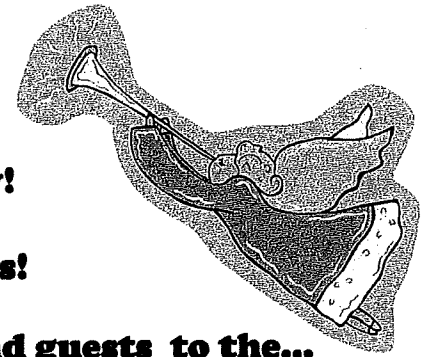


Come!

Bring family!

Bring friends!

Bring out of town relatives and guests to the...



JESUS BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 18

7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

HEAR:

Jesus Birthday Band

Men's Chorus

Women's Chorus

Youth Chorus

Children's Chorus

Soloists, Duets and Ensembles

PARTICIPATE:

Sing Christmas Carols

ENJOY:

Birthday Cake & Beverages

Make this Birthday Celebration

a Part of Your Christmas!

Join Your Church Family!



**SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR GIVING TO PPC—
AND GET A 2005 TAX BREAK. Deadline is 12/31/2005**

Congress and the President were concerned that Americans had given so generously to charities working to help tsunami and hurricane disaster victims that they would cut back on their contributions to other organizations. (Please note the article below on PPC's great generosity.)

The **Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act (KETRA), HR 3768**, allows a 2005 tax deduction of the entire amount of charitable *cash* donations made directly to a public charity (like PPC) up to 100% of your "Adjusted Gross Income." On January 1, 2006 it reverts back to 50%. The charitable gift must be an outright gift and cannot be a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. Donors over age 59 1/2 may also make gifts out of their IRA or other retirement accounts directly to a public charity. There may be a slight federal tax on these gifts, and state tax laws also vary. ***Your donation could be for a one-time gift, or prepayment of your 2006 pledge.***

As with any tax-related issue, you are advised to consult with your tax advisor. However, Kerry or I will be happy to discuss the many wonderful giving opportunities at PPC---Memorials, Endowments, Scholarships, One-time Anonymous Gifts. ***Do it now. You only have until Midnight Dec. 31, 2005! -- Ed Clark, 301-520-9166***



HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA RESPONSE UPDATE

On behalf of the **Mission Committee** I want to personally thank all of you who have contributed so generously in response to the disastrous hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Your help will mean so much to so many who have lost everything they had to the storms and floods. The bulk of our contributions has been funneled through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** (<http://pcusa.org/katrina/>) to work teams and disaster response teams. These teams have been working through Presbyterian churches in the affected areas to bring relief and aid directly to those affected by the storms. PPC has provided **\$5,000 to two work teams**, which included our own **Jim Jochum** and **Fred Newton** as participants. In addition, **PPC has provided \$39,035 to PDA** for relief to local congregations throughout the Gulf Coast. Finally, PPC has been working one-on-one with **First Presbyterian Church in New Orleans** and their Pastor, the Rev. Cliff Nunn, to help restore their badly damaged church. We provided **\$5,000** to them for their refurbishing efforts and **\$1,000** (from our minister's Discretionary Ministry to Children's Fund) to help replace their children's library which was totally destroyed in the floods. **Bert Klein**



THE WRIGHT NOTE

Let's Talk About the Pageant!



Yes, it is that wonderful time of year when we again look forward to hearing and seeing the story of Christ's birth presented by the children and youth of our church. Each year we try to portray the same familiar story in a new and refreshing way. This season the Sunrise Singers Choir and the Wonderful Wednesdays Choir, accompanied by the Handbell Choir, will sing the narrative as part of the music entitled, "Do You Remember the Night?" Each stanza of the song will invite the various characters of the Nativity Story to come forward in costume to create the stable scene. Each event of the story will be followed by a scripture reading and a Christmas carol supporting that scripture lesson.

This story will unfold at the **9:30 worship hour on Sunday, Dec. 18th**. There will be no Sunday School that day. Instead, we invite all children and interested adults to attend this 45-minute service.

I will post a **sign-up poster** for anyone interested in assuming the positions of shepherds, angels, kings, animals and star. These persons will not be asked to sing or learn speaking parts. The only requirement is to attend the **one rehearsal** which will be **Saturday morning, Dec. 17, at 11:00 a.m.** The decision to participate needs to be made by **Dec. 4th** so that adequate time is left for costume planning. I will also be looking for youth who enjoy reading aloud. Telling the Christmas story from the scriptures is a rare privilege. If you would like to serve on the Pageant committee to help with scenery and costume coordination, please contact me at **301-926-7015**.

Cindy Wright



The Williamsburg Breakfast

Hosted by the PPC Deacons

Sunday, December 4, 9:30 a.m.

Celebrate the start of Advent!

Ring in the Christmas season with spirited carols and fabulous food.

Don't miss your chance to take part in the Giving Tree.

Pick an ornament tag and spread the joy of Christmas to a family in need.

Bring a breakfast bread to share and a small bell to ring during carol singing.

Children will be served first and will then go to their classrooms.



Advent II



December 4 ~ Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers
9:30 a.m. Williamsburg Breakfast
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 Children's Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship
12:00 p.m. Youth Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth
6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner

12/5 – Monday

7:30 p.m. Committees

12/6 – Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Lord's Table
7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends

Advent III



December 11 ~ Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Children's Chorus
 (Jesus Birthday)
12:00 p.m. Fellowship
12:00 p.m. Youth Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
3:00 p.m. Caroling at Manor Care

12/12 – Monday

7:30 p.m. Session

12/13 – Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Christian Living (parlor)
10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (library)

12/7 – Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study Luncheon
4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry
7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study

12/8 – Thursday

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

12/10 – Saturday

9:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Band
10:00 a.m. Men's Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
10:00 a.m. Women's Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Christmas Shopper's
 Sitter Service

12/14 – Wednesday

3:00 p.m. Collingswood
4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry
7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study

12/15 – Thursday

6:00 p.m. Handbells (Jesus Birthday)
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

12/17 – Saturday

9:00 a.m. Jesus Birthday Band
9:45 a.m. Handbells (Jesus Birthday)
10:00 a.m. Men's Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
10:00 a.m. Women's Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
11:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal –
 "Do You Remember the Night?"

Advent IV



December 18 ~ Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship (Pageant)
 "Do You Remember the Night?"
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship
12:00 p.m. Youth Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
12:00 p.m. Men's Chorus (Jesus Birthday)
5:30 p.m. Jesus Birthday Band
6:15 p.m. Handbells (Jesus Birthday)
6:30 p.m. Men's, Women's, Youth
 and Children's Choruses
7:00 p.m. Jesus Birthday Celebration

12/22 – Thursday

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

12/23 - Friday

12:30 p.m. Christmas Decorating

12/24 – Saturday (Christmas Eve)

5:00 p.m. Family Service
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

Christmas Day

December 25 ~ Sunday

College Student Sunday
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship

