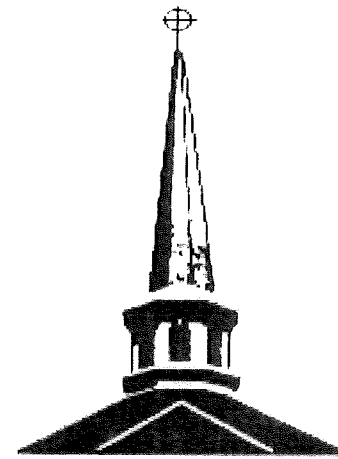


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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
JANUARY 2009

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

ADULT EDUCATION

Library Class...January – Faith at Work

**Parlor Class...January – Christian Beliefs
Christian Character and
Christian Virtue**

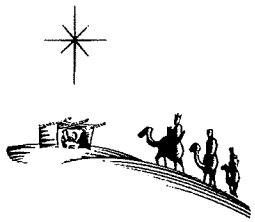
See “Beth’s Blurb” for more information.

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... Transitions are times of opportunity and challenge. During 2009 we will be concluding a rather long chapter in the life and ministry of Potomac Presbyterian Church. When I was called as Pastor in 1985, we began our life together in the midst of a significant transition. During the interim period, the congregation stepped forward in faith to undertake a significant building program. It was a sign of the strength of lay leadership and faith in the future. As I considered a new call to ministry, this factor symbolized a community of faith that was vital and strong and willing to take risks. During those early years, we proceeded to break ground, worship at Har Shalom for five Sundays and complete a wonderful addition and renovation to our church facility.

In the New Year as PPC begins a new chapter, this same strength of lay leadership and hope for the future will mark the interim time and send an important signal to candidates for the position of Senior Pastor. This will not be easy but will be worth every ounce of energy, intelligence, imagination and love that will be called forth from our members. I believe we will be surprised by the contribution of new leaders, new ideas, thoughtful assessment and renewed reliance on the guidance of God’s Spirit. This same Spirit guided the fifty charter members who went forward in faith back in 1963, meeting in the all purpose room of the Potomac Elementary School. This congregation was chartered just weeks after the assassination of President Kennedy. Our country had to go through a transition unlike anything we had experienced since the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

As we look to the future, the challenges facing churches may seem daunting, but our God is able. The religious and cultural landscape has changed in major ways over the past twenty to thirty years. At the same time our nation and world is in the midst of severe financial pressures. Tough times have historically been times when the ministry of local congregations has risen to the challenge. In reliance upon the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Potomac Presbyterian Church will continue to be a beacon of hope and a significant force for mission in a hurting world.



Leslianne U h oh. It is 2009 already. How did a new year manage to sneak up on us? Here we are with another 365 days under our belts and we are entering the New Year with the promise that Change is Coming! Goodness! Who knew our president-elect's campaign managers could be so prophetic? Change certainly is coming, and it is coming to PPC.

Change is unsettling. It is, quite frankly, more than unsettling. It is enough to frazzle that last half-nerve. But, change should never come to us as a surprise. The God we serve is constantly finding new ways to engage us so that we might grow – so that we might change and become more and more the people God has created us to be. Here is a promise God has for all of us:

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. *Isaiah 43:19*

I know many of you are heartbroken that Kerry is retiring after 24 years at PPC – just as you are joyful that he has this opportunity. Under Kerry's leadership, PPC has become a haven for many, and the place to come together to respond to God's call to ministry. I know you have many memories and stories to share, and the months ahead will be a testament to the rich relationships that have grown over the years.

As these memories and stories are told, we can think of the ways they have strengthened the life of this church, preparing it to embrace the new thing God is preparing for PPC. You'll notice the "new thing" doesn't miraculously appear. Instead, a way is made through the wilderness to get to it.

The people of God are no strangers to the wilderness. The Israelites wandered forty years before they made it to the promised land. Jacob spent 14 years with Laban before he could return home. Paul, after his "Road to Damascus Experience," spent three years in Arabia before returning to Jerusalem where he met with the Apostles and subsequently took up the ministry that would revolutionize the world. The wilderness is a place of learning; it is a place of growth and change.

God is already doing a new thing at PPC. It has already sprung forth, do you not perceive it? A way is being prepared in the wilderness and there will be ample springs and rivers for nourishment in the desert.

That is God's promise.

Leslianne Braunstein

CHURCH JOYS.....Congratulations to Ken and Linda Bedingfield on the birth of their son, Brady Robert, born December 10. Proud grandparents are Bob and Marjorie Bedingfield and sisters, Megan, Morgan and Lindsey.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of Elizabeth Grace Shoenhard, daughter of Paul and Amy and granddaughter of Fran and George Ligler on December 28.

Happy Birthday to Mildred Kotvis who will be 99 on January 4. Mildred joins us for worship each week and she is Del Smith's aunt.

Congratulations to Bob and Nancy Tietjen who celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary on January 2.

DEACON'S CORNER Reflections on the True Meaning of Christmas—The Christmas holiday season harkens in the three tenants of faith, hope and love. It also is a time to pause and review our own values, in reflecting on the great gift to mankind in the birth of a special baby long ago in Bethlehem. Just what is the meaning, and how do we apply the meaning to our own lives?

At PPC, we rang in the Advent season with the Williamsburg Breakfast, where we celebrated a festive time and a unique form of fellowship. We delighted in the beauty and best of the holiday season, and sang carols as a community of faith. We were reminded of the significance of Christmas in scripture readings. The one scripture that puts it all in proper perspective to me is Luke 2:14 (KJV): "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

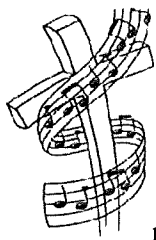
When we strive to bring peace on earth and show good will to our fellow man, we honor Him. We can do so in our everyday lives, living out the tenants heralded in the holiday season. Authors Craig and Marc Kielburger point out in their bestselling book, Me to We, Finding Meaning in a Material World, the need to be involved in community. They essentially outline ways in which we can perpetuate the same message of goodwill to all men, by doing for others what we can as an act of kindness, generosity, and caring. There are many ways to go about living our faith, and following the message of goodwill to mankind (what the authors call living out the dynamics of Me to We communities).

As members of this congregation, we have a good many opportunities to be involved and make a difference in our communities, and on many different levels. We may choose to get involved at church in a way that is meaningful to us, serving our own community of faith by volunteering on a committee, or serving as an usher, or serving the congregation in the capacity of a Deacon or an Elder. We can choose other involvement throughout the year in ways that have even more direct impact on the communities around us, such as: serving meals to the homeless at the Rockville Community Based Shelter during our church's week of commitment in February (part of a collective effort by numerous churches to provide support throughout the year), or joining the church team for Habitat for Humanity, or supporting or joining our church's youth and adult sponsors on the annual Workcamp trip, to serve a community in need far from home (this year's trip is to Elmira, NY). Whatever the choice, an act of selfless service is a true act of Christian love.

I'm reminded at Christmas time of the reply given in 1897 by Francis P. Church, editor of *The New York Sun*, to the question of a little girl, Virginia O'Hanlon, when he made clear in his editorial, *Yes Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus*. As he so eloquently puts it, there is a Santa Claus as surely as love and joy and beauty exist. In this Christmas season we can all take time to rediscover him and share in the spirit of selfless love that Santa Claus embodies. There was even an article in "Ask Amy" of the Style section of *The Washington Post* this Christmas day, referring to the same 1897 editorial and stating that Santa lives within every generous heart. Let us all develop and keep a generous heart.

We should not allow the spirit of Christmas to die out, like embers smoldering in the fireplace at winter's end ... instead, let's keep faith alive, answering the hopes of others, in showing the best of God's love. Yes, let faith, hope and love continue throughout the year, and let it be like Christmas all year 'round. That would be the best possible state of affairs, continuing the true spirit of Christmas ... *giving to others.*

Joe Curry, Deacon, Class of 2010



The Wright Note

It happens every year! The due date for January articles is the same week as the presentation of the pageant. On Dec. 15th I was actually conducting a multi-choir rehearsal of five through sixteen year-olds. It was a bit chaotic with the younger choir armed with animal puppets and coordination of lines and musical entrances going rather unevenly. When my allotted time was up with our precious singers, speakers and patient Melanie Mason at the piano, I quickly announced the next time we would rehearse. When I waved good-bye and reminded them all to stay healthy and get lots of sleep, Matthew Mamalian (age 5) tugged at my arm and said, "But Mrs. Wright, we didn't sing our closing prayer." I looked around the room and realized that the majority of these singers had been in our very youngest choir themselves at one time or another. So I called everyone back into room. All twenty-one of us made a circle, held hands and sang, "Thank you, God, for music. Thank you, God, for song. May the joy we feel while singing last the whole week long. Amen."

That was a true Christmas present.

Cindy Wright



PPC Providing Meals for Community Based Shelter

The PPC Mission Committee is honored to assist the Community Ministry of Montgomery County with their Community Based Shelter (CBS). The shelter serves up to 36 adults. These individuals attend professional or treatment programs during the

daytime hours working diligently on the issues related to their homelessness.

We need your help to provide and serve dinner for the week of **February 1st through 7th, 2009**. Three volunteers are needed each evening to provide and help serve a side dish, the main course or a dessert. We also need volunteers to make bag lunches during the week, and to shop for miscellaneous supplies the shelter may need. There will be a sign-up sheet during the coffee hours January 11, 18 and 25 for anyone willing and able to assist. You can also call **Linda Knowles** at **(301) 330-8506** or **e-mail her at dancinglinda3@aol.com** to volunteer or obtain additional information. Volunteers will receive further instructions and details.

Thank you to everyone who has so generously helped in the past. We hope you can find it in your hearts to help out again for such a worthy cause.

Wednesday Night Bible Study – On **January 21**, we will begin a new Kerygma study called **The Gospel of Matthew: God with Us**. It explains with all we have to unite us, we still find ways to create division. It is an age-old question: do we focus on what sets us apart, or what holds us together? According to Matthew, the Church is an earthly manifestation of the kingdom of God, and it is comprised of Jesus' followers who have been called out to live righteously in the world and to serve in the manner of the Christ with deep humility and unfathomable forgiveness. In Jesus, there is a new community at work for the blessing of the world. What is it that binds us together? Jesus - God With Us. Everyone is welcome to join us.



BETH'S BLURB

Just the other day I was thinking, "Why is it that, just as we get comfortable, God decides to shake things up?" Change, I don't like it, I'm not good at it, and . . . sometimes I am really glad that it is in God's hands, because if it was up to me, well . . . And then I opened my desk drawer and saw a penny in there, and thought, this is the kind of change that I like. Then I began to wonder how these two kinds of change are related, so I looked it up on dictionary.com

1. to make the form, nature, content, future course, etc., of (something) different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone
2. a balance of money that is returned when the sum tendered in payment is larger than the sum due
3. coins of low denomination
4. any of the various sequences in which a peal of bells may be rung

It didn't really help me connect the two, but it gave me a new view. Definition #4, any of the various sequences in which a peal of bells may be rung. Now as a bell ringer, that is the kind of change I can embrace, for try to imagine music with just one note It is in the changing tones that the music is made. And so now, when my stomach clenches at the thought of change, I will hear bells ringing in my head, and know that it will be okay. God's music will fill the world. Amen.

Adult Education In January, the Sunday morning **Adult Ed class in the Library** will be looking at **Faith at Work**. How does our faith influence what career paths we chose and how we do our work? Faith is not a Sunday morning thing, or even a throughout the week, but only when I am home thing. It is integrated into our lives. Come see how people in various professions, medicine, law, education, military, and business, have integrated their faith and work. In the discussions, we will share how you have done so as well.

The **Adult Ed class in the Parlor** will be finishing its study of **Christian Beliefs** and beginning the next study of **Christian Character**. Compassion, humility, faith, perseverance. We long for the beauty of Christ to be reflected in our lives. Such character comes only as the Spirit of God transforms us through the Word of God. Join us as we encounter the Word of God in a way that will help us along our journey toward becoming all that God created us to be.

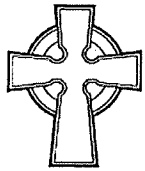
To be followed by..... **Christian Virtues**. *Virtue* may not be a word we use every day, but it defines the qualities of a person of character. One of the good things about belonging to God is that God develops virtues in us. Join us as we investigate--and learn to practice--key Christian virtues: faith, hope, love, wisdom, justice, courage, moderation, integrity and perseverance.

SAVE THE DATES: It is not too early, as you begin to make your spring and summer plans, be sure to save the dates for: **Women's Retreat April 17-19, Sr. High Workcamp June 20-27, Vacation Bible School July 6-10, Local Mission Week July 20-24**

Special Weekday Class ~Spiritual Autobiography~Mondays at 9:30 AM

Have you always wanted to write about your life journey, but don't know where to begin? This 10 week class beginning **March 9**, led by Sarah Hipps, will guide you in the writing of an autobiography, and will look at the stories of life in the light of God's presence, love, and guidance. Sign-up for the class by contacting **Sarah at 301-340-1192**, or sign-up on the poster in the Fellowship Hall.

Beth Williams



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE NEWS - Please join us in celebrating the Tenth Wedding Anniversary of Bob and Nancy Tietjen!

On January 2, 2009, Bob and Nancy will celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of their marriage. Following the worship service on **Sunday, January 4th**, we will share a cake in their honor. Bob, a charter member of PPC, has been both a church Elder and active participant in many PPC projects and adult education classes over the years. Nancy has served both as a Stephen Ministry leader and church librarian. We have been truly blessed by their generosity of spirit and Christian leadership. If you would like to recognize the Tietjens for all they have meant to our church family, the Tietjens and the Endowment Committee suggest that an ideal gift would be a donation in their honor to the general endowment fund of PPC. The Tietjens have done so much to sustain the vitality of PPC that it is fitting that we make a lasting gift to PPC in their honor, to help carry on this community of faith to which they have devoted so much. Cash or checks (large, small or in-between, payable to PPC and marked "Tietjen endowment") can be left in a basket at the cake table on January 4th, or placed in the offering plates.

<p>The season of Advent was rung in with special music provided by the Joy Schwan Best Music Ministry Endowment (est. 2002)</p>	<p>Ring out old shapes of foul disease; Ring out the narrowing lust of gold; Ring out the thousand wars of old; Ring in the thousand years of peace.</p>
<p>Ring out the old, ring in the new; Ring, happy bells, across the snow; The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.</p>	<p>Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart, the kindlier hand; Ring out the darkness of the land; Ring in the Christ that is to be. Amen.</p>
<p>Ring out a slowly dying cause, And ancient forms of party strife; Ring in the nobler modes of life, With sweeter manners, purer laws. km</p>	<p>~Alfred Tennyson For information regarding PPC's Endowments, Special Gifts and Steeple Society, Please see Pastor Kerry or any member of the Committee. Chris Dowd David Fowler Gregg Johnson Elsie Reid Ed Tennent</p>

PLEASE TAKE NOTE... *New Address and Phone number* for Tom and Kathy McPherson: P.O. Box 1239, Pinehurst, NC 28370, phone number: (910)725-1345
New Address for the Rice family: Pam and Matthew, Hannah Self, Lily, 1 Joyeuse, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

From the Gazette.....**Congratulations to Kayla Mason**, 13, who earned the prestigious Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest recognition available to Cadette Girl Scouts. Cadette Girl Scouts are scouts in sixth through ninth grades. Kayla, an eighth-grader at the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, helped coordinate PPC's Vacation Bible School program, "Rainforest Adventure."



Many new books have arrived in the library. There isn't room to list all the titles; so, I will mention only a few. The Gift of Years by Joan Chittister is a super book on the subject of aging. There are thought provoking meditations. It is NOT about the length of years, but about growing older with grace. This is a "must read" for those who are getting older. This is an unusual title—Seven Sacred Pauses: Living Mindfully Through the Hours of the Day by Macrina Wiederkehr. It is a delightful and thoughtful book made up of meditations, poems and prayers. Finally, a copy of Amish Grace has arrived. We've heard Kerry refer to it often. It is an amazing story of forgiveness. It is by Donald Kraybill and others. The last one I will mention is, Love One Another: Becoming the Church Jesus Longs For by Gerald Sittser, a Presbyterian minister. Eugene Petersen says "the result is a book that will develop spiritual maturity in its readers and deepen the life of love in the church." A great discussion guide is included. If you would like to give a book in memory of or in honor of someone, give me a call and I will suggest some titles. Also, help would be welcomed!! Give me a call, Nancy Tietjen (301-299-3272)

REFORMED INSTITUTE CONVOCATION

The Reformed Institute, in which our church is a founding member, will hold its annual convocation in January as a special two-part celebration of the five hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Calvin, founder of the Reformed Tradition.

On **Friday, January 23, 2009**, Dr. Mark Valeri, Professor of Church History at Union Theological Seminary, will speak on "Calvin and America" at a dinner at **Virginia Theological Seminary**, Scott Lounge and Refectory, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Va. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served at **6:30 PM**, followed by dinner and Dr. Valeri's presentation. There will be a charge of **\$25** per person, with reservations, which may be made at a table that will be set up in Fellowship Hall during the coffee hour on January 4 and 13 or through the church office, required by January 13. For directions, visit www.vts.edu.

On the next morning, **Saturday, January 24**, Dr. David Kelsey, Professor Emeritus of Theology, Yale Divinity School, will speak at **National Presbyterian Church**, 4101 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC, on, "Beyond Calvin? The Future of the Reformed Tradition." Continental breakfast will be served at **9 AM**, with Dr. Kelsey's presentation and discussion from **9:30 to Noon**. There will be no charge for this event. Advance registration would be helpful but not required. For directions, visit www.NatPresCh.org.

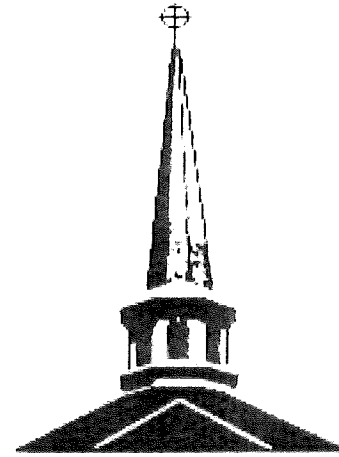


OUR CHURCH PRAYERS AND CONCERNS.....*Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop*, Doug Dunlop's sister; *Ching Hwa Chang*, Patricia Eng's mother; *Members of the Armed Forces*; David Boyd's sister, *Teresa Cox*; *Bob Garcia* at home; *Paul Watts*, brother of Joyce Jenkins, in the hospital in Pennsylvania; *Everett Morgan*, son of Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan (missionaries in Bangladesh), who is transitioning to hospice care; *Stephen Kirchner*, recovering from a bone marrow transplant at home; *Charlotte Adkins*, Pastor Leslie's mother, recovering from knee surgery; *Ken Kenny and family*, Uncle of Mary Avelar recently diagnosed with Leukemia; *Miriam Conley and family*, on the death of her niece, Sharon Simmons, in Ohio; *Maria and Josh Stoltzfus* on the sudden and unexpected death of Maria's brother, Javier Gonzalez, in Spain; *Tom McPherson and family* on the death of Tom's father, Tom McPherson, Sr., on Dec. 23.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2009</h1>					<p>2</p> <p>Happy New Year ~ Office Closed</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Church Health Team Meeting (1st Mon.)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Mom's Group 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1st Tues.)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:00 p.m. Special Presbytery Meeting (Vienna Presbyterian) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Committees (2nd Mon.)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Mom's Group 9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2nd Tues.) 9:30 a.m. Mom's Group 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2nd Wed.) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study</p>
<p>18</p> <p>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 5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Session (3rd Mon.)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Mom's Group 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. M.O.S.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4th Mon.)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Mom's Group 10:00 a.m. Presbytery Mtg. (National) 10:30 a.m. Women's Book Group 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study 5:00 - 10:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Father/Daughter Dance</p>

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
FEBRUARY 2009

KERRY ON... When I returned from a sabbatical in 1997, I wrote an article entitled "Some Things I Learned About Church." As I prepare to retire as pastor at PPC, I believe that some of those thoughts are especially relevant to the time of transition that leads to the calling of a new Pastor.

The church belongs to God and not to us. We are really stewards of this community of faith, that for all its failings and triumphs is the primary expression of God's presence in the world.

The only hypocrite we have to worry about is our self. People say, "I don't belong to a church because the church is full of hypocrites." That may be true, but it is one of the reasons we need church. We need to be held accountable, to be challenged, to be guided and forgiven. The church is not a club for saints, but a hospital for sinners.

Church is where we learn the language of prayer. In a moment of crisis people cry out, "Oh my God!" or in the face of incredible beauty and wonder are likely to say, "Wow!" and mean "Praise God!" In the company of others we discover words to express the deepest human emotions. Our best words are often set to music and they express what is on our hearts and minds.

Church is where our ancestors in the faith have a say. They have a voice at the table. But not a veto. Scripture is really the story of God working with those who have gone before us. Our Reformed Tradition gives us roots. The people of this congregation who ventured in faith to begin a ministry back in 1963 shaped a vision for us. We continue to take up the challenge to share our faith with those who come after us. *(Continued on next page)*

**Sunday February 8, 2009 at Noon
Lunch and Annual Congregational Meeting**

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

ADULT EDUCATION

Library Class...

**Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 - Louise Winfield – A Word to the Wise: Wisdom
Teaching in the Hebrew Scriptures**

Parlor Class...

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 - Christian Character

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

Church is where we pledge allegiance to God revealed in Jesus Christ. We do so in a culture that is aphetic and sometimes hostile to the Gospel. We promise to love God and neighbor and by doing so in public, we say we are willing to take a stand. What we hear and say and sing in worship shapes our character and calls us to live out the Gospel in everyday life. Our promises are supported by our sisters and brothers and we know that we are not alone.

Among this people called church, we affirm that in life and in death we belong to God. When we lose loved ones we entrust them to the loving care of God in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. We affirm that our lives have meaning and purpose because we are chosen by God. We look forward to the surprising ways that God has yet to reveal his love to all who are called the Body of Christ.



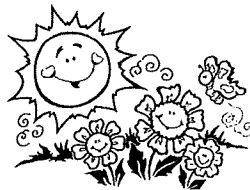
CHRISTIAN ED DATES TO REMEMBER...



Women's Retreat April 17-19 "Grow in Grace" Join your friends or make new ones on this wonderful getaway weekend at Meadowkirk. We will be exploring ways to grow deeper in our faith and how to bear plentiful fruit. A sign-up poster will be in the narthex.

Making Summer Plans: Come to the special Sunday School Program on Feb. 1.

We will have a special guest, Andy Woodworth, the Program Director at Meadowkirk, the camp and retreat ministry of our presbytery, located in Middleburg, VA. He will be sharing with us some of the many programs that Meadowkirk will be offering this summer. They have programs for children grades 3-12, as well as family camps and more. So please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Feb. 1 at 9:45 am.



Save the Dates!!!! College Habitat Trip- **May 25-31**
Vacation Bible School - **July 6-10**
Youth Local Mission Week- **July 20-24**

freedom and democracy established over 232 years ago. Our founding documents must continue to be the talisman that protects our nation from foes both internal and external.

I pray that our leaders remain true to the framework of freedom and democracy set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights; that our leaders will, through their personal trust in God's direction, define a way forward that will protect the ideals that we hold so dear; that our leaders never forget that this country is a gift from God. I pray that our leaders have the same appreciation for Divine guidance today, as they did at the birth of our nation; that they recognize the need to rely on "the protection of Divine Providence." I pray that today's leaders will not abandon the ideals of freedom. I pray that today's leaders will not allow the "self evident" truth that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" to be compromised by our need to be Politically Correct. I pray that our freedoms and liberties will not be diluted or trampled upon when many seem to want to hang patriotism on the peg of one political issue or another or on loyalty to a party or ideology. I pray that as our nation moves forward, the path our leaders take us will not cause "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness", to be wiped from the face of the earth. I pray that the ultimate sacrifices our patriots (past, present and future) made to protect and defend our nation and our Constitution have not been done so in vain. I pray that God will continue to shower His Grace on this great country of ours.

Thank God that the American spirit, despite its pride and its power, is in its essence neither boastful nor imposing. *Thank God* that the American spirit is strong and resilient and has survived the great struggles of the Civil War, two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, Grenada, Panama, Haiti, Afghanistan, Iraq, and numerous military and humanitarian actions around the globe. *Thank God*, for my freedom. *Thank God*, for my country. *Thank God*, for Penny. *Thank God*, for Megan. *Thank God*, for Michelle, *Thank God*, for my family. *Thank God*, for my life. *Thank God*, for my health.

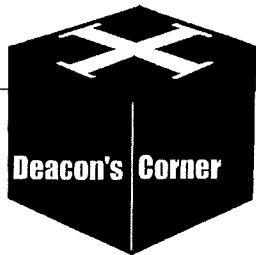
Thank God! Thank God! Thank God!

Dave Boyd, Gethsemane Parish Deacon



DINE WITH NINE UPDATE ...As many of you already know, the Dine with Nine program, is where groups of nine members meet for potluck dinners two or three times during the year in each other's homes. This is an excellent way to share fellowship, meet new members and make new friends in an informal setting. Dine with Nine participants should have scheduled or met at least one time so far. The Host/Hostess role should rotate throughout the year. Each host/hostess can plan the evening to suit their style and will prepare the main course; he/she will coordinate with other members to contribute appetizers, salads, vegetables, beverages, dessert, bread, etc. Substitute participants are available if members of the group cannot meet. For more information, please contact Beth Rudnic or Karen Karch.

If anyone has not signed up and is interested, please call Karen Karch at 301-330-0633 for more information. If you would like to just be a substitute to attend groups if someone in a group cannot attend, we would welcome you to consider this as well.



Thank God!

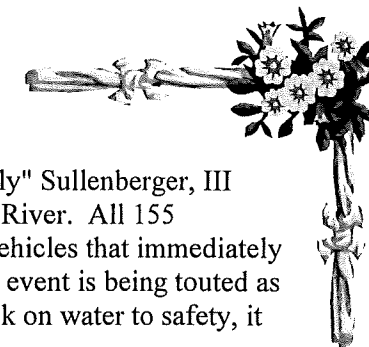
Seems simple enough, we give thanks to God for his grace and blessings; but are we really thanking God when we say those two words? We generally use this statement as an exclamatory statement of relief, and God is only in our thoughts at a very superficial level. *Thank God*, that it wasn't my kid that broke the neighbor's window! Or, perhaps like me, you can't remember a time as bad as last year. *Thank God*, 2008 is over! *Thank God!*

For you Redskins fans, consider my family's recent trip to our nation's birthplace to see the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall for the first time. Driving into town, we passed the Philadelphia Eagles stadium, and realized that the NFC wildcard playoff game between the Cowboys and the Eagles was about to start. We were only yards away from sharing the same space with Tony and Jessica, without tickets. As the game progressed, imagine our pain and anguish as the Eagles handed the Cowboys a real old-fashioned spanking. Oh the humanity! The Cowboys were defeated. *Thank God*, the beating is over! *Thank God!*

The next day we were able to visit the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Ben Franklin's grave, Betsy Ross' house, Christ Church, and even a pet boutique. The opportunity to physically experience these historical sites had a profound effect on my existing appreciation for the bravery, perseverance, and sacrifice needed to secure our liberty. *Thank God* that those 56 men, were able to establish the American ideals that are embodied in the Declaration of Independence, which held as a "self evident" truth that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." *Thank God* that the patriots fought for freedom from tyranny and violence. *Thank God*, for those who made the ultimate sacrifice to obtain freedom. *Thank God* that our independence was won. For me, *Thank God* is an exclamatory statement of profound relief that my family and I live in the home of the "free and the brave"; but more importantly this is a prayer of thanks to God for His divine Providence throughout our war for independence. At Valley Forge, I wondered how the tattered Continental army was able to survive the harsh conditions when they arrived in December 1777. *Thank God*, they did survive. *Thank God*, they were able to transform themselves from rebels, into a mature army that was enthusiastic to engage and defeat the British. *Thank God* that our founding fathers had a deeply rooted faith in a higher power and recognized that God was working through them as they wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. I believe, as I am sure our founding father's also believed, that God was providing His divine Providence to ensure that our freedom was won, and a government based on the principals "of the people, by the people, and for the people" was founded; because of the trust that was placed in God's hands.

We are now engaged in a global war on terrorism that stresses our resources thin, demands the ultimate sacrifice from our soldiers, causes division among our citizens, and at times challenges the very foundation of our ideals. We are also engaged in a war to stabilize the economy, reestablish confidence in the free market, and to hopefully regain what was lost so quickly. For many, the losses were great; their entire life's savings; their loved ones; their essence of security; their hope for the future; all gone in an instant. We are truly living in "times that try men's souls." Trusting in God is more important now than ever before. We must remain true to the foundation of

Leslianne



Sometime after 4 p.m. on Thursday, January 15th, Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger, III safely piloted USAir flight #1549 into New York City's Hudson River. All 155 passengers aboard were brought to safety by a myriad of water vehicles that immediately streamed to the airplane once it settled in the water. The spectacular event is being touted as "the miracle on the Hudson." Indeed, for those who appeared to walk on water to safety, it must seem to be just that.

For those of us who believe in God's spectacular providence, we cannot help but see God's hand at work in this amazing story of rescue. No, we didn't see the fingers of God swoop down from on high to gently guide the plane into the water. There were no divine parachutes unfurling in the bitter winter air. Instead, God used the energy, skill, expertise, intelligence, imagination and love of a trained pilot to bring to a happy conclusion what might have been an unimaginable tragedy.

Chesley B. Sullenberger, III was an exceptionally trained pilot. He not only trained for the task; he trained for contingencies. Captain Sullenberger trained as a jet pilot in the Air Force. He retrained as a commercial pilot and has been flying aircraft for approximately 30 years. I read somewhere he also is a glider pilot. Captain Sullenberger's concern for air safety led him to serve on a board that investigated aircraft accidents with the NTSB. His concern for safety, particularly in commercial enterprise, led him to establish a company that uses "the ultra-safe world of commercial aviation" as a basis for safety consulting in other fields.

It is evident Captain Sullenberger's concern for safety includes his concern for people. On top of all the technical training, he had been studying the psychology of keeping airline crews functioning even in the face of crisis. Even after years and years of training and experience, he continued to perfect his leadership skills so that, in the event of a crisis, he could effectively guide those under his command.

Some might think training and knowledge is all that is needed to accomplish such an amazing feat. I believe the successful landing and rescue was more than the sum of its parts. When I think of the number of decisions that had to be made in less than five minutes – the number of levers that had to be pulled – how passengers were told to brace for impact (and apparently there was very little panic) – and how the plane actually skimmed into the water without breaking up, I have to believe that the Holy Spirit took everything Captain Sullenberger ever knew and brought it to mind in optimal order with calm and confidence. The result was that 155 shaken, but grateful passengers and crew survived this horrifying experience.

The point on which we might reflect is this: Captain Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger, III gave the Holy Spirit a lot to work with.

God will use us in any way God sees fit, I am sure. But it is more likely that the Holy Spirit will bring to mind something that is already there. The energy, intelligence, imagination and love with which we approach our faith, our work, our lives may very well determine how God will use us to be the exhibitions of God's kingdom in the world.

Makes me want to pay a little more attention to what I'm doing. *Leslianne Braunstein*



BETH'S BLURB

"One man's trash is another man's treasure"

The Workcampers will be sponsoring an upscale rummage sale on March 14, so if you are moving, cleaning out, scaling down, making room for new, whatever and you have stuff you want to get rid of, donate it to the rummage sale; all proceeds will go to the Workcamp. For the saying is true, "One man's trash is another man's treasure."

As I was thinking about that somewhat trite expression, I couldn't help but think that it had real theological significance and was reminded of a devotion I had read by Mark Duncan. Here are some excerpts from his devotion:

Today marked the day for one of the most highly anticipated annual neighborhood events, Large Item Pick-up. This is that wonderful time of year when people up and down the street throw all their junk on the side of the road in preparation for the day when the city crews come out and make it disappear. . . .

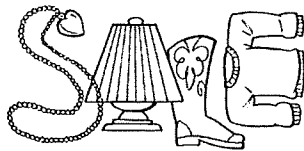
This year, without fail, the Junkhounds showed up on our street and began perusing as they always do. I remember thinking, and perhaps quoting to my wife once or twice, the overused expression "One man's trash is another man's treasure." How true it must be, I look at the refuse piles and I see junk, plain and simple junk. I would never attempt to fix that old rusty washing machine, or salvage the sprocket on that old bike, I am in agreement with the neighbor who put it by the curb, just get rid of it, it's junk! But these Junkhounds look at that trash with a different eye, they see potential in what the rest of us see as just something to be disposed of. Maybe there is money to be made in scrap metal, or maybe the guy just happens to be really handy and can actually save that washer, or maybe his wife has eccentric tastes in lawn decorations and he thinks she'd like to use that old toilet as a planter for her petunias. The important thing is that he sees the potential, he doesn't see just "junk".

Observing this unusual annual neighborhood ritual got me thinking about how I view my worth as a follower of Christ. When I take an honest look at myself, how sin has affected me, sometimes I just cannot see anything of value, I see junk...dirty, useless, broken junk. It is easy for me to just think, "it's junk", what can He do with this life? But that would be a gross error of thought, because the God of the universe does not look at me as others do, or even as I do. No, the Father doesn't see as man sees, He looks at the heart of me. He sees my "junk pile" of a life and begins to pick through it, finding treasures, He sees the potential. . . . After all, He used a few fishermen to usher in the start of His church. He picked a stuttering, lying murderer to lead His people out of captivity and to the Promised Land. He even took public enemy number one for Christians and so totally flipped his life upside down that he eventually wrote much of our New Testament. If He can do so much with these individuals, what more can He do with me and my "junk"?

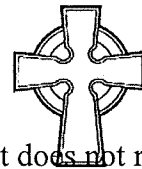
For indeed, we are all broken, and in the eyes of the world we are trash, but in the eyes of the Father, we are his treasure!

Beth Williams

UPSCALE RUMMAGE



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE



Love is patient and kind;
Love is not jealous or boastful;
It is not arrogant or rude.
Love does not insist on its own way;
It is not irritable or resentful;

It does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

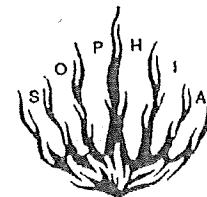
For information regarding the General Endowment,
Special Gifts, Memorial Funds, and Steeple Society,
Please see Pastor Kerry or any member of the Committee.

Chris Dowd, Chair

David Fowler
Elsie Reid

Gregg Johnson
Ed Tennent

Thanks to the 2008 Sophia House Volunteers!



The Mission Committee, would like to **THANK** all of the church families who stepped up and volunteered to help make, deliver food and feed 30 homeless women, the first Sunday of each month, at Sophia House, in 2008. We truly appreciate the time and effort you shared, in order to help those in need. It is a wonderful feeling to be there and to see how appreciative these women are. Our sincere thank you to the following families who volunteered to help out each month at Sophia House in 2008:

January	Marilyn Farley, Julie Maglathlin
February	PPC Deacons, coordinated by Ann Hill
March	Beth Williams, Penny Boyd, Megan Boyd and Michelle Boyd
April	Elsie and Cal Reid
May	Janet and Rob Swisher
June	Stephanie Hampton, Mike Kunst, Beth Dart
July	Inken and Natalia Hars, Kitty Cowie, Keith Rust, Elizabeth Rust
August	Nancy Miller, Julie McMahan, Beth Sherfy
September	Pam Drumheller and Family
October	Inken and Hannah Hars; Tracy, Sam, and Abigail Spencer
November	Girl Scout Troup 3288, coordinated by Melanie Mason
December	Susan Hougen, Pat McMillen, Marilyn Farley

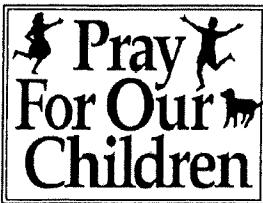


Our prayers are with ... Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng's mother; Members of the Armed Forces; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; Bob Garcia at home; Paul Watts, brother of Joyce Jenkins, in the hospital in Pennsylvania; Stephen Kirchner, recovering from a bone marrow transplant at home; Ken Kenny and family, Uncle of Mary Avelar, recently diagnosed with Leukemia; Nammy Lee, recovering from surgery at home; Marilyn Sebastian and family, on the death of her mother, Virginia Montgomery, at the age of 99.

We also pray for Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan (missionaries in Bangladesh). Their son, Everett Morgan, 23, passed away December 27, 2008. He had been under treatment for bone cancer at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for over a year. Memorial donations may be made to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center online at www.mdanderson.org/departments/development/. The mailing address for the Morgans is: 7500 Brompton St., Apt. 552, Houston, TX 77025.

Congratulations to Doug and Julie Braunstein on the January 13th birth of Brooke Haley. Proud grandparents are Richard and Rev. Leslieanne Braunstein.

Congratulations to Scott and Lauren Simpson on the birth of their son, Charles Raymond Simpson, born on January 16. Proud grandparents are Paddy & David Simpson.



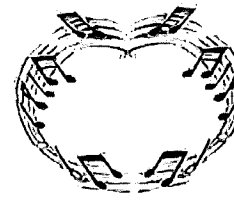
Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our fourth and fifth graders as well as our sixth and seventh graders. Please pray for their parents and families, too. Hannah Hars, Nicholas Mason, Noah Pereles, Nicholas Visnich, Isabella Alarie, Stefanie Baarman, Katherine Donahue, Bryan Eng, Lauren Eng, Antonina Hars, Natalia Hars, Jackson Miller, Alex

Page, Dylan Parr, Meredith Srour, Nathan VanBrunt, Jack White. Sara Cyrway, Grace Pereles, Jordan Reilly, Shannon Baarman, David Fasano, David Hay, Audrey Ling, Courtney Parr, Hannah Singerling, Lia Sohl, McCartney VanBrunt, Haley White.



THANK YOU!

I would like to thank our friends at PPC for the cards and the personal delivery of flowers to me when I was in rehab after having a knee replacement. Knowing that you are praying for each and every one of us in our congregation is a wonderful feeling, especially when one of us has a real need, and we are sustained by your love. Thank you, Nettie Propps



The Wright Note

I will be very honest with you. I have delayed submitting this month's article because I can't seem to find new thoughts to share about our music program. I may blame that on the fact that I have finished my annual report in which I spelled out in detail the major contribution our musical choir members, handbell ringers, instrumentalists, soloists, youth ensembles and men's and women's choruses have made during this past year. I urge you to carefully read this report and appreciate, as I do, the commitment of all of our musical participants and the role music plays in the worship experience.

One aspect that I did not address in that report was the importance of regular rehearsals to adequately prepare our musical leaders for any worship service. We may work many weeks on a piece of music before we share it on a given Sunday. Each time we meet, that piece of music is approached with a new sense of appreciation for text and a growing familiarity with the melody and harmonic setting. Gradually the choirs practice challenging passages, and with patience and often a few laughs, we feel confident enough to share our anthem. As the notes become less threatening, we can then clarify our diction and add dynamics (changes in the degree of loudness and softness). This applies to handbell ringing, too. Yes, I ask our ringers to sing what we ring at times. In this creative process of rehearsing, all ages become better singers or ringers. We also grow in Christian fellowship and service.

My African violets that are blooming so beautifully right now remind me of the value of steady, productive, nourishing rehearsals. These blooms start at the base of the stem. They are hardly visible at first because they hide beneath the green leaves above and around them. As I continue to carefully water the plant and keep it in the right light, these baby flowers grow and push upward through the thick leaves. This process takes weeks! Suddenly, on a day when I least expect it, I see a set of vibrant purple blooms strongly resting on top of the velvety green leaves. It most often is a bleak mid-winter day when this surge of spring happens. And the blooms last for months!

What strength our choirs gain in rehearsal will hopefully produce blooms of meaningful musical expression in worship. That also means that the gardener must be on her toes to keep these choirs nourished, challenged and loved.

Cindy Wright

STEPHEN MINISTRY



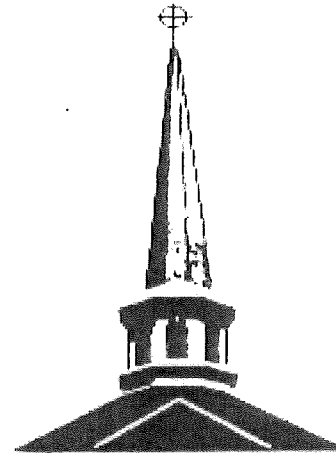
CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM - TO HONOR STEPHEN MINISTRY - March 22, 2009 12:15-2:00

Following the church service when our newly trained candidates for the Stephen Ministry program will be commissioned, the entire congregation, friends, and family members are invited to participate in a celebratory luncheon in Fellowship Hall. We would like to not only recognize the newly commissioned Stephen Ministers, but we would also like to recognize and celebrate the caring outreach to the congregation that this program provides. **Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex** so that we can plan accordingly.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2009</h1>						
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School / Meadowkirk Program 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Youth Fellowship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Church Health Team Meeting (1st Mon.)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Lord's Table 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1st Tues.)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Memorial Garden Committee Meeting 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:00 p.m. Special Presbytery Meeting (Vienna Presbyterian) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting Luncheon 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Committees (2nd Mon.)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2nd Tues.) 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 3:00 p.m. Collingswood (2nd Wed.) 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Youth - Meet at church at 5:00 p.m. for Retreat</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Youth Retreat</p>
<p>15</p> <p>YOUTH RETREAT</p> <p>12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Session (3rd Mon.)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. M.O.S.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship - Snow Tubing</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4th Mon.)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Women's Book Grp. 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Grp.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:00 p.m. MacFarlan Carlson Wedding</p>

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

Potomac Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2009

KERRY ON... Time is flying by and on April 30 I will conclude my pastoral relationship with this beloved congregation. We have shared so many joys and sorrows, challenges and growth, new ventures and cherished traditions. When I retire, the number one priority is the new and future ministry of Potomac Presbyterian Church. I believe the future is bright and by God's grace filled with hope. Of course I give thanks with you for the years we have shared in ministry. When I arrived in 1985, I joined the company of those who had preceded me. I continue to be grateful for the contributions they made that set us on the path of growth and changing ministry in our community and around the world. Now over the next year or so it is my hope that my years with you as pastor will be a source of strength and encouragement to the next pastor.

I want to be very clear with you in stating that my role as pastor will end on April 30. The interim and then installed pastor will take up that role and you can be assured that God is in the process of calling those pastors. New relationships will develop and I am sure my successor will receive the same warm welcome and energetic dedication to PPC that I received along with my family. It hardly seems possible that Emily was in ninth grade and Josh in sixth when we arrived in Potomac. Retired pastors may on occasion be invited by the new pastor and session to assist the present pastor in ministerial functions.

It has been a joy to share stories of our years together over the past few months and I look forward to more of the same in these last two months.

I affirm with you the words of the hymn,

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

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

ADULT EDUCATION

Library Class...

March 1, 8 – John Calvin: His Life and Legacy – Beth Williams

Mar 15 - Apr 5 – Why NOT be Reformed? The Reformed Tradition

As Seen by Its Critics – Bruce Douglas

Parlor Class...

March - Christian Character

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.



Leslianne

Last year's Deacons' Lenten service was extremely meaningful for those who attended. If you weren't able to attend, I know you will want to participate in this year's Service of Wholeness and Healing.

When we approach Lent sincerely and honestly, we cannot escape our brokenness. We cannot ignore that all creation groans – awaiting the day when God's purposes are fulfilled and we live in full reconciliation with God, with one another and with all God has created. When we approach Lent sincerely and honestly, we cannot help but recognize we all need the healing touch of the Master's hand.

The Deacons Lenten service on March 25th will be a Service of Wholeness and Healing. We will take time to reflect on our need for God's amazing grace that fills us and empowers us to grow in our relationship with God. It is a grace that deepens our commitment to a way of life rooted in our baptism. This service of Wholeness and Healing will center in on prayer – spoken and sung – and will include a service of anointing as well as the Lord's Supper.

Anointing is not something new in the church. Healing services are an ancient and accepted practice that is experiencing revival in the church today. We recognize in our busy, over-subscribed lives that indeed, we all sin and come short of the God's glory. The healing we need is not only always physical. We often find ourselves approaching God's throne of grace emotionally spent and often spiritually bruised. Where else can we go to find the balm that heals our sin-sick souls?

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. *James 5:14*

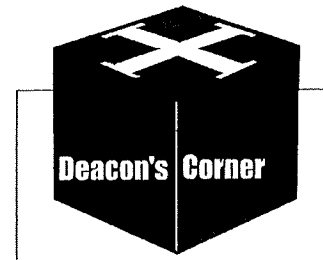
The laying on of hands and the anointing with oil show the power of touch, which plays a central role in the healings recorded in the New Testament. The Directory for Worship reminds us that "Healing was an integral part of the ministry of Jesus which the church has been called to continue as one dimension of its concern for the wholeness of people. Through services for wholeness, the church enacts in worship its ministry as a healing community. Anointing with oil is an act invoking the healing love of God. The oil points beyond itself to the action of the Holy Spirit and the presence of the healing Christ who is God's anointed one."

Last year Kathy McPherson, Elder Dan Dowd and I attended a Service of Wholeness and Healing at Georgetown Presbyterian Church. It was a moving experience that highlighted for us that spiritual healing is God's work offering persons balance, harmony and wholeness of body, mind, spirit and relationships through confession, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Particularly in this year of change and transition, this service of Wholeness and Healing provides an opportunity for us to reflect on our life together and to contemplate how God is calling us to be God's new creation – the exhibition of the Kingdom of God to the world.

Our prayer is that you will be part of this movement of God that extends to us an opportunity to experience God's love in a new way.

Leslianne Braunstein



DEACON'S CORNER

Many may assume that the Deacons' responsibility of coffee hour, staying in touch with parishes and organizing functions like the Fall Tail Gate party doesn't involve a lot of spirituality. I didn't give it much thought, either, until after my first official Deacons meeting.

"The Presbyterian Deacon: An Essential Guide" reads, "The Office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ...It is a ministry of caring, a ministry of love, a ministry of compassion, and a ministry of prayer (G-6.0402)."

While there is a good deal of administration that occurs during a Deacons meeting, there is a strong spiritual component woven into the evening as well. At the start of the meeting, Leslianne lights a candle, which symbolizes Jesus as the light of the world and His presence among us, and leads us in opening prayer. Deacons take turns preparing an opening devotional for each meeting. It can be as long or short as he/she chooses and is normally comprised of reading scripture, a canticle, and the group reciting a prayer together. Each program year, we read a book and discuss chapters at the meetings. Last year we read, "Listening Hearts" and this year we began "Unbinding the Gospel." These books assist us in learning more about our own beliefs and how we can better serve the members of our parishes.

You may not be aware that the Deacons are also responsible for planning a special Lenten worship service each year. Please join us **Wednesday, March 25 for the Service of Wholeness and Healing**. We hope to see you all there!

Ann Hill

Saturday March 21st - 8am - 12noon

You are invited to invest a few hours helping spruce up the church and get us ready for Easter! We will be cleaning up the church and making repairs. We will start at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall and will be finished by noon. Please come for anytime you are available. We will provide supplies (but you are welcome to bring your own too). See you there!



Rebuilding Together 2009 While there is the big day in April, volunteers are needed for preparation days in **March and April**. To volunteer, please send an e-mail to the house captain, Robert Mitchell, at rpm911@gmail.com or call 301-926-2871.



Pastor Kerry has asked that for the next several months I write a summary of Session activities for this newsletter. For the first installment, I thought it appropriate to prepare a short recap of the February 8th Congregational Meeting for members who were unable to attend. This meeting reported on and acted upon several Session-generated topics of great importance to the future of PPC.

By my count, 123 members attended this meeting, about a 50% increase over last year's attendance. As a result of feedback from last year's Congregational Meeting, the Session postponed budget approval until after this year's meeting so as to give the congregation a preview into the fiscal workings of our church. Additionally, also acting upon congregational feedback from last year, a balanced budget was presented by our Stewardship Committee (Elder Bill Hartzog), noting that cutbacks had been made in almost every category of operating funds.

The most difficult congregational decision made during the meeting, and one that will be hard to do justice to in a short column, was the decision to eliminate (effective August 8th) the position of Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, the position currently held by Pastor Leslieanne. A number of sincere, emotional, and thoughtful presentations were made on each side of the issue, touching on the topics of PPC's needs for the future, aligning PPC resources to our near-term objectives, the need for continuity following Pastor Kerry's retirement, and Pastor Leslieanne's contributions to our congregation. A copy of the prepared presentation on the reasoning behind the original Personnel Committee recommendation to the Session is available upon request from Karen Wise.

The 2009 calls for the Senior Pastor and the Associate Pastor were approved as recommended by the Session. Due to the reduction in personnel services budgeting, these calls included no cost-of-living increases over the 2008 calls.

Melanie Mason reported on the activities of the Interim Pastor Search Committee. In the first few days since their election by the Session, this group has made contact with other churches in the community, has met with National Capital Presbytery (NCP), and has prepared a draft job description for our interim pastor. Comments, questions, or feedback for this group can be made directly to the committee members or sent to PPCspeakup@gmail.com.

The congregation elected the at-large members of the 2009 Nominating Committee. In addition to a candidate slate of church officers to be elected later this year, this committee will also nominate the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) who will search for a new senior pastor for PPC. Elected were:

Sherry Johnson, Marnel Williams, Paul Mamalian, Diane Chapin

Lastly, Del Smith alerted the congregation to the fiscal issues now attached to Camp Meadowkirk. More information on this topic is available from the NCP webpage, or ask your Elders/Deacons for copies of the editorial-style letters written to presbytery members.

Cal Reid, 2/11/09



BETH'S BLURB

I am getting ready to sell my house, and my real estate agent has a "stager" who comes over and looks at your house and tells you what you need to do to make your house more sellable. She rearranges furniture, recommends that you declutter, and gives suggestions for helpful changes. Now, when I spoke to the stager on the phone as we were setting up a time for her to come over, she said two things to me:

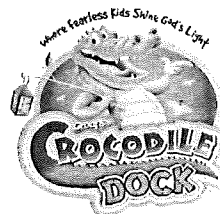
1. You have to do everything I tell you to do.
2. And you won't like me.

Well, that was a little harsh. I am sure she is a perfectly nice woman and it really does help to have someone with fresh eyes see your place, for face it, after a while you don't notice the ding here or the mark there. In general she liked my house and was complimentary as to its cleanliness and décor, but when she walked into my kitchen her face fell and the list of things I needed to do grew longer. First, new countertops, preferably in black granite, then take down the neutral wallpaper and paint the walls "Tuscan Red"! Black countertops and red walls! In my kitchen? It seems so far away from what I pictured. But she said when people are looking at a lot of homes, you need something to make yours stand out and she wanted the kitchen to "pop."

Somehow all the feelings that this is stirring up has reminded me of what our church is going to be going through in the next year. An interim minister can come in with fresh eyes and see the ding here or there and suggest some rearranging, some helpful changes. And maybe will suggest something that takes us aback at first, like black countertops and red walls. But as people are looking at churches, does our church have something that "pops", which makes them remember us and want to come back? Hopefully an interim pastor can help us find that something; and help us when our initial reaction is, "not in my kitchen".

So I went out and bought a black countertop and red paint, and I will let you know how it goes.

Beth Williams



Vacation Bible School July 6-10 For children age 3 – 5th grade

Older children can be helpers This summer, the children are invited to join us at Crocodile Dock, where fearless kids shine God's light! Crocodile Dock will be filled with incredible Bible-learning that kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the Crocodile Dock activities that help faith flow into real life.

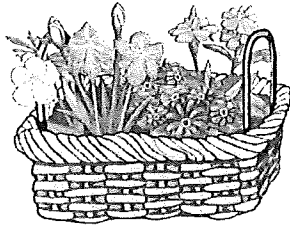
Registration will be available on line through the PPC website,

www.potomacpresbyterian.org.

Workcamp Fundraiser - Upscale Rummage Sale - March 14

Please bring your donations starting March 8. If help is needed with larger items, please contact Beth at 301-299-6007 or 703-732-1498 to arrange for pick-up.

MORE CHRISTIAN ED NEWS...



Women's Retreat April 17-19

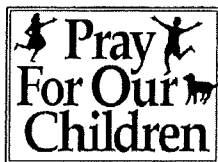
"Grow in Grace" Cost is \$110. Join your friends or make new ones on this wonderful getaway weekend at Meadowkirk. We will be exploring ways to grow deeper in our faith and how to blossom and bear fruit. Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall.



News from the Interim Pastor Search Committee

What is an interim pastor? An interim pastor is a minister invited by the session of a church without an installed pastor to preach the Word, administer the Sacraments, and fulfill pastoral duties for a specific period while the church is seeking a pastor. An interim pastor is someone from outside the congregation who works fulltime with a church and provides for spiritual growth and the ongoing mission and work of a church. He/she is NOT a place holder and is expected to work with the congregation to assess the future journey of the congregation and to assist in the transition to a new installed pastor. The interim pastor has specific training in these areas and should facilitate open sharing of information with the congregation. In addition, the interim pastor CANNOT be considered for the installed position his or her service precedes.

PPC's new Interim Pastor Search Committee has been formed with Bob Plumb and Beth Rudnic as co-chairs. Chris Dowd, Corey Eng, Melanie Mason, Jim Reichley and Carolyn Stump have also agreed to serve on the committee. We have already met and will continue to meet weekly until we find a suitable interim pastor. We have contacted numerous resources including National Capital Presbytery and other churches who have recently engaged in a similar search. We will keep the congregation updated regularly, as new information becomes available. Anyone with questions and/or comments, please feel free to contact anyone on the committee or email the committee at PPCspeakup@gmail.com.



Please remember the eighth and ninth graders of our congregation. Please pray for their parents and families, too.

Michael Donahue, Jane Drumheller, Hannah Jung, Amanda Kuhn, Kayla Mason, Lucy Miller, Chasen Mindnich, Jacqueline Page, Gwen Shaw, Brandon Eng, Maggie Hay, Joe Haynes, Victoria Kuhn, Justin

Lau, Amanda Lee, Katherine Ling, Molly Miller, Brandon Parr, Luke Pereles, Emily Petti, Abigail Singerling, Allison Srour



In celebration of the 500th Anniversary of John Calvin's birth, many books have been put on the book truck in the library for your easy browsing. If you would like to borrow one, take the book card in the back of the book out, sign your name, phone number and date you take the book and put the card in the brown box on the shelf.

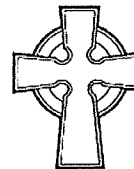
Two new books about Calvin have just arrived. Take a look!

We also have added six other new books. Space is short so I can't tell you about them all here, but I'll name a few. A popular author, Eugene

Peterson, has titled his latest book Tell it Slant: a conversation on the language of the Bible. How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture by James Kugel is chock full of wonderful information. He is Jewish and an Old Testament scholar who has the belief that Christians need to understand the Hebrew (Old Testament) Bible to better understand the New Testament. Another popular book, The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith and Politics by Jim Wallis has also been added to our collection. Please visit the library and see all the wonderful books, CDs, DVDs and videos (mostly Children's) we have available for you to borrow. Any questions or comments, call me 301-299-3272. *Nancy Tietjen*



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE



For God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7

In honor of Bob and Nancy Tietjen's Tenth Anniversary, members contributed to the **General Endowment Fund**. For these gifts, we give thanks. Bob, a charter member of PPC, has been both a church elder and active participant in many PPC projects as well as adult education classes. Nancy has served both as a Stephen Ministry Leader and as church librarian. We have been truly blessed by their ongoing generosity of spirit and Christian leadership.

Contributions continue to be welcome. Please note "Tietjen" on the memo line.

For information regarding the General Endowment, Special Gifts, Memorial Funds, and Steeple Society,

Please see Pastor Kerry or any member of the Committee

Chris Dowd, Chair David Fowler Gregg Johnson Elsie Reid Ed Tennent

**CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHEON AND
PROGRAM TO HONOR STEPHEN**

MINISTRY - March 22, 2009 12:15-2:00

Following the church service when our newly trained candidates for the Stephen Ministry program will be commissioned, the entire congregation, friends, and family members are invited to participate in a celebratory luncheon in Fellowship Hall. We would like to not only recognize the newly commissioned Stephen Ministers, but we would also like to recognize and celebrate the caring outreach to the congregation that this program provides.

If you would like to share Stephen Ministry photos, testimonials, memories, the effect Stephen Ministry has had on you or the church, please contact Karen Karch, specialkbk1@aol.com or Sherry Johnson, SIJohnson03@aol.com prior to March 13.

Please RSVP on the signup sheet in the Narthex so that we can plan accordingly.



COME CELEBRATE PASTOR KERRY'S RETIREMENT!

Save the Date! Please mark **Friday, April 24th** on your calendar for a special Celebratory Retirement Dinner for Kerry and Ruthanne, **6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**. More information will be coming soon.

If you have photos or mementos that you would like included in the celebration either as part of the slide presentation or scrapbook, please contact Karen Karch prior to the end of March at specialkbk1@aol.com or 301-330-0633.

Also, a reception will follow worship at **12:00 on Sunday, April 26th**.



Our prayers are with... Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Ching Hwa Chang, Patricia Eng's mother; *Members of the Armed Forces*; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; Bob Garcia at home; Paul Watts, brother of Joyce Jenkins, in the hospital in Pennsylvania; Stephen Kirchner, recovering from a bone marrow transplant at home; Ken Kenny and family, Uncle of Mary Avelar, recently diagnosed with Leukemia; Erin Buckingham and family on the death of her mother, Marilyn Poling on January 15; Mary Ling's mother, Theresa McGrath, in Connecticut; Eugenia Lee and family on the death of her uncle, Asbury W. Lee III of Clearfield, PA on February 10; Bob King and family on the recent death of his father, Gordon King; Janet Clark, recovering from back surgery at Washington Hospital Center. **Congratulations** to Charlie and Nancy Miller on the celebration of their 56th wedding anniversary. **Congratulations** to Emily Wescott and Christopher Woodside on their recent engagement. Proud parents are Karen Wise and Rob Wescott.

MISSION HAPPENINGS:

UPDATE ON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NEW ORLEANS

In January, 2008, PPC's "New Orleans Saints" participated in a week-long post-Katrina rebuilding effort in New Orleans. We stayed at the **First Presbyterian Church**, a historic church which suffered significant flood damage (www.fpcno.org). Much has been said about the transformative experience this mission trip proved to be, not only for those being served but for those fifteen from PPC who participated. Last May, our congregation grieved with First Presbyterian when we learned of the sudden death of their beloved pastor, **Dr. Cliff Nunn**. Shortly thereafter, we learned that they would concentrate their efforts on re-growing their tiny, stunned, church community, and would abandon their work hosting volunteers who came to New Orleans to rebuild.

Despite being small, First Presbyterian Church has been resilient and steadfast in their desire to share the Good News, to minister to those in need, and to grow their own ministry. They have grave concerns about funding, membership, and maintenance of their programs. The economic downturn has decimated their endowment, which supported their pastor's salary. Their membership has diminished so much since Katrina that there are only about 40 active members now. Their children's program has floundered and they are just yearning to be able to provide something for the few children they do have. However, they are grateful for the following:

- their new Interim Pastor, the **Rev. Jayne Ruiz**;
- the volunteers and donations which made possible **the nearly full physical restoration of their church buildings** and related equipment;
- the ability to continue their **Homeless and Hungry Ministry**, which, since 2008, has been providing meals, housing, clothing, and spiritual nourishment to an average of 25-40 homeless clients per week;
- the ability to continue their post-Katrina, **English as a Second Language Program**, to serve the large number of Hispanic laborers who arrived to find jobs in the rebuilding.

In 2008 First Presbyterian established a **Transformation Committee**. With help from their Presbytery, this committee looked inward at their church, seeking input and ideas about their core beliefs and how to attract new members. The committee is hopeful that 2009 will bring some of their ideas to fruition. They would like to conduct neighborhood surveys, expand upon the programs identified above, and establish new programs. Their goal is to grow their ministry and ensure their continued ability to meet their financial obligations and continue to help those in need.

In a recent letter to our Mission Committee, First Presbyterian Church's Clerk of Session mentioned one more item on their gratitude list: "...*First Presbyterian has been blessed with friends such as Potomac Presbyterian in its efforts to recover and help the city recover... We are so thankful for the connections we have made with congregations such as yours.*"

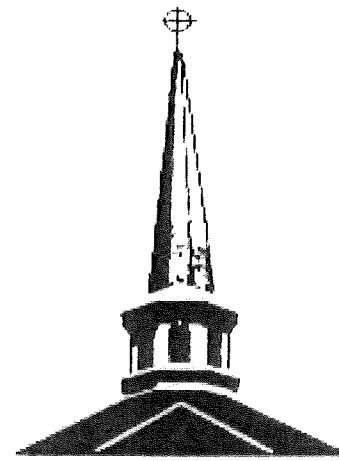
It has been a blessing to our Mission Committee to be able to serve.

Sonia Russo, Member, Mission Committee

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2009</h1>						
1 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Adult Education Meeting 5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	2 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Church Health Team Meeting (1st Mon.)	3 1:00 p.m. Lord's Table 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1st Tues.)	4 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	5 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Interim Pastor Search Committee 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	6	7
8 Girl Scout Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting 12:15 p.m. Fellowship 5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	9 9:30 a.m. Biography Class 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Committees (2nd Mon.)	10 9:45 a.m. Christian Living (2nd Tues.) 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 7:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision Group	11 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Session Service	12 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Interim Pastor Search Committee 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	13	14 Upscale Rummage Sale 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
15 Steeple To People Deadline 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 5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	16 9:30 a.m. Biography Class 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 11:00 a.m. George Cowie Memorial Service (Arlington Nat'l Cemetery) 7:30 p.m. Session (3rd Mon.)	17 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training	18 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 1:30 p.m. Reformed Institute Program Committee Meeting 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir	19 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Interim Pastor Search Committee 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	20	21 Spring Clean Up / Fix Up 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
22 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Stephen Ministry Commissioning 12:00 p.m. Congregational luncheon to celebrate Stephen Ministry 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	23 9:30 a.m. Biography Class 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4th Mon.)	24 10:30 a.m. Women's Book Group 6:00 p.m. Presbytery Mtg. (Nat'l) 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Group	25 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Deacon Service	26 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Interim Pastor Search Committee 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	27	28 Bruce Howard Memorial Service 3:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship - Cosmic Bowling 9:00 p.m.
29 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	30 9:30 a.m. Biography Class 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class	31 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training				

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-6007
www.potomacpresbyterian.org

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church

APRIL 2009

KERRY ON... As we prepare to say our farewells, I think the words of Reinhold Neibuhr speak to our gratitude for the years we have journeyed together and to the promise of God for the future.

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime and therefore must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history, therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous can be accomplished alone, therefore, we are saved by love.

I cherish our years together and remember ground breaking for our new fellowship hall and the joy of welcoming our organizing pastor, Dr. James Leitch, to the dedication in May of 1987. Congregation Based Shelter welcomed guests to our fellowship hall during the blizzard of 1996. The Sacrament of Baptism has been celebrated for hundreds of children and the congregation has joyfully sung the words, "You are God's child most dear." Our youth began years of life changing experiences when Work Camp began in the summer of 1999. Stephen Ministry has enriched our caring for one another since our first class of sixteen were commissioned in 2000. In January 2008, a team of volunteers traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild homes and continue to be thankful for an unforgettable experience.

Loved ones young and old have been remembered in memorial services and in sorrow and grief we affirmed our hope in the resurrection through our Lord Jesus Christ. Often we gathered at the Lord's Table and we "came with joy to meet the Lord, forgiven loved and free." We have listened together to the Word read and preached and then returned to serve Christ in our daily tasks. Children have gathered in the front pew for the Children's Time and listened to the Good News and often told all of us that same news which is beyond our

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

ADULT EDUCATION

Library Class...

April 5 – Bruce Douglas – "Why NOT be Reformed? The Reformed Tradition as seen by Its Critics"

April 12 – Easter – No Class

April 19, 26 – John Yieh

Parlor Class...

April - Christian Character

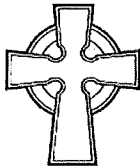
STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by e-mail to steepop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office.

Kerry On, continued

imagining. Confirmation Class pictures on the wall outside the Pastor's office remind us all of our continuing challenge to nurture faith as well as learn from our young people. Nearly 200 couples have made their promises relying on God's Grace to keep the vows they have made.

Day by day I have been challenged and encouraged, shared joys and sorrows, and always believed that God's grace is truly amazing. I say farewell in the words of one of my favorite hymns that was written in 1970, the year that I was ordained. This is my affirmation as we conclude the chapter of life in this congregation that we have shared together and my word of hope for us all,

Most of all that love has found us, Thanks be to God.



Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus Endowment Fund

Please consider a gift in honor of the Stoltzfuses

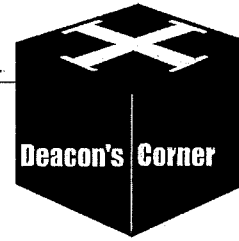
For almost a quarter century, Potomac Presbyterian Church has been blessed with Kerry Stoltzfus' ministry as senior pastor. He has served our flock faithfully with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. He helped establish the direction and vision for our church including a renewed and expanded focus on missions. With the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, PPC will always be a beacon of faith, truth and light.

Potomac Presbyterian Church has been blessed with Ruthanne Stoltzfus' ministry as well. She was one of the founders of our Stephen Ministry and remained a Stephen Ministry leader for years. She has been a dear friend to all, sharing her warmth, humor and generous spirit.

To Kerry and Ruthanne, for their spiritual leadership, sensitivity, dedication and compassion, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

Checks may be made payable to PPC and marked "Stoltzfus Endowment."

For more information, please see any member of the Endowment Committee
Chris Dowd, Chair David Fowler Gregg Johnson Elsie Reid Ed Tennent



DEACON'S CORNER

Getting Involved

Being a Deacon has its rewards and challenges. My first thoughts always tend toward "how" to involve more people in the congregation in doings at PPC. One very obvious vehicle is the coffee hour following worship on any given Sunday!

Let me explain: The congregation is broken down into Parish Groups, each one shepherded by an assigned Deacon, with each Parish Group drawing one of the month's of Sundays for hosting the coffee hour. Hence, we Deacons call upon members of our respective Parish Groups to help serve during the assigned month. Many forms of service are needed for the coffee hour, to include: providing items of food to share on the adult table or kids' table, set-up for the coffee hour, serving and hosting during the coffee hour, and also the clean-up activity at the conclusion of the coffee hour. Think of these acts of service as the bonding time between members of the Parish Group, for that is exactly how it is intended. The more people involved on any given Sunday, the easier the chores become and the more fun we can have in socializing among ourselves!

There are certainly other ways to get involved, which my fellow Deacons may elect to write about in following issues. I thought this month would be a good one for a refresher about why we do coffee hour as we do, so that everyone is made aware and can become involved. Let's use the coffee hour as time to "come together."

In thinking of helping one another, recall Galatians 6:10 - *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.* And in thinking of service to one another, recall Matthew 23:11 - *He that is greatest among you shall be your servant.*

Some of the Deacons' commitments to the congregation are: to help facilitate ways for members to come together and to know one another, to keep members informed of happenings, and to act as a sort of collective netting or glue for keeping people together as a family of faith. You can help us to serve you better, by letting your Deacon know your concerns and how the Deacons may be of service to you and to the congregation. These are interesting and challenging times for PPC, and we would like very much to be a sounding board and offer what assistance we can in ensuring a bright future for PPC. As we serve you, we are working to build a stronger community of faith for the congregation.

Joe Curry Deacon, Class of 2010



SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, June 6 – Komen Race for the Cure will be in Washington, DC. Olivia Mabeus will be recruiting a PPC team to participate in this event. Look for the registration table in the Fellowship Hall the last two Sundays in April.

March began with another Congregational Meeting (March 8th). For those of you that were unable to attend, the motions previewed in my letter to the congregation of February 27th were generally passed as proposed.

The Session was authorized to enter into a loan secured by the manse not to exceed \$325,000 to purchase Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus' equity interest in the manse, the equity purchase price to be based upon the appraised value of the manse less the amount of Dr. Stoltzfus' outstanding loan. A slight amendment to the original motion requires the Manse Committee to contact two additional lenders to assure that favorable mortgage terms have been researched.

The second motion, which also passed unanimously, was slightly modified from its original form so that we will now honor Pastor Kerry's retirement request effective April 30th, 2009; his employment for pension purposes will end on May 31st, 2009 with accrued vacation paid for the month of May.

A final motion was received from the floor as offered by charter member Bob Tietjen (and unanimously passed) to elect Pastor Kerry as *Pastor Emeritus* of Potomac Presbyterian Church effective as of the dissolution of his formal pastoral relationship with our church. I will be making the request to presbytery in early March so that they may formalize this request from our congregation.

Cal Reid, 3/9/09



News from the Interim Pastor Search Committee

The Interim Pastor Search Committee continues to work in finding a suitable candidate in a relatively short time frame. We have created a job description and have posted it on a variety of websites as well as in the Presbyterian Outlook. We have already received 10 Personal Information Forms (PIFs, resumes) which we are in the process of evaluating. We are also developing a list of interview questions in anticipation of beginning the interview process by the end of March. If you have any questions and/or comments, don't hesitate to either email us at PPCSpeakUp@gmail.com or contact any member of the committee (Chris Dowd, Corey Eng, Melanie Mason, Bob Plumb, Jim Reichley, Beth Rudnic, and Carolyn Stump).

COME CELEBRATE PASTOR KERRY'S RETIREMENT!

Friday, April 24th- Celebratory Retirement Dinner for Kerry and Ruthanne, **6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.** You should have received your invitation by mail. Please RSVP by April 5. Please contact Karen Karch if you have questions, 301-529-1982 or specialkbk1@aol.com

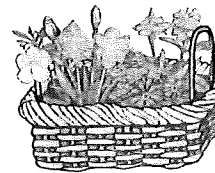
Also, a reception will follow worship at **12:00 on Sunday, April 26th.**



ETH'S BLURB - I have to be honest with you. I

couldn't do it. I didn't paint my kitchen red. I tried, I really did. I took down the wallpaper and painted a section with the "Tucson Red" and lived with it for several days, and I just couldn't do it. So what is the theological message in all of this? We have to listen to the voice of others and be open to their suggestions, but we also have to know who we are and what is right for us. So maybe my kitchen doesn't have quite the "pop" that it would if it was red, but it does look pretty good with the black granite counter tops and the gold walls that I chose. And if I could say my house had sold, it would be all worth it, but since it hasn't yet, I will have to wonder if I should have painted it red after all. No, I just have to be patient, it will sell in God's time, just as we will make the adjustments here at PPC that we need to that feel right for us, and with patience and in seeking God's guidance, we can be sure that the good news we have to share will be heard as well.

Beth Williams



Women's Retreat April 17-19

"**Grow in Grace**" Cost \$110 Join your friends or make new ones on this wonderful getaway weekend at Meadowkirk. We will be exploring ways to:

- ✿ Prepare the soil
- ✿ Water and Weed
- ✿ Prune and Pluck

All which will help us to grow deeper in our faith and to blossom and bear fruit. Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall.



MAUNDY
THURSDAY

Intergenerational Maundy Thursday Service – April 9 at 6:30 pm

We will begin the evening in the Fellowship Hall and experience the connection between the last supper and the Passover meal. We will then have dinner and communion before moving into the sanctuary where we will experience Biblical Stations of the Cross in art and drama. The tradition began with St. Francis of Assisi and extended throughout the Roman Catholic Church in the medieval period. The object of the Stations is to help us make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. The Stations of the Cross are less often observed in Protestant communities, but there is a resurgence of interest among mainline Protestants in using these devotions to contemplate

the magnitude of Christ's sacrifice for us, and to thank God for the grace and mercy extended to us.



Leslianne

Babies and bath water. I've been thinking a lot

about babies and bath water this Lenten season. On Ash Wednesday, our service included the imposition of ashes for those who wished to have that concrete experience of what the day signifies. During the Deacons' service of Wholeness and healing, there was a time when those wishing to feel the healing balm of the Holy Spirit could come for anointing and/or prayer.

I, personally like these tactile expressions of faith. Come to my study and you will see a room with icons of our faith. I have icons of Saints – regular people who did great things for God – reminding me the Christian life is possible. I have icons of great Bible stories. Recently my dear friend, Kathryn Jackson, gave me an unusual icon of the 'Mystical Supper' that I will treasure always. My favorite, though, would have to be Rublev's icon of the Holy Trinity. The icon draws me in, reminding me I, too, am welcome at God's table. Icons have been called "Windows to Heaven." I have found them to be just that.

Tactile Christianity is one of the reasons I became an Oblate of Mount Saint Benedict's Monastery. I so appreciate the expressions of faith and modes of worship that invite all of me – all of my senses, all of who I am – to participate. It is not something with which we Protestants are particularly comfortable.

As an oblate, I am committed to seek God in community life and to respond to God in prayer and ministry. I support the Benedictine sisters of Erie, a community of women who are faithful to a life of prayer and work, committed to the Gospel and to the vision of life practiced by Saint Benedict and his sister, Saint Scholastica. They are dedicated to a special outreach to those on the margins of our society. These women have loved me and supported me and held me in prayer since, for nearly ten years. I am committed to upholding these values in my life.

This Easter, I will be at the Holy Week retreat at Mount Saint Benedict's Monastery, celebrating Easter with all my senses. We will gather on Wednesday for a great time of community. On Thursday we will join at Emmaus House, where we will help the Sisters prepare and serve a special meal to members of the Erie community who live challenged lives. It is a great privilege to sit and break bread with these brothers and sisters, to hear their stories and learn of their joys, as well as their sorrows. Thursday evening we share an Agape meal – celebrating Communion around our dinner tables. After dinner there is silence.

On Friday we participate in a contemporary Stations of the Cross. It is a seven mile walk that begins at Erie's Cathedral (where we pray for the church). I do not know where we will stop this year. In the past we have stopped at an Islamic Center and prayed for the safety of our Muslim brothers and sisters. We have stopped at the inner city art house, where there are programs for children, and prayed for our children. We stopped at a low-income housing project and prayed for families at risk. We've stopped at a topless bar and prayed for abused women. We stop. We pray. We sing. We walk in silence.

Silence breaks at lunchtime on Saturday. At first I thought this was strange. I didn't understand why silence ended before Saturday evening's Easter Vigil. But *these* Sisters are unable

to contain themselves any longer. The Sisters are soooooo excited! It is Easter! Preparations are underway. There is dusting and vacuuming and decorating and rehearsing to be done! People are



MISSION NEWS JOIN US APRIL 25 ...or sooner!!

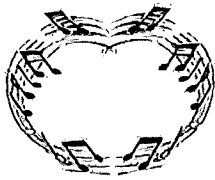
Join the crew from PPC as we paint and fix up the home of an elderly couple in Gaithersburg on Saturday, **April 25** for this year's Rebuilding Together project. We'll be led by House Captain Robert Mitchell and House Ambassador Sonia Russo, with technical assistance from Jim Dart. This year's effort will be special because Pastor Kerry has already signed on, so you can wish him well in a particularly meaningful way as he ventures into retirement, by helping others in need. Can't make it April 25? There may be opportunities for prep work the Saturday before. **See Robert, Sonia and Jim in Fellowship Hall after worship for details and sign-up.**



Several more new books have been added to the library. Sure do hope you'll stop in and take a look. It seems as if death has touched several of our members live recently. One new book titled Good Mourning: Getting Through Your Grief by Allan Hugh Cole may be helpful (maybe you'll want a Stephen Minister, also). Cole explains the process of grief and what loss can do to us. He identifies ways of coping and reminds us of the hope that we can find in mourning. Walter Brueggemann's book, Mandate to Difference: an Invitation to the Contemporary Church sets forth a new vision of the Christian church in today's world. He says that our faith is not "pinning down moral certitudes. It is, rather, about openness to wonder and awe in glad praise". John Wilson, editor of Books & Culture wrote of The Yellow Leaves by Frederick Buechner "this is a book to be sipped like a rare wine, the last bottle of a fabled vintage...." Buechner has a remarkable way with words. No more room to tell you of the others-- Come take a look. They'll be on the book truck inside the library. **Nancy Tietjen**



Our prayers are with... *Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Members of the Armed Forces; David Boyd's sister, Teresa Cox; Bob Garcia at home; Paul Watts, brother of Joyce Jenkins; Stephen Kirchner, recovering from a bone marrow transplant at home; Ken Kenny and family, uncle of Mary Avelar; Janet Clark; Todd Simmons, nephew of Miriam Conley; Courtney Koonce and family on the tragic death of her aunt, Nancy McKinley; Mary Ling and family on the death of her mother, Theresa McGrath, on March 1 in Bridgeport, CT; Patricia Eng and family on the death of her mother, Ching Hwa Chang, on March 2; Cathy Singleton and family on the death of her father, Ed Shipley, on March 4; Melvin Avelar and family on the death of his uncle, Kristino Avelar, on February 23; the family of Brian Bunting, an Army officer killed in Afghanistan, friend of the Simpson family; CDR Lori Vanscoy, a Navy Pediatric Pulmonologist, will be deploying this week aboard the Navy Hospital ship, USNS Comfort, as part of Operation Continuing Promise 2009. This four month mission will provide medical humanitarian aid to civilian populations in eight countries in Central and South*



The Wright Note

In Matthew 18:20 we read, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Since Christmas, we have had two or three, and sometimes one, in the Sunrise Singers. But numbers have not kept us from continuing to sing God's praises and to even create some original music. Let me share with you what has been developing in our rehearsals during Lent.

We always start our rehearsals by warming up our voices with vocal exercises. One of our favorites is one that uses the steps of the scale. Based on one to eight, we gradually sing our way up to the top of the octave and back down. These progressive notes are set in an intricate rhythmic pattern which we sing at different speeds and in canon with one another. We always end up giggling afterwards because it really is fun.

Bryan Eng suggested that we put words to this vocal warm-up. I was skeptical because the exercise is not particularly tuneful. Lauren Eng agreed with her brother that words would be a good idea. She began experimenting with word combinations based on discussions we had been having concerning the liturgical season of Lent. I began scribbling notes on our floor chart. Phrases about God, Jesus Christ and love evolved. We progressed to Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. That brought us to Easter. Our text was beginning to take shape, but we had difficulty with the climactic phrase leading up to the eighth scale tone. We decided that phrase needed to include Pentecost. We waited until the next week to work on the Pentecost section. On the following Sunday the children developed a final phrase which amazingly put that joyful season in perfect perspective. The entire text is as follows: I, I love God.

I love Jesus Christ.
God is always in my heart.
Jesus died to save us from our sins.
Lent reminds us when our Lord was crucified.
On the third day Jesus rose to bring us Easter Day...
Then on Pentecost the spirit helped us form the Christian church.

The children also developed an accompanying ostinato chant which incorporates an equation that they insisted we needed. That equation is love + Christ + believe = church. The ostinato uses these words in a catchy repeated rhythm: People who believe in Christ equals church. This is sung at the same time as the above vocal warm-up. The approved title is yet to come. One suggestion under consideration is: "What is church?"

Would you like to come to one of our rehearsals? Amazing things really do happen when "two or three are met together in my name."

Cindy Wright

CHURCH JOYS....Congratulations to Timothy and Sharon Stow on the birth of their son, Brandon Alexander, on February 23. Grateful grandparents are Bob and Pat Stow.

Congratulations to Matthew and Beth Kelley on the birth of their daughter, Audrey Grace Phair, on March 12th. Grateful great-grandmother is Cecie Phair. *We celebrate with joy* the baptism of Karen Hars, daughter of Henning and Inka Hars. *We celebrate with joy* the baptism of John Bernard McShane, IV, son of John and Samantha McShane.

Leslianne, continued

humming and bustling about – all in anticipation of the Great Easter Vigil and the resurrection of the Lord.

The Great Easter Vigil is an experience not to be missed. (Be prepared, though. It can last several hours.) In the service, the story of God's salvation history is told – beginning with creation, through the stories of the patriarchs until we hear of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The Benedictine Sisters of Erie are most creative presenters of the Biblical story. I have seen the Creation story danced. It is a sight to behold.

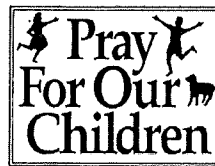
After Mass on Sunday, the Paschal Candle will be brought into the refectory and the whole congregation will dance for joy. My computer desktop screen is a picture of just such a joyful dance. I will think of you all this Holy Week as I hear, taste, see, touch, and smell (don't forget the incense!) the joy of Easter with my fellow Oblates and the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

The Reformers brought us many insights into faith. Because of the Reformers, we have the Bible in our own language, and it is accessible to all. Because of the Reformers, knowing and studying scripture became a hallmark of our faith. But, the Reformers seemed to think that many of the sensual expressions of faith were, in fact, impediments to true faith. And perhaps, in some sense and in their day and time, they were correct. However, in the past forty years, many of our Protestant denominations have revisited many of the ancient practices of our faith. The conclusion is that, perhaps, the Reformers threw the baby out with the bathwater in their zeal to promote pure faith and worship. The conclusion is that many of the more tactile practices of faith are ways for us to experience the love and grace of God differently than if we just think about it. This is why our Book of Common Worship has a service for Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes. It is why there is a Service of Wholeness and Healing with anointing. It is why there is a service of Easter Vigil.

My prayer is that we will not be afraid or uncomfortable with the movement of the Holy Spirit that calls us to taste and see (and hear and touch and smell) that the Lord, indeed, is good. And God's mercies wash over us for a lifetime.

Easter Blessings!

Leslianne Braunstein



Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our tenth and eleventh graders. Please pray for their parents and families, too. Megan Boyd, Michelle Boyd, Alexandra Broseker, Colleen Cronin, Matthew Jeffers, Blake Kline, Mackenzie Phillips, Meili Sohl, Kathleen Arnold, Dixon Drumheller, Brett Kirchner, Nick Kovacs, Will Kovacs, Andrew Lee

NEW ADDRESSES:

Claude Gordon – 9701 Viers Drive Room PC190, Rockville, MD 20850

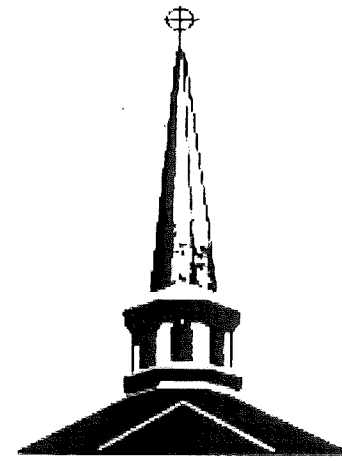
Steve Rudnic – 9807 Gable Ridge Terr. Apt. G, Rockville, MD 20850 301-926-9669

Bill and Pat King- 701 King Farm Blvd, Apt 515, Rockville, MD 20850

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2009</h1>						
			1 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	2 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Interim Pastor Search Committee 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	3	4
5 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Baptism 12:15 p.m. Fellowship 5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	6 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Church Health Team (1st Mon.)	7	8 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class No Wonderful Wed. Choir	9 MAUNDY THURSDAY 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service / Dinner No Handbell Choir Sanc. Choir Rehearsal following Maundy Thurs. Serv.	10 GOOD FRIDAY St. Luke's Orthodox Good Friday Service	11 St. Luke's Orthodox Easter Vigil Service
12 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Worship / Baptism 10:40 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	13 HOLIDAY ~ OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 p.m. Committees (2nd Mon.)	14 9:45 a.m. Christian Living (2nd Tues.) 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training	15 STP DEADLINE 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. PANC - Auction for Stepping Stones 4:00 p.m. No W W Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. M.O.S.	16 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. No Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Interim Pastor Search Committee 8:00 p.m. No Sanctuary Choir	17 Women's Retreat	18 Women's Retreat 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
19 Women's Retreat 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Baptism / Communion Out of the Blue group 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care 6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship 7:30 p.m. Out of the Blue group	20 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Session (3rd Mon.)	21 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Presbytery Mtg.	22 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir and Sunrise Singers 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	23 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Interim Pastor Search Committee 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	24 6:00 p.m. Retirement / Farewell Dinner for Pastor Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus	25 Rebuilding Together 5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Night Out
26 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Baptism 12:00 p.m. Fellowship / Farewell Reception for Pastor Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	27 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4th Mon.)	28 10:30 a.m. Women's Book Group 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Group	29 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible	30 11:00 a.m. Pat Thompson Memorial Service Arlington National Cemetery		

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

Potomac Presbyterian Church

MAY 2009

KERRY ONHow could I possibly say thank you for the wonderful retirement dinner and program on Friday night? The beauty, sincerity, humor, expressions of gratitude and your more than generous gifts are “wonders that astound us.” The joy with which everyone contributed to making it such a memorable evening will go with us into retirement. Of course your memory may be that Ruthanne stole the show, but I did get the last word with the sermon on Sunday. This congregation is special and Ruthanne and I will always hold you in our hearts.

When I was called to PPC in 1985 and as I retire, the words of the Prophet Jeremiah ring true. “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. The “you” is plural of course and applies to pastor and congregation. During these 24 years we have shared together the plans of the Lord as they unfolded from literal building plans, four different office spaces in one year and worship for a month at Har Shalom. We are grateful for new ministries and countless shared pastoral moments. You have cared for me and my family as well and I will always remember when you sent Ed Clark to be with us for my father’s funeral in Florida. It was an expression of the power of presence which is at the heart of all deep expression of caring.

We are also mindful that we joined the plans that were already in progress, the ones that began in 1963 when the congregation was organized. Now we again look to the Lord in faith and trust as the plans will emerge for this special community of faith and for your Pastor Emeritus. This weekend has really been a celebration of 46 years of God’s grace in this congregation and a strong affirmation of hope for the future. As we conclude our ministry together, we are mindful of the words of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians,

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

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

ADULT EDUCATION

Library Class...

May 3, 10 – John Yieh – The Gospel that Stings; Jesus’ Parables
According to Luke

May 17 – Bill Malone – Orthodoxy and Heresy

May 24 – Early Christianity’s Appropriation of Jewish Tradition

May 31 – Jim Reichley – Monotheism and the Reformed Tradition

Parlor Class...

Through June 14 – Christian Virtues

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.



Leslianne

Susan Boyle most definitely has the voice heard 'round the world'. If you have not had an opportunity to experience the YouTube video of her audition with Simon Cowell and the judges of "Britain's Got Talent," (the show from which "American Idol" had its birth) hie thee immediately to a computer, type "Susan Boyle" into any search engine and click on just about any link that comes up. Oh, and be prepared to be blown away. Any tidbit of information given in this brief article will not spoil the effect the video will have on you.

Susan Boyle is a 47 year old unemployed Scots woman from a small village. Ms. Boyle, who has never been married, spent years taking care of her mother who recently died. Susan Boyle has been described as a shy, solitary person; a quiet soul. Susan Boyle also is decidedly frumpy and very ordinary looking. In fact, if you look up the word "ordinary" in a British dictionary, until April 11th, you might have seen Ms. Boyle's name listed among the definitions.

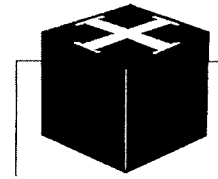
As she spoke with the judges, they and the audience snickered and rolled their eyes. Even though I was watching a video, I could feel the disdain in the room. To be honest, the first time I saw the video, I laughed. Ms. Boyle said she always has aspired to sing before a large audience. Looking at her, you couldn't help but think, 'oh, really'?

Then Susan Boyle opened her mouth to sing, and the rest will be recorded in the annals of dream-maker history. In seconds the audience was on its feet cheering and clapping while the judges were busy picking their chins up from the floor. Susan Boyle is an amazing singer. This very ordinary and ordinary looking, woman who has been singing in her church choir for years has the most extraordinary voice. It is truly a gift from God that has already blessed millions of people who have viewed the video.

Ordinary people can do extremely extraordinary things. Sometimes the accomplishments are recognized on a global scale. Sometimes the effect isn't as noticeable, but the influence ripples through time and generations.

Twenty-four years ago a young pastor and his wife came to Potomac Presbyterian Church. I'm sure the excitement the church experienced at their coming was palpable, but I don't know if anyone consciously thought something extraordinary was about to happen. No. I think Kerry and Ruthanne came to Potomac, they settled in and over these past 24 years a lot of ordinary things happened. For one thing, the church's vision for missions expanded and the folks of PPC took on many wonderful and worthwhile ministries – worthwhile for the members of the church, as well as those being ministered to.

In twenty-four years both Kerry and Ruthanne have touched hundreds, if not thousands, of lives. By extension they have touched the lives of many more – children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. They have touched family members and friends in the Potomac Community and beyond. Perhaps "extraordinary" was not a conscious thought twenty-four years ago, but in a quiet, ordinary way extraordinary things have happened here at Potomac Presbyterian Church. Thanks be to God for the ministry of Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus. *Leslianne Braunstein*



DEACON'S CORNER

"Come be a Deacon with me..."

The title to this month's article is taken from the refrain of the ditty all of the Deacons sang at the Williamsburg Breakfast this past December 2008, soliciting other "recruits" for our merry band! Yes, our skit was meant to be entertaining, but we are also very serious in our efforts to find other members to join us.

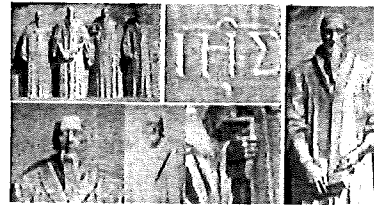
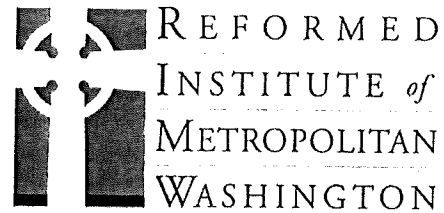
You may recall from last month's article to Steeple to People, that some of the Deacons' commitments to the congregation are: to help facilitate ways for members to come together and to know one another, to keep members informed of happenings, and to act as a sort of collective netting or glue for keeping people together as a family of faith. That is really what we are all about ... meeting, greeting, communicating, sharing, and bonding with the various Parish Groups that make up our congregation. Some years back, another Deacon said it this way:

"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 us."

If you are at all interested in finding out more about what we Deacons do, please approach any one of us for more details. We would like to chat with you and provide you a first hand appreciation of how you can get involved, get to know many of the congregation on a personal level, and make a difference! There are two openings yet to be filled for the class of 2011, and the new nominating committee will also be looking to fill positions for the class of 2012 as they start their efforts in earnest this coming August and September, in order to announce the slate of new officers by mid-fall this year. Newly designated officers will see ordination in January 2010.

As always, you can help us to serve you better, by letting your Deacon know your concerns and how the Deacons may be of service to you and to the congregation. As we serve you, we are working to build a stronger community of faith for the congregation.

The Deacons, aka the "Fun Bunch"



SATURDAY, MAY 2, 10-12:00 at PPC

In Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Birth of John Calvin, the Reformed Institute welcomes you to an "occasional event" with **Dr. Randall Zachman**, Professor of Reformation Studies at Notre Dame University, Dr. Zachman is the author of a number of books on the life and thought of John Calvin and has just recently published an edited volume called (which includes contributions from both Protestant and Catholic scholars) *John Calvin and Roman Catholicism--Critique and Engagement, Then and Now* (Baker 2008).

Fr. Dennis E. Tamburello, O.F.M., respondent

Dennis Tamburello is Professor of Religious Studies at Sienna College and the author of an important book on the role of mysticism in Calvin's thought. He is an expert in Reformation studies, Calvin studies and interreligious dialogue.

Presenting:

What Roman Catholics Can Teach Us About John Calvin

At the time of the Reformation, Protestants and Roman Catholics tended to be sharply critical of one another's beliefs and practices. But today they are more inclined to be in dialogue, and one of the main themes of that dialogue is reconsideration of the issues at stake in their past conflicts. Randall Zachman is a veteran of that dialogue, and his presentation will be designed to show how Protestants can learn from recent Catholic interpretations of the life and thought of John Calvin. This is a topic that should be of particular interest to people who want to understand better the relationship between the Reformed tradition and Roman Catholicism.

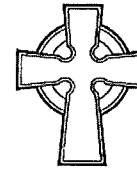
Date: Saturday, May 2, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Location: Potomac Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 10301 River Rd., Potomac, MD 20854, www.potomacpresbyterian.org

To register: There is no cost for this event. To assist us in our planning, please register online at our web site, www.reformedinstitute.org, or call (703) 518-5125 to register by telephone. Walk-ins are welcome.

Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus Endowment Fund
Please consider a gift in honor of the Stoltzfuses



For almost a quarter century, Potomac Presbyterian Church has been blessed with Kerry Stoltzfus' ministry as senior pastor. He has served our flock faithfully with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. He helped establish the direction and vision for our church including a renewed and expanded focus on missions. With the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, PPC will always be a beacon of faith, truth and light.

Potomac Presbyterian Church has been blessed with Ruthanne Stoltzfus' ministry as well. She was one of the founders of our Stephen Ministry and remained a Stephen Ministry leader for years. She has been a dear friend to all, sharing her warmth, humor and generous spirit.

To Kerry and Ruthanne, for their spiritual leadership, sensitivity, dedication and compassion, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

Checks may be made payable to PPC and marked "Stoltzfus Endowment."

For more information, please see any member of the Endowment Committee
Chris Dowd, Chair David Fowler Gregg Johnson Elsie Reid Ed Tennent

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, June 6 – Komen Race for the Cure
will be in Washington, DC. Olivia Mabeus will be recruiting a PPC team to participate in this event.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY.....The periodicals that you will find in the library are a wealth of information and insight into our church today. You might like to browse for topics that are of interest to you. You will find a wide scope of issues confronting the church and a range of approaches to address them. Whether your particular interest is mission, justice issues, addressing and helping Christians who suffer for their faith, media culture, faithful worship experiences, or keeping our congregations vital and growing, you are sure to find something interesting and helpful to our congregation. The church subscribes to Christian Century, Presbyterians Today, Presbyterian Outlook, and Christianity Today, among others. *Sarah Hipps*





The Wright Note

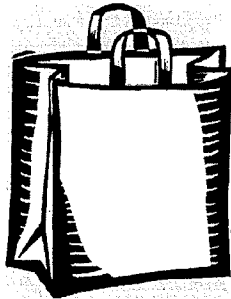
Easter was a glorious day. The last phrases of the choir's anthem are still ringing in my head: "And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he. Dance! said he!"

Pastor Kerry's years with Potomac Presbyterian Church were glorious, as well. He helped us grow together as a caring, giving body of Christian believers. Under his leadership we discovered the joy of fellowship dedicated to serving others in Christ's name. Whether he realized it or not, he was actually teaching us to dance. We will continue to dance as we spread God's message through our bond of Christian friendship and service. And from my perspective, keeping God's song in your heart is key. "Dance! said he!"

Cindy Wright



The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, The world, and all who live in it- Psalm 24: 1



Announcing the Sunday School Picture Contest!

In celebration of a wonderful Sunday school year, we will be selling new reusable "green" grocery bags in June. We need you to find your inner artist and draw a picture that you feel captures **Psalm 24:1**, which has been the theme for our 2008-2009 Sunday school year! The winning picture will be debuted on our new grocery bags, and all entries will be displayed in Fellowship Hall for everyone to enjoy! This is a special opportunity to share the Good News with our local community, while also being environmentally conscious!

We encourage all children and youth who are currently enrolled in our Sunday school program to participate! Please submit all entries on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of white paper, to the church office, by **Sunday, May 17th**. Please do your drawing in black ink so it can be reproduced most successfully.

Questions, please contact Beth Williams, Director of Christian Education (beth@potomacpresbyterian.org or 301.299.6007) or Cyndy Mamalian, Co-Chair of the Christian Education Committee (cyndy@mamalian.com or 301.977.2767).

We look forward to seeing everyone's creative talents at work!

Notes from the Session

Cal Reid, Clerk of Session

In a specially called meeting on March 30th, the Session caucused on the PPC issues that have emerged as a result of the fall Session retreat, our January Congregational Meeting, and other feedback from the congregation.

Among the matters discussed were:

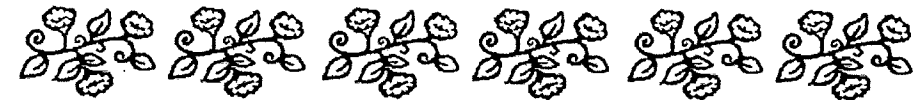
1. Revitalizing younger families/members
2. Outreach in the community and reaching out within our congregation
3. Youth Programs, particularly for teens
4. Financial, addressing the need to grow-our-giving for both internal and external programs
5. Communication and the need to be connected

The Session goal is to be able to assemble a comprehensive picture of who we are at PPC and the opportunities we see ahead of us as we move into the future. In working toward this goal, the Session also began to consider how these ideas will be presented to our Interim Pastor when he/she is on board

One of the Elders suggested a theme of "Stand up...Step Forward...And Answer the Call" to characterize our response. It seems clear that a church effort beyond just the twelve Elders will be needed to properly address these topics.

However, one of the sub-issues suggested during the discussion was, "What can we do for you?" If you have thoughts on this list or other issues facing your life within PPC, now would be a good time to speak/write to the Elder chairing the committee in the area of your interest, any Elder, or any staff member. The list of Elders is included with the order of worship most Sundays, and each Elder has a mailbox in the church office. The Session is listening to the voice of the congregation and seeks to respond prayerfully and thoughtfully.

Cal Reid, 4/13/09



Interim Pastor Search Committee Progress Report

The Committee continues to work with a sense of urgency to identify an interim pastor for our congregation. We have posted the position requirements on four websites and placed ads in the *Presbyterian Outlook* magazine. As of mid-April, these postings and ads have generated 78 Personal Information Forms (resumes) from candidates across the country. We have winnowed this number to a dozen for serious consideration and are currently conducting phone and personal interviews to assess the candidates with the most promise. Additionally, we are interviewing references for the highest potential candidates.

If you have comments or questions, please e-mail us at PPCSpeakUp@gmail.com or contact any member of the Committee. (Chris Dowd, Corey Eng, Melanie Mason, Bob Plumb, Jim Reichley, Beth Rudnic and Carolyn Stump.)



Our prayers are with.... Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; *Members of the Armed Forces*; Teresa Cox, David Boyd's sister; *Bob Garcia*; Stephen Kirchner; Ken Kenny and family, uncle of Mary Avelar; *Todd Simmons*, nephew of Miriam Conley; *Janet Clark*; *Lori Vanscoy*, deployed aboard the Navy Hospital ship, USNS Comfort, her husband, *Snehal Patel*, and their daughter, *Kayla*, who will remain in Potomac during her deployment. www.comfort.navy.mil. ; *Joyce Jenkins* on the death of her brother, Paul Watts; *Inken Hars and family* on the death of her mother, Johanna Jahobi; *Sally O'Neal*, recovering from knee replacement surgery at Sibley Hospital; *Mildred Rowan and family* on the death of her brother, Hubert Whitfield; *Nelda Coligan and family* on the death of her mother, Anne Clodfelter.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of *Jonathan Rudy King*, son of Steven and Rebecca King and brother of Robert. Grateful grandparents are Bob and Cheryl King and Don and Reba Willman.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of *Grayson Harvie Foa*. We rejoice with parents, Robert Michael Foa and Margaret Stanton Foa and grandparents, Bill and Jane Stanton.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of *Brady Robert Bedingfield*, son of Kenneth and Linda Bedingfield. Grateful grandparents are Bob and Margie Bedingfield and Alan and Arline Fraser.

We celebrate with joy the baptism of *Mason Dixon Rougeux*. We rejoice with parents, Mark Everett Rouguex and Katherine Anne Shamel.

We rejoice that *Todd Simmons*, Miriam Conley's nephew, was able to return home on Easter Sunday. Bob and Miriam wish to thank everyone for their prayers and support.

In Memoriam We give thanks for the life of Ed Shipley. 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 for Kerry and Ruthanne Stoltzfus:

20085 Placid Lake Terrace, Germantown, MD 20874. 301-972-4389



Please remember the children of our congregation. This month we are invited to pray for our seniors. Please pray for their parents and families, too. Daniel Bond, Sabrina Chanock, Jenni Cronin, Stephanie Dorman, Kathryn Haynes, Will Johnson, Mike Kovacs, Britten Mindnich, Elizabeth Naegeli, Joseph Naegeli, Meggy Newton, Maggie Scott.



BETH'S BLURB

Vacation Bible School Decorations Needed

This year we are going to rock at the Crocodile Dock in the bayou, and we need your help to transform the church. We are looking to borrow a small row boat or canoe - the older looking the better - it doesn't even have to float but it would be nice if it were sturdy enough for taking pictures of the children at VBS. We can help pick it up at the convenience of the owner just prior to VBS if transportation is an issue.

Other items that we could use **by May 24** to prepare and build our Vacation Bible school decorations and set are: small or medium sections of green indoor-outdoor carpet, carpet scraps or samples in brown, green and/or tan, cheesecloth or gauze fabric, brown mismatched socks, colored stockings or tights - small holes or runs are okay, an extra large brown cardboard box (such as from a projection screen TV or other large appliance), a few partial sheets of 1/2, 3/4 or 1 inch plywood, a few small or partial cans of brown, gold, tan, forest/moss green latex paint; also jute or cotton type rope in short or medium lengths.

Items that we would like to borrow **by June 30** are: stuffed animals from the bayou (such as turtles, crocodiles, raccoons, dragonflies, frogs or freshwater fish), fishing poles or nets, creel basket(s), camp lanterns. Any items that you loan to us to be returned should be labeled clearly with your name.

Before VBS begins **July 6th** we will need about 60 tin cans to make tin punch lanterns. Please bring in your soup size or larger cans- rinsed out well. Your help in collecting these supplies is greatly appreciated.

Love to paint or build? Just want to help transform the church for VBS? Plan to stay after worship on **May 24, June 14 and July 5**. Instructions and lunch will be provided!

And if you haven't registered yet for your children or to volunteer, you may do so on the church website: www.potomacpresbyterian.org.



JOB OPENING

REFORMED INSTITUTE OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

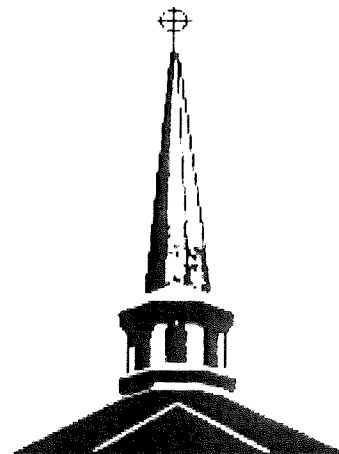
The Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington is seeking a new member of its staff to share the work of its Program Coordinator with the current occupant of that position. This is a part-time position, taking no more than 12 hours per week. Much of the work can be done from home; it will involve responsibility for some events held on weekends (esp. Saturdays). The Institute desires to fill this position with a person who has up-to-date communications skills. The work will begin in September. Applications need to be submitted by May 15. For further information, consult the Institute's web site at www.reformedinstitute.org.

May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2009</h1>					1	2 Reformed Institute Event "What Roman Catholics Can Teach Us About John Calvin" 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
					3 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 4:45-7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship Cluster	4 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615
10 YOUTH SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship NO Youth Fellowship - Mother's Day	11 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon.)	12 NO Christian Living 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training	13 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class 4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	14 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Interim Pastor Search Committee 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	15 STP DEADLINE	16 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
17 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 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship Graduation Party	18 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	19 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group	20 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class NO Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study 7:30 p.m. M.O.S.	21 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Interim Pastor Search Committee 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 / Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. VBS Decorations Prep NO Youth Fellowship - Memorial Day	25 COLLEGE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WEEK HOLIDAY ~ OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.)	26 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training	27 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class NO Wonderful Wed. Choir 7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Study	28 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Interim Pastor Search Committee 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	29	30
31 PENTECOST 9:00 a.m. Workcamp Carwash 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship						

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-6007
www.potomacpresbyterian.org

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STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

Potomac Presbyterian Church
SUMMER 2009

GOOD NEWS FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

In January 2009, the Session formed the Interim Pastor Search Committee (IPSC) charged with identifying a candidate to serve as interim pastor for PPC. The committee members include Chris Dowd, Corey Eng, Melanie Mason, Bob Plumb, Jim Reichley, Beth Rudnic and Carolyn Stump. The IPSC spent some time determining desired characteristics and qualifications. These requirements include a strong pulpit presence, strong spiritual presence, experience as a change agent/influencer, theological compatibility with PPC, engaged listener and articulate communicator, contemporary, inspirational and visionary, self confidence and humility, effective leadership and administrative skills, sincere interest in serving PPC and positive references.

A job description was developed and advertised in a variety of national online and print postings. In addition, we contacted local interim pastors to learn their availability. The IPSC received almost 100 applications for this position. Twelve candidates underwent extensive telephone interviews, of which four were brought to PPC for personal interviews and social interaction. One of the candidates took a position elsewhere and another candidate clearly not only satisfied but exceeded our expectations. On May 28, the Session voted unanimously to approve the IPSC's recommendation to call Larry Duncan as PPC's interim pastor.

Larry will join us from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC where he is finishing up his role there as interim pastor. He is scheduled to begin with us on July 27 and will preach on Sunday, August 2.

PPC is Reverend Duncan's fourth interim assignment. Before becoming an intentional interim pastor in 2004, Larry served in senior pastor positions going back to the 1980's.

Larry and his wife, Licia, have been married 33 years and are the parents of two grown daughters. One lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico and the other in Heidelberg, Germany. Larry describes his hobbies as "golfing, cooking and spoiling our two grandsons every chance I get."

Larry Duncan, *Interim Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Advisor*
Beth Williams, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

ADULT EDUCATION

SUMMER BREAK

STAY TUNED FOR FALL CLASSES IN THE NEXT EDITION OF
STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

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 and Ruthanne Stoltzfus Endowment Fund

Please consider a gift in honor of the Stoltzfuses

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To Kerry and Ruthanne, for their spiritual leadership, sensitivity, dedication and compassion, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

As of August 2, twenty four donors have given over \$7000.

Checks may be made payable to PPC and marked "Stoltzfus Endowment."

Please consider a gift in honor of the Stoltzfuses.

For more information, please see any member of the Endowment Committee
Chris Dowd, Chair David Fowler Gregg Johnson Elsie Reid Ed Tennent

New Addresses:

Mike and Beth Williams 4884 Old Well Rd. Annandale, VA 22003

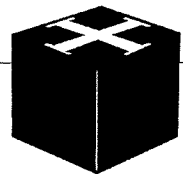
Home phone – (703) 978-1034

Cliff and Camille Kendall Fox Hill #673 8300 Burdette Road Bethesda, MD 20817

Phone number will stay the same (301) 469-5866

Nancy and Bob Tietjen 701 King Farm Blvd. Apt. 620 Rockville, MD 20850

Phone – (240) 912-4229



DEACON'S CORNER

My paternal grandparents lived on a dairy farm, a short walk from a lake, in central Minnesota. These grandparents never gave me a birthday gift or a Christmas gift, only a card and a letter on those occasions. But the two weeks I spent on their farm every summer of my youth was the best gift any kid could ever have. Grandpa had a boat and he would take us out on the lake to fish or to have a picnic on the island. Grandpa let us chase the cows in from the pasture to the barn at the end of the day. Grandma taught us how to milk the cows. Sometimes Grandma and I would take the fresh milk to the separator and then transfer the cream to the hand crank ice cream maker. Then Grandpa would make ice cream while Grandma and I would harvest fresh strawberries from her garden.

But my favorite part of the visit to the grandparents was Grandma's Cookie Jar. It was always full of the most wonderful homemade cookies of all different kinds. I'm sure I was impressed by this because there were no homemade cookies at the home I lived in. My mother thought ovens were for meatloaf and tuna casserole. My mother didn't like cookies, pies or cakes so she didn't make them. But my Grandma's kitchen was a treasure trove of baked goods. I loved her cookies and I knew she filled the Cookie Jar just for me.

I continued to visit my grandparents for one week every year throughout my young adulthood. My grandpa died two weeks before he and Grandma were to move into a senior citizen apartment. Maybe it was just too hard for him to leave his farm.

I visited my grandmother in the apartment a few months after Grandpa died. I was thrilled to see that the Cookie Jar had made the move. But when I opened the lid, *the cookies?*"

"I made cookies for your grandpa," she replied. "They were always your grandpa's cookies. Your grandpa's not here to eat the cookies anymore." So there we sat, looking at each other, missing Grandpa for a thousand different reasons.

Here at PPC, I think some of us feel like the cookie jar is empty. Maybe we feel this way because we miss Kerry. Maybe we feel this way because we miss Leslianne. Or maybe we just miss each other when the summer church attendance is so sparse. But years later Grandma gave me the recipes for all of "Grandpa's" cookies. And I'm trusting God to give PPC the recipe to guide us into the future. The future will be different for PPC in the same way that the cookies I make don't ever taste quite like Grandma's. But the life of any church moves on and I will be happy to be here with you, sharing in the growth and changes as we move with the help of the Holy Spirit to a little bit different PPC.

Olivia Mabeus

Stepping Stones Shelter

Stepping Stones Shelter has begun its annual **Back to School Supply Drive**. With the help of the community, Stepping Stones plans to provide school supplies to over 70 children and any high school or college bound parents before they begin school in the fall. The PPC congregation can join in the effort by purchasing much needed school supplies and dropping them off at the church throughout the month of July and first week in August.

HERE'S WHAT THEY NEED: ; 3- ring binders - 1,2,3 inch; book covers/booksox; calculators - small ones that will fit in a backpack; pencils #2; colored pencils – 12,15, or 24 count box; crayons; watercolor paint; children's markers (8 or 10 count box); composition notebooks; dictionaries - pocket size; dry erase markers - low or no odor; erasers - large pink ones; folders - pocket; glue - bottles & sticks; hand sanitizer - full size; highlighters; index cards - 3X5; paper - loose leaf – 3 hole; pencil boxes; pencil pouches with holes for binder; pencil sharpeners with container for shavings; hand held pencil sharpeners with 2 sizes of holes; pens – black, blue, and red ink; package of Papermate Erasermate pens; post-it notes - 2X2 or 3X3 inch; post-it flags; 12" rulers; compass with measuring guide; scissors - high school, grade school, preschool; 1-subject spiral notebooks; wire bound weekly planner; school drafting kit, tabbed dividers, staplers & staples - mini; stapler removers; Thesaurus; boxes of tissue; USB flash drives (256MB); Ziplocs - quart & gallon size.

If you can help with this drive, please drop off donations (new items only please) to the **Stepping Stones** box located in Fellowship Hall **ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2009**. This is important as the **Stepping Stones** staff need time to sort the school supplies into backpacks before their end of summer "Back to School Picnic". Thank you for helping **Stepping Stones** students get ready for the new school year!

Stepping Stones is the oldest shelter for homeless families in Montgomery County.

Carolyn Stump



BETH'S BLURB

See Beth's information in the center of this month's Steeple to People.



Our prayers are with.... Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Members of the Armed Forces; Teresa Cox, David Boyd's sister; Bob Garcia; Stephen Kirchner; Ken Kenny and family, uncle of Mary Avelar; Heidi Kenny, cousin of Mary Avelar; the family of Tsgt. Donald Stachum, friend of the Avelars, who died serving his country; Todd Simmons, nephew of Miriam Conley; Marjorie Bedingfield; Lori Vanscoy and family, llvanscoy@COMFORT.NAVY.MIL; Karen Bender, Wycliffe Bible Translator and niece of Marilyn Shankland; Carol Shea, for the passing of her husband, Ed Shea, on July 8; Bob Mitchell and family, nephew of Linda Knowles, on the death of his wife, Jenny, on June 8.

Congratulations to Ann and Rob Hill on the birth of their daughter, Mary Ann, on June 4th. Proud grandparents are Tom and Mary Ann Cookerly.

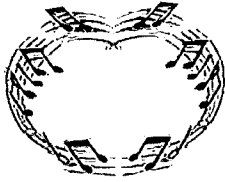
Congratulations to Mary Avelar and her husband Melvin on the birth of their daughter, Annabella Elena, on July 2.

SOUND COMMITTEE NEWS

What did they say??

Have you ever had a problem hearing something during the service or at the annual meeting? Well, you are not alone! The Session has recognized the need for a sound system in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall and has approved the Property Committee to begin the process to add a sound and video system. The Sound Committee, made up of Bill Malone, Del Smith, Gary Niskanen, Mike Williams and formerly, Tom McPherson, have evaluated options and have selected a team to survey the sanctuary to find the right position and right type of speakers (a 'devilishly' tough problem for an eight-sided room!). We will come before the congregation with the results of this survey and estimated cost of the system. If you have any questions, please chat with Mike Williams

"And He said, 'Hear my Words:..." Numbers 12.1



The Wright Note

Summer time is the long-awaited vacation period to relax, enjoy and, in my case, file all my materials from the previous choir season and then research and plan the fall program. During this time, I also try to attend a Presbyterian sponsored music and worship seminar so that I can be current with innovative worship ideas and repertoire suggestions. My favorite conference at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, was abruptly cancelled due to economic constraints. I am hoping to attend a similar conference at Massanetta Springs, VA, in August.

Selecting repertoire, planning music to enhance worship, organizing and conducting rehearsals, playing for and conducting choirs in worship – these are the joys of my job as Director of Music. Finding compatible rehearsal times for various choirs and keeping regular attendance are high on my list of challenges. But practice is necessary.

As long as I am Director of Music, I am going to present music that is worthy in text and musical construction. This type of quality music requires practice. But that doesn't mean it cannot be an enjoyable experience. In the practice atmosphere, participants (whether children or adults) learn to appreciate the theology of the text and the musicality of the tune and musical setting. When the music is shared in worship, the choirs sing or ring with confidence, understanding and sensitivity. If the piece has a catchy rhythm, you will hear the enthusiasm in the voices or in the bell technique.

Now is the time to help me determine an effective rehearsal schedule for our choirs. Please keep in mind that I am directing and accompanying all of these groups myself and need to look at my availability as well as the other church activities that are regularly scheduled. Currently the **Wonderful Wednesdays Choir** for grades K – 2 meets on **Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.** The **Sunrise Singers Choir** for grades 3 – 6 meets **before Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.** on Sunday mornings. The **Handbell Choir** meets at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday nights.** The **Sanctuary Choir** follows the Handbell Choir at **8:00 p.m. on Thursday nights.** Please share with me any creative scheduling ideas that you may have.

I hope that you will start planning now, as I am, for the fall. Give your church involvement an early time slot in your family calendar. I want you and your family to have the option to participate in our meaningful program. *Cindy Wright*

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING

There is a new and very important program to promote cultural awareness and to empower women to become leaders in the Presbyterian Church. If you are interested, or if you would like to recommend a person to consider this innovative program, please contact Karen Karch at 301-330-0633 or via email at SPECIALKBK1@aol.com by July 20th. Below is a letter with additional information from Margaret Washnitzer.

Margaret Washnitzer
Moderator, PW-NCP
3045 Chestnut Street, NW
Washington, DC 20015

May 20, 2009

Dear Pastor and Clerk of Session:

Since the churches in the Greater Washington DC area increasingly have a multicultural dimension, the Presbyterian Women of National Capital Presbytery is introducing a very important program to promote cross cultural awareness, understanding and mutual support; to empower women to become leaders in the Presbyterian Church; and, to provide opportunities for women to participate and use what they learn in local congregations as well as in the Presbytery, Synod and Churchwide. To insure that we have representation from all cultural and racial/ethnic groups, we are asking you to recommend two women you believe can profit from such a program and become confident leaders in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Please include their contact information and a short note regarding their current involvement in the church.

The three-year program, with meeting times determined by the participants, will begin at PW Fall Gathering, September 19, 2009. Year One will be devoted to cross-cultural awareness, understanding and mutual support. Year Two will contain elements of leadership training, resource development and exploration of pertinent issues; and Year Three will be total leadership development experience in many settings. We will be happy to talk with you if you have any questions or comments about the program. Please contact me at 202-362-8284 or email me at Washnitzer@aol.com or, contact Margaret Anderson at 703-256-1207 mcanderson@acity.net. We look forward to receiving your recommendations before August 1, 2009.

Peace to you, Margaret Washnitzer, Moderator Presbyterian Women of the National Capital Presbytery



Notes from the Session

Cal Reid, Clerk of Session

In February, at the annual congregational business meeting, you elected the congregation's representatives to the Nominating Committee. That group has now begun to meet and is actively seeking candidates for two open positions on the Board of Deacons and one Elder position recently made vacant. You may soon receive word of a short congregational meeting following Sunday worship for elections to these positions. Later this year, that same Nominating Committee will be searching for candidates for the annual slate of officers that we elect in the late fall.

As you may have heard, the Interim Pastor Search Committee (formed by Session action) has located an Interim Pastor for PPC. Reverend Larry Duncan was approved by the Session in a special meeting on May 28th and will join our staff on July 27th. The Session wishes to congratulate our search committee for all of their work and success in bringing Rev. Duncan to PPC.

Rev. Duncan will be with us while we reflect on our mission and vision and until a new Senior Pastor can be called. If we are ready to begin during 2009, the Nominating Committee (the same group as mentioned in the top paragraph) will propose for your approval and election a Pastor Nominating Committee, and they will begin the search for the Senior Pastor. If we are ready to begin in 2010, the Nominating Committee you elect at the 2010 congregational business meeting will propose the Pastor Nominating Committee. Rev. Duncan will advise on our readiness to begin this search.

All of the above discussion was intended to sort through the responsibilities of the Committees, what they do, and what they have already accomplished.

Representation on the current Nominating Committee is as follows:

Marnel Williams, elected member
Diane Chapin, elected member
Paul Mamalian, elected member
Sherry Johnson, elected member
Nelia Scioli, Elder
Mike Williams, Elder
Ann Hill, Deacon

Please support them in their work, include them in your prayers, and seriously consider service as an officer of Potomac Presbyterian if they call.

Cal Reid, 6/10/09



Meet the People in the Pew

First in a continuing series introducing PPC members

A job change brought **Bill and Bobbe Hartzog** to Potomac in 2002, and shortly afterward, following a search of various local churches, they were "engaged lovingly" by Potomac Presbyterian.

Bill now serves as an elder in charge of the finance committee and Bobbe rings bells and volunteers at Vacation Bible School.

Both are a long way from their beginnings: Bill's in Wilmington, North Carolina and Bobbe's in Detroit, Michigan. Bill attended The Citadel where he earned his military commission; Bobbe trained as a teacher at Central Michigan University and Michigan State. It was the U.S. Army that brought them together in the 1970s. That's when Bobbe, who was teaching third grade at the Post school, encountered the young officer who was a tactics instructor at West Point, the U.S. Military Academy. "We courted and married, and typical of a military family, began a succession of 20 moves that took our family to posts across the U.S. and Latin America," Bill said.

Bill took on increasingly important assignments. Early in his career, he had two tours of duty in Vietnam, the last as an advisor to the Vietnamese government. Later, he served three tours in Latin America and ultimately headed the U.S. Army South Command and was responsible for the capture of Manuel Noriega, the Panamanian dictator, who was subsequently tried and imprisoned in the United States. In 1993, he became the Deputy Commander and Chief of the Atlantic Command and ran the operation that invaded Haiti at the direction of President Bill Clinton.

Following a final assignment at Fort Monroe, VA, Bill retired in 1999 as a four star general and says of his 35 years of army service: "I had an absolutely wonderful career – I'd do it all over again if I could." Initially, he and Bobbe settled in Fairfax, VA, where he was a member of Fairfax Presbyterian. But three years later, opportunity came knocking once again, and Bill became CEO of Burdeshaw Associates Limited in Bethesda. Burdeshaw is an organization of 700 retired generals and admirals who consult with government and defense contractors. It is a five-day a week job that Bill has no intention of retiring from any time soon.

Bobbe continues to volunteer at various area organizations, including serving on the Board of Knollwood, a military retirement home. They also enjoy their two children: Tom, an architect now working in an exchange program in Edinburgh, Scotland, and Robin, a ninth grade math teacher in Edenton, NC, and granddaughter, Charlotte, who is seven.



CO-DIRECTORS: Kayla Mason and Beth Williams

Registration – Melanie Mason

Decorations - Julie McMahon, Rick McMahon, Donald McMahon, Olivia Mabeus, Karen Wise, Kayla Mason, Meredith White, Savannah Chapa, Aura Chapa, Lia Sohl, Meili Sohl

Clean –up – Gayle and John Sohl

ROTATION LEADERS

Music – Cyndy Mamalian, Molly Miller

Recreation – Molly Singerling, Abigail Singerling, David and Kelly McGrath

Art - Lia Sohl, Savannah Chapa, Tera Gabriel

Monday – Julie McMahon

Tuesday - Melanie Mason

Wednesday - Olivia Mabeus

Thursday - Olivia Mabeus, Karen Wise

Friday - Patricia Eng

Bible –Jackie Williams

Snacks Monday – Penny Boyd

Tuesday - Penny Boyd

Wednesday - Linda Knowles

Thursday - Linda Knowles, Bobbe Hartzog

Friday - Janet Swisher

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. It takes many faithful hands and hearts but it was a wonderful experience for the children that they will never forget. This year we had 78 children who learned that God is always with them, that God is powerful, does what he says he will do, gives life, and cares for them. But most importantly thanks to all those who helped , they learned that God LOVES them.

I would especially like to thank my co-director, Kayla Mason. This has been the second year that I have had the privilege to work with Kayla. And it has truly been a gift to me and to PPC to have her working on VBS. She brings incredible organizational skills, dramatic talent, energy, enthusiasm, and dedication. I can't thank her enough.

TEACHERS AND SHEPHERDS

Preschool 3's Purple Pelicans Vicki Dorman, Jack McGuire, Grace Pereles

4's Pink Pelicans Stephanie Hampton, Isabella Alarie, Emily Macdonald, Katie Turco

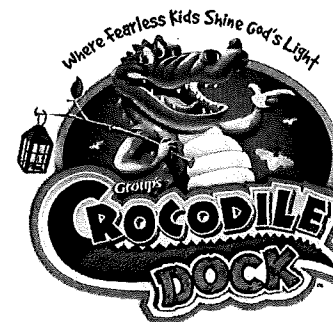
Shepherds:

Kind. – Yellow Fireflies Meili Sohl, Fiona Asbury, Shea Hendricks

1st -2nd Grade–Silver Possums Wendy Kuhn, Aura Chapa

1st - 2nd –Teal Turtles Alex Chen and Bryan Eng

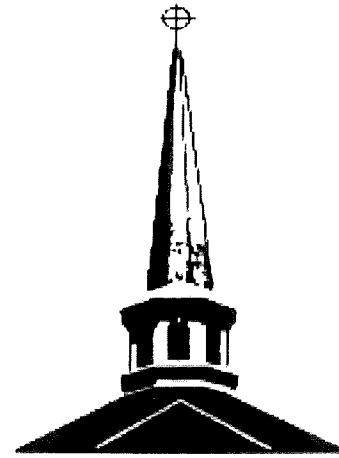
3rd - 4th -Green Gators Nelia Scioli



Mark your calendars for next year's Vacation Bible School as we go to Egypt and journey with Joseph from prison to palace on July 5-9!

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

Potomac Presbyterian Church
SEPTEMBER 2009

NEWS FROM PASTOR LARRY...I have thoroughly enjoyed my first two weeks at Potomac. Everyone has been so warm and gracious, and I have sensed a growing enthusiasm in worship and a growing commitment to the church in the visits I have made and the meetings I have attended. I am excited about, and look forward to what the coming months have in store for us all.

You know some of the things about my life and ministry; where I was born, where I attended college, where I have served, etc., but I wanted to write this article to give you a little more insight as to the way I do ministry.

I am usually in the office by 8:30 am each and every morning, where I begin my day with a devotional and then proceed with worship, sermon, and Bible study preparations. My door is always open and I do not mind interruptions, so if you are at the church, please come by and say hello. Ordinarily, I do lunch from 12:30-1:30 and then make visits in the early afternoon (hospital, homebound, etc.). If you know of people who need to be visited or if you would like me to visit in your home, just call me at the church office and we can arrange a time. I am a people person and enjoy having contact with the people of the church.

By 3:30, I am back in the office taking care of administrative responsibilities etc., and I try to leave for home by 5:00 to 5:30. Of course, each and every day has its surprises, but this is the schedule I try to keep most days.

I will be taking Fridays as my day off, but in case of emergency the church office will know how to reach me. My cell is 804-380-8008, and at least at the start, this will serve as our home number as well.

I am an extremely organized person and function best when all members of the staff and all the committees of the church know precisely what their responsibilities are and how those responsibilities are to be met. I hope you will have high expectations of me as I will have high expectations of you as together we serve the Lord at this time and in this situation where we have been providentially placed.

Larry Duncan, *Interim Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Advisor*
Beth Williams, *Director of Youth and Christian Education*
Cynthia Wright, *Director of Music and Organist*

ADULT EDUCATION

Library Class...

Sept. 13 – Rally Day

Sept. 20, 27 - Tom Miles – “Does Religion have a Future?”

**Looking ahead...October – Dewey Wallace – “Immigration as a
Theme in American Religious History”**

Parlor Class...

Presbyterian 101 – led by Rev. Duncan and Confirmation teachers

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.

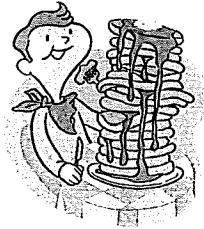
(News from Pastor Larry, continued)

I approach ministry with a positive attitude because we serve a God for whom nothing is impossible, and we all need to keep this in mind as we face the challenges of ministry in the twenty-first century. These challenges should not overwhelm us, but excite us as we see them as opportunities for doing a new thing. Negativity, apathy, and lethargy cannot exist in a church where the Holy Spirit is alive and at work.

I try not to take myself too seriously as I have been reminded time and again that God can accomplish his purposes without me if he so chooses, but God has graciously called me to join him where he is at work in the world.

I love God. I love life. I love the church and I love the ministry and I cannot wait to see what surprises God has in store for us as we go about his work at Potomac.

Yours in Christ, Larry



RALLY DAY

Please Join Us for Our

Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast

in Preparation for our new Church year!

Sunday, September 13, 2009

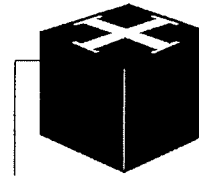
Pancakes served 9-9:45 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Dine with Nine 2009 - 2010

*You are cordially invited to evenings of dinner, fun and fellowship in the homes of some of your fellow Potomac Presbyterian Church members. These informal potluck dinners are a wonderful way to meet new members and make new friends. All new members are especially invited to this dinner event which will initially be scheduled by your host/hostess during the upcoming fall, winter and spring months. Signup sheets are found in the Sunday bulletin or contact **Beth Rudnic** for more information (301) 869-4622 or brudnic@yahoo.com. Once groups are formed, the host/hostess will contact you with a date, time, and location. **Deadline is Sunday, October 4, 2009.***



Men's Breakfast: Sept 19th - 9:00 a.m. The first Men's Breakfast of the church year will be held at **9:00 am on Saturday, September 19th, in Fellowship Hall.** Pastor Duncan will help us kick off the new season by giving us a presentation on "Characters That I Have Met in My Ministry." This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship with friends and acquaintances in the congregation and to get to know Larry better. Please RSVP to Harry Tovmassian if you are planning to participate (hmtov@verizon.net or 301-926-0614).



DEACON'S CORNER

It never ceases to amaze me where and when I'll get reminders about faith. Not long ago, I was in a remote corner of the Arabian Peninsula and found myself in an extended conversation with a taxi driver, Abdullah.

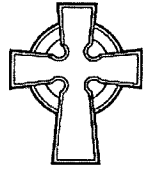
He was 25 and by all outward appearances, very Western—he spoke perfect English, talked about cars, motorcycles, and loved Lebanese pop music. Like many folks in his country, he was an extremely devout Muslim and culturally, very traditional. Abdullah told me the story of how he recently became married, which as it turned out, was a major controversy in his family. He told me that he fell in love with his sister's friend who, because of her veil, he had never actually seen. Also, because of strict, conservative cultural norms, he had never had a private conversation with her. But one look at her eyes, and he knew she was the one. Being a Westerner—and personally a skeptic—I quizzed him on how he could be so sure he was in love with someone he really didn't know and how he was so certain he wanted to spend the rest of his life with her. His response was simple: he said he had been praying for several years that God would find his soul mate for him and he trusted—completely—that God would answer his prayer. His comments were sobering. Some—myself included—would consider him naïve, but I still felt somewhat embarrassed. After all, I'm a Christian (although hardly an exemplar!), have attended a church for most of my life, and I should know about faith. But could I have had as much blind faith as Abdullah? It's somewhat ironic since it's during the biggest decisions and events in life that I should have the most faith, yet I overly rely on my own analysis on what to do in many cases rather than trust in God. Any naïveté on Abdullah's part was irrelevant to me. His story made me think about my own level of faith. Obviously, some self-reflection was in order and I could learn from Abdullah's witness.

As for the controversy, the tradition was for Abdullah's mother to arrange a marriage; he wasn't supposed to find himself a wife. His mother had already picked someone for him to marry and was extremely upset when he told her he had found his future wife. The conversation ended there and they barely spoke for months. Likewise, other family members were not permitted to discuss Abdullah's marriage prospects at all. When I asked him what happened next, he said he had faith that God would take care of that also, and God did. Eventually Abdullah got through to his mom and it turns out his mother had picked his sister's friend too...everyone was happy. Guess I should've seen that coming.

Mike Kunst

~~~~~  
**Thanks to the PPC Community** - It is again, with heartfelt thanks that I wish to thank the PPC community for embracing the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Speaks Run/1 mile walk** held on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. So many members joined us. We also felt the support of members who couldn't participate, but sponsored members of TEAM PPC and Shant's Striders.

For 9 years, the PPC has strongly supported this event through the mission committee and generous use of the tables on race day. I am grateful for this community of faith and its tremendous support of this cause. With close to 2,000 participants, the event raised more than \$200,000 for autism research. Sixty volunteers and several hundred spectators helped to make this 5K the most successful to date. A special thank you goes out to the Sohl family for heading up the team again this year. The efforts and support of the PPC community will surely make a difference as researchers search for a cure for autism. Words cannot express my gratitude. *Susan Pereles*



### ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Gracious God, giver of every good and perfect gift,  
All that we are and all that we have is from you.  
Help us to remember that we are caretakers and stewards,  
Not owners, of all that you have provided for us.  
Guide my decisions, as I now prepare

So someday I may share with others what I have, thereby continuing the best use of your gifts.  
May these gifts bless others as I have been so blessed by your goodness and grace.  
In Christ's name. Amen.

For information regarding the General Endowment,  
Special Gifts, Memorial Gifts, and the Steeple Society,  
please see Pastor Larry Duncan or any member of the Endowment Committee  
Chris Dowd, Chair - David Fowler - Gregg Johnson - Elsie Reid - Ed Tennent



## BETH'S BLURB

I have been thinking a lot about Rally Day and how best to advertize it and organize it. It got me thinking about the history and tradition of Rally Day. So I did what any good researcher does nowadays and I googled the history of Rally Day. As far as I can tell, the tradition goes back to the early 1900's and was well-established by 1910. It is the day that the church gathers everyone together to tell them about what is going to be happening in the Christian Ed programs that year. It is a time of calling people back after the lazy days of summer. It's a time when we rally ourselves up for and recommit to a great new year together! This year we have a lot to be excited about and a lot of new things are going to be happening. It's been a great summer, but now it's time to return refreshed and ready to worship, pray, work, have fun and GROW IN FAITH!! **Rally Day is Sept. 13** and begins with a Pancake Breakfast, courtesy of our Fellowship Committee. Pancakes will be served from 9:00 – 9:45 when Rally Day activities will begin. People of all ages are invited to come, see, and be a part of a new beginning not just for Christian Ed but for the whole church.

See the insert for a listing of the fall CE programs.

*Beth Williams*



### Meet the People in the Pew

*A continuing series introducing PPC members*

Chris Cyrway and Pam Mazza came to PPC when they settled into their first Potomac house not long after being married in 1991. Chris, a lifelong Presbyterian, had been a member of Burke Presbyterian when he lived in Virginia, and so they visited several of the local Presbyterian churches. "But this is where we felt comfortable," Chris said, adding that Kerry's presence in the pulpit was another factor. Since joining, Chris has served as co-chairman of the Deacons, and Pam serves on the Church Development Committee. Chris also teaches kindergarten-first grade Sunday School.



Both come from Pennsylvania: Chris from Levittown, north of Philadelphia, and Pam from Houston, PA, a small town south of Pittsburgh. But they met years later in Washington, where both were working at the time. Pam spent her undergraduate years at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and subsequently earned a law degree from George Washington University (GW). She is now Managing Partner in a law firm she organized, PilieroMazza. The firm practice areas include government contracting, corporate counseling, labor and employment law, and small business. Chris went to Penn State University, followed by ten years in the Navy serving on destroyers that were deployed all over the world. But eventually, he decided to forego a military career, earned a master's degree in Management Information Systems from GW, and today is Director of Systems Engineering for ProQuest.

Chris and Pam have two daughters, Sara, 12, and Emily, 8. Both girls play the piano and violin and attend the Norwood School. Emily also is getting into soccer and basketball, and Sara is going to try her hand at field hockey this fall.



I have taken quite a bit of time off planning our move, preparing for it and doing it. Now it's time to get back to work to put new books in our library for you. Several angels have left new books in the basket for us. To them I say thank you.

I don't have space to tell you about all the new books; but, I will mention a few that hopefully will pique your interest. The fifth and last volume of The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible has finally arrived. It is in the Reference section. An Annotated Anthology of Hymns, edited by J.R. Watson, will be of interest to many. It is arranged chronologically and indexed by composer, title, author and tune. Why not read the story of your favorite hymn? John Reumann, a reviewer of Gerd Theissen's, The Shadow of the Galilean, wrote that this book combined scholarship and story. The author illuminated the social world of Jesus from rich sources and imaginative reconstruction. Super!

Two more books about Calvin--one, The River of Grace, is written especially for young adults; but will be enjoyed by both old and young. The other, John Calvin: Reformer for the 21st Century, by William Stacy Johnson, provides a "comprehensible introduction to Calvin's life and thought for the layperson."

Come and browse the shelves and look on the book truck for the newest additions. When you borrow a book, don't forget to write your name and phone number on the card in the back of the book and put it in the brown box on the shelf nearest the door. Any questions or suggestions? Call me at my new phone number 240-912-4229. Happy Reading, Nancy Tietjen



This is the time for resuming fall schedules and getting involved in the rewarding experiences of church choir participation. The following is a list of singing and ringing choirs that rehearse on a regular basis. **New members are welcome.** In the case of the Handbell Choir where music reading is helpful and where bell positions are limited, it is requested that interested new members contact Cindy Wright before joining.

**The Wonderful Wednesdays Choir**

Grades K – 2  
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Wednesdays  
Starts Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> in Enrichment Room

**The Sunrise Singers Choir**

Grades 3 – 6  
9:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. Sundays  
Starts Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> in Choir Robe Room

**The Sanctuary Choir**

Adults and interested High School Students  
8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Thursdays  
Starts Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> in Enrichment Room

**The Handbell Choir**

All ages experienced in music reading  
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Thursdays  
Starts Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

.... Pat Stow, Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; *Members of the Armed Forces; Teresa Cox, David Boyd's sister; Bob Garcia; Stephen Kirchner; Ken Kenny and family, uncle of Mary Avelar; Heidi Kenny, cousin of Mary Avelar; Todd Simmons, nephew of Miriam Conley; Marjorie Bedingfield; Karen Bender, Wycliffe Bible Translator and niece of Marilyn Shankland.*

Our prayers are also with the family of *Harry "Chip" M. Shooshan III, 62, of Bedford, NH, former member of PPC and Deacon from 2001-2003. He passed away on July 19, 2009 after a long illness. He is survived by his loving wife, Alyssa Hamilton Shooshan. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Amyloid Treatment & Research Program, 72 East Concord Street, K-5, Boston, MA, 02118. For more information and a full obituary, go to [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com).*

**Congratulations to** Lindsay Chapin and her husband, Alex Alfaro, on the birth of their son, Lewis Rafael, on July 16. Proud first-time grandparents are Diane and Lew Chapin.

**Congratulations to** Lew Chapin who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 25.

**Congratulations to** Louise and Bob Plumb who celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 16.



*Committee News.....*

**Mission Committee:** The Mission Committee is gearing up for the fall season and fast approaching New Year. Several new members have joined the committee, and a significant number of our congregation's members continue to be actively involved in a variety of local and international projects which support our Mission outreach. Everyone is welcome to attend the regularly scheduled Mission Committee meetings which are held on the second Monday of each month. But you don't have to be a member of the committee to participate in our research and evaluation of worthy causes to support.

We encourage all to drop in to get to know the committee members, and get a feel of our work. New ideas and perspectives are always welcomed and needed.

So join us on **September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**. This may be an opportunity to pursue a charitable cause of special interest to you.

**Worship Committee:** *"For where two or three are gathered in My Name, there I am in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20*

On **Sunday, October 25**, Reformation Sunday, our Worship Service will incorporate the **Kirkin' of the Tartans**. Wear your kilts, tams and tartans! We'll have a bagpiper, a procession, Scottish hymns and prayers, and a blessing of the tartans. Help us plan it, contact Dan Dowd. More information will follow.

**Mary Margaret Smith** will be installed as Elder for Worship. She has served as Chairman of the Worship Committee in the past and has many wonderful ideas.

Note that **Prayer Request Cards** are in brown envelopes in the pews. Requests go directly to Pastor Larry.

After years of faithful service as leader of the **Flower Sharers**, Pat King is stepping down. If you are interested in leading or joining this team please contact her.

Worship is central to Christian life. The teams of the Worship Committee give you opportunities to participate. **Help is needed** on the Committee itself and we need: greeters, choir members, ushers, flower sharers, Communion preparers, decorators, help with special services, Advent (we are planning now!) and Lent.

If you have ideas, please talk to us or use the **Comment Cards** in the pews.

Regards, Dan Dowd 301- 299- 3835

**Nominating Committee:** We on the committee are very pleased that Gloria Leber and Susan Hougen were installed as deacons, and Mary Margaret Smith was installed as an Elder in August and will serve until 2011. They are filling the positions left open at the beginning of this year. This month the Nominating Committee will begin to identify 4 Elders and 4 Deacons to serve from 2010-2013. Our goal is to have commitments by the beginning of November to allow Pastor Duncan the time he would like for training sessions for the new Elders and Deacons.

Please think seriously about volunteering YOURSELF for one of these positions. This is an exciting time for all of us to renew our commitment to PPC. We have a truly incredible Church community. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WAIT TO BE CALLED! DON'T BE SHY; THIS IS THE YEAR TO STEP FORWARD AND NOMINATE YOURSELF!**

Let us move forward together with God's grace. Nelia Scioli, Chairman of Nominating



| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Monday                                                                                                                            | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                  | Wednesday                                                                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                                           | Friday                                                         | Saturday                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <h1>September 2009</h1>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                    |                                                                |                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                   | 1<br>7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 <sup>st</sup> Tues)                                                                                              | 2                                                                                                                                          | 3<br>12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting                                                                  | 4                                                              | 5                                                                                                         |
| 6<br>10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion<br>11:00 a.m. Fellowship                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 7<br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br>~ Office Closed ~                                                                                        | 8<br>7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry                                                                                                                          | 9<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Study begins<br>7:30-8:30 p.m. Coffee & Dessert with Larry for Canaan Parish Group at Beth Rudnic's house             | 10<br>12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting<br>8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir begins                             | 11                                                             | 12<br>8:30-10:00 a.m. Sunday School Teacher Training<br>10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Godly Play Teacher Training |
| 13<br>9:00 a.m. <b>RALLY DAY AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST</b><br>11:00 a.m. Worship/Teacher Dedication<br>12:00 p.m. Fellowship                                                                                                                                           | 14<br>3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615<br>7:30 p.m. Committees (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon)                                           | 15<br>9:30 a.m. Christian Living (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues)<br>10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues)<br>12:00 p.m. "Steeple to People" Deadline | 16<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Study<br>7:30 p.m. M.O.S. Meeting                                                                                    | 17<br>12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting<br>8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir                                    | 18                                                             | 19<br>9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast                                                                           |
| 20<br>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers begins<br>9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class<br>11:00 a.m. Worship<br>12:00 p.m. Fellowship<br>2:00 p.m. "Becoming Calvin" play at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church<br>5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Group Kick-off Family Picnic | 21<br>7:30 p.m. Session (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon.)                                                                                    | 22<br>10:00 a.m. Presbytery meeting<br>7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry                                                                                        | 23<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Study<br>4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir begins<br>7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Studies begins                       | 24<br>12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting<br>6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir begins<br>8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir | 25<br>8:30 a.m.- 5:15 p.m. Passing On Vibrant Faith Conference | 26<br>8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Passing On Vibrant Faith Conference                                            |
| 27<br>9:00 a.m. Sunrise Singers<br>9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class<br>11:00 a.m. Worship<br>12:00 p.m. Fellowship<br>4:30-6:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Fellowship<br>6:30-8:00 p.m. High School Youth Fellowship                                   | 28<br>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class Resumes<br>3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Brownie Troop #615<br>7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 <sup>th</sup> Mon.) | 29<br>10:30 a.m. OR 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Group (4 <sup>th</sup> Tues)                                                                                  | 30<br>9:30 a.m. Bible Study<br>9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Art Class<br>4:00 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays Choir<br>7:30 p.m. Kerygma Bible Studies |                                                                                                    |                                                                |                                                                                                           |



Christian Education 2009-2010

# Welcome Back to Church Pancake Breakfast and Rally Day September 13 starting at 9:00 am

## Children

**Nursery:** Birth-Two years  
Nursery is provided during Sunday School and worship each week by our paid caregivers.

### All New Sunday School ! ! ! !

3 years - 5th grade 9:45 am  
Kicks off with Rally Day, Sept. 13

**Godly Play:** 3 years-2nd grade  
Starts on September 13 following the Children's Time. Godly Play draws on telling of scripture stories with figures, and encourages children to seek God through wondering.

**Bridges to Worship** 3rd grade  
An eight week series offered following the children's time designed to help young students transition from Godly Play to full participation in worship. Sept. 13 - 20, 27.

**Children's Music**  
Two choirs are available for children.  
The Wonderful Wednesday Choir meets on Wednesday after church at 1:00 pm.  
Rehearsals start on September 23.  
The Sunrise Singers for grades 3-6 meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am.  
Rehearsals start on September 20.

## Youth

**Sunday School: 9:45 am**  
Middle School: Upper Level, Room 1  
Senior High: Upper Level, Room 2  
Confirmation: Upper Level, Room 3

**Youth Fellowship:**  
Kick-off Family Picnic September 20 at 5:00 am-7:00 pm  
We kick off the year with a picnic for all youth (ages 13-18) on the school picnic grounds. Information about this year's workday will be given at the picnic.

Middle School: 9:45-10:40 am  
Senior High: 9:45-10:30 am  
Library: 9:00 am

**YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF**  
**September 20**  
**Family Picnic**  
**5:00-7:00**

## Adult

**Sunday Mornings 9:45 am**  
**In the Library**  
Weekly guest speakers and/or members of our congregation lead this lecture and discussion class for adults of all ages. The classes begin on **September 20** with Tom Miles and "Does Religion Have a Future?" Pick up an Adult Ed Brochure for a complete listing of classes.

**In the Parlor**  
**Presbyterian 101:** Want to know what your child is learning in confirmation class, or maybe you didn't grow up Presbyterian and never went to Confirmation Class. Come to the Parlor Class and find out about Presbyterian theology, polity, and what it means to live as a Presbyterian.

**Mid-week programs**  
**Men's Breakfast**  
3rd Saturday at 9:00 am  
resumes on **September 19**. Please come and join us for good food, fellowship and prayer.

**Wednesday AM Bible Study**  
Wednesdays at 9:30 am  
The study for this fall, led by Rev. Larry Duncan, will be *The Parables for Today*. The first class is on **September 9**, at 9:30 am.

**Kerygma Bible Study**  
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm  
Learners from beginning to advanced are invited to join us for stimulating discussions as we study the bible and apply it to our lives. This year there will be two classes to choose between: **Discovering the Bible**, a basic introduction, and **Genesis, Beginnings**, taking a fresh look at some familiar Bible stories. The classes begin on **September 23**. Sign-up in the fellowship hall.

**Christian Living**  
2nd Tuesday at 9:30 am  
*The Gospel According to Starbucks®*  
Join us once a month at the Starbucks in the Village for a discussion of the book, *The Gospel According to Starbucks: Living with a Grande Passion*. We will meet for the first time on **September 15**.

**Book Groups**  
Men's 3rd Tuesday at 10:30 am  
begins on **September 15** with a discussion of *The Coldest Winter* by David Halberstam.  
Women's 4th Tuesday at 10:30 am or 7:30 pm. begins reading and discussing *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski.  
The first meeting will be on **September 29**.