

INTERIM PASTOR: Rev. Roberta J. Kearney

PASTOR EMERITUS: Rev. J. Earl Naegele

ORGANIST/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Eleanor Focht, SPC

PASTOR EMERITUS: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Colson

SECRETARY: Lynda Scheirer

CUSTODIAN: Sally Heimbach

WORSHIP ASSISTANT: Beth Kunkle

SOUND TECH: Ron Gingrich

DEACON GREETER: Melanie Shimer

FELLOWSHIP DEACON: Sally Heimbach

FLOWER DEACON: Darlene Dourney

CHILDCARE: Kelly O'Leary

STEWARDSHIP: Sally Heimbach

CLOSER: Sam Wilber

USHER/GREETER CAPTAIN: Amy Waters

USHERS: The Greb Family

COMMUNION SERVERS: John Baittinger, Sam Wilber, Tom Lawall, Carolyn Baittinger, Darlene Dourney

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Barbara Anderson, in memory of Sammy.

Nancy & Pat O'Leary, in memory of loved ones.

ELDERS:

Class of 2009—John Baittinger, Lisa Decker, Ann Lowell, Sam Wilber

Class of 2010—Lynn Ingram, Dorothy Nicholas, Alicia Shussett, Joe Smits

Class of 2011—Ron Gingrich, Sue Vitale, Tom Lawall, Jim Millick

DEACONS:

Class of 2009—Carolyn Baittinger, Sally Heimbach, John Stewart, Chuck Waters

Class of 2010—Peter Ferguson, Debbie Lillegard, Melanie Shimer

Class of 2011—Darlene Dourney, Zona Farmer, Don Piper, Hank Rath

**ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
TRINITY SUNDAY
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
10:30 AM
JUNE 7, 2009**

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Sovereign God, merciful Christ, and divine Spirit, open our hearts to your call. We ask for guidance in seeking the path and in understanding our calls—we are here and ready to receive. Help us seek and build a community of faith that can nurture our call whether it is within our own church or beyond. Help us to realize that within a community, we can grow in faith and thus grow in you.

(To continue preparation for worship, read the rest of page 160 in the Mission Yearbook in the pew.)

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

“Air on Nicaea”

JOYCE JONES

WELCOME

SONG FOR ASSEMBLY

“For Surely I Know the Plans”

G. S. OATEN

Come gather my friends and see
The Fruits of the Spirit lived out:
As we see Jesus in One and all,
We rise to administer grace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God comes in the wind and thunder and flame, changing the circumstances of our lives.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE GOD OF HOSTS; THE WHOLE EARTH IS FULL OF GOD’S GLORY.

God reveals to us the things of heaven and earth, pointing us to the realm of God.

WE SPEAK OF WHAT WE KNOW, AND BEAR WITNESS TO WHAT WE HAVE SEEN.

God so loved the world that God gave Jesus Christ to live among us and die for us.

**WHEN WE CRY OUT TO GOD, THE SPIRIT BEARS WITNESS THAT WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD
AND HEIRS WITH CHRIST.**

* * * * *

*HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

NICAEA #138

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

GOD BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION, GOD GREATER THAN OUR IMAGININGS, WE PRAISE YOU FOR REVEALING YOURSELF IN CLEAR WAYS FOR OUR BENEFIT THAT WE MIGHT PRAISE YOUR GLORY ALL THE LOUDER. WE CONFESS, THOUGH, THAT WE HAVE TRIED TO LIMIT YOU TO A FEW IMAGES, ALMOST AS IF TO CONTROL YOU. WE LET THAT GO NOW, AND PRAISE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE, NOT WHO WE WOULD HAVE YOU BE. HALLELUJAH! AMEN.

KYRIE ELEISON
HYMN #572

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI
HYMN #579

* * * * *

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
MINUTE FOR MISSION—Workcamp: LYNN INGRAM
JOYS AND CONCERNS
INTERCESSIONS AND PETITIONS

THE WORD OF GOD

WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

FIRST LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-5A
NT – Pg. 194 in the gray Bible, Pg. 191 in the blue Bible

2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake.

HYMN

“O Trinity, Your Face We See”

O WALY O WALY

(For the tune, see #335 in The Presbyterian Hymnal)

O Trinity, your face we see through Christ in full humanity;
For flesh has held all divinity, that we might share your mystery.

O Holy God, as three we bless the persons whom our creeds confess;
But each is neither more nor less, for all make up your holiness.

Through Christ you feed us as our host, you guide us by the Holy Ghost.
You father us in ways that boast of love for those who need you most.

And yet, though in three ways you show your love, and grace on us bestow,
Our faith will even stronger grow when through each one all three we know.

For you are love within all three. And will be love eternally;
May we in your love ever be, most blessed Holy Trinity.

SECOND LESSON

JOHN 16:12-15, AND JOHN 17:20-24

NT – Pg. 105 in the gray Bible, Pg. 104 in the blue Bible

JOHN 16:12-15

12 ‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

JOHN 17:20-24

20 ‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

SERMON

“Praying in the Fullness of God”

REV. ROBERT KEARNEY

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

ALFRED WHITEHEAD

Senior Choir Anthem

*DEDICATION HYMN

"Freely, Freely"

CAROL OWENS

Freely, freely, you have received.
Freely, freely give.
Go in my name and because you believe
Others will know that I live.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation.

**WE BELIEVE IN CHRIST AND ARE MARKED, WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS CHRIST'S OWN
FOREVER.**

Living together in trust and hope,

WE CONFESS THE FAITH OF OUR BAPTISM.

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

AND IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD;

WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY GHOST,

BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,

SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,

WAS CRUCIFIED, DEAD, AND BURIED;

HE DESCENDED INTO HELL;

THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD;

HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,

AND SITTETH ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY;

FROM THENCE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE QUICK AND THE DEAD.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOY GHOST,

THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH,

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS,

THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY;

AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

"As We Gather at Your Table"

BEACH SPRING

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred
Nourish us as with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through his holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;

May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us, now will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(The custom at Faith Church is to hold the Bread and Cup until every one is served, and partake of it together.)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God.

PEOPLE: PEOPLE WILL COME FROM EAST AND WEST

Leader: This is the Lord's table. Come to this table not because you have much faith, but because you have a little and want to have more. Come, you who have been to the sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time. Come, you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come. It is Jesus Christ who invites you to meet him here.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE.

Leader: It is good and right always and every where to give God thanks and praise. Blessed are you, strong and faithful God. All your works, the heights and the depths, echo the silent depths of your praise. We praise you with joy for you created the heavens and the earth, made us in your image and kept covenant with us even when we fell into sin. Your ways are just and true. With people of faith from all times and places, we lift our hearts to you, for you alone are holy.

PEOPLE: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT. HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

Leader: Almighty God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Taking on human flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin; to the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. For a broken and sinful humanity he gave himself up to death and, rising from the grave, destroyed death and made the whole creation new.

PEOPLE: WE PRAISE YOU THAT JESUS IS NOT DEAD, BUT IS RISEN TO RULE THE WORLD; AND THAT HE IS STILL THE FRIEND OF SINNERS. WE TRUST HIM TO OVERCOME EVERY POWER TO HURT AND DIVIDE US, SO THAT WE CAN JOIN IN THE BUILDING OF HIS KINGDOM. REMEMBERING THE LORD JESUS, WE BREAK BREAD AND SHARE ONE CUP, RECEIVING HIS DEATH FOR US AND FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD, AND TELLING OF HIS RESURRECTION POWER TO ALL PEOPLES AND NATIONS.

Leader: Great God, give your Holy Spirit power in the breaking of bread, so we might be the grain of your hand, the harvest of Jesus Christ, fed and sent from this table, until we feast with in glory with Jesus at your heavenly banquet.

PEOPLE: THROUGH CHRIST, WITH CHRIST, IN CHRIST, IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ALL HONOR AND GLORY ARE YOURS ALMIGHTY FATHER, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

Leader: On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given God thanks and praise, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "Take, eat, this is my body given for you."

In the same way, when the supper had ended, he took the cup, and again gave God thanks and praise, saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this, remembering me."

(It is the custom of Faith Church to hold the Bread and Cup until everyone is served, and to join in it together. When all have received the Bread the pastor will offer the ancient Hebrew blessing for the bread. When all have received the Cup the pastor will offer the ancient Hebrew blessing for the Cup.)

Leader: We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together saying,

ALL: OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME. THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY, OUR DAILY BREAD; AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS; AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN.

Leader: We have been forgiven, loved and freed by Jesus Christ. On the evening of the first Easter day when the disciples were together, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you, my peace I leave with you." Let us stand now and offer to one another the Peace of Christ.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Creator God, Creating Still"

ST. ANN

Creator God, creating still, by will and word and deed,
Create a new humanity to meet the present need.

Redeemer God, redeeming still, with overflowing grace,
Pour out your love on us, through us, make this a holy place.

Sustainer God, sustaining still, with strength for every day,
Empower us now to do your will, correct us when we stray.
Great Triune God, for this new day we need your presence still.
Create, redeem, sustain us now to do your work and will.

*CHARGE

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Keep Us Faithful, Joyful, Loving"

CARL P. DAW, JR.

*POSTLUDE

"Trumpet Allemande"

ANTHONY HOLBORNE

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

* * * * *Latecomers may be seated at this time

COMMUNION NOTES

This morning we continue the practice of including children throughout the entire worship service including Communion. Parents have the responsibility to determine when their children are ready to receive this Sacrament.

Announcements

Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday, officially "The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity," is one of the few feasts of the Christian Year that celebrates a reality and doctrine rather than an event or person. On Trinity Sunday we remember and honor the eternal God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday is celebrated the Sunday after Pentecost, and lasts only one day, which is symbolic of the unity of the Trinity. The Eastern Churches have no tradition of Trinity Sunday, arguing that they celebrate the Trinity every Sunday. Westerners do as well, although they set aside a special feast day for the purpose.

Daybreak – June 8

Needed: 1-2 persons to bake 2 doz. cookies each

If you can help, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Cookies need to be in the church kitchen by 12 noon.

(Faith Church cooks and serves a meal at Daybreak on the second Monday of each month, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. The rewards of helping with this Mission service cannot be measured. Daybreak is a drop-in center for people recovering from mental illness. Donations of homemade cookies are always welcome, even preferred. Sugar-free cookies are also appreciated. NOTE: Because of possible nut allergies, please mark cookies that have nuts in them. Drop them off in the kitchen by noon of that Monday. Helpers are also needed, especially cooks, from approx. 2:30 to 4:30 pm. For more information, speak to Barbara Newman (610-967-3682) or Jean Scott (610-966-5487). Don't pass up this very easy opportunity to "do unto others.")

☪ ❖ ☪

Special Worship

We hope you will join us next Sunday, as we meet for worship at 9:00 am and share worship with Riamukurwe Parish, our partner parish in Nyeri, Kenya.

☪ ❖ ☪

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, June 14. The purpose of the meeting is to act upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee for filling the vacant position of Deacon.

☪ ❖ ☪

G.L.U.E.

During the summer months, beginning June 21st, G.L.U.E. will meet @ 10:45 AM following worship on Sunday mornings. G.L.U.E. is a Senior High youth group.

☪ ❖ ☪

WANTED:Grass Eaters

Want to be a Grass Eater? Reserve your spot on the list in Fellowship Hall.

Grass Eaters is the fastest *growing* group in the United States of America!

It's fun, It's fast, and It's necessary! **JOIN NOW!**No experience necessary.

Free training available!Inquiries may be directed to Jim Millick. (610-366-1261)

☪ ❖ ☪

Adult VBS "God Sightings" June 21-25

Following children's theme, will at the life of Moses and the Israelites as leads them into a new way of life. In order to not get discouraged, they needed help in learning to see God at work. We too will help in noticing "God Sightings" in circumstances of our lives.



Passing "A Piece"

This morning, when you Pass the Peace, pass a piece of yourself, your smile, to someone you've not met yet. Get up, turn and greet that unfamiliar person. They might be a first-time visitor. Smile, shake their hand, introduce yourself, and take a few moments to welcome them as they worship with us. The connection you make could lead to a significant relationship.

This is just one more small thing, but little things can make a big difference to those who are unfamiliar with our church...or with *any* church.



Basket Bingo

Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua—August 14

Doors open at 6 p.m. and Bingo begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door if available. For tickets call Jayne at 484-241-7907 or 610-262-3525.



Fire n' Ice

United Presbyterian Church, Slatington—June 14th

Hot day of Chili, Chinese Auction, Moon Bounce and live entertainment by the praise band "Looking Up." Admission is free. Join the fun from 4-7 p.m.



Sign up for Nursery Duty

There will be no paid staff in the nursery this summer. Therefore it is necessary for congregation members to sign up for nursery duty. Consider helping with this ministry. One adult and one youth would be the perfect mix to oversee the children who need nursery care during our worship services this summer. A sign up sheet is on the door of the nursery. Please sign up for one or more Sundays.



Birthday Wishes to:

June 7: Chas Shimer
June 8: Diane Perry, William Perry
June 10: Linda Kennington
June 11: Courtney Kennedy, David Masenheimer
June 12: Jessica Comoglio
June 13: David Kies



Vacation Bible School at Faith

***June 21-25, from 5:00-8:00 p.m.
See out our bulletin board display
by the Fellowship Hall!***

This year, at Crocodile Dock, we will engage children in “God Sightings”. Through Bible study, music, crafts, and games we will help children discover how God is active in our everyday lives. Grades pre-k to 5th grade. Older children and teenagers are welcome too, as helpers. An information meeting is scheduled for May 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information about the program, or to volunteer, contact Pam Mongi 610-791-1894 / pam0@lehigh.edu, or Sue Vitale 610-967-4689/ vitale725@yahoo.com.



HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR VBS YET?

Join us for a week of GOD SIGHTINGS at Crocodile Dock! Fill out a registration form (hanging on bulletin board by Fellowship Hall) and return it to Sue Vitale's mailbox.



GRAB A CROC and DONATE TO VBS!

Each year, the success of VBS depends largely on the generosity of our congregation. Many people donate their time by volunteering as leaders, organizers, cooks, and helpers. Now everyone can help out by donating an item or two that the program needs. On your way to Fellowship Hall, stop by and check out the VBS bulletin board. There are lots of crocs that list a wide variety of choices, including nonperishable food items, paper goods, and cash donations. Please consider taking a crocodile and returning the requested item to the large box located under the bulletin board. Cash donations should be put in an envelope and returned directly to Sally Heimbach.

****All donations need to be turned in by June 14th.****

Thank you in advance for your generosity and willingness to make VBS a memorable event for everyone again this year!



Spring Food & Clothing Drive

May 3 to June 30, 2009

We are currently holding our annual Spring Food & Clothing Drive.

The **FOOD DRIVE** will benefit the Emmaus Food Bank– As before, we are encouraging everyone to donate as much food as possible. It is more important now than ever. You can donate a bag of food or bring **one or two non-perishable food items to church each Sunday**. There will be boxes set up at each of the church's entrances for these items.

Please see Barbara Newman for further information. (610 967-3682)

Thank you in advance for your generosity!!



Joys & Concerns

Keep these people in your prayers!

The family of **Peggy Barabas**, on her recent death.

The grandfather of **Chad Gorr**, as he continues his ongoing battle with ALS.

Larry Murray, brother of **Laurie Murray Payea**, on his recent illness.

Mitchell & Loretta Connor, on a fire in their home.

Emma Takacs, in her daily walk with cerebral palsy.

Blanche Ring, mother of **Debbie Lillegard**, undergoing treatment for cancer.

All **church members** & their families who are experiencing job loss and economic uncertainty.

We respect your privacy. If you have a joy or a concern you would like printed in the bulletin, please contact your deacon, or call the church office (610) 967-5600.



In MILITARY SERVICE

Keep these people in your prayers!

Bethany Kauffman, niece of **Jim & Penny Pantano**, serving in the Middle East.

Kyle Zimmerman, friend of the **Lillegard** family, serving a second tour in Iraq.

Charles Van Heest, grandson of **Kay & Dave Weber**.

Doug Durn, son of **Bob & Brynn Durn**.

Doland J. Miller, son-in-law of **George J. Smits**

Amanda and Jeremy Miller, grandchildren of **George J. Smits**.

Lucas Whittington, grandnephew of **Cliff & Donna Lucas**.



Lehigh Presbytery Churches

Please remember to pray for your brothers and sisters of the Lehigh Presbytery.

Faith Presbyterian Church, Emmaus

Freeland Presbyterian Church



We're on the Web!

Our Faith Presbyterian Church website (<http://www.faithchurchemmaus.org>) is an incredible resource for access to our church news and information—available 24 hours a day. You can check out the bulletins days ahead of Sunday Worship. You can review past issues of The Faith Flyer. You can learn about our many committees...and so much more! Please direct questions and/or comments pertaining to our website to Mark Heimbach at mheimbach@yahoo.com.



Melanie Shimer

Deacon of the Month—Care Group #11

Jack Decker
Jacqueline Decker
Lisa Decker
Marissa Decker
Bobbi Greb
Brandon Greb
Elizabeth Greb
Kathryn Greb
Natalie Greb

Todd Greb
Marie Heffner
Andy Ingram
Jayme Ingram
Lynn Ingram
Mark Ingram
Rachael Ingram
Anna Katrina LeFevre
Emily LeFevre

Joy LeFevre
Clifford Lucas
Donna Lucas
Jenny Lucas
Robin Mathias
Patricia Rinehart
Robert Rinehart
Jean Scott
Samuel Scott



Two Weeks of Faith

Room Numbers, indicating where meetings will be held (when known), are shown in parenthesis following the listing.

This Week

Sunday, June 7 **COMMUNION**

10:30 am—Worship Service

6:00 pm—G.L.U.E.** (3 & 7)

Monday, June 8

2:00 pm—Daybreak

7:30 pm—Celebration

Tuesday, June 9

Wednesday, June 10 **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

Noon—Bible Exploration (7)

7:00 pm—Partnership (P)

Thursday, June 11

6:30 am—Pepper (P)

7:00 pm—Building & Grounds (3)

7-10 pm—Narcotics Anonymous (FH)

Friday, June 12

Saturday, June 13

Next Week

Sunday, June 14 **SCRIP ORDERS DUE**

9:00 am—Joint Worship Service with Kenya

Congregational Meeting immediately following worship (S)

10:30 am—PNC* (P)

10:30 am—Male Chorus Rehearsal (S)

5:00 pm—Middle School Youth Group (FH)

7:00 pm—Youth Choir (S)

Monday, June 15

7:30 pm—Mission

Tuesday, June 16

7:15 pm—Deacons (P)

Wednesday, June 17 **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

9:00 am- Emmaus Garden Club (FH)

Noon—Bible Exploration (7)

Thursday, June 18

6:30 am—Pepper (P)

7-10 pm—Narcotics Anonymous (FH)

Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20

VBS Set-up

*Pastoral Nominating Committee

**God Leads Us Everywhere

Inserts:

Faith on the Road

It's been a loooong road! The past three years have seen the congregation engaged in conversation, skits, drama, interviews, Bible study, and retreat...all geared towards hearing God's word for us. The Vision Team has been meeting, praying, studying and listening since August of 2008.

Shortly, we will be sharing with the congregation a draft of a vision statement for Faith Presbyterian Church. This vision statement might be thought of, in the words of Steve Shussett, as "The Gospel According to Faith Presbyterian Church."

The Vision Team has listened faithfully to all input received from the congregation, as well as to words heard in prayer, as they drafted the vision statement.

As we begin sharing the vision draft, we'd like to share a few preparatory words about what a vision is NOT.

- A vision is not a prophecy or prediction of the future.
- A vision does not describe specific roles the church will play.
- A vision is not factual.
- A vision is not stated once for all time. It is dynamic and constantly changing.
- A vision does not put a restraint on actions, except for those inconsistent with the vision.
- A vision is not a short statement that sums up the church in just a few words.
- A vision does not outline plans for specific programs.
- A vision is not a periodic planning effort.

A Vision...

- is a picture of a desired future that could feasibly be realized.
- initiates movement and energizes the church.
- unleashes and reorganizes the energies of the church in a common direction.
- opens up opportunities and serves as a catalyst for change.
- depicts a 'way of being'.
- is like a magnet, and draws the congregation into the future.
- is a view of the church's divine purpose, its source of identity and vocation.
- gives rise to our character, our style of life and our tone of being in the world.
- is the way we grasp the complexity of life.
- is a view of a dynamic and creative future for the congregation.
- is a frame of reference by which we see, interpret and interact with the world around us.

An example of a vision statement is Martin Luther King's "*I Have a Dream*" speech. Some Bible verses that contain 'vision language' are *Isaiah 65:17-25* and *Revelation 21:1-5a*. Please join with us in prayer that God will continue to be with us as we enter this new phase of our discernment process. –*The Vision Team*:

Jack Decker
Sam Han
Susan Moring
Diane Perry
Louise Schaefer
Janie Slamon

Your Input Shapes Where We Are

Phase 1: Getting ready for the journey

May 2007 we commissioned the Faith on the Road team.

Bible Studies were held in Salt, Adult Sunday School, and Wednesday noon study group.

"One for the Road" and Minutes for Mission developed congregational awareness.

Officers focused on the "journey" at a Joint Deacon Elder Retreat in June 2007.

Phase 2: Developing a Common View of Reality

- A look at our history during "The Road We've Traveled" luncheon in June 2007 led to the following "reality" points:
 - Our faith family, our fellowship, music, and outreach have consistently been central to our identity.
 - People are busy today, leadership is harder to find, but small groups within church are still active.
- Interviews with active members, in the fall of 2007, resulted in a profile of our church. Identifying our strengths. In addition, areas for improvement were identified as "Areas of Gaps and Inconsistency." Using this information as "Conversation Starters, the congregation provided further input and feedback as part of our 2008 Lenten theme "Be Thou Our Vision." Each week our worship and Lenten Study highlighted one of the six "Conversation Starters." Valuable comments from the bulletin inserts and small group discussions guided the team as they entered into a deeper level of prayer and discernment.
- The 50th Anniversary Celebration luncheon in March 2008, "The Road We Are On," helped refine and build a shared understanding of our current challenges, opportunities and priorities. In response to the question, "**Where in the life of Faith Church do we need to be more open to God's presence?**" the following strategic issues emerged:
 - **Communication — Community Outreach — Faith — Local Mission — Worship — Youth.**

Phase 3: Discerning God's Call

- Bible study continued in weekday groups, Adult Sunday School, dramas in worship in summer 2008, and in the 2009 Lenten series.
- A Vision Team was formed and began meeting in August 2008.
- FOR team and others attended a discernment conference in Lewisburg in October 2008.
- Vision Team members led a "Road Rally Vision Retreat" in December 2008. All church members who attended were energized by the relationship building activities, Bible studies, music and prayer as they created skits for worship the next day. The prayers written at the end of the day strongly guided the vision team in creating the draft of the vision statement.
- In March 2009 a discernment workshop for Elders, Deacons and PNC members was presented by those who had attended the Discernment Conference in October.
- This summer the Vision Team is asking church members to attend a Vision Reflection Gathering being held in member's homes. The Team wants to get your reflections and feedback on the "working" draft of the Vision Statement (printed on page 4). In July, these one hour Vision Reflection Gatherings are being offered at the home of Lynn and Andy Ingram, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday July 15, or at Faith Church, at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 19, or at the home of Dottie Nicholas, at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22. Further gatherings will be offered in August or September.

Fruit from the Journey...So Far

The fruit, the blessing, of Faith on the Road is for our congregation to be transformed into a people who seek God's word and will with ever greater faithfulness; a people who learn to rely on God through prayer and discernment, rather than fads and programs when it comes to our ministry and purpose.

The Faith on the Road process has led to some unplanned delights. One of the best outcomes has been the number and level of congregation-wide conversations on meaningful issues on our life together. The Faith on the Road journey has helped many issues and "parking lot" conversations to be addressed directly and energetically, while we learn to talk to one another and to listen for God's word to this congregation.

Communication – More effort to coordinate between committees, i.e. Stewardship & CE sponsoring an “Unwrapping Your Gifts” series; Ideas and comments from the conversation starters are used for deeper discussion during committee meetings. On-going efforts to assist in smoother transitions for new session members, including the creation of a Leadership Manual for Church Officers

Faith – More opportunities for discussion of “faith” issues, e.g. Thursday Devotional Fellowship studies, greater use of worship and prayer when people gather for meetings.

Leadership – More awareness of leadership needs; especially as members are faithfully serving during our time without an installed pastor.

Youth – G.L.U.E. (God Leads Us Everywhere) emerged when our youth started asking one another, during FOR events, how they could become more active in the life of the church.

Worship & Music – comments led to changes and new ideas during worship services; i.e. name tags for ushers, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany music service.

Pastoral Nominating Committee – each of the above steps are typically done by a PNC to prepare the Church Information Form. Drawing on the findings of the Faith on the Road process helped the PNC develop the CIF in a shorter time frame than it takes most congregations.

A Guiding Vision for Faith Presbyterian Church: Journeying with Christ

We have God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit in the center of our lives, individually and as a community of believers. We are called to open our eyes and our hearts to Christ, and to journey with Him on the road from Emmaus. The road we take is a prayerful one; it is a road of discovery and surprise. It is walked hand-in-hand with others.

We are inclusive of all who travel on the road and all who seek to join us. Together, we joyfully praise God and passionately seek God’s word and will for us. We are continually learning, sharing and singing to the Lord a New Song.

We work and pray with our partners to spread the joy and the promise of the Gospel, both in our neighborhood and around the world. As we develop caring and prayerful relationships among ourselves and with those to whom we minister, our way is lit by “God Sightings” – the unexpected ways in which we encounter God throughout our day. As we serve God, we begin to live God’s word and will. We seek to know God’s voice, to hear God’s song, and to share it with others. We strive to leave the path we travel well lit and inviting to others.

As we travel, we give of ourselves along the way. We give of our time, our talent and our treasures. We give because it brings us joy, and because Jesus taught us to give. As we give, our hearts are lightened and once again, a new song pours forth.

We acknowledge that the road is not always easy, and are eager to help those who are struggling along the way. We cry with those who are grieved, share with those who are burdened, encourage those who are fearful. We lift one another up in our journeys, and look ahead to the time we can sing joyfully together once more.

We gain our strength from the power of the resurrection. That strength gives us the courage to be honest, to share our struggles and fears with one another, to live into hope and continue forward on the road to claim the joy, grace and peace that is ours through Jesus Christ. We dare to embark on this journey because we know that with God, we can accomplish more than we can ever imagine. (*Ephesians 3:20*)

Faith Presbyterian Church SCRIP Program

Thank you to all SCRIP Buyers! The parking lot has been refurbished. The profits from the **SCRIP PROGRAM** will help offset the cost of the work.

We received **17** orders in **May** totaling **\$4,820.00** for the **GREAT LAKES SCRIP and WEIS** programs which generated **\$243.35** to help offset the costs of the **Parking Lot Project**.

The **total for 2009 (4 months)** is **\$1,107.50**.

The **next date** for orders is **June 14, 2009**. The change in date is for May only.

For a complete list of retailers or for more information check the **table in the Fellowship Hall** or

www.glscrip.com.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sally Heimbach at **(610-965-2102** or **sheimbch@ptd.net)**.