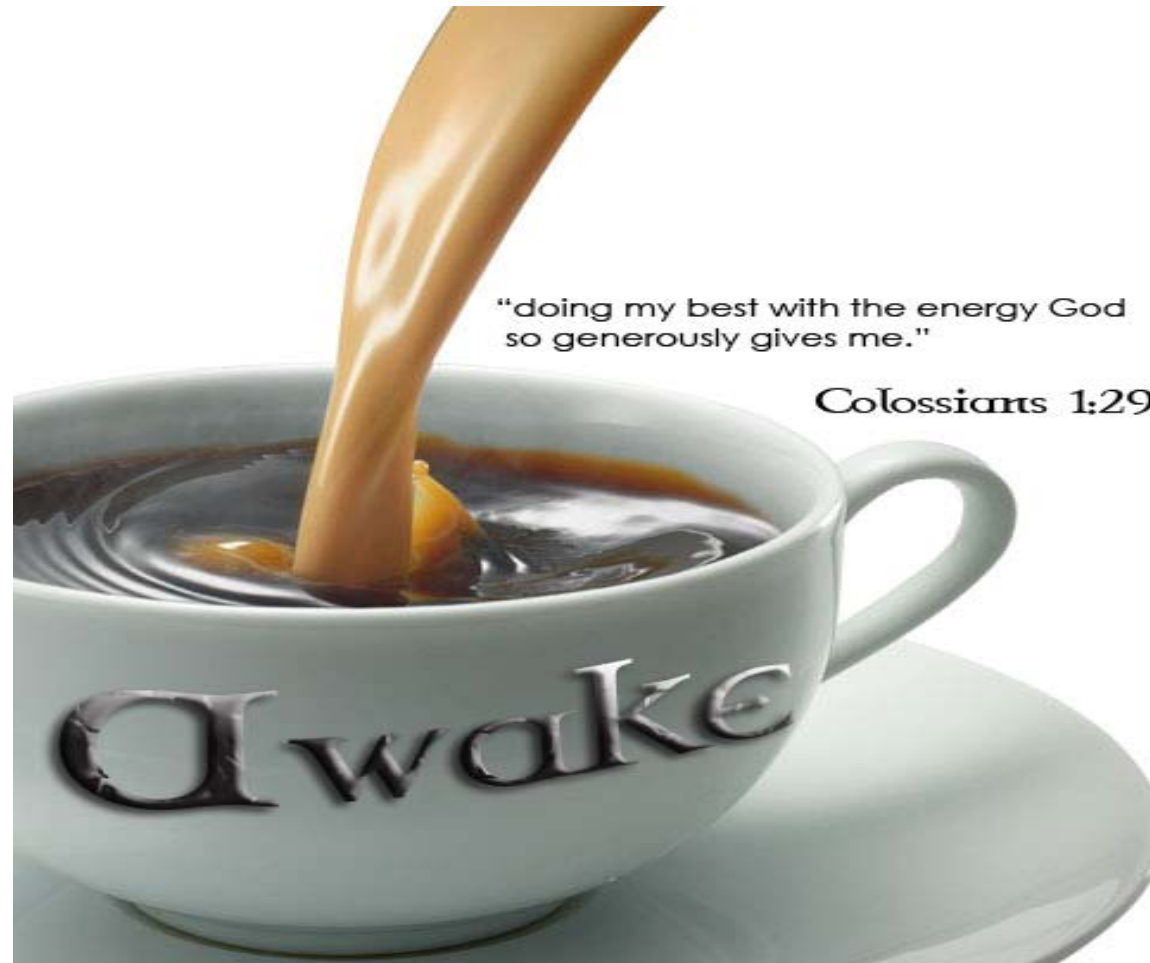

PAOLI PRESS

A Monthly Newsletter of Paoli Presbyterian Church

September 2009

**HOMECOMING SUNDAY!
SEPTEMBER 13TH**



"doing my best with the energy God
so generously gives me."

Colossians 1:29

Knowing Christ. Making Christ Known.

Office Off Shoots



Homecoming! Yes this very special day is coming when we will officially transition from summer schedules, summer frames of mind, summer activities of being away at the shore, the lake, vacation and other such distractions that make us want to be back in routines of meaning. After spending the summer in the office wondering why the phone didn't ring, the e-mails were way down, and it was very quiet in the halls, I can see why we have a "HOMECOMING AT PPC." It is not only a rite of passage for those in Sunday school classes it is a new beginning for the entire congregation. New themes are in place, new opportunities to sign up for the God-given ministries you have are waiting, (Our Ministry Matters in Forester Hall 9:30-12:15), new faces to meet, and most important of all, a new stream of energy from the Holy Spirit will infuse enthusiasm. Enthusiasm! Yes enthusiasm means "infused with God."

God gets our attention through those who are energized to step forward in new ways or old ways with new ideas and new methods. We will find in Homecoming that not only will there be the energy of treats, the joy of some fun activities, there will also be the sense of discovery; discovery that in and through each other a new chapter is just beginning. September 13th will be the first page of a new chapter we collectively write with our presence at worship and education. Students will be getting acquainted with teachers and vice versa. Three worship services will again be in swing with the praise worship initiating some new methods both in the bulletin and how the praise worship is experienced.

So, please place this date at the highest priority on you calendars. If you ordinarily attend 7:30 or 9:00 AM worships, come back and join in the festivities later. If you are an 11:00 AM traditional worshiper plan to remain for the intermingling of differing groups who experience worship and God in the manifold witness of the Spirit.

9/13/09/7:30/9:00/10:00/11:00/12:00 □ time for a nap!

Faithfully,
Ray Larson, Interim Pastor

CHURCHILL'S

**O
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E
R**

I made it through the 50 + hours of Stephen Ministry Leadership Training! A big thank you to Donna Russell, who kept me out of trouble the whole week and who also completed the Leadership Training. It was a grueling week in Pittsburgh and also going home in the sense that we got stuck in a long traffic jam as 5 lines of traffic funneled into one lane due to tunnel repairs—just like it was 20+ years ago! Some things never change. Yet some things do—Donna and the other Stephen Ministers of PPC hope to continue the wonderful caring ministry of the Stephen Ministry and to increase our number of one-to-one caregivers in the near future. Watch for ways that you can be trained to be a part of this compassionate ministry!

STEPHEN MINISTRY statistics:

10,450 enrolled congregations

154 denominations

55,849 pastors and lay leaders have been trained at a Leader's Training Course

500,000+ have been trained as Stephen Ministers

Millions of people have been cared for by Stephen Ministers.

I missed you for a week, although I did check in with Ginny or Gail every day. A special thanks to Pastor Jill and others who helped cover the pastoral needs of the church while Pastor Ray & I were away on continuing education.

As we prepare for a wonderful and amazing fall season, pray for our staff and our planning that hearts will be touched, lives changed, and that the whole world might hear the echoes of our worship! Is not God the Lord of Lords who can do more than we can ever imagine? Then be expectant, anticipate great things, participate and be blessed.

Borrowing from Paul, I share these thoughts: In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus—Philippians 1.4-6

**As Session makes some final determinations at its Aug. meeting, watch the bulletins for more specific scheduling.

Coming in September---

“Simply Christian”, a new series written by N. T. Wright

“The Shack”, a mid-week Bible study with time and dates TBA

(get a book and start reading)

Early Bird Special, anyone interested in a commuter devotion series at The Daily

Grind in Paoli? Watch for sign up opportunities!

HOME COMING SUNDAY!

SEPTEMBER 13TH

Focus on your family as summer ends And God Bless! Dr. Churchill



HOMECOMING SUNDAY!

SEPTEMBER 13TH

Worship at 7:30-Chapel; 9 and 11:00 am-Sanctuary
Education/Nurture Time 10:00 am Classes begin for all ages

WHO?—Everyone and bring a friend or neighbor

WHAT?—A fun way for PPC to kick off a new church year!

Our Ministry Matters- Opportunities in Forrester Hall to preview and sign up and share your gifts of ministry with others. Coffee, lemonade and assorted goodies will be available in Forrester Hall; bring a batch of cookies to share!

Fun activities (dress accordingly!!!)- We will piggyback on some of the Youth Kick Off activities like the Dunk Tank and Moon Bounce & other fun things. (We will need parents helping to keep things safe!)

WHERE?—Paoli Presbyterian Church and Forrester Hall and the North Side of the building

WHEN?—Sept. 13th—MARK THOSE CALENDARS!

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS:

7:30 a.m.- Chapel

9:00 a.m.- Praise Service-Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Educational/Nurture Time for all ages

11:00 a.m.- Traditional Service

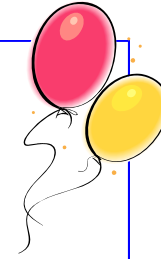
OUR MINISTRY MATTERS PREVIEW AND SIGN UPS

9:45 -12:15 in Forrester Hall

(downstairs, the gym)



Sunday, September 13
Homecoming Sunday



All Welcome –
Come and See!

There's a place for everyone!

A Fresh Start –

Look around. Try something new.

New Beginnings –

Continue a current interest or activity with a fresh look.

New Energy –

Renewed over the summer, we come to our ministries with
fresh enthusiasm.

Come on September 13th....

...to worship God together.

...to see new classes for children and young people.

...to hear what's planned for adult education.

...to see how God is at work through PPC people as we minister
in his name.

Be sure to register your ministry team!

Forms available at the Welcome Desk, online, and in the church office.



HOME COMING SUNDAY

September 13, 2009

Are You Able to Help Us?....

**Bakers, people to set -up, serve, and
clean-up are needed for the refresh-
ment tables in Forrester Hall.**

If you can help, contact Betsy Bemis

Home: 610-647-2639

Email: Charles.bemis@verizon.net





Deacon Beacon
By Gretchen Moyer

PPC Homecoming -
Who IS Your Deacon?

Have you ever wondered just who is this person who calls, sends post-cards, emails, etc. identifying themselves as my Deacon? Please join us on Homecoming Sunday, September 13th, as we better introduce you to these folks! We're looking forward to having an opportunity to chat with you and maybe even connect some new faces with names you have already seen!

Food Closet Faith in Action

A very special thank you for all of the summer donations to the Food Closet. Our recipients increased 16% as a result of our present economy and our PPC family responded with love and generosity. Thank you so much for not going to the shore for the summer!

Now as we gather for a new church year remember how Jesus asked his disciples to feed the five thousand. Please help us to do a miracle and multiply the "loaves and fishes" in our pantry. You can be a disciple by donating and nonperishable items, paper products, or toiletries to the

Food Closet box in the Narthex. Be sure to check expiration dates on all donations since we cannot use outdated items. In addition, coffee or tea is especially appreciated in the fall or winter months and canned spaghetti sauce is running low. Thank you for putting your faith in action by feeding the hungry right here in our community.

"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to act." Proverbs 3:27

Men's Ministries

Men's Breakfast Group

Thursdays
6:15-7:15 a.m.
Fellowship Hall. Contact Russ
Appler at 610-935-0319.

**Men's Thursday Evening Bible
Study**

Thursdays
6:45 to 7:45 p.m.
Reception Room. Contact Chuck
Moore at 610-296-5442.

[Visit the PPC website for more
ministry opportunities for both
women and men!](#)



By Ben Champion

Helpful characteristics for Stephen Ministers include having a sense of humor. It is also very helpful for Sunday school teachers and all who work with children and others. Understanding that the following may well be apocryphal, it has been reported that when John Ryan asked his Sunday school class why it is necessary to be quiet in church, a bright student replied, "Because we don't want to wake up those who are sleeping."

When we conduct Stephen Ministry training classes, we try hard to keep everyone awake and interested. The topics are thought provoking and participants need to keep wide awake, especially when involved in role playing. A sampling of the topics included in the curriculum is as follows: The Art of Listening; Feelings; Distinctively Christian Caring; Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly; Maintaining Boundaries; and Confidentiality. Some other topics deal with specific kinds of challenges like experiencing grief and depression and ministering to individuals with terminal illnesses.

As has been mentioned awhile ago, there are once-or-twice-a-month supervision meetings for currently serving Stephen Ministers and Leaders. Periodically, there are sessions covering relevant topics for our continuing education. In July, we explored the continuing education topic of Providing Spiritual Care. A basic understanding is that we always have the responsibility of bringing Christ's care to our care receivers. A basic concept is that, in our roles as spiritual care providers, we need to stay connected to God and entrust our care receivers to God's care. We were reminded that while we are caregivers, God is the Caregiver. The writer of the material for this study stated the following: "You are not the leader and your care receiver is not the follower in spiritual care. You are both followers who are in need of God's gracious love and who receive God's gifts through Jesus." As often as possible, Stephen Ministers need to reinforce the awareness from hearing and believing that God loves us through all that we experience.

As this article is being written, daily prayers are being offered for Jim Churchill and Donna Russell who are going through a week's intensive training in Pittsburgh, PA to become Stephen Ministry leaders. Please thank them for undergoing this rigorous training as they continue to be "blessed to be a blessing."

For a full explanation of our Stephen Ministry, go to the church's web site, look at the top line and click on the word Care, and then on Stephen Ministry. This article is among the best articles that have been written about this ministry. If you feel the need for a Stephen Minister or are interested in being trained to become a Stephen Minister, please call Ruth Jensen, our referrals coordinator, who can be reached at 610-296-6152 or call the church office.

Women's Ministries

Tuesday, September 15th will be the first meeting of the weekly Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study!

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

Achieving "A Heart at Rest" and "learning to pray in our distracting world" are topics to be discovered and discussed at the Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study (WTMBS) beginning September 15, 9:00 to 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. A large group lesson followed by small group discussions will encourage fellowship among women who seek to know Christ through knowledge of God's word. Refreshments and free child care are provided.

Join PPC members along with women from many other community churches and denominations as we explore material by author, Paul E. Miller, who said "It's o.k. to have a busy life; it's crazy to have a busy soul." You may be searching for just the thing to calm you and give you a new perspective in tumultuous times. WTMBS may be IT!

For further information call Sidney Constien (610-640-9345) or Pat Kettler (484-924-8459).

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

You are invited to this Bible study group. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

Our purpose is to look at the Bible text, share our insights, enjoy Christian fellowship, and support each other in prayer. This year we will study the Gospel of Mark. At our organizational meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14th, we will get acquainted and study guides will be available. Please plan to join us!

If you need further information please contact Linda Hassett -
610-296-3774 or
linda.hassett@verizon.net.

Deborah Circle

We would like to invite you to join our circle on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. We meet in the homes of members. Note: Meeting time and day may change!

2009-2010 Bible Study is "Joshua-A Journey of Faith" Horizons Bible by Mary Mikhael

September 3-Hostess will be
Dottie Spencer

Study: Daphne Hager: Who is the
God of Joshua?

For more Info, contact
Nancy Doughty 610-647-4632

**Save the date! Saturday,
October 17, 2009
– Rain or Shine**

***Field Trip to Gettysburg
National Military Park!***

Who: PPC members & friends over the age of 18 (Reserve now! Only 45 seats.)

What: An educational field trip to one of the major battlefields of the American Civil War. Includes the following:

- Walking tour of the National Cemetery
- Interpretative re-creation of Longstreet's Assault (aka Pickett's Charge)
- On-your-own lunch at the new Visitors Center, where you can also see a 22-minute feature film; the newly restored, 40-foot-high Cyclorama painted in 1884; many displays & exhibits on aspects of the war and the 3 days at Gettysburg; the new bookstore - and much more!
- Narrated bus tour of the battlefield
- Maps, guides, and exercises to enhance your appreciation of this critical 3-day battle

Trip Details

Bus will depart from and return to PPC parking lot.

Be at the church no later than 6:45 a.m.

Bus will depart promptly at 7:00 a.m.

We will return to PPC parking lot between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Transportation will be by modern motor coach with bathroom facilities, VCR screens, reclining seats, air conditioning.

Registration Details

- Sign up in Church Office anytime; payment due at sign-up.
- Deadline is 12 noon, Sunday, October 11, 2009.
- Checks (no cash) for \$45 per person made out to PPC (Memo = "Gettysburg trip").

Tour Guide: Bob Sprague

Aide-de-Camp: Rev. Ray Larson

Questions: Church Office 610-644-8250

Note: Bring camera, pen or pencil, hat, snacks, water. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring rain gear if weather is threatening. We will be eating lunch at the Visitors Center, but we will not stop for dinner.





DISCOVERED.... Doing Ministry!

By Dottie Spencer

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

When first time visitors come to worship at PPC, they are asked to sign the fellowship pad and within a day or two, Rev. Jim Churchill sends a welcome note in the mail. During each worship service, visitors are welcomed and asked to stop at the Welcome Desk or at the door of the chapel, and pick up a gift bag.

Several years ago, Bert Peterson was a visitor at another church and was impressed by that church's recognition and welcome of visitors to their worship service. From that experience, she recommended and developed a plan to begin a similar ministry to visitors here. Bert gathered some items and made up bags to be handed to PPC first time visitors: a mug with the PPC logo, a pen with the church address and phone number, some pamphlets describing PPC programs and ministries, a copy of The Upper Room devotional booklet, and a Scripture book mark. Soon there will be an addition to the welcome bag. A smaller friendship bag will be included—a small cloth bag with ten reminders of friendship and a card explaining them, including things like a happy face (a smile increases your face value; it's contagious!), a bandaid (to heal hurt feelings—yours and others), a life saver

(to remind you of the many times others need your help and you need theirs), a candle (a reminder to share your light), sweet and sour candy (to accept and appreciate the differences in others).

Do you have an idea for a new ministry? Let us hear from you.

Thanks, Bert, for a wonderful way to show PPC visitors that we're glad they've come and we encourage them to come again.

Your Ministry Matters!

Discovered doing ministry— extraordinaire!

An urgent SOS went out for help to rehab eight rooms, recently vacated by the Chester County Intermediate Unit, to be ready for PPC's Sunday School children's classes in September. The rooms have had constant, hard use for over fifteen years and were in need of serious makeover. PPC people responded to the call.

Bill Myers (5 days a week for two weeks), Bruce Field (he paints early, goes to work, and returns to paint at night), Jim Foreman, Damon Washington, Carl Gibney and Boy Scouts working on his Eagle Scout project, Doug Purdy, Bob Zimmerman, Bill Myers 1 & 2, Frank Gianforte, Bob Spencer, Jim Darrach and contributors for paint and Supplies etc.





From an hour here or there to nearly full time, painters arrived to roll up their sleeves and lend a hand. During the first step, the painters are spackling, trimming, and rolling ceiling and walls, painting window frames. Then the plan is for Danny and Wes to strip the floors and ----voila!---the rooms will be ready for use. Many people are doing what they do best—meeting a need and doing ministry at PPC. Thank you, Bill, Doug, and all those willing workers! Bless you for carrying out the responsibility of doing what you can to be sure those rooms are ready for the children at the start of the Sunday Church School year! **Your Ministry Matters!**

PPC'S Oktoberfest

Saturday, October 24~ PPC Grounds
The Staff of PPC invites you to the first Oktoberfest!

- Crafts for the kids!
- Food Prepared by the Staff of PPC!!
- Music provided by our own Gail Glass's Big Band, Jump City Jazz Orchestra!!!

Jump City Jazz Orchestra captures the magic and excitement of over sixty years of big band and swing music, from the traditional WW-II era big bands sounds of Glenn Miller and Woody Herman bands, to the Duke Ellington and Stan Kenton Orchestras of the '50s and '60s, to the modern jump swing sound of artists like Brian Setzer and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, who have brought big band swing back to the mainstream. With a repertoire of well over 600 songs & a full big-band horn section, JCJO's 17-piece big band faithfully recreates the powerful sound of these legends and the singers who sang with them, like Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Dean Martin and Rosemary Clooney.

Children's Ministries

Dear Church Family,



Welcome back if you have been away for the summer! I hope you make it a priority to attend worship and Christian education this 2009-2010 School year. Sunday School starts September 13 at 10am. Thank you to all of the families who faithfully attend each week!

We are so pleased and grateful to have our Sunday School classrooms downstairs thoroughly cleaned and painted. James Ambrose took on two classrooms for his Eagle Scout project and Bill Myers spent HOURS working in the remaining six rooms. Many people in our congregation also helped with this huge project and we are so appreciative of their efforts. We will start the process of adding furnishings to the rooms as the budget permits.

Postcards were sent out to families with children who should be in Sunday School. The postcard listed the fall line up of teachers and classrooms. If your family did not receive a green postcard, please see me so I can be sure we have your information in our database. A list of classrooms and teachers is posted on the kiosk in the narthex.



In His Service,
Daphne Hager
Director of Children's Ministries



Music Ministries

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord...”

Begins Wednesday, Sept. 9
[Wednesday's](#)

7:00pm - Praise Team in the Sanctuary

8:15pm - Bell Choir in Music Room

Begins Thursday, Sept. 10
[Thursday's](#)

Thursday 6:15pm - Brass Ensemble, music room

7:00pm - Sanctuary Choir, music room

(Sanctuary Choir begins September 3rd)

Under the direction of
Jonathan Kreamer
jkkreamer@paolipres.org



Join us again this year for a spiritual concert performed by Nashville Recording Artist, Singer/Songwriter Laura Kaczor on Saturday evening

September 19, 2009, in our Sanctuary at 7:30. Please invite a friend to come hear Laura.

Free-will offering
Refreshments

More information located in the bulletin and online.

Cherub Choir-

Preschool, Kindergarten and First grade

This lively group of choir members will rehearse on Sundays from 10:45 until 11:05 in Room 1. Parents wishing to attend 11:00 worship may leave their children at choir, and those children will be escorted to child care in the nursery for the remainder of the worship service.

Children's Choir-

Grade 2 through Grade 5

This group of awesome singers will rehearse on Sundays from 11:15 until 12:00 in Room 1. Children participating in this group will be picked up at the 11:00 worship service following the Children's Sermon Story. Kids not attending worship can be dropped off at room 1.

Rehearsals for both choirs will begin on Homecoming Sunday and continue until the Christmas Pageant. There will be special Saturday rehearsals as the Christmas season grows closer to get both groups staged and ready for Christmas Eve.

Blessings!

Ms. Amy

amy.mcloughlin@paolipres.org

610-716-3066



Visit the PPC website for more children's opportunities!

Youth Ministry

Save the Dates

Kick-off BBQ & games	September 13 <i>Open to all youth 6-12 grades</i>
1st day of Sunday School & Youth Group	September 20
Sr. High Fall Retreat	October 3 & 4
Trip to Eastern State Penitentiary!	Wednesday, October 28 <i>Open to all youth</i>
Jr. High Fall Retreat	November 20-22
Winter Retreat (for Jr. & Sr. High)	February 19-21

JUST KICK IT



**Sunday
Sept 13th
Youth
Kick-off
Picnic
5-7 PM**

We will have a dunk tank, giant slip n' slide, inflatable obstacle course & door prizes!
All the youth leaders will be there!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES begin on Sunday, September 20th, from 10-10:45 AM. 6th grade meet in room 9, 7th & 8th grade meet in room 42, High School students meet in room 43.

TUESDAY NIGHT PRAYER GROUP at the Thompson's, 7:30-9 PM For all High School students. MAPQUEST: 5 Salisbury Lane, Malvern.

SR. HIGH FALL RETREAT will not be held at Pocono Plateau Retreat Center this year! We will leave on Saturday morning, to go mountain biking down the Lehigh River Rails-to-Trails path into Jim Thorpe. That night we will set up camp (yes, that means tents!) along the Nescopeck River on Jill's family property (very private 110 acres in Drums, PA). Go to our website to register! It will be two day and one night, October 3rd & 4th! You **MUST** register by September 25!

All trip registrations are to be taken online, <http://youth.paolipres.org/>

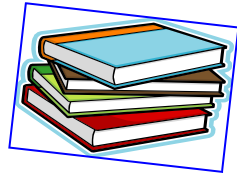
Go to the site for trip info & pictures from previous trips!

MEETING FOR EGYPT TRIP Will be held on Wednesday, September 2nd, 6 PM at Amir Metry's home. If you are interested in attending this trip from November 19-29, this is your last chance to sign up!

JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will continue to run from 7-8:30 PM! This time was helpful for families with both Jr. & Sr. High youth last year!

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF '10! All youth in 9th grade are eligible to become members of PPC next year! Student Profile forms and class schedule are available online or at the Youth Ministry Office.

WISH LIST We are looking for game systems for our youth rooms! If your Play Station, Guitar Hero or Wii are collecting dust, please consider donating them to the PPC Youth Ministry and call Jill today!



Book Review

by Ruth O’Ryan

Our missionary in Israel, Ben Duffy, suggested a review of *Operation World*, a comprehensive overview of 350 nations worldwide: their geography with maps, economy, politics, ethnic groupings, languages and dialects, religious affiliations, missionaries in residence and prayer challenges. Websites are listed for further information. Aside from the primary purpose of this book, it could also be a tool for research data into any specific country: i.e., in Indonesia, the Twin towers attack in the U.S. exposed the nature of a world-wide terrorist network and Islamic jihad’s ties against Christian populations; in Israel, conflict between Palestinians and Israelis urgently needs resolution; both sides lay claim to the land. The writers believe that if the goals expressed in the book were implemented through evangelism and prayer, radical change could be effected in the world of nations. Warfare, ethnic hatreds and poverty would decline, and global warming and ecological restoration would be aggressively addressed to ensure survival of life on the planet.

Ben also participates in KingdomConnect committed to building Arab Christian ministries in the Holy Land. It supports a ministry called Musalaha (reconciliation) to enable believing Israeli Jews and Palestinian Christians to come from their politically and socially polarized neighborhoods to a neutral location, giving them an opportunity to talk, participate in teamwork activities and recognize each other as human beings seeking to live out their faith. They return home understanding the hearts of “the other side.” KingdomConnect raised funds for a Gaza victim whose home was gutted during the Israeli incursion earlier this year. KingdomConnect ministries is available for presentations and seminars and to answer questions pertaining to ministries in the Holy Land.

Where in the World Are Our Sent Ones?

By Jim Baker

Holistic Ministry

The last thing we need is another buzz-word. As we head for a conference for all our European staff, the theme of which is “Holistic Ministry,” it’s easy to wonder whether this term is just another “gimmick.” It’s not. Living and serving for a decade in the former Soviet Union, we see this emphasis as an answer to prayers born out of what God has impressed on our hearts as we’ve tried to identify with those around us.

So what does “ministering holistically” mean? The best short definition I’ve seen is: Preparing the whole Church to take the whole gospel to the whole world. “Preparing” indicates that this won’t just happen, it takes training, preparation, and work. “The whole Church” works together; we need to build bridges, to work for unity within the body of Christ. “The whole gospel” demands that we take a broad, whole-Bible view of our mission, and not just rely on our tried-and-true methods, our “specialties,” the things we’ve “always done” or are comfortable doing. “The whole world” means every person in the world, the driving force behind foreign mission.

Seeing the gospel itself as “holistic” recognizes that the Good News affects and transforms the whole person; it touches every aspect of life for each human on our planet. Doing “holistic ministry” sends us on a mission geared toward meeting basic human needs, including the need of God, but also needs of food, clothing, housing, love, health (both physical and mental) and a sense of human dignity. When we “boil down” the gospel to address only one or some of these needs, we have lost an essential part of the ministry of our Lord, who took on flesh not only to bring a “word,” but to touch and be touched.

For us in Ukraine, our wake-up call came when we began to learn the scope of the AIDS epidemic here - where it’s estimated that as many as 1 out of 60 persons may be carrying the virus which causes AIDS. The church has been idle, seeing the problem as not affecting them, or, worse, that the people who are living (and dying) with AIDS somehow deserve it. The epidemic is fuelled by discrimination and stigma: ‘branding’ some people as less than full members of the community. Jesus reached out to touch stigmatized lepers (challenging both religious and public sensibilities); we are called to bring the gospel directly into the lives of such people, which demands that we be willing to touch and be touched. That’s how it started for us.



←

We came to embrace a particular young man living with AIDS. He had thought that his life was over. That he, like most people in his condition, would die alone. The Church didn't dispute that; in fact, that's where he'd learned it. But we saw in his eyes a passion for Christ, a desire to see the church transformed into a community living the gospel among the most neglected. He envisioned a "holistic" response to the AIDS crisis - without knowing the 'buzzword.' His own needs were obvious: his time was short. In addition to AIDS he was wrestling with Hepatitis C, the treatment for which was far beyond his means. He could scarcely get out of bed. And loneliness: being HIV-positive (as well as divorced) meant that that he could never marry in the church. Our response was clear: advocate for him within the church community, and do what we could to help him access funds for medical treatment. Your partnership with us not only helped save this young man's life, but gave rise to a new Christian family, and more...

We visited our friend and his wife upon returning to Ukraine: we saw a healthy, happy, loving couple. He has completed the treatments and, for the last several months, they've kept an energetic ministry going, traveling across the nation training pastors, church and community leaders how to care, how to confront

attitudes that not only drive the spread of the epidemic, but pose barriers to faith to those in need. They told us that the gifts provided by our American brothers and sisters have been multiplied in their lives and ministry, and that the Ukraine-specific film and book resources we produced (thanks, again, to your help) have affected literally thousands of lives and changed scores of churches. They call us "Papa" and "Mama."

I fear sometimes there's a "hole" in our application of God's holistic gospel. I sense it when I dismiss certain needs as "not spiritual" or "not the church's problem," when I lapse into "blaming the victim," or see people with eyes other than those of Jesus. In our own personal experience, we have seen how easily we see challenges like AIDS, depression, eating disorders, substance abuse and addiction not as opportunities for the gospel, but taboos which are not spoken of in "church circles," certainly not something which might touch those within our circle. Holistic ministry creates openness, space to be human, to be valued; it breaks the silence isolating those suffering in and around the church. It shows us how the Gospel which touches and transforms lives and families in their totality can through each of us, in word and deed, be sown, take root, flourish and (our ultimate goal) multiply to the glory of God.

Thank You...

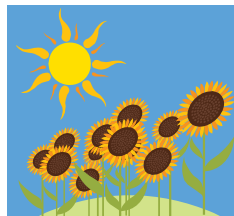
Dear Church Family.

It is with deep gratitude that I extend thanks to my family at PPC for the prayers, love, care and concerns during my long stay at Devon Manor. Your continuing prayers for my son and for me are a blessing...thanks you.

Pastor visits from Jim and Dick were so appreciated. The red roses delivered by Alice were beautiful. Gretchen and Sandy's Deacon visits were a comfort with Sandy helping move me to another room!

You filled my room with love and cheer ! Your cards, phone calls, flowers, delicious "food supplements" and steady stream of welcome visitors were all an important part of my recovery. You have been a blessing...thank you.

Jeanne Helmers



PPC PEOPLE

Marriages

June 20

Erin Lynne Malany and
Trevor A. Gustafson

July 6

Amy Jean Brent and
Peter Thompson Miller

August 8

Rebecca Ruth McConnell and
Thomas William Sadler Aichele

August 15

Carrie Lynne Wilson and Bob Kelly

Baptisms

July 26

Sofie Jean Spracklin,
daughter of Dan Andrew Spracklin
and Amy Jean Gray

August 16

Brandon Jon Selander,
son of Eric Jon Selander

Deaths

July 11

Norman Ford,
father of Norman Ford III
He was an attendee

PAOLI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
225 South Valley Road, Paoli, PA 19301
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FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS:

7:30 a.m.
Chapel
9:00 a.m.
Praise Service
Sanctuary
10:00 a.m.
Educational/Nurture Time
for all ages
11:00 a.m.
Traditional Service
Sanctuary

