



# THE CROSSROADS

FEBRUARY 2010

## Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

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### CURRENT RELIGIOUS DATA: CHRISTIANITY IS WELL ESTABLISHED

I make it a point to keep up with church trends. Christianity, with a market share of about 34% worldwide, remains the most popular religion globally. The religious landscape in North America is overwhelmingly Christian: about three in four adults identify themselves as Christian; the next largest organized religious groups are Islam and Judaism at about 1%. Although the importance of religion has been declining in other developed countries, it has remained strong in the U.S. The United States has a higher level of church attendance than any other country which is "at a comparable level of development."

But there are some interesting signs that religion is in a state of rapid flux, both in the U.S. and around the world: The percentage of American adults who identify themselves as Christians dropped from 86% in 1990 to 77% in 2001. This is an unprecedented drop of almost 1 percentage point per year. The percentage of American adults who identify themselves as Protestants dropped below 50% about the year 2005. Confidence in religious institutions has hit an all-time low. There appears to be a major increase in interest in spirituality among North Americans. Mainline denominations have been losing membership for decades in the U.S.; conservative denominations have been growing.

The numbers of "unchurched" people has increased rapidly in the U.S. These are individuals who have not attended church in recent months. The influence of the central, program-based congregation is diminishing as more cell churches are being created. Many Christians have left congregations and formed house churches - small groups meeting in each other's homes. Believe me they have always worked.

The Barna Research Group of Ventura, CA is the leading religious pollsters in the U.S. Since 1984, they have regularly conducted telephone polls to assess religious trends. Some of their findings are:

Attendance: The average number of people at Protestant church services has been declining:

Year Church attendance 1992 - 102 ; 1997- 100 ; 1998 - 95 ; 1999 - 90; 2000 - 90; 2003 - 89.

Where does PPC fit in all these number. Currently we have an accurate members only membership of 127. The average attendance across America is 40-45% of the membership on any given Sunday. Large churches (over 1000) have only 30-35% in attendance). A lot of times we are right there at that 40-45%. Cindy tallied our average attendance, including special services, at 57 last year. Last year we had record attendance at the Christmas Cantata and at Christmas Eve. Each were from 80 to 100.

What about our giving? Since PPC lives by faith we never know if what we budget will be the same as what we receive. In 2009 we received \$26.64 more than we budgeted. That always has amazed me that you have been so faithful and God has been so good. However we did spend about \$2200 over the budget. Some times that happens for various good reasons and we did meet our goal of giving 10% of receipts as the churches tithe. I can say with the Lord Himself to all of us, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

*The Rev. Dr. Spencer R. Frye Sr., Pastor*

*Our vision is to be a light in the community that brings all people to God through Christ-centered worship and ministry, and nurture their faith in order to extend his kingdom.*

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**OUR MISSION:** To exhibit the kingdom of God to our community by being a witness to everyone who is within our reach that Jesus Christ is LORD. To proclaim the gospel by telling the good news of Jesus Christ while equipping all who will to be evangelist so the church will grow. To provide for the worship of God through traditional Sunday morning worship and offer alternative times and styles of worship to the community. To promote the ministry of compassion by providing opportunities for ministry and encouraging others to seek God's call for compassionate service. To preserve the truth of God's word by defending the faith against any deviation from the bible as objective truth. To educate the members of the body of Christ so they are equipped to live as becomes the followers of Jesus. To maintain the spirit of unity through the fellowship of the children of God. To expand the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

*Thank You!*

*"A simple act of kindness has a beauty all its own."*

**A big THANK YOU for your donations for Securus House this Christmas. In December the director said they needed toys this year. A special thanks to the women who donated \$120 to purchase those toys.**

**Nancy Kemper, Community Missions**

## Congratulations!

... to **Rachel Rohrbach** for being inducted into the National Honor Society at Jonesboro High School.

... to **Fred Rohrbach Jr.** for being inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at Jonesboro High School.

... to **Fred Rohrbach Jr.** for being chosen as one of the Sports Champions of Clayton County. He was chosen based on his GPA and having lettered in Varsity baseball.

... to **Rachel Rohrbach** for coming in 2nd place in the Physics category of the Science Fair. Her project was about the "sweet spot" on wooden bats versus aluminum bats and which would hit farther.

## Way to Go!

## An Invitation. . .

Ladies, Sunday February 14 @ 12:30pm, we will have our Secret Pal Revealing Party. Bring a gift for your secret Pal, a favorite hors d'oeuvre, dessert, or sandwiches to share and you will learn the identity of the person that has remembered you all year. It is a lot of fun and some times very challenging. If you are interested in becoming a secret pal, either attend the party, or have someone put your name in the basket and draw a name for you. We remember our secret Pals with gifts, cards and prayers all during the year. For more information contact Dot Pierce or Barbara Barlow.

## A New Birth!

*Fletcher James Parten was born January 16<sup>th</sup> weighing in at 7lbs. and 1 oz.*

*Melanie and David Parten are the proud parents*

*James P. Ray is the proud grandfather*

*Jean and James M. Ray are the proud great grandparents*



It's that time again!!! Souper Bowl Sunday is rapidly approaching. From now until February 7, 2010 our youth will be collecting soups

and other non-perishable food items. Your help is greatly needed in order for this event to be a success. Please consider picking up a couple of extra items when grocery shopping these next few weeks. Bring in those extra items so that we may help those less fortunate. There will be a container in the Narthex for you to place your items. Thanks for your help with this project.

Raceway Ministries—Atlanta is a group of volunteers that have a passion for God's people. God has



called each one of them to this ministry because He has given them each different gifts and abilities that He needs to reach His people at the race track. They will be heavily involved in the race weekend coming on March 5-7. Their team is an enthusiastic bunch but can't do it all. They need your help! If you would like to come out and get involved or want to make a donation, please feel free to contact them at anytime. Elliott Yancey is the president. Perhaps you have heard of him! You may contact him at 404-507-6285 or email at [elliottyancey@gmail.com](mailto:elliottyancey@gmail.com). Check the bulletin board for a copy of their latest newsletter.

*Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. Matthew 4:13-14*

## And the people said...

I'm Fine—How are you?

There's nothing the matter with me,  
I'm just as healthy as can be,  
I have arthritis in both knees,  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak, my blood is thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.  
All my teeth have had to come out,  
And my diet I hate to think about.  
I'm overweight and I can't get thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.  
And arch supports I need for my feet,  
Or I wouldn't be able to go out in the street.  
Sleep is denied me night after night,  
But every morning I find I'm all right.  
My memory's failing, my head's in a spin.  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.  
Old age is golden I've heard it said,  
But sometimes I wonder, as I go to bed.  
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
And my glasses on a shelf, until I get up.  
And when sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself,  
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?  
The reason I know my youth has been spent,  
Is my get-up-and-go has got-up-and-went!  
But really I don't mind, when I think with a grin,  
Of all the places my get-up has been.  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,  
Pick up the paper and read the obits.  
If my name is missing, I'm therefore not dead,  
So I eat a good breakfast and jump back into bed.  
The moral of this as the tale unfolds,  
Is that for you and me, who are growing old.  
It is better to say "I'm fine" with a grin,  
Than to let people know the shape we are in.

I AM FINE HOW ARE YOU?

- contributed by Demester Dunaway



**Happy Birthday to . . .**

- 10—Jeff Randolph
- 17—Lauren Fleming
- 17—Kaylynn LaFoy
- 18—Hal Banke
- 21—Barbara Barlow
- 22—Billie Goldwire
- 25—Nella Ree Dunn
- 28—Dot Dunn

**Happy Anniversary to . . .**

- 10—Bob & Becky Huie
- 14—Tim & Anita DeBey
- 25—Spencer & Sherri Frye

**FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS**

**Nursery Workers**

- 2/7—Becky Huie
- 2/14—Jennifer Rohrbach
- 2/21—Nell Cates
- 2/28—Pat Randolph

**Ushers**

- Tom Murphy\*
- Darr Johnson
- Lynn Vandiver
- Bob Huie

*\* Head Usher*

**Core Values of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church**

**Radical Hospitality** (Romans 12:9-21)

**Passionate Worship** (John 4:21-24)

**Intentional Faith Development** (I Corinthians 9:19-24)

**Risk-Taking Mission and Service** ( Matthew 25:14-30)

**Extravagant Generosity** (II Corinthians 9:6-15)

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT [WWW.PPC-USA.ORG](http://WWW.PPC-USA.ORG)



**PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
351 MORROW ROAD  
FOREST PARK GA 30297**

**TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER AND WITH CARDS** (new info in bold)

*Please notify us concerning updates. Inquiring minds – and prayerful hearts – want to know!*

Patrick Allen (Dot Pearce's nephew –having complications from lung cancer)

Megan Beck - (Nell Cates granddaughter - previous health issues returned)

Patty Bormolini (Pat Randolph's friend – diagnosed with stomach cancer – surgery 12/29)

Dianne Campbell (cancer; follow up tests & treatment continuing)

Jenny Chambers (Becky Huie's sister-in-law - doctors still struggling to save her leg)

Ron Cleveland (Elizabeth Ford's nephew – undergoing radiation treatment for sinus cancer)

Dakota Coddington (Deven & Michael's 2 year old - developmental concerns)

Besse Cooper (Angie Tharp's 113-year-old mother - not doing well; dementia)

Don Curlee (Karen Kelly-Nelson's friend - recently diagnosed with bone cancer)

**Norma Deaton (Dot Dunn's sister – at Southern Regional – colon surgery)**

Gail Downing (Judy Baird's sister – struggling to keep weight at 99 but holding her own)

Joan Dunn (Dot Dunn's sister-in-law – condition worsening)

Doris Ellis (in Westbury Health and Rehab Center – call church office for details)

John Herendeen (father of Bob & Becky Huie's neighbor - cancer)

Elizabeth Hollandsworth (Judy Baird's friend - inoperable liver cancer)

Cindy Hopkins (Pam Langley's close friend - experiencing harsh chemo)

Shannon Hubbell (Tony Kitchen's sister – broken left knee – 3<sup>rd</sup> surgery on 1/21)

Ed Huie (home from Crawford Long with a urinary tract infection)

Abigail Jordon (Dawn Batchelor's friend's baby daughter – serious health issues)

Charles Kimbro (Christine Jefferson's fiancé – prostate cancer – surgery in February)

Dr. Lopez (Doris Ellis' doctor - bone cancer; wearing a neck brace but working; chemo)

Rita Marballi (Zareen Nevrekar's sister-in-law - 3<sup>rd</sup> recurrence of uterine/ovarian cancer)

Cindy Moats (friend of Spencer & Sherri Frye - cancer)

Landy Ponder (friend of Spencer Frye – 3 brain tumors)

**Vivian Rice (friend of church family – stage 4 lung cancer –passed away 1/11)**

Opal Seeby (knee replacement surgery; getting around on a walker)

Linda Shealy (friend of Spencer & Sherri Frye - breast cancer; radical mastectomy)

Connie Smith (Kathy Vandiver's friend's mother – battling cancer and a stroke)

Debbie Smith (Tom & Joyce Smith's niece – has shingles now – recovering from heart attack)

Lloyd Weaver – (Serena Staats' uncle – anal cancer)

Carol White Tipton (the Huie's friend's daughter with 2 little boys - cancer; not doing well)

**OUR HOMEBOUND:**

**Mary Binkney**

**Joan Cushing**

**Nella Ree Dunn**

**Doris Ellis**

**Ed Huie**

**James Ray**

**Bert Tatzel**

**JoAnn Tatzel**

**To make a prayer request, you may call the church office at 404-366-1851, send an email to [secyppc@bellsouth.net](mailto:secyppc@bellsouth.net) or click on the prayer request button on our website at [www.ppc-usa.org](http://www.ppc-usa.org).**