



# THE CROSSROADS

OCTOBER 2010

## Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

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## GROWTH IN GRACE FOR 185 YEARS

Growing in grace is something we have been concerned about since the beginning of our history as a nation. On the main wall near the old iron gate that leads to the campus of Harvard University we find this inscription:

“After God had carried us safe to New England and we had builded our houses, provided necessaries for our livelihood, reared convenient places and God’s worship and settled the civil government, one of the next things we longed for and looked after was to advance learning and perpetuate it to posterity, dreading to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches when our present ministers lie in the dust.”

No, you heard right, the oldest college of learning, founded 16 years after the pilgrims landed at Plymouth, was established for the purpose of training and sending out a body of godly men who would proclaim God’s Word with intelligence, conviction and authority so that the church could grow in grace. That vision has been carried on by the church in America ever since. Growing in grace is not always an easy concept to grasp.

Growth is an image taken from the organic world around us. We learned about growing things when at home mom stuck tooth picks in a potato or avocado seed and put it in a glass of water on the window seal in front of the sink, remember that? Or maybe it was in kindergarten that you first tuck a seed in a Styrofoam cup filled with dirt and waited anxiously to see if it would grow. We came to learn that with the right combination of moisture, sunlight, dark earth and loving tender care we could watch a miracle take place right before our eyes.

If we have the right conditions and do the right things we can expect growth in our lives as well. So I want to tell you what we need as Christians and as a church to grow.

Paul spoke of the analogy of growth for the Christian in Col. 2:19, growth is something God works in us and it has certain elements.

The first element is instruction in the knowledge of God. 2 Peter 2:18 says “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Growth always signifies increase. How are you going to increase in grace and knowledge? First it happens through instruction, whether it be self instruction through a personal study of the word or instruction by someone else such as a Sunday school teacher. To grow you have to be instructed in the things of the Lord.

The next element of growth is experience. 1 Thes. 5:18 says “give thanks in all circumstances for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” Paul had been in difficult circumstances and he had learned through those corrective emotional experiences that it was wise to see a higher thing going on. He saw God in all things and that is why he was able to say give thanks in all circumstances. That shows he had corrective emotional experiences.

Then we need to progress. By that I mean a moving on. Some people get stuck at some point in their spiritual development. Heb. 6:1 says “Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death.” This refers to progress and for us to grow and not rot in place we have to keep progressing, moving on in our walk with God.

Then there needs to be an emphasis on faith, not doubt or relying on blind luck but faith. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. All of these together has kept our church for 185 years. We must be doing something right.

We pray...worship...study the scriptures...partake of the sacraments...fellowship...serve the church and the world and if we keep it up Philadelphia Presbyterian Church will be here 185 years from now.

**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 nurtures 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.

## *Congratulations!*



Congratulations to **Doris Ellis**. Several times over the years Doris Ellis' poems have graced the pages of our church newsletter. Some wise person at Westbury Assisted Living in McDonough (Doris' new home) has recognized her talent and Doris is now contributing *monthly poems* to Westbury's newsletter. **Way to go, Doris!**

Congratulations to **Besse Cooper** who just celebrated her 114th birthday. She will be in the next edition of the Guinness Book of World Records. Besse is mother to Angie Tharp, grandmother to Kathy Banke, and great grandmother to Chris & Daniel Banke.



Our own, **Demester Dunaway** was able to participate in a very special gathering in Washington DC recently. Through the organization, Honor Flight Fayette, World War II veterans were honored with a trip to our nation's capital to visit THEIR National Memorial. We want to express our admiration and respect for their faithful service to and great sacrifices for our country. We honor you!

### October is

### Pastor Appreciation Month

Please let Spencer know you appreciate him by sending a card and a note of encouragement.

### Craft Group

**Tues, 10/12 11:30am - Village Cafe**, Hwy 54, Fayetteville, meet @ church to carpool 11:00am

**Wed, 10/27 10:00am - Southern Living**

**Home, Senoia, Lunch @ near by Restaurant**, meet @ church to carpool 9:00am. (Please note: this will be on Wednesday the Southern Living home is closed on Tuesday)

### Newly Elected Elders

**Barbara Barlow**

**Philippe Karka**

**Rick Pierce**

**Pat Randolph**

### Election Day

Tuesday, November 2, is Election Day. The polls will be open from 7:00am to 7:00pm.



**PLEASE** get out and vote!

## Women's Fall Retreat

Do you yearn for some time spent in spiritual reflection? Time spent in a beautiful setting and in the company of your sisters in Christ?

As we have become a congregation of commuters and confine most of our activities to Sundays, we never quite have time enough to visit with each other at and after church, do we? What better way than to attend our Philadelphia Fall Women's Retreat in the beautiful lakeside room at Calvin Center on Saturday, October 23, from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m.

We will be led in our spiritual journey by Linda Morningstar, Associate Director of Lifelong Learning at Columbia Seminary. Linda's theme for the retreat is, "One Anothering," an inspirational and practical look at the many "one another" passages in Scripture – love one another, admonish one another, forgive one another, etc. Several of us have attended workshops with Linda in the past and we can guarantee that you will come away enlightened and blessed. (By the way, Linda was the one who used the Esther play as a learning aid when teaching our PW Bible study at Columbia several years back – and we blatantly stole the idea to use at our retreat that year much to everyone's enjoyment!) "One Anothering" should be an interesting study!



Cost for the retreat is \$25.00 per woman which will include continental breakfast, a full lunch, afternoon snacks, study materials and insurance. Checks should be made payable to Lynn Vandiver and submitted to Lynn by Sunday, October 10.

We encourage you to invite your mothers, sisters, daughters, neighbors and other special women friends to attend this event along with you. Visitors are most sincerely welcome!

As in the past, carpooling will be available by meeting at the church at 8:15 a.m. that morning.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT CALVIN!**

**CALL OR SEE LYNN TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!**

## Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday



October 10, 2010 is our Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday at PPC. This special service honors women who contribute their gifts to the church and community and lifts up issues of women's rights. Eve, the mother of all living, through the tears of Ester, through an angel to Mary, through Mary and Martha at their brother's death, through the women who came to the tomb, through Priscilla during the time of Pentecost, through women in the church today, God's word is kept alive. From sermons preached to lessons taught, from emails sent to text messages received, from inscriptions on papyrus to internet blogs, the message is still being sent and received by women. We rejoice in and celebrate God's message to women, along with the way women continue to keep God's word alive.

Join us, this day when we will present a "Life Membership Award" to a deserving woman in our congregation, followed by a covered dish dinner in her honor.



**OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS**

*Happy Birthday to ...*

- 03—Ethel Lynn Keeton
- 11—Roy Schmelz
- 16—Jim Phillips
- 17—Feroze Yusufji
- 18—Jenni Ashmore
- 18—Beth Moore
- 21—Bert Tatzel
- 21—Jessalyn Murphy
- 21—Kaylee Lloyd
- 25—Lynn Vandiver
- 31—Karen Kelly Nelson

*Happy Anniversary to ...*

- 06—Pegge & Ed Murphy
- 12—Joan & Tom Murphy
- 21—Parveen & Feroze Yusufji

**Nursery Workers**

- 10/3—Jennifer Rohrbach
- 10/10—Guest
- 10/17—Debbie Bray
- 10/24—Diane Kitchens
- 10/31—Nell Cates

**Ushers**

- Fred Rohrbach\*
- Pat Randolph
- Bob Huie
- Lynn Vandiver
- \* *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!***

8/1 Henry Allen (Dot Pearce's brother-in-law) complications from diabetes, right foot amputation

8/1 Bobby Ballew (Joyce &amp; Tom Smith's friend) bladder cancer – resuming chemo treatments

8/22 Mack Bethea (Spencer &amp; Sherri's friend) cancer, prognosis not good

8/1 Jayne Bray (Kathy Banke's friend) colon cancer, finished treatment, awaiting surgery

8/22 Beth Brogdon (Patty Boone's cousin) double knee replacement surgery

8/22 Tye Bryant - back surgery, antibiotic treatment for infection

8/1 Jenny Chambers (Becky Huie's sister-in-law) doctors still struggling to save her leg

8/29 Christy Church (Spencer's friend) brain tumor , chemo treatments

8/1 Sara Cleveland (Tom and Joan Murphy's friend) breast cancer surgery, cancer has spread

8/1 Besse Cooper (Angie Tharp's 114-year-old mother) not doing well; dementia

8/1 Don Curlee (Karen Kelly-Nelson's friend) bone cancer

9/5 Gail Downing (Judy Baird's sister) recent hospital stay for intestinal problems, weight at 85 lbs.

**9/1 James Dunn (Dot's son) still dealing with complications from surgery**

8/1 MaryAnn Garwood (Joyce Smith's friend) surgery for colon cancer

8/1 Barbara Gibson - broke ankle – recovering from surgery

8/1 Jean Hale (Dot &amp; Emory Pearce &amp; Barbara Barlow's friend) multiply myeloma – chemo

8/15 Charlie Harkleroad (Andrew Durden's friend) cancer survivor/questionable spot on kidney

8/15 Billy Harris (Louise Etheridge's nephew ) leg injury, home now, facing more surgery

8/1 Donna Henderson (requested by Barbara Barlow) cancer

8/1 Shannon Hubbell (Tony Kitchen's sister) 8th surgery on knee – under antibiotic wound care

8/22 Sandra Huie (Bob &amp; Becky's daughter-in-law) Crohn's Disease, trouble with meds, painful

8/1 Monetta Metzker (Fran Youngblood's friend) oral cancer, has fractured hip, facing surgery

**8/22 Joan Murphy – finishing therapy for knee replacement – doing well—THANK YOU for your prayers**

8/29 Kyle Neal (Bob &amp; Becky's friend) On mission in Afghanistan, injured by IED

8/1 Regina Page (Dot Dunn's friend) – cancer, undergoing harsh bi-weekly chemo

8/22 Kera Parr (Pat Randolph's friend) 16 year old with life threatening cancer

8/15 Dan Payseur (Louise Etheridge's son-in-law) inoperable throat cancer, radiation &amp; chemo

8/1 Jan Peavy (Pam Langley's friend's wife) breast cancer, chemo now, double mastectomy later

8/1 Landy Ponder (friend of Spencer Frye) 3 brain tumors

8/22 Lamar Shields (The Ashmore's &amp; Betty Foster's friend) cancer of the esophagus—chemo

8/29 Virlyn Slaton (Bob &amp; Becky Huie's friend) – complications from back surgery

**OUR HOMEBOUND:****Mary Binkney****Tye Bryant****Martha Conrad****Joan Cushing****Nella Ree Dunn****Doris Ellis****Marie Foster****Myrtice Ormond****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).**