

THE C R O S S R O A D S

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297

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.

DO YOU MAKE NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS?

I have heard it before. "I never make New Year's Resolutions. I never keep them, anyway." I can remember all too many resolutions I've made and let slip away, too. But I believe New Year's resolutions are worth making. Let me tell you why.

First, we all need changes. Some we find very hard to admit to ourselves. I've heard people who say, "I have no regrets about my life. If I had it to do over, I'd do it the same way again." But that attitude is way too blind and self-serving as far as I'm concerned. There is great power in confession--to us, to God, to others. Owning up to our failures is the first, painful step on the road to something better.

Second, when we change calendars is a good time for reassessment. How did last year go? What do I want to do differently this year? This time of year always reminds me of a passage of scripture, better understood by farmers than suburbanites: "Break up your unplowed ground, and do not sow among thorns" (Jer 4:3). It makes sense. The more land you put into production, the more prosperous you'll be. But some of us are not wise enough to try to sow seeds in land overrun by thistles or we try and sow on hard dry ground without breaking up the soil and taking care to root out the thorns as they come up. Call it laziness.

Let me ask you a serious question. What percentage of your life is producing something of value to God? How much "unplowed ground" do you have that ought to be broken up in this coming year and made useful? The brink of a new year is a good time for reassessment.

If this last year, you didn't practice relying on the Lord as much as you should have, there is no time like the present to make a New Year's resolution. In fact, why don't you say a short prayer right now--use these words if you like: "Dear God, I want the new year to be different for me." Now spell out in prayer some of the changes you'd like to see. And close this way: "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm going to need a lot of help for this. So right now I place myself in your hands. Help me to receive your strength, in Jesus name, Amen." Good. Now you've got a much better chance of a Happy New Year. I pray it is a great one for you and our church.

Dr. Spencer R. Frye Sr.

JANUARY 2011

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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

Dear Church Family,

The words "Thank You" don't begin to express my gratitude for your very generous gift. It was quite a surprise for both myself and Jennifer.

When we joined the Philadelphia family 17 years ago, we felt called to be here. Over the years we have been so blessed by your friendship and love and you have once again blessed us in a way we couldn't have imagined. It has been my pleasure to serve you and the Church as the Chairman of the Property Committee. It was my goal to make sure that the Church was at its best, but I couldn't have accomplished this without a lot of help from so many of you.

Please know that Jennifer and I greatly appreciate what you've done for us. We look forward to serving you and the Church form many years to come.

Yours in Christ,

Fred

Thank You

I wish to thank everyone who attended Circle One's Patriotic Christmas Celebration on December 11th. Your show of support was *wonderful*: both the number of people in attendance, and your generous Love Offering (\$163) for Mrs. Denton were truly a blessing! All of you have told me how much you enjoyed meeting Mrs. Denton and hearing all her inspirational life stories. Thank You too for all the delicious food that was provided, and for all the help that was given in both setting up and cleaning up. An *extra-special* Thank You to Bob Huie for providing all the "props" for our POW/MIA Table. Below is the text of a note I received from Mrs. Denton on 12-15-10: **Judy Baird**

Dear Mrs. Baird and Church Members,

Your kindness is appreciated. I can't tell you how honored I was to meet all your members and to find out that I already knew some of them.

Thank you for the Love Offering, but I would have been happy just to have the opportunity to be with you.

Wishing all of you a Joyous Holiday!

Very Sincerely, **Helen Denton**

Thank You

To all those who donated Greeting Card Fronts, Canceled postage stamps and Campbell soup labels this past year, Thank you. We sent the Duvall Home a total of 44lb, 4 oz of these items in 2010.

The Duvall Home also sends their most sincere appreciation for your donations.

In addition to the items listed above, we will also continue collecting food and non-food grocery store coupons for the troops.

We just started this project in the fall, but two boxes totaling 14lb 11oz, have already been sent. This is a small way we can make a big difference. (In case you are tired of clipping coupons with the scissors, someone suggested a ruler works much better)

Thank you,

Barbara Barlow, World Wide Missions

Thank You

Thank you to everyone that helped with Christmas in the Park. We really appreciated everyone's help.

Outreach Team

Nursery

A very special Thank-you to all the ladies who served so faithfully in the nursery the past two years. This is another way the church has to cut cost and meet the budget through volunteers.

A new schedule is ready for 2011 year. If you have not signed up and would like to serve the church this way, please contact Debbie Durden or Barbara Barlow.

The nursery is available to parents with children ages, New Born through Kindergarten. All other children ages 6 and above will be ask to stay in the sanctuary with adults during morning worship.

Thank you

From the Clerk . . .

Happy New Year to you all!

We had such a great 2010 that it's going to be hard to beat. Through the hard and diligent work of many faithful members many great things were accomplished – physically, spiritually and membership-wise. The new roof on the education building and renovation of the upper floor stand as proof of that. We had a super homecoming celebrating our 185th year. A new praise and healing service was added. We have also managed to continue mission outreach by our support of over 20 different benevolent causes. I often tell folks that we may be small, but we are mighty.

As with every year, some of our beloved members transferred to the great Church Triumphant and they will be sorely missed, but God has richly blessed us with the addition of others who are fast becoming active and much loved members of our family.

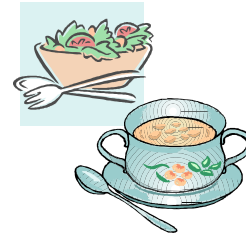
Did you realize that Philadelphia was the “mother” church for several of the Presbyterian churches in the area? It is my understanding that Morrow, Jonesboro, Hapeville and Riverdale grew out of the membership of Philadelphia. (There may be more.) And some time in my 26 years as your church secretary, I heard that one of the reasons the Riverdale church was formed was that some of our members found it difficult to get to Philadelphia when the Flint River would flood and their wagons could not pass.

Sadly, the Riverdale church has closed now, but their loss has been our gain. God has blessed us with the addition of three of our new members from the former Riverdale congregation – Celestine and Philippe Karka and, most recently, Freda Peeks. We are truly blessed to have several more of Riverdale's faithful with us in the sanctuary each Sunday morning. They are such a welcome addition to our services and we are so happy to welcome them “home.”

Can't wait to see what God has in store for us this year!

Wishing you all the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love.

Lynn Vandiver



SOUP & SALAD LUNCH

The youth will host a Soup and Salad luncheon on January 16, 2011. The luncheon will be immediately after service on that Sunday, and everyone is invited to come. All donations collected will go towards sending our youth to camp.



Our annual "Souper Bowl" Sunday is rapidly approaching. During the month of January, the youth will be collecting soups and other canned goods. We will collect canned goods until the actual Super Bowl Sunday. There will be a box in the Narthex where you can place any items that you bring. All items collected will go to a local organization to help those in need.



JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Happy Birthday to ...

- 11 / Debbie Durden
- 12 / Mary Binkney
- 13 / Joan Cushing
- 13 / Darr Johnson
- 13 / Celestine Karka
- 15 / Betty Schmelz
- 21 / Tom Murphy
- 22 / Becky Huie
- 24 / Nathan Schmelz
- 29 / Evelyn Murdock

Happy Anniversary to ...

- 01 / Frances & Darrell
Youngblood
- 22 / Brooke & Tom Lloyd
- 22 / Nancy & Jim Phillips
- 25 / Elizabeth & Alan Schmelz

Nursery Workers

- 1/2 Guest
- 1/9 Jennifer Rohrbach
- 1/16 Debbie Bray
- 1/23 Diane Kitchen
- 1/30 Joyce Smith

Ushers

- Fred Rohrbach
- Pat Randolph
- Philippe Karka
- Lynn Vandiver

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.PPC-USA.ORG

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)



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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!

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Martha Conrad who went to be with the Lord on 12/11.

- 10/24 Mack Bethea (Spencer & Sherri's friend) inoperable prostate cancer, radiation treatments
- 11/28 Mary Binkney (member) recovering from surgery to insert pacemaker
- 12/19 Kimble Carter (Pat & John's son-in-law) – recovering from bladder surgery
- 12/1 Besse Cooper (Angie Tharp's 114-year-old mother) not doing well; dementia
- 12/9 Douglas Chapman (Serena Staats' dad) – kidney failure and complications from cancer
- 12/1 Spencer Frye – recovering from gall bladder surgery
- 11/6 Wayne Goza (Cindy Adair's brother-in-law) benign tumor in sinus – facing surgery in January
- 11/6 Jean Hale (Dot & Emory Pearce & Barbara Barlow's friend) multiply myeloma – stem cell transplant
- 12/7 Diane Kitchen – recovering from foot surgery on 12/9
- 11/6 Shelia Lewis (Sherry Frye's sister) breast cancer – double mastectomy
- 12/6 Joan Murphy – recovering from foot and ankle surgery
- 10/17 Linda Smith (Joyce Smith's sister) – adjusting to new defibrillator
- 12/9 Bill Staats (Guy Staats' dad) dehydration and complications from medicine

OUR HOMEBOUND:

- Mary Binkney**
- Tye Bryant**
- Joan Cushing**
- Nella Ree Dunn**
- Doris Ellis**
- Marie Foster**
- Myrtice Ormond**
- James Ray**
- Bert Tatzel**
- JoAnn Tatzel**

*Addresses of
our homebound are
on the bulletin board.*

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Juan Rodriguez** joins us through profession of faith.
- Freda Peeks** joins us through transfer of membership.

Join us in welcoming these two to the Philadelphia Presbyterian family. You may find their addresses on the bulletin board.