

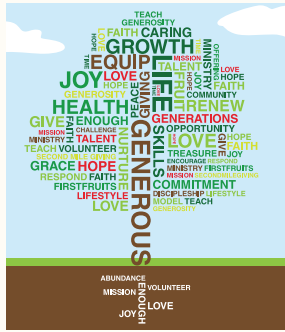
# The Good News!

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church at Dayton

October 2011



# APPLICATIONS FOR LIFE



“I’m spiritual, not religious” said the man I met at the grocery store, the woman in the park, the mom at back to school night, the people I met at the party. It’s never the starting point of a conversation. But it ends up there—a lot. Usually, it’s

the response to their realization of what I do for a living. And as I’m reaching for the chicken, watching the kids play, waiting to meet the new teacher, or hoping to connect with people—I wonder about their need to say it. Is it to hold me back from inviting them to church? Limit any reference I might suddenly make to the Bible? Stop the conversation right in its tracks?

In today’s world, this kind of self-identification is a phenomenon. According to CNN, the “I’m spiritual but not religious” community is growing at a rapid rate. In a 2009 survey by the research firm LifeWay Christian Resources, 72% of millennials (18 to 29 year olds) said they are more spiritual than religious. The phrase is now so commonplace that it’s spawned its own acronym (“I’m SBRN”) and Facebook page.

Rejection of organized church lies at the heart of the SBRN movement. While Christian denominations differ widely in their understanding of scripture, theology and system of governance—issues of conflict, abuse of power and lack of relevancy have equalized the perception of what it means to be Church, no matter which church you are talking about.

I get it. I can understand why people would push back from Church. Many has been the time the Church has gotten it wrong; been too focused on drawing lines while transgressing other boundaries; been hurtful; lost its way. While Christ is at the Church’s head, leadership falls to humanity whose ongoing fault is being human.

But I don’t get it. I don’t understand what anchors the spiritual but not religious movement, other than the rejection. There is something about it that’s incredibly individualized, and free floating. As much as I too love the *idea* of sampling the best of all religious traditions into one mix—Where is the worship? The mission? The fellowship? The Church has gotten many things wrong, but it is not the sum of its failures—any more than I am...or you are.

Spirituality and religion are not mutually exclusive. Nor are they polar opposites. Each can be defined by journey. Each can shape the other. The choice to take spirituality alone is in some sense to go it alone. And it is not God’s intention that anyone makes the journey alone. It’s time to relearn the value of community. To help people experience the joy in worshipping together. To live into the expectation



- 🌳 that when you are sick and in need—we will visit with you, pray with you, and help if we can.
- 🌳 that when you have something to celebrate—we will affirm, and cheer
- 🌳 that when you are struggling to figure out where to make a difference in the world—we will open opportunities
- 🌳 that when you have questions—together we’ll search for answers, never knowing if we’ll find them but learning as we go

At its heart, the Church is centered on community. And for the next year—we are going to center on life applications that stand at the heart of the community.

Spiritual and not religious?  
We’ve got an app for that.

*Rev. Wendi*

## October Birthdays

- Oct. 2 Bob Von Thun  
Oct. 3 Christian Antisell  
Miranda Holsten  
Ruth Wisniewski  
Oct. 4 Bruce Scurato  
Oct. 5 Phillip Jaccoma  
Oct. 9 Freddy Strebeck  
Oct. 10 Dorothy Hanle  
Trent Ferraioli  
Gabi Vittor  
Oct. 11 Michael Klem  
Oct. 13 Richard Hughes  
Oct. 14 Joseph Venezian  
Oct. 17 Norma Hoglander  
Oct. 23 Samantha Both  
Nicole Suto  
Oct. 24 Tyler Melchisky  
Oct. 25 Dawn Carbone  
Angela Velez  
Teresa Velez  
Oct. 26 Devin Melchisky  
Oct. 27 Linda Lutz  
Oct. 28 Kenneth Pearce  
Courtney Smith  
Marlene Wolf



### The First Presbyterian Church at Dayton

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Church Phone: 732-329-2463  
Church Fax: 732-329-6360

Our website:  
[www.firstpresdaytonnj.org](http://www.firstpresdaytonnj.org)

Our office email:  
[daytonpres@verizon.net](mailto:daytonpres@verizon.net)

Rev. Wendi Werner's email:  
[wendi.daytonpres@verizon.net](mailto:wendi.daytonpres@verizon.net)  
Rev. Wendi's office hours:  
Tuesday–Friday, 10AM to 3 PM

*“Go and make disciples  
of all nations...”*

## OCTOBER PREACHING CALENDAR

- October 2 *World Communion Sunday*  
Peacemaking Offering  
Texts: Exodus 20:1-20; Matthew 23:31-46  
Sermon: “Believing in the Midst of Bad Behavior”
- October 9 Texts: Exodus 32:1-14; Matthew 22:1-14  
Sermon: “The God of Burberry & Coach”
- October 16 Celebration Sunday
- October 23 Texts: Psalm 1; Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Sermon: “When the Reward Goes to Someone Else”
- October 30 Text: Matthew 23:1-12  
Sermon: “Do What I Say, Not What I Do”

## Blood Drive

Our next Blood Donor Drive will be held on Saturday, October 15th from 10AM-to-4PM, at the Community Center in Woodlot Park, on New Road in Kendall Park. Childcare will again be available for donor's convenience. Donors must be 17 years and up (16 with signed parent/guardian permission form). Forms are available at [www.bloodnj.org](http://www.bloodnj.org)), weigh at least 120 lbs; and be in good health. Blood can be donated safely, every 56 days. The best time to donate, with the

SOUTH BRUNSWICK  
**Community Blood Bank**

shortest wait, is after 1:30 PM—mornings are usually the busiest. Donors are required to present some form of signed identification, such as a driver's license. Also, a Social Security, or donor number must be put on the registration form, and please eat before coming in to donate.

## First Aid Kits

The Worship Committee is selling First Aid Kits for the Home and also First Aid Kits for your Auto. These are a fund-raiser for our Accessibility Project. They are \$10 each. We will have a table at the Harvest Fair, otherwise, see Ruth Cereguas or any other member of the Worship Committee to buy them. It is a good idea to be prepared for minor emergencies which can happen any time, any where. While being prepared for your family, you will also be helping us to make our church more welcoming to ALL, including those who have physical limitations. Thanks!

Worship Committee

## *Session Highlights*

The Reverend Wendy S. Bailey has begun her duties as Regional Presbyter of the Presbytery of New Brunswick and Monmouth Presbytery. The two presbyteries will not be joined; they will be sharing the executive presbyter position, and will be splitting her salary and expenses. Her normal weekly schedule will be to spend one day in each presbytery office, two days floating, off on Friday, and on Sundays she will visit one of the churches in the two presbyteries. That will take the better part of two years.

The vote to hire her at a special joint presbytery meeting in July held in Hightstown was unanimous. Wendy Bukowski and I represented our church at this meeting. Everyone who has met her has been very impressed. We look forward to her leadership as we go forward in our efforts to adapt to the PC(USA)'s New Form of Government and what the role of the presbyteries and local churches needs to be as a result of these changes.

The fire marshal recently conducted an inspection of our facilities and informed us that our fire suppression system was insufficient and that our stoves in the church kitchen were in violation of Code because they are for residential use and must be replaced with commercial stoves. The fine for this violation is \$5,000 per day per stove. The stoves have been disconnected so we will not be fined, and we will have to buy one or two commercial stoves.

It is our hope that we will be able to sell the three relatively new residential stoves and are looking into purchasing new or used commercial ones. In the meantime, we have no stoves, and things are not looking good for our annual pie bake.



The Long Range Planning Committee has received the preliminary plans for the access renovation project and hopes to have detailed plans available for Session approval at the October meeting. The project includes a three-stage lift and two handicap-accessible bathrooms—one on the Fellowship Hall level and one at ground level. The first stage of the project will be completion of the handicap access bathroom in the closet section of the kitchen.

Session approved the Worship Committee's plan to sell First Aid Kits for the home or for auto. They will be sold for \$10.00 a piece, and will be on sale at the Harvest Fair and afterward while supplies last. This is an Access Renovation fundraiser.

The following Communion schedule was approved by Session: the first Sunday of every month plus Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Easter, and the October Session meeting.

Session affirmed the action to renew the Access Renovation CD maturing in August for seven months, and approved the renewal of the Montessori Security CD maturing in September and the \$25,000 Leffel CD maturing in November for up to 13 months.

The Cookie Walk and the adult Christmas party will be held on December 10th.

Duane Watlington has been returned to the Active Membership Roll at his request. This brings our total membership to 219.

***Carolyn P. Bryant***  
*Clerk of Session*

## *Celebration Services to Begin on October 16!*

In coordination with our Sunday school program, we are reintroducing four “celebration services” into the worship life of our program year. Celebration services will take place at the conclusion of a 4-5 week Sunday school study unit. It is a Sunday where there will be no Sunday school—instead children will remain in the entirety of worship and celebrate with the whole church family what they’ve learned over the course of the month.

Celebration services are specially designed for all of God’s children. All liturgy,

prayers and hymns will be special crafted and chosen with early readers and young singers in mind. The sermon on a Celebration Sunday will feel much less formal—with the pastor preaching from the floor rather than the pulpit—and in a manner associated with our children’s sermons.

Don’t miss out on what has grown to be a wonderful experience in our worship life together!

In honor of World Food Day—we are asking each family to bring an item of food for the

South Brunswick Food Pantry to worship on the 16th! Our church is a proud supporter of the South Brunswick Township Department of Social Services, which runs a food pantry as part of their outreach to the community. The food pantry is run entirely on donations from individuals, groups, schools and churches in South Brunswick, and they are ALWAYS in need of donations. The pantry accepts nonperishable foods, personal needs products and paper products (families cannot utilize food stamps to purchase the latter two categories).

## *3rd Graders to Receive Bibles!*

The third grade is such a special time for children. They have officially “moved in” to middle childhood and are making significant advances in their cognitive abilities. The little child who once had a hard time distinguishing between fantasy and reality has made the jump to inductive and deductive reasoning! Instead of simply accepting the stories they have been told, they are starting to weigh things out for themselves. Their lifetime search for truth and meaning has begun!

In celebration of this amazing time, our church has purchased all third grade children their very own copy of the Bible. This Bible has been specially designed for young readers,

complete with early reader friendly maps and charts to help children learn.



The Bibles will be given out during the 10:00am worship service on October 16. During the service, children will be called forward individually (and stand as a group) to receive their Bibles and a special blessing from the congregation. All parents of 3rd graders should make every effort to join us on this wonderful day! If you cannot be present, call the church office to arrange a time for the Bible to be picked up or dropped off with you.



## *Pastor’s Bible Study*

The Pastor’s Bible study will resume on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in our Fellowship Hall. Each week, we will concentrate on the lectionary reading for the upcoming Sunday. No experience necessary! The first gathering will be October 12!

## 2011 Peacemaking Offering

Peace has been defined as tranquility, a calm and quiet state, free from disturbances or noise. To live in peace, to be in a state of peace, takes on different meanings for all of us. There are, however, some basic elements that are necessary for all of us to live peacefully. Living peacefully includes the protection of individuals' integrity and human rights. For some of us, peace means access to education and the elimination of poverty, homelessness, injustice, and violence. For some, peace is the ability to openly express our opinions or to practice our religious beliefs without the fear of imprisonment or even death. In our homes, our communities and our world, we are called to be makers of peace.

The God who grants peace and wholeness calls Christians to understand and address the root causes of violence and injustice so that we may share in mending the brokenness that exists in our increasingly conflict-ridden and fragmented world. Peacemaking is the human response to God's gift of peace giving.

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the PC(USA)'s General Assembly.



Like other churches across the nation, we will receive the offering on World Communion Sunday—the first Sunday of October. We will retain 25% of the offering to use for ministries of peacemaking within our community. 25% will be used by our presbytery and 50% used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

*“Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.”*

Colossians 3:14-15



“ACTUALLY, I PREFERRED ‘HEAVEN’ TOO,  
BUT THE MARKETING GUYS GOT A HOLD OF IT.”

# World Food Day & CROP Hunger Walks

Ending Hunger in our World Sunday, October 16, 2011

The Dayton Church family will participate in the CROP Walk on Sunday, October 16!

Please, everyone, join hands with your neighbors. In solidarity, today, we walk with the Indonesian mother who walks for hours to collect water for her children and family. As one, we raise our voices to support the Haitian farmer as he grows nutritious food for his family. As a family for justice, we walk to help the Rwandan AIDS orphan as she begins her life anew. Together, we join our hands in the belief that food for today is just the beginning. Ending hunger and poverty is what we are here to do. Truly, there IS enough for all.



On October 16, hundreds of other CROP Hunger Walks across the country are joining hands with us, walking to end hunger. We are making history, we are making a movement. Nearly one billion people will go to bed hungry. On October 16—together—we are going to change that

fact, and end hunger one step at a time!

What can you do? You can come out and walk the 3.6 mile walk with us! The walk will begin on the grounds of Community Church of Sand Hills in Kendall Park. Or you can sponsor one of our walkers! Go to [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org)—and type in our zip code. The site will direct you to the webpage set up for our walk. The webpage is set up to receive your donations via credit or debit cards. Or speak with one of our walkers and offer to sponsor them directly.

Please contact Leslie Lanphear with any questions!

*\*World Food Day ([www.worldfooddayusa.org](http://www.worldfooddayusa.org)) is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-around action to alleviate hunger. It is observed each October 16th in recognition of the founding of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945. The first World Food Day was in 1981. In the United States the endeavor is sponsored by 450 national, private voluntary organizations including Church World Service.*



On Sunday, October 16th we are walking together. The 16th is World Food Day\*, a day designed to bring special attention to the plight of the hungry and to lift up ways to alleviate hunger. We take up that challenge!



## This Month's Ushers

**October 2nd**  
Barbara Trent  
Holly Adams  
Kathy Hart  
Dick Hart

**October 9th**  
Debbie Rittenhouse  
Dave Rittenhouse  
Sharon Campagnola  
Gene Campagnola

**October 16th**  
Jan Bunch  
Judy Cashmore  
Debbie Errichello  
Barbara Trent

**October 23rd**  
Bonnie Knigge  
George Knigge  
Ruth VanDyke  
Harriet Terren

**October 30th**  
Leslie Lanphear  
Linda Mendenko  
Jane Duchak  
Alice Veghte

# OCC

## Operation Christmas Child



I know it sounds early, but we need to prepare for Christmas joy for those who are without! This year is a little different. I have as many “shoe” boxes as you want. No need to wonder if you can find a box, I can give you 1, 2, 3, 4, or more. Now you can do more than one!

**The collection Sunday for us is November 6th.** They will then be delivered to a collection station and shipped to Samaritan’s Purse headquarters.

### How to help:

- Step 1** Get as many boxes as you want from Bill Hann
- Step 2** Fill the box with items for a boy or a girl
- Step 3** Label the box as “Boy” or “Girl”
- Step 4** Place \$7.00 in the box to provide for shipping expenses
- Step 5** Turn the box in at church to be picked up (Any Sunday between now and Nov. 6)
- Step 6** Smile and feel good about what you have done

I thank you on behalf of the “kids”.

Bill Hann



# Mission Connections

In order to keep our church members and friends informed about how your financial pledges and gifts are being directed and used towards Presbyterian Church (USA) missions work, the Stewardship & Missions Committee periodically publishes letters written by missionaries working in various parts of the world. This year, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has 220 long-term mission workers serving in 52 countries. These letters to our denomination will help you get to know them and their ministries. Learn what Presbyterian missionaries do and how you can support them!

## *A letter from Tracey King-Ortega, regional liaison, in Nicaragua*

August 30, 2011

Dear Friends,

Mission to me is about our own transformation, an opportunity to get to know God better in ways that shape us. Whether near or far, be it building houses, serving meals, or getting to know a reality different from our own, mission is how we expand our understanding of who God is. As regional liaison, I aim to make this kind of mission possible. A significant part of my work is serving as a resource for U.S. Presbyterians “doing mission” in this part of the world. I visit with mission groups, consult with partnerships, and help to organize and sustain country mission networks in the hope that we can all do what we do better, striving together to be more faithful and effective. Because of Central America’s proximity to the United States it is a popular place for international mission involvement, keeping me plenty busy.



Another aspect of my role is to liaise with our partners here in Central America. It may be getting things set up for a new mission co-worker’s arrival, having conversations with them about changes in our polity and how that may or may not affect our relationships, and overall just wanting to make sure that we are serving each other the best we can. I miss visiting communities and congregations and really learning from “the people” that have so much to teach us about life and spirituality.

For this reason I was pleased to be able to help lead a two-day national partnership encounter with our Nicaraguan partner organization CEPAD earlier this month. In attendance were 20 Nicaraguans from communities and churches across the country that have partnerships with churches or presbyteries in the U.S. It was well attended and provoked great reflection among the participants. The overarching theme was Servant Leadership, and within that we talked about service, leadership, accountability and communication.

The Bible study our first morning together was packed with great learning about leadership, service, and partnership. We read together from Luke 10:25–37, the story of the Good Samaritan. This is a well-known parable used to teach about serving others, and this time was no different. However, using the “see – judge – act” method often used by the church here in Latin America to put social justice principles into practice, I feel that I got much more out of this passage. Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan in response to the question “What must I do to gain eternal life?” As our Bible study leader Carlos Silva of CEPAD summarized it, “Christ shows us a way that overcomes death and will bring us eternal life: love.” But how do we love, and whom do we love? The Good Samaritan shows us that true mercy and compassion move us to serve. It allows us to discover and recognize our neighbor. That kind of sensitivity is essential to our understanding of the gospel. It is the faith experience. As Carlos put it, “If we don’t see our neighbor, then we don’t understand the gospel.”

As these ideas emerged from our reflections, it dawned on me yet again I was hearing a message of partnership. Because as Presbyterians we “do mission in partnership,” the word partnership has marked my 10-plus years of mission service. I see it as a way for us to truly get to know our neighbors. It is so easy to get jaded by news of poverty and suffering, but when we do mission in a way that allows us to build a relationship, the statistics begin to have names and faces. We gain the perception necessary to understand what kind of love Christ is calling us to share. It becomes real and we are challenged to serve in new ways. When we are moved to serve, like the Good Samaritan, we can dig deep and commit our own resources, but even he didn’t go it alone. He turned to the innkeeper to help care for the beaten man. This was a surprising message that spoke to me, that not only in mission (being transformed by God) but also in serving, we are called to do this in partnership.

During the rest of the encounter I continued to be impressed with the sharing and fellowship among the Nicaraguans. It was obvious that they take their partnerships very seriously. I saw their desire to deepen and sustain their connections with their brothers and sisters in the North, but I could also sense a longing in them to serve their brothers and sisters in their own communities here in Nicaragua. It was powerful for me to gain the insight that it is their partnerships with the church in the U.S. that enable them to serve those around them. U.S. Presbyterians and the Nicaraguans they are “doing mission” with are being transformed by the love they share in serving their neighbors precisely because they are doing it together.

Blessings and peace, *Tracey*

# October 2011

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

25

26

27

28

29

30

1

Harvest Fair  
10:00 AM –  
3:00 PM



2

10:00 AM World  
Communion  
Sunday/  
Peacemaking  
Offering

3

4

8:00 PM  
Stewardship  
Committee

5

6:45 PM Bells  
7:45 PM Choir  
8:00 PM  
Buildings &  
Grounds  
(at Manse)

6

7:00 PM  
Fellowship  
Committee  
8:00 PM  
Worship  
Committee

7

6:30 PM  
Boy Scouts  
Pack 108

8

9

10:00 AM  
Worship and  
Sunday School

10

11

6:45 PM  
Presbytery  
Meeting at  
Plainsboro  
Presbyterian  
Church

12

10:00 AM  
Bible Study

13

7:30 PM  
Personnel  
Committee

14

15

16

Celebration  
Sunday:  
10:00 AM  
Worship and  
Sunday School  
CROP Walk

17

18

7:30 PM  
Session

19

10:00 AM  
Bible Study  
6:45 PM Bells  
7:45 PM Choir

20

7:00 PM  
Prayer Shawl  
Ministry

21

22

23

10:00 AM  
Worship and  
Sunday School

24

25

26

10:00 AM  
Bible Study

27

28

29

30

10:00 AM  
Worship and  
Sunday School

31

1

2

3

4

5