

The Good News!

Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church at Dayton

Summer 2011

Now, probably for you—the new year unfolds somewhere between the end of December and the beginning of January. You mark that time thinking back on all that was—and what you hope the new year will be. And somewhere in between your sense of what went right and what went wrong... all you celebrate and all you regret—you make resolutions.

For me—thoughts about the year that's been and the year that's to come begin at the end of June, as our church program year closes and rests and then begins again with the arrival of September.

I look back and think—what an incredible year this has been for us here at the Dayton Church! Our Board of Deacons began its work, we brought back the Harvest Fair, had a pancake breakfast, a huge Christmas party and two church picnics. We took the Peacemaking Offering for the first time, changed the format of our Sunday school program and introduced new curriculum. We put together a new photo directory, held a year long confirmation program, and welcomed a “new” music director. Our long time secretary retired, our treasurer stepped down, We've adopted new financial and personal policies, poured time, energy and due diligence into investigating the possibility of solar panels. We've met with an architect to discuss our handicap accessibility project, welcomed new members. We've worshiped together—and lived out the Word in community.

The year had its difficulties too. Things did not work out the way we had hoped they would with the solar panel project. Our copier died, our computer crashed and we learned lessons the hard way about how we safeguard our computerized files. Our long range planning has not moved along as quickly as we would have liked. And as I look back, one of my

biggest regrets is that all our transitions in personnel impacted my ability to be more active than I desperately wanted to be in the area of visitation due to an incredible administrative load. And for this, I carry the most regret.



As I look to September, I anticipate great things! But first—we need to rest. May this summer be a time of rest and reflection, a time of hope and regeneration. And may we all gather again in September and be the community that God wants us to be.

*Creator of all, thank You for summer!
Thank you for the warmth of the sun
And the increased daylight.
Thank You for the beauty I see
All around me
And for the opportunity to be outside
and enjoy Your creation.
Thank You for the increased time
I have to be with my friends and family,
And for the more casual pace of the
summer season.*

*Draw me closer to You this summer.
Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am
or what I am doing.
Warm my soul with the awareness
of your presence,
And light my path with Your Word and Counsel.
As I enjoy Your creation,
create in me a pure heart
And a hunger and a thirst for You.*

Amen.

Rev. Wendi

July Birthdays

July 2 Mary Cardone
July 3 June Wood
July 5 Tracy Schwear
July 7 Donna Suto
July 8 Shannon Ferraioli
July 9 Donna Underwood-
Gess
July 12 Debra Frey
July 13 Jacob Ollinger
July 14 Dawn Randazzo
July 18 Charles "Chip" Strebeck
July 20 Lauren Strebeck
July 21 Philip Jaccoma, Jr.
July 22 Brian Brennan
July 23 Charlotte Hann
July 28 Cassie Quilter
July 29 Deborah Unglert
Julia Shumsky
July 30 Diane Gavin

August Birthdays

Aug. 1 Jessica Unglert
Aug. 2 Samantha Unglert
Aug. 3 Noah Lutz
Aug. 4 Lucas Williams
Aug. 6 Tyler Ferraioli
Barbara Trent
Jeff Wisniewski
Aug. 7 Steven Frey
Alice Veghte
Aug. 10 Bob Wood
Aug. 12 Nicholas Holsten
Kingsley Hughes
Aug. 14 Harriet Terren
Aug. 17 Nancy Watlington
Aug. 18 Debbie Errichello
Aug. 20 Christopher Miller
Aug. 21 Holly Adams
Aug. 22 Cathy Pronnicki
Aug. 23 Daniel Velez
Aug. 24 Erin Van Heusen
Aug. 25 Lisa Melchisky

The Bible in 50 Words

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Jacob fooled
Joseph ruled
Bush talked
Pharaoh plagued
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Judges led
Saul freaked
David peeked
Kingdom divided
Prophets warned
People exiled
Hope rose
Jesus born
God walked
Anger crucified
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.



The First Presbyterian Church at Dayton

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Rev. Wendi Werner's email:
wendi.daytonpres@verizon.net
Rev. Wendi's office hours:
Tues. through Fri., 10AM to 3 PM

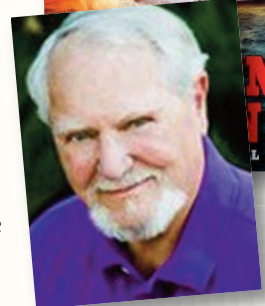
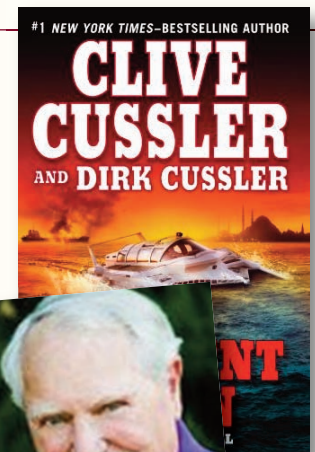
*"Go and make disciples
of all nations..."*

Camp Johnsonburg News

Camp Johnsonburg still has some summer camp openings for any child who would like to attend. Our church has made available scholarship funds to assist with the cost of attending. If you are interested, please see Rev. Wendi or Howard Jones from the Stewardship Committee.

Summer Book Club Read

The Book Club has decided to read any book by Clive Cussler that features Dirk Pitt. At present there are 21 of these American action adventure books to choose from for a good summer read. We will meet after worship on September 4th to discuss which of these books you chose to read, and to pick another book for future reading.



SUMMER WORSHIP AND PREACHING CALENDAR

- July 3** Communion Sunday
 Texts: Song of Solomon 2:8-13;
 Genesis 24:34-38, 42-29, 58-67
 Meditation: "Not Exactly Match.com"
- July 10** Psalm 119:105-112
 Sermon: "The Difference Between Hungry and Famished"
- July 17** Rev. Lynn Rubier-Capron Preaching
- July 24** Claire Colcord Preaching
- July 31** Rev. Kathleen Mulvihill Preaching
- Aug. 7** Rev. Wendi L. Werner Preaching
 Communion Sunday
 Ordination/Installation of Officers
 Text: "On the Water, Without Swimmies"
- Aug. 14** Mr. Marcus Hong, PhD candidate,
 Princeton Theological Seminary,
 Preaching
- Aug. 21** Rev. Wendi L. Werner Preaching
 Texts: Psalm 124; Exodus 1:8-2:10
 Sermon: "Taken from the Water"
- Aug. 28** Rev. Wendi L. Werner Preaching
 Texts: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c;
 Romans 12:9-21
 Sermon: "Is it Possible?"

Now that the summer months are upon us please remember that our church bills never take a vacation. It is important that you keep your pledge offerings up to date. This includes any per capita donations if you haven't made them yet. Thank you.

The Stewardship Committee



Ushers for July

July 3	July 10:	July 17:	July 24:	July 31:
Bonnie Knigge	Ruth VanDyke	Harriet Terren	Sandy Pearce	Ruth Cerequas
George Knigge	Ron VanDyke	Carolyn Bryant	Ken Pearce	Jane Duchak
Fran Nelson	Bruce Scurato	Alice Veghte	Carol Hague	Charlotte Hann
Alex Nelson	Leslie Lanphear	Judy Cashmore	Richard Hague	Bill Hann

Rev. Wendi's Vacation Schedule

Wendi will be on vacation with her family the last three weeks of July, beginning July 11th and returning to the office on Tuesday, August 2nd.

If you have a pastoral emergency during this time period—please do not hesitate to contact the church office. There is a pastor on call at all times. Please leave a message on the church's phone—extension #4. Kathy Bevenssee and Bonnie Knigge will be checking the emergency voicemail box several times a day. Any pastoral emergencies will be referred to the pastor on call. The on call schedule is as follows:

July 11 – 16 Rev. Wendi Werner

July 17 – 31 Rev. Lynn Rubier-Capron

Church Directories

If you had your picture taken for our directory and have not yet received your copy of the directory, they can be picked up at the church. They are in a box in Fellowship Hall.



They will not be mailed. If your picture is in it, you are entitled to a free copy. If your picture is not in it, but you would like a copy, we did get some extras, but we would appreciate a donation of a couple of dollars to cover their cost.

Thank you again to everyone who made this happen. This includes all of you who did come in and have your picture taken.

Session Highlights

Well, folks, it looks like we will not be going ahead with the solar panel project at this time. We had arranged for a local attorney, Michael V. Dowgin, to review the fifteen-year contract with Nova Power Group. On the advice of counsel that he didn't feel the contract was in the best interest of our church, and because we did not feel comfortable with Nova Power Group, Session has decided not to pursue this project at this time. If 1st Light Energy is able to secure another investor, we would reconsider. We rather liked the idea of playing an active roll in helping to preserve the planet. Wendi reported at the Bi-Annual Meeting that we would not be going forward with the project so we would not need to have the congregation vote on the easement required to have Nova's solar panels placed on the roofs of Fellowship Hall and the Christian Education Building.

Dick Hart, Bruce Scurato, Ginny Trent, and Beth Vittor were elected to three-year terms on Session and Sue Brennan was elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Deacons. She was ordained as a Deacon at her previous church. The installation of these officers and the ordination of Beth Vittor as an elder have been scheduled for August 7th. Richard Hughes, David Rittenhouse, and Marlene Wolf were elected to serve as the 2011 Audit Team. George Knigge was elected to serve on the Church Officers Nominating Committee for the remainder of the year because Dick Hart has been elected to serve on Session and can no longer represent the congregation on this committee.

Wendy Bukowski was elected to serve as Treasurer, replacing Ruth Velez who has served in this volunteer position as our Treasurer for twenty-one years. She and Lou will be moving to South Jersey once their house is sold. She was recently presented with a Waterford crystal clock from the congregation.. Session has voted to send the balance of the money collected for this gift to Camp Johnsonburg in her honor. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the camp.

As reported last month, Stephen Sooby has offered to purchase a small triangle of the grassy area at the left end of our back parking lot to straighten out his property line for \$5,000. His attorney is handling all the legal work involved which will be reviewed by the church's counsel, Mike Dowgin. Session has approved the contract to sell this small piece of land (1646 square feet) pending approval by the congregation and Presbytery.

The Harvest Fair has been scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 2011. The event will be chaired by Kathy Bevenssee.

The 2010 Audit Team has conducted the 2010 Audit and found our records to be in order. Session has received this Audit. Partial scholarships have been offered to two students who plan to attend Camp Johnsonburg this summer. Six road signs are being ordered for placement around the township directing the way to our church.

Members of the Buildings and Grounds and Long Range Planning Committees have met with an architect to ask for a proposal for the design of an ADA compliant bathroom in the storage closet area of the kitchen in Fellowship Hall and a design for handicap access with a lift at the entrance to the church located at the front of the sanctuary. We have had some problems recently with the warranty service on the air conditioner in the sanctuary and are looking for a new service company. The Personnel Committee has put together a Personnel Policy which has been approved by Session. Long Range Planning is looking into the storage problem to see what can be put away appropriately and what should be slated for disposal. Christian Education is planning to purchase a cart which can hold a computer and related supplies to facilitate usage where needed.

Carolyn P. Bryant
Clerk of Session

We've Got A New Treasurer!

We are proud to share the news that our Session has unanimously elected a new financial officer! Elder Wendy Bukowski accepted the call to become our church's new treasurer. Wendy has been a committed, faithful member of our church family—offering leadership in a number of areas. She has been active as an elder, working with both the Fellowship and Long Range Planning Committees. During this past year, she has been serving on the Board of Deacons.



Honoring the practices of the past, Wendy is spending the summer learning all our current financial procedures. She hopes that during her tenure, she will work with the Stewardship Committee to computerize all our financial records and to make use of software designed for churches.

Wendy brings wonderful qualities to the role of treasurer—a keen mind, a sense of humor, openness to both questions and discussion, financial expertise and a common sense approach that cuts to the heart of the matter. We are grateful to have her in this position!

Save the Date! The Fall Harvest Fair will be on Saturday, October 1. Be sure to mark your calendar!



Tricky Tray:

It's time to start collecting donations for our Harvest Fair Tricky Tray! If everyone could, please reach out to businesses that you patronize and ask for a donation. Gift certificates, products or cash are all needed! Thank you.

Rummage Sale:

We have started organizing for the rummage sale. We are dedicating areas in the basement for different categories of donations.

One area will have glassware/dishes/small appliances and other kitchen stuff. This is the classroom at the end of the basement nearest to the outside front door. There are shelves in that room you may place your boxes on and a table.

We also will have an area for games/books/toys/stuffed animals and videos.

There is an open room where the choir robes used to be stored—again it will be marked.

We will have bins for clothing—please separate by outerwear, men's, women's, children's and one for shoes/purses. The bins will be marked. Please make sure to only donate clothing that is in good condition.

We will have tables down the center for baby stuff (carriers, swings, etc.) and miscellaneous.

We will really appreciate it if you organize your donations before dropping them at the church to make it easier for the rummage sale committee volunteers.

Introducing the PC(USA)'s New Form of Government – Bit by Bit...

The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. will make a significant transition in its life when the adoption of its new form of government goes into effect a few short weeks from now. These changes are reflective of missional ecclesiology—which is a fancy way of saying mission is not something the church does; rather, the Church is the expression of the mission of God.

One big change the Session would like you to be aware of is connected with church membership.

For the past several decades—there have been four categories of membership in the Presbyterian church:

- 1) *Baptized members*—generally children of the church too young to have made their own profession of faith;
- 2) *Active members*—people who have made a profession of faith, been baptized and have been received into the membership of the church; and who participate in the church's work and worship;
- 3) *Inactive members*—people who do not participate in the church's work and worship, and
- 4) *Affiliate members*—people who are active members of another church of this denomination or another denomination who have temporarily moved from the community, have presented a certificate of good standing from the appropriate governing body of that church and have been received by the session as affiliate members.

One of the key changes in our new form of government is the elimination of the category of inactive membership. The rationale for this change finds its heart in the notion that inactivity seems antithetical to God's call to participation in the church.

Our Session has asked that everyone be informed of this change, and to give inactive members an opportunity to be restored to active membership. This opportunity is being extended with the understanding that many, though not all, individuals asked to put be on the inactive roll in an effort to keep at least some connection with the church until such time as they were ready to participate again in Dayton Church's worship and work while saving on per capita costs, or desired to be transferred to a different congregation.

Restoration to active membership means that the wider church will assess a per capita fee. If concerns about per capita fees would in any way prevent someone from asking for restoration—please know that the church budgets annually for per capita expenses as part of its mission—so any anticipated fee would be covered.

If restoration from inactive to active membership is of interest to you, please call the church office as soon as possible.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Please note that the deadline for submissions to the September newsletter is Friday, August 26th.

Special Congregational Meeting for the First Presbyterian Church at Dayton

The Session of First Presbyterian Church at Dayton calls a special congregational meeting for Sunday, August 7, 2011 immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to consider approving the sale of approximately 1,646 square feet of property located on what is commonly known as Lot 10.012 in Block 31.08 to the residents of 24 Larkspur Drive in Dayton, Steve and Gina Sooby.

The Dayton Church's Own Version of the Bermuda Triangle: Historical Overview

Our church approached the developers of the Summerfield Estates in 1986 to investigate the possibility of a land purchase in the hope of increasing our parking. The developers decided to offer the church just over an acre of land, to be used exclusively for parking at the purchase price of \$1.00. In July of 1997, our church presented an application for the development of the land as a parking lot to the South Brunswick Board of Adjustment. At that time, Steven Sooby, the resident of the property at 24 Larkspur Drive, asked to have an option to buy a small, triangular shaped segment of this land to even out his backyard. This segment fell outside the area to be developed as a parking lot. According to Session minutes dated June 15, 1999 – “As a result the site plan that was approved (by the Township) shows the fence on our side of the 1,600 square foot wedge of land in question.”

Since 1999, the church has maintained a strained relationship with the Sooby family in connection with what Session minutes call “the troublesome triangle.” Throughout the past decade, arguments have ensued over the Sooby's use of this 1,600 square feet of land, issues of liability, trespassing, the fence line, survey marker posts, a proposed lease agreement, a proposed sale agreement, a proposed easement agreement – with each side trying to win the day through the zoning board, township officials, lawyers, community consensus, the presbytery office and even the South Brunswick police department.

There have been no winners.

In August, we will hold a congregational meeting to put forth the Session's recommendation that the 1,600 square feet of land be sold to the Sooby family for \$5,000 – with the Soobys to

cover any and all expenses in connection with the sale including subdivision, survey, etc. This is not the first time a consideration of sale is being put before the congregation. In May of 2004, our congregation approved the land at a sale price of \$5,000 with \$10,000 to be held in escrow – with the church retaining oversight of the subdivision. For their own reasons, the Soobys rejected the offer. Any and all counter proposals from the Soobys – including requests for face to face conversations, were rejected by the church.

In April of this year, our pastor met with Mr. Sooby at his initiative over coffee to discuss our strained relationship. Having reviewed our documented history of this issue, and letters from the Soobys asking for an opportunity to make the situation right – our pastor suggested to Mr. Sooby that if his family still desired the land, to make the church a financial offer for consideration. This subsequent offer was reviewed by church counsel, Michael Dowgin, esq., who will continue to be involved to monitor the process and make sure the church's interests are safeguarded. Session reviewed the offer in June, and voted unanimously to work towards closing this complicated and difficult chapter in a way that brings reconciliation, and through that peace and harmony as is our heritage in Christ.

The church could spend the next decade and all those to follow secure in the knowledge that this 1,600 square foot, triangular parcel of land, effectively landlocked in area outside of our parking area is ours by right because it was deeded to us for \$1.00 in 1986. And we would be correct. However, the Session has decided that the principle of the matter is not enough on which to stand and the wrongs of the past not enough to sustain the impasse. It is the Session's hope that the congregation will vote to move forward on this issue together.

Should the vote be successful, the sale of the land will follow a long and protracted process. Approvals will be needed from our presbytery, and the developer who deeded us the land. Through it all, the congregation will be updated regularly as to the progress.

Summer Reading for the Children & Youth of the Dayton Church

The end of the school year has arrived for all of our children and youth—and with it, the end of homework driven afternoons and evenings. Summer is the ideal time to emphasize reading for pleasure! Research has shown that children and youth who drop good reading habits through the summer can lose up to three months of reading progress!

Church member and literacy advocate Nicole Sutherland Hughes has a passion for keeping children reading through the summer. Nicole and her family have made a special gift to each and every child from infant to grade 8 who has been active in our Sunday school program over the course of the year—a packet of **Scholastic** books! In each packet is an age appropriate workbook, and fiction and nonfiction books! If you have not picked up your child's summer reading packet—please stop by the church office, or come on Sunday morning and look for them in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you, Nicole!

Save the Date! for the **Sixth Annual Camp Johnsonburg Golf Tournament** on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at the Minebrook Golf Club in Hackettstown New Jersey. There will be a 1:00pm shotgun start, scramble format, followed by a buffet dinner with prizes and great fellowship. Proceeds from the all inclusive charge of \$150 will be used to support campers through the Karin Peri scholarship fund. For a brochure and further information, please contact Kay Britton, (973) 379-5510 or kayzie2@aol.com.



Thank You to the Sunday School Teachers of 2010-2011

God calls us all to grow in knowledge and wisdom, and to go and tell what we've seen, heard and learned. Over the course of this last year, our congregation has been blessed by those who were willing to prepare and teach Sunday School. We give thanks to God for these teachers, for their creativity and patience in the learning process—and for all the ways they have helped our youngest members know and discover God through the Word.

We ask God's richest blessings on these teachers, and ask that they continue to be infused with an eagerness to dwell in God and God's Word, to seek and find God in nature, in quiet reading and conversations in outdoor activity in other experiences where God awaits us all this summer season, while our organized congregational activities take a bit of a break.

Sue Scurato—Senior high/confirmation class

Bill Hann—Middle school

Diane Gavin & Ginny Trent—3-5th grade

Kathy Bevensee, Beth Vittor—1st & 2nd grade

Dorie Knott—Pre-K & K

Substitute teachers/helpers: Richard Hague, Patti Jaccoma, Donna Shumsky



"And one more thing... The Angels are getting hammered by the Cubs. Send in the rain and lightning!"