

First Press

“Living fully in Christ, through His Word, community and mission.”

From the Pastor

June 2011

Recently you may have heard news about significant changes in some policies within our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (United States of America). I struggled with the “our” in the first sentence. I wanted to write “the” because many would argue, myself included, that these policies reflect a significant departure from Biblical Doctrine.

For fourteen years our denominational constitution, the *Book of Order*, contained a “fidelity and chastity” clause. The clause stated that those to be ordained as pastors, elders, or deacons were to live “in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness.” This is not to say that those who “miss the mark” on this particular issue are loved any less by God or should be loved any less by us. But it is to say that those called to be ordained in our churches are to be held to a higher standard with regards to sexual purity. Through our system of government the action to remove this clause from the *Book of Order* was initiated a little over a year ago, was decided last month, and will take effect on July 10, 2011.

I am very disheartened by this action. The leadership of our congregation is opposed to this action. There are many within Northumberland Presbytery (our regional body) that have begun the work to reverse this action. They join with many others throughout the denomination in this effort. Please keep this work in your prayers.

What is the impact for us, as a congregation? Functionally there is no impact. Every ordaining body (congregation or presbytery) will now establish their own standards of ordination. Our congregation will adopt Biblical and historical standards for ordaining elders and deacons. These standards will include the fidelity and chastity clause. Our presbytery will adopt virtually identical standards for ordaining pastors.

The impact on us locally and individually may be one of humility. You may find yourself embarrassed over having to defend being a member of the PC(USA). We may be stigmatized for being “them.” I know throughout the years some have tired of this and have moved on to congregations outside the denomination. Some may do that in response to this latest development. On the other hand, you may have friends who are encouraged by the “progress” of the PC(USA). It is difficult to find your identity in a denomination. It is always my desire for my identity to be as a follower of Jesus Christ.

So now do we just discontinue our affiliation with the denomination? No, the elders, deacons, and I took ordination vows. Within those vows we promised to “further the peace, unity, and purity of the church.” The task of furthering all three has never been easy, and now it has become increasingly difficult.

Gideon had an amazing victory and David was successful against Goliath. Jesus looked like a failure on the cross; victory came with an empty tomb. Please pray for our denomination, for those working for positive change, and for our leadership as we seek to lead faithfully. Find your identity in Jesus and stick close to His word.

Jim

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 - Matt McTammany,
Nicole Jarrett
2 - David Robinson
3 - Lauren Halteman, Hunter Grimes
4 - Brad Zimmerman
5 - Paul Simington, David Jones
6 - Liz Wise, Harry Leshar
7 - Malcolm Arter Jr.
8 - Carrie Reber
9 - Jack Mignot, Joseph Santorine
10 - Bob Donehower, Donna Ward,
Heather Creighton, Emily
Bernard
11 - Jim Michael, Rusty Graber
12 - Will Sigl, Eric Gilger
14 - Gene Heid,
Courtney Newcomb
17 - Bea Heid, Rick Gathman,
18 - George Koons,
Linda Shaffer
20 - Joanne Shannon
25 - Sarah Friedberg
27 - Janet McLaughlin,
Maryn Grimes
28 - Aliena Zimmerman,
Jonny Miller
29 - Craig Reynolds

1 - Bob & Christena Harder celebrating their 20th anniversary
4 - Jerry & Joyce Westbrook celebrating their 45th anniversary
8 - Jim & Marilyn Zaiser celebrating their 54th anniversary
9 - Bob & Judy Lebda celebrating their 43rd anniversary
12 - Larry & Lynn Lawson celebrating their 63rd anniversary
12 - Bob & Dede Gronlund celebrating their 46th anniversary
12 - Joseph & Karen Gallagher celebrating their 29th anniversary
14 - Fitz & Mary Jane Walling celebrating their 55th anniversary
16 - Dave & Libby Robinson celebrating their 32nd anniversary
17 - Tom & Avis Hans celebrating their 34th anniversary
17 - Dave & Ruth McCord celebrating their 33rd anniversary
19 - Wayne & Ann Simmons celebrating their 63rd anniversary
20 - Bruce & Alison Van Patter celebrating their 30th anniversary
20 - Tim & Chrissy Reinhart celebrating their 30th anniversary
20 - Mark & Amie Reif celebrating their 24th anniversary
21 - Mark & Liz Speake celebrating their 25th anniversary
22 - Joseph & Caroline Campagna celebrating their 43rd anniversary
22 - Adam & Melanie Brown celebrating their 9th anniversary
23 - Patrick & Heidi DeCosmo celebrating their 10th anniversary
24 - Brad & Jennifer Wakeman celebrating their 16th anniversary
26 - James & Ally Weaver celebrating their 1st anniversary
29 - Mike & Amy Matukaitis celebrating their 15th anniversary



VBS
Beach
Fun
June 20-24
9-12
noon

How Can You Help?

The next Guatemalan Mission trip will take place June 25-July 3. Since the villager's diets are so limited, one important aspect of the trip is to supply vitamins and fruit trees to the people. Both will be purchased in bulk at a discounted rate so we are asking for financial donations to go towards that purchase. If you would like to donate money, please make the check out to the church with "Guatemala" in the memo.



The Lights Went Out In Lewisburg

As many of you have noticed, if you return to Lewisburg via the Lewisburg bridge from Montandon, the steeple is no longer illuminated. The lighting fixtures of the steeple have been an existing problem for many years. Over the course of the last few years we have tried different bulbs to extend the usage. Nothing seemed to work and there always

seemed to have at least one side without light. The Trustees have recently hired Son's Power to replace the existing fixtures with new energy efficient LED lights and fixtures. This will reduce electric use by 76% and will last for 11 or more years. This work will be done in 6-8 weeks.



Library Mural Refurbishment

The above sketch was made during the early planning stages of the mural for the William D. Himmereich Memorial Library by the artist Frederick C. Martin. The mural was completed by 1902 when the library was dedicated.

The Trustees have hired Hartmann Fine Art Conservation Services of Carlisle (which just completed the

refurbishment of the murals at the Campus Theatre). John Hartmann graduated from Bucknell in '79 as a studio art and chemistry major. He has worked to conserve precious works of art, including a damaged painting that belonged to Christopher Columbus and intricate ceiling murals buried under 22 layers of paint in the vice president's office in Washington, D.C.

We are anxious to see the end results of the library mural. Mr. Hartmann thinks the mural may have been cleaned before, but many years ago. If you would like to make a donation to the refurbishment, please write "library mural" in the check memo.

What is Your Mission?



To be a missionary once meant to do God's work in a foreign country. Then the term expanded to include church members who formed groups for short-term domestic or foreign projects—"mission trips." This summer our youth will minister to the Native Americans in Red Lake, Minnesota, and our adults will continue a long-term commitment in Guatemala. Inevitably, our "missionaries" feel as blessed as if they had been the ones served. Just ask Elder Pat Ringkamp, headed for her 7th trip to Guatemala, what mission has meant to her!

Interested in joining a mission trip? We encourage you to do

so. Quite sure you will never do so? That's all right too—but only if you look for another place and way to contribute your talents. Look around you. Our fellowship teams with people who have discovered an outlet for their skills and interests. Jesse Walsh is just one of several people who are especially good at sitting down and chatting with our guests at "Dinner by the River." Keith Kunkle, our Sexton, uses his welding and building skills to save us money and by fashioning custom pieces such as the carts that hold our Great Hall chairs and tables. Members young and old will soon be teaching, decorating, baking cook-

ies, leading singing, and operating the sound and visual system for Bible School.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" [2:10].

Like Christ, we have been created to serve others. What "mission" has God prepared for you? We can't wait to find out!

Bob Kribbs, C.L.P.



Hey Kids 2nd - 8th Grade! Do you love singing, acting and having too much fun? Mark your calendars for the 1st ever Kids Cantata August

1st- 5th, 9:00-12:00. This will be a fun filled (VBS-like) week where kids 2nd-8th grade will have the opportunity to sing, act, work on sets and props, learn movement and about King David and God's Word, along with snacks and games. This year's project will be King David and the National Treasure. It is a 20 minute cantata with 5 songs and a small dramatization. The culmination of this great week of fun will be when we share our project in worship, Sunday August 7th. Get ready for more summer fun!



Cherub Choir



L to R Kirsten Winner, Brett Lynch, Zack Vaji, Nick Tischio, Shannon Wright, Joseph Santorine, Will Van Patter, Emily Leshar (youth director Lauren Halteman) Maggie Storm

Congratulations to our Lewisburg High School Graduates (pictured above).

- Shannon Wright will be attending Lehigh University
- Kirsten Winner will be attending Bryn Mawr College
- Will Van Patter will be attending Penn State University
- Zack Vaji will be attending Susquehanna University
- Nick Tischio will be attending Penn State University
- Maggie Storm will be attending Johns Hopkins University
- Joseph Santorine will be attending University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering
- Emily Leshar will be attending Muhlenberg College



Congratulations to our College graduates:

- Anna Storm graduated from the College of William & Mary with a BA in History and will be pursuing further studies at Jefferson Medical College
- Andy Storm graduated from Jefferson Medical College and will continue his residency at Johns Hopkins University
- Sadie Mutschler graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Master of Arts in Speech and Language Pathology
- Drew Lynch graduated from Pepperdine University with a BA in Philosophy
- Kurt Davies graduated from Bucknell University with a degree in International Relations
- Amelia Davies graduated from George Mason University with a Master of Arts

A Note From Our Children's Ministry Director

Dear Families of First Pres, Summertime is nearly here and there's some great stuff happening for kids at First Presbyterian, including VBS and the first-ever Kids Cantata Week. There's stuff happening for parents, too. My hope is that this summer will be a time to reflect on the ways that the Children's Ministry has blessed our church family, and to share our dreams for the future. I want you be part of the conversation! You'll have several ways to share your voice as the Children's Ministry takes shape for the 2011-2012

school year. The first way is to come to our Children's Ministry Nights, scheduled on Friday nights from 6 - 8 p.m.: June 3, July 22, and September 9. Each of these three gatherings will be an opportunity to meet together and talk about the things that you want to see happening in the kids' programs and activities at First Pres. They're a chance to begin diving deeper into the heart of loving and shepherding our kids. The second way is to read and respond to email communication that asks for your feedback. And the third is to join me on Facebook! Yes! The Children's Ministry will

launch it's own Facebook hub next month where you can find out what's happening and how to be involved. Stay tuned for the Official Launch Date of our Facebook page...coming in June. So, mark your calendars now with the events listed below and be part of the family fun happening this summer!

In Christ's Amazing Love,
Carolyn McSween
For more information about events and activities, feel free to contact me: carolynmcsween@gmail.com or (570) 939-2119.

Children's Ministry Summer Calendar

Friday, June 3 (6 to 8 p.m.) - Children's Ministry Meet-and-Greet Ice Cream Social at Saint Mary's Street Park - Bring along your favorite Ice Cream Topping for our Sundae Bar **Rain Date TBD

Sunday, June 14 (following the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service) - Strawberry Festival - The Yummy Annual All-Church Event raises money for the Youth Summer Mission Trip

Monday, June 20 - Friday, June 24 (9 to 12) - Vacation Bible School - It's a SonSurf Beach Bash!

Thursday, June 23 (7 p.m.) - Vacation Bible School Closing Program - Discover all the great stuff that's been going on during the SunSurf Beach Bash

Friday, July 22 (6 to 8 p.m.) - Children's Ministry Parent Night - Parents, come and share some of your ideas and hopes for the Children's Ministry in the year ahead while kids have an evening of fun and games

Monday, August 1 - Friday, August 5 (9 to 12) - Kids' Cantata Week - A Fun-Filled Week learning about the Life of King David through of Singing and Drama for Kids entering 2nd - 8th Grade

Sunday, August 7 (during the Worship Service) - Kids' Cantata: "King David and the National Treasure"

Friday, September 9 (6 to 8 p.m.) - Children's Ministry Open House - Parents and Kids can meet our amazing team of Sunday School Teachers and see what's happening in the Children's Ministry for the coming school year

JUNE 2011

Summer Series: Regular Programs

FUEL—Middle School youth group, meet in the CAVE from 7-8:30 pm.


REFUGE—High School youth group, meet in the CAVE from 7-8:30pm.

ABF Sr.—Afternoon Bible Fellowship, for high school students, every other Thursday 12:30-2pm, girls meet with Lauren at the Manse, guys meet with Tim in the Cave; a time to study scripture, hang out and play!

ABF Jr.—Afternoon Bible Fellowship, for middle school students, every other Thursday 12:30-2pm, girls meet with Lauren at the Manse, guys meet with Tim in the Cave; a time to study scripture, hang out, and play!

Students will continue in their current grade level for youth group until the start of the new school year in

September.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 REFUGE	2 Coffee Hour	3	4
5	6 NO FUEL	7 NO FUEL	8 NO REFUGE	9 NO ABF	10	11
12	13	14 FUEL	15 REFUGE	16 ABF Jr.	17	18 Movie Night in the grass!
19 VBS WEEK	20 	21 NO FUEL	22 NO REFUGE	23 NO ABF	24	25
26	27	28 FUEL	29 REFUGE	30 ABF Sr.		

*First Presby Youth...
Summer Edition!*

*Other fun events will occur
this month as well...check your
email, facebook page and text
messages for other times to
hang out!*

First Presby Youth: Summer Edition



We are very excited about the arrival of summer! Although many things tend to slow down in the summer or even come to a halt, the youth program at First Presby will carry on! However, the monthly calendars may look a bit different and there are new programs that are specific for just the summer months! We will launch our "First Presby Youth: Summer Edition" beginning the week of June 12th. Along with the regularly planned weekly programs and the scheduled monthly special events, you can look forward to other fun events that will pop up each week...via a text message, a facebook post or an email! Whether you are around all summer to enjoy the youth program or can only drop by every now and then, we look forward to spending time with you and continuing to grow stronger in our faith and our friendships!



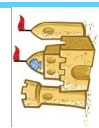
Youth Sunday



Praise Team and Children's Message

June 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 7:00 YouthBreakfst 7:00 Refuge	2 6:00DinnerByRiver	3 6:00 NA	4
5 9:30 Worship	6	7	8		9 6:00DinnerByRiver	10 6:00 NA	11
12 9:30 Worship 10:30 Strawberry Festival	13	14 7:00 Fuel 7:30 Missions	15 7:00 Refuge	16 6:00DinnerByRiver	17 6:00 NA	18	
19 9:30 Worship	20 9-12 VBS 7:00 Session, Dea- cons, Trustees	21 9-12 VBS 	22 9-12 VBS 	23 9-12 VBS 6:00DinnerByRiver 7:00 VBS Program	24 9-12 VBS 6:00 NA 	25	
26 9:30 Worship	27	28 7:00 Fuel	29 7:00 Refuge	30 6:00DinnerByRiver			



First Presbyterian Church
18 Market St
Lewisburg PA 17837
(570) 524-4419
www.first-presby.org
Rev. James C. King

Nursery:

5: Bruckharts,

12

19 Foster family

26 Paul & Karen Miller

Dinner By River Teams:

2: Shaffer, 9: Ziegler, 16: Scott Mertz, 23: Shady Grove, 30: Storm

Connie, Laura and Holly Moore

Murphy family

Mike & Erin Redding

Reif family

Greeters:

Rusty & Karen Graber

Brad & Jennifer Wakeman

Paul & Karen Miller

Bob & Christena Harder



Strawberry Festival

Sunday, June 12th
immediately
following the wor-
ship service we will
have our annual
Strawberry
Festival.

There will be ice
cream, fresh local
berries, homemade
shortcakes, brown-
ies, angel food
cakes, pound cakes
and beverage.

A free will offering
will be taken with
all proceeds bene-
fitting the Youth
Summer Mission
Trip to Red Lake
Minnesota.