

PROGRESS-IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3640 Ash St., Harrisburg, PA 17109, 717-545-8711

PIPC Messenger

May 2011



An Easter Jesse Tree

About a week ago while I was walking our dog, Jackson, I noticed the most peculiar sight. I do not often see unusual sights along my almost three mile walk in the late afternoon or evenings, so this really caught my eye. What I saw made me stop and consider the coming of Spring and warmer weather. What I saw caused me to reflect upon the gift of resurrected and transformed life from the dead and forgotten. What I witnessed was the budding of leaves from the end of a twig and emerging shoots from the end of a branch. “A twig,” you say. “What’s so miraculous about leaves budding from the end of a twig?” Let me give you some background.

Go back with me to the end of November last year. Thanksgiving Day is past and the Season of Advent is just beginning. On the first Sunday of Advent many of us gathered in fellowship hall to celebrate the beginning of preparing with hopeful anticipation the birth of Jesus. We gathered to create, eat and have fun. One of the items we created was a Jesse Tree, a craft item where scenes and signs of God’s salvation history up to the birth of Jesus are hung on a stick, twig or branch. Preparing for this craft, helpers found dead twigs, sticks and branches lying on the ground, gathered them up and set them in small coffee cans with plaster of paris. We then took them home to count down the days until Christmas. It was a great craft. After our Christmas celebration ended the Carter’s Jesse Tree ended up outside. For some reason we never threw it away.

By now you have probably figured out that the budding leaves and shoots I found emerging from the dead branch are coming from the Jesse Tree! The old stick rescued from laying on the ground five months ago, stuck in plaster of paris, wintered outside for four months has come alive. Leaves are forming from all points of the branch. What was dead is coming to life. What was forgotten is remembered. In some incredible and miraculous way the coming of Jesus at Christmas and the rebirth and resurrection of Jesus at Easter have come together in the Jesse Tree.

“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.” “On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.” Isaiah 11:1–3, 10

The Lenten season has finished; Christmas is long past; Easter alleluias and the celebrations of resurrection and new life have begun. God reminds us in the greening, budding and blooming from the dormancy and dead of twigs and branches that new life emerges. As it is in nature, so too, is it with those God loves. In our lifelessness and dormancy of faith God is preparing us for growth – faithful growth, serving growth, spiritual growth. What God has planned for us might seem peculiar and unusual, yet that seems to be how God works. God gives us a Christ-child, the crucified and risen Lord, new life from dead wood, eternal and abundant life in community.

These next fifty days of Eastertide I invite you to look for life from what once seemed dead, to discover new growth emerging from dormant living, to be amazed and excited when God causes resurrected and abundant life to come from you and this community. I invite you to shout with joy that one who was dead is now alive. Our new life comes from Jesus.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Kent Carter, Pastor

ps. If you would like to see the living Jesse Tree please come by my study at the church.



To the Congregation,
 Thank you for the many, many prayers, cards,
 telephone calls, visits and all of the kind
 thoughts which came my way during and after
 my recent hospitalization. It was so comforting
 to become aware of the concern of my church
 family. You have my everlasting appreciation.

Sincerely,
 June Rounsley

Thank You

The members of the Joint Camp and Conference Committee of the Presbyteries of Carlisle, Huntingdon, and Northumberland, and the members of the Krislund Staff, would like to thank you for the generous gift to the Annual Fund of Krislund Camp. We are grateful for your thoughtful Christian stewardship to this camp ministry of the Presbyteries.

With gratitude,
 Mark-Englund-Krieger

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift to support the life changing programs at Bethesda Mission. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Because of your gifts and donations, men and women who have regained their dignity and independence, are now able to return to society as productive citizens.

God bless you richly for all that your investments make possible in our work together. We look forward to your continued support.

Thanking God for You,
 Chuck Wingate
 Executive Director



The church office
 will be closed on
 Monday, May 30, 2011,
 in observance of
 Memorial Day.

thank you, God!

MAY SUNDAY SERVANTS

Worship Assistant

May 1 Stewart Robinson
 May 8 Billie Hawk
 May 15 Peg Manning
 May 22 Shirley Cleaver
 May 29 Pat Reidell

Blackberry Alley Door

Jack & Jen Andren
 Kristopher & Jennifer Lerch
 Don & Marge Barner
 Justin & Angela Hess
 John & Jan Brindle

Greeters Schedule

Front Door

Delores Smith
 Lois Dean
 Bill Hawk
 Charlotte Acre
 Larry Hahn

HIGH TEA

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women

Fellowship Hall - 4:00 PM - May 22, 2011

Adults Only (Ages 18 and over) - \$20.00

Tickets will go on sale May 1, 2011.
At the time of purchase we must have a name and money for every reservation.

Proceeds will benefit
the Mission Project
of the Women's Association.



FUNDRAISER

The Dauphin County Association of Educational Office Professionals

Annual Fashion Show Fundraiser

Saturday, May 14, 2011
Doors open at 11:30 AM

Hershey Italian Lodge
128 Hillcrest Road, Hershey, PA
Cost: \$20 (Lunch and Fashion Show Ticket)
Host: Connie Barto of Head to Toe Boutique
Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund



June 4, 2011 - 4:00 PM

The Women's Association is having a bake table during the Strawberry Festival. We are asking for cookies, candy, brownies, cakes, fruit pies, and breads. Please be sure to include a list of ingredients for donated items (Health Department requirement). Nothing creamed based may be brought from home. This includes items like custards, real cream pies, jar or canned bread, pumpkin pie, cheesecakes nor home canned foods. Proceed from the bake sale will go towards the furnace. If you can help, please call Marge Barner at 545-3135.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

School Kits for Church World Service
School Kit Items

- ◆ 1 30-centimeter ruler (12")
 - ◆ 1 hand-held pencil sharpener
 - ◆ 1 pair blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
 - ◆ Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages. (No loose-leaf or filler paper.)
 - ◆ One 12" X 14" X 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag* with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)
 - ◆ 1 large eraser
 - ◆ 6 new pencils with erasers
 - ◆ 1 box of 24 crayons
- *Cloth bag: Materials needed: 1/2 yd. "Kid-friendly" fabric.
(Directions are available in the office.)
- *Canvas tote bags can also be used. Inexpensive canvas bags are available at area craft and discount stores or can be found online.



Items will be collected until May 15, 2011.

Please place school items in the basket provided in the narthex.



OUCH THIS HURTS!

Furnace repairs for the first quarter of 2011 totaled over \$3,600.00 which is more then the \$3,389.00 we spent on repairs during 2008 and 2009 years combined. During 2010 we had repair costs of \$5,143.00. As you all know, oil prices are up from last year adding more costs for heating the church. The good news - Summer is coming!



Progress Community Preschool

It doesn't seem possible that another year is drawing to a close. We've celebrated several Holidays and now we're planning our year end activities. We will sing for the PIP-C Generation at their May meeting, we have an Art show for parents and friends in May and a year end picnic and program planned.

This year we visited the Progress Firehouse in October. Mrs. Santa visited the children in December. Tri-county Blind Association did our Vision Screening in February. Dr. Andrew made his annual visit for Dental Health Month.

The Preschool enrollment is good. We have six students in the four year old class, eleven students in the three's and seven students in the two year old class. At least 18 of these students will be returning next year. We have had a good year so far and much future promise.



March 2011

Pledge to date	36,847.55
Pledge paid to date	<u>34,226.55</u>
Difference	(2,621.00)

March Income	14,683.01
March Expenses	<u>30,606.59</u>
Difference	(15,923.58)



Did you know?

Giant gift cards may be used for the purchase of gas as well as groceries. When you are at the pump all you need to do is press "credit" in order to use your gift card.

As of April 15, 2011, we have sold \$4,840.00 in Giant Cards this year which has given us a profit of \$242.00.

You Are Invited

To Lunch and a Conversation about Basic Mission and the Work of our General Assembly

Mission Council
Wednesday, May 11, 2011
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Presbytery Office



Our conversation includes a Skyped live conversation with Roger Dermody, Deputy Executive Director of the General Assembly Mission Council and Hunter Farrell, Director of Worldwide Mission.

Women's Association

The PIPC Women have taken on a new mission project right here within our midst. We are working to replace the furnace. This past month "Pennies from Heaven" was the theme of this project.

As of April 17 we have received \$2,074.54 toward the furnace.



PIP-C Generation

The PIP-C Generation met on April 12, 2011, to enjoy a meal of pepper steak on rice, cauliflower and broccoli salad, ice cream and cookies.

A motion was made that we donate \$1,000 to the furnace fund and was unanimously approved. The entertainment was the Ridgeway Brass, a quartet from the Ridgeway Church of the Brethren. This popular group has played for Progress-Immanuel before and is always well received. Their show was lively and fun and begat lots of toe-tapping, hand-clapping, and singing-along. We look forward to their return visit for our worship service on July 12.

The entertainment for May is Progress Community Preschool class. This is always an enjoyable show. The cupcake baker is Bonnie Bentz.

* * * * *



		MAY		
Donald Barner	2	Rusty Keiser	10	
Ann Roden	2	Leslie Mason	15	
Susan Hooper	5	Arla Cree	16	
Joan Albert	6	Annette Leibig	20	
Ruth Strausbaugh	6	Esther Lau	23	
Stephanie Hartman	7	Pauline Burrell	24	
Marilyn Zimmerman	7	Nancy Travis	27	
Millie Zug	9			

WHO GOES BARE

SUMMER TRIP- Tuesday, July 12, 2011

PIP-C Generation will be entertained at the all comedy Rainbow Dinner Theater. We will begin with dinner and then we will see the show *"Who Goes Bare."* The show is about a little family business that is about to go under. The two brothers who own the business decides to save the Bed & Breakfast by hiring a rich, beautiful, health-conscious investor. She thinks the family resort is a nudist colony. Hold your breath!

Itinerary:

- 9:45 AM Arrive at the church* parking lot.
- 10:00 AM Depart for the Theater
- 11:30 AM Dinner
- 1:00 PM Show
- 4:30 PM (approximately) Arrive back at the church.

Cost:

- \$56.00 per person
- Payment is due by June 14, 2011

Sign up as soon as possible if you are interested in the trip.

Make checks payable to **"PIP-C Trips"**.

Send them to: Zana Allison, 504 Redwood Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109 **OR**
Allen Travis, 4484 Ethel Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

*Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church is located at 3640 Ash Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109



PC(USA) Situation Report

Multiple natural disasters have struck around the world and in the United States over the past few months. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been actively involved in or monitoring the situations of these disasters. The following are just a few:

FLOODING: North Carolina, Tennessee and the Upper Midwest;

TORNADOES: Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Virginia and Wisconsin

WILDFIRES: west Texas.

Over the April 14-16, Palm Sunday weekend, a massive storm system spawning more than 220 tornadoes rolled through ten southern states, leaving at least 45 people dead. Virginia and North Carolina have sustained the most severe damage and the most deaths resulting from the storms, with 21 people confirmed dead and countless families displaced.

POLITICAL TURMOIL: Liberia

Since the beginning of December 2010, political turmoil has caused between 25,000 and 50,000 Cote d'Ivoire refugees, as well as 25,000 Liberians living in Cote d'Ivoire, to enter Liberia. The number of refugees is creating pressures for Liberian authorities and for those communities. Many villages are hosting as many refugees as residents. In some villages, refugees even outnumber residents. An example is the border village of Loguato, where 5,307 refugees are living with just 1,743 locals. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is responding to the displacement and refugee crisis in Liberia in cooperation with our mission partner, Concerned Christian Community (CCC).

EARTHQUAKES: New Zealand, Japan

February 22, 2011, a shallow earthquake almost directly beneath the city of Christchurch, New Zealand, killed at least 100 people and affected our ACT partner member Christian World Service (CWS). Christian World Service operates out of the fourth and fifth floors of a central business district building. When the 6.3 magnitude earthquake jolted the city violently, staff members of Christian World Service raced down the stairs and stood in the street supporting both each other and shocked strangers. Around them buildings were collapsing and people were screaming. Staff member Nick Clarke joined the effort to rescue people from a nearby building. Among CWS's most supportive churches was the central city landmark, Christ Church Cathedral, where 22 people are believed to have died. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance stands ready to offer One Great Hour of Sharing funds and other assistance as requested and will continue to be in close touch with our partners to monitor the situation and respond to any emerging needs.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) provided the following information in their most recent report on the disaster in Japan: 4th strongest earthquake worldwide since 1900; Tsunami up to 30 meters high inundated 433,000 square kilometers of land; 492,000 people were evacuated. The damage: combined number of people dead and still missing at approximately 28,000; 155,000 homes and building damaged or destroyed; 2,126 road, 56 bridges, 26 railways destroyed; estimated damages of \$309 billion (US). The challenges: the rainy season is ahead with greater vulnerability to flooding; in the worst affected areas vital services such as electricity, gas and water supply as well as sewage systems still not functioning; 107,500 displaced people still living in evacuation centers; evacuation around the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant will be long term. PDA continues to respond to needs in Japan in cooperation with our ecumenical and mission partners.

If you would like to partner in giving, you may make a check payable to Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church and mark in the memo: P.D.A. Disaster or give online at [www.PC\(USA\).org](http://www.PC(USA).org)



Strawberry Festival



June 4, 2011 from 4 PM to 6:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

There will be scrumptious **FOOD**,
a table with baked goods by the Women,
wonderful **DESSERTS**
and the main course - **STRAWBERRIES**.

So come early and
enjoy the fellowship and food.
Bring your friends and neighbors too.



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