

PROGRESS-IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



PIPC Messenger

October 2009



A Journey of Discovery at PIPC

Several individuals have asked me about my first class for my doctor of ministry degree. They want to know what I learned during my time away and what I have been working on since my return from Luther Seminary in July. Surprisingly enough, I have just finished my final project for the first class. My assignment is to present, in the form of a powerpoint presentation, a slideshow that shares a brief, but deep history of the congregation, a case study, specific strategies for engaging the case study, an action plan and next steps, review and lessons learned.

When researching the history portion I was guided by the photo albums found in the Zarfoss Library. You might have seen a number of the pictures and articles I used on the presentation boards from the 60th Anniversary Celebration. The way in which I presented the material was to describe the breadth and depth of the congregation while, at the same time, gently pointing us in a specific direction as outlined in the case study.

The case study presents, basically, an issue to be solved or a set of questions to be answered. The greater questions I discerned that we should give greater consideration are: What is God up to in Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church? What does God want to do in PIPC? How can we partner with God in doing what God wants to do in Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church? These are large, all-encompassing questions, so for the case, the conversation team (Lee Anthony, Bonnie Bentz, Terry Hack, and Cherie Saber) focused on these: Who is Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church? How do we tell the unique story of this congregation by sharing powerful, affirming and positive stories? These questions will help us discern what God is up to at PIPC?

Next came the strategies. These were presented to me in my class this past July. Basically, it is a process to follow assuring outcomes that are “biblically-theologically framed, ecclesially located, theoretically informed, and communicatively discerned.” This basically means that the process we followed was grounded in scripture and in our understanding of Reformed theology, located in a faith community setting, informed by sound theory and practices, and spoken about in small group conversation and discernment.

What did the conversation team do and how did we do it? We told stories of our time at PIPC that affirmed the work of faith in our lives. We shared with each other how we have contributed to the church’s ministry and how the faith community has nurtured and challenged our faith formation. This is very similar to what many of us did during worship in mid-August. We shared a story of a time that we felt “alive” in the congregation.

Following our story-telling session, we completed an assignment of identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of the congregation. After this, we identified passages from scripture that spoke to us and seemed to capture our previous work. We settled on a plan of action and ended our extended conversation reviewing what we learned in this entire process.

The plan of action, with Session’s endorsement, is to engage in a congregation-wide story-telling and sharing event. The details are still being worked out, however this promises to be an exciting time of being able to share wonderful stories of how the partnership of members, the faith community and our Triune God have shaped faith at Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church. You will all be invited to share stories one-on-one trained listeners. If you believe you might enjoy listening and taking notes of these wonderful stories, you will have the opportunity to serve.

If what you read interests you or has peaked your curiosity, you will have the chance to view the slides and hear the presentation in October. On Sunday, October 18, following worship and a community meal, I will share with you the completed project. I am excited to show you what I have been up to the past several weeks, and even more excited to share with you the journey of discovering what God is up to at PIPC.

In ministry together,

Kent Carter

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THANK YOU

Dear Members of Progress Church,

Thank you for the flowers that were outside my door- sorry I wasn't here to "thank you" personally.

Sincerely,
Audrey Ziegler

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your "extra" donation to Downtown Daily Bread. We appreciate your ongoing support of the Soup Kitchen.

All the best,
Elaine Strokoff

Dear PIPC,

We would like to thank Reverend Carter for visiting us and giving us "communion" at home. His visit was at a perfect time because we just had some bad health news about someone in our family. It seemed like "God" sent him to us. Also, a thank you to the Women's Association for all the beautiful cards sent to us.

Dottie & Lee Folk

Dear Folks,

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers I received. They lasted quite a while and are still nice.

Anna Mae Moore

Dear PIPC,

I would like to say thank you to Sandy Dailey who brought flowers - which were appreciated. We shared them with Tom.

Thanks a lot,
Lillie & Tom Daniels

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your generous contribution-especially appreciated in this challenging economy. Thanks to caring donors like you, Church World Service can provide food, water and other necessities to families displaced by war or natural disasters. And with your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable water sources, and build a more sustainable future. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

Faithfully yours,
Rev. John L. McCullough
Executive Director and CEO

Dear Church Members,

Thank you so much for your contribution to Christian Churches United. Your generous support of our ministries means so much to the people we help and to the Tri-County community. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Yours sincerely,
Jacqueline Rucker

Terry Sneed wishes to thank the congregation at PIPC for all their thoughts and prayers, gifts and cards, calls and visits during his recent triple by-pass surgery and recovery from blood clots. They have been a constant source of joy for him, and each and every one was greatly appreciated.

Dear PIPC,

We wanted to share the good news. Our son-in-law, Craig, is home from Iraq. Safe and sound. He served with the National Guard 56th Stryker Brigade from January, 2009 to September, 2009. We are proud of him. Our daughter Rebecca is glad to have him back home.

Deb & Rich Leader

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS from the SEPTEMBER MEETING

Membership stands at 232 with the transfer of George and Phyllis Kegerreis to Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church.

Music & Worship Committee: Average attendance for August was 82. The next celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be October 4. The Advent candle lighting program has been chosen.

There will be additional services of Sunday worship during Advent and the Sunday following Christmas at 8:15a.m. These services will be a more meditative service of scripture, prayer, music, and guided meditation.

Finance: Accurate financial figures are now available. Income and expense figures are:

Treasurer's Report for August

General Fund	Month	Year to Date
General Fund Income	\$ 17,343.22	\$ 144,040.31
Other Fund Income	<u>2,692.89</u>	<u>36,913.43</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 20,036.11</u>	<u>\$ 180,953.74</u>
General Fund Expenses	17,028.00	179,375.86
Other Fund Expenses	<u>2,402.77</u>	<u>27,525.83</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 19,430.77</u>	<u>\$ 206,901.69</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 605.34</u>	<u>\$ (25,947.95)</u>

Rev. Carter baptized Kristiana Joy Lerch, infant daughter of Jennifer and Kristofer Hernandez-Lerch on this day, Sunday, September 20.

Building & Grounds: The air conditioner on the East side of the church needs a new compressor.

Preschool: Six children are enrolled in the 3 year old class. All but one were in the 2½ year-old class in the spring. Nine children are enrolled in the 4 year old class

NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE SESSION: October 18 at 7:00 pm.

Norm Diefenderfer, Clerk of Session



Progress-Immanuel's 2009 CROP WALK

will again be in a modified format at the church
Saturday, October 17 from 10:00-11:30.

There are many walkers in the congregation, so get in your walk and support a great cause. All those interested in participating are requested to sign up on the bulletin board. Pledge forms will be available in the office and in the narthex. All money collected should be turned in on the day of the walk.

Snacks will be provided by the
Christian Education Committee.

MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE FOR THE YOUTH

Mark your calendars for Saturday,
November 7, 2009.

Gather your hiking shoes, fishing gear, extra clothes, camping fold-up chairs, plus your family for a day in the mountains!

We will leave the church parking lot by 9:30 A.M. for a day of fun, food and fellowship.

A sign up sheet will be on the hall bulletin board.



Directions will be provided for the drive to the Lauvers' retreat. Return departure time is 3:30 P.M.

See you there!

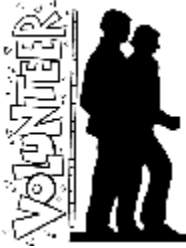
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For Free Tax Preparation - Winter 2009

Families earning less than \$49,000 are eligible for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit and other tax credits. Many do not know about it.

Help them capture and keep their hard earned dollars by preparing their taxes for free under the federal Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Training is provided and a certification test is required upon completion of training.

For information contact Renee Buchy, Community Action Commission, 232-9757 or rbuchy@cactircounty.org.



Youth Worship Assistants

Everyone loves to hear the youth participate in the worship service.



A sign-up sheet has been posted on the Youth bulletin board. Select your Sunday to share your voice in worship.

\$\$\$ Zarfoss Scholarship \$\$\$ Reminder

The deadline for the Zarfoss Memorial Book Fund Scholarship is October 15!
Applications can be obtained in the church office or online at picp@paonline.com.
Monies will be awarded in January 2010.

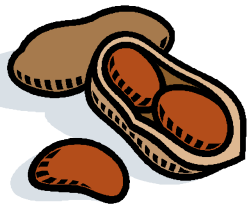
D. D. B.

Downtown Daily Bread is in need of the following items:

- Winter Clothes (hats, gloves, coats)
- Sleeping Bags (old & new), Bed Roll
- Men's Underwear, Socks
- Clothing (Sizes: Large, Extra Large, 2x Sizes)
- Toothpaste & Deodorant



Thank you for your donations.



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER

The youth are once again offering you the chance to enjoy their delicious peanuts. Go ahead and order extra, they freeze well! The peanuts will be made and available for pick-up on October 31, 2009, from 1 – 2 P.M. Make sure you have your **pre-paid** orders into the office no later than October 25, 2009. We are keeping the price at \$5 per pound. Maybe you'd like to take order forms to your place of work? This is the one and only fundraiser the youth do for the year. They use the proceeds to both fund their activities and support mission. Thanks for your support of the youth.

Please return this portion with your order and payment by Sunday, October 25. Pick-up will be Saturday, October 31, from 1-2 pm or after worship on Sunday, November 1st.

Please indicate if you would like:

____ Light
____ Dark

____ Salted
____ Unsalted

____ Pounds at \$5.00/ pound _____ Total Due

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____



Promoting Community Wellness at PIPC



A seasonal Flu Vaccine Clinic provided and administered by the Visiting Nurse Association will take place Saturday, November 7 from 9 AM till Noon. A sign-up sheet containing times on the bulletin board will assist the nurses in knowing the number of vaccines to bring for administering to interested persons. All individuals need to present Health Insurance Cards. Most insurances are accepted. We look forward to assisting the Visiting Nurse Association in promoting Community Wellness located in our Detwiler Room.

A RENEWAL OF A LONG TIME FRIENDSHIP

There is nothing nicer than finding a long ago friend and bringing that relationship up to date. This is just what happened this summer when a member of the PIPC Purlers went “surfing” on the internet and came across an item about the Rev. Joe Powlas of Cow Creek Presbyterian Church.

PIPC Purlers



The Rev. Powlas from Cow Creek, Kentucky was one of our first mission contacts. During the first twenty years of Progress church we delivered clothing, toys, money and even a dog to keep him contented! Many folks like the Barners, the Neelys, the Keisers and others drove down when the shipments were too large to ship!

The “Purlers” have been knitting (and purling) all during the summer months and had ready to ship many, many items. . .but to where? To make a long story short, we contacted Rev. Powlas. He remembered us “fondly”, he said and “Yes, yes, yes!”. . .“his congregation would be more than appreciative of our gifts to be used in their Christmas giving's.”

So . . .to be shipped in another week are dozens of sweaters, hats, and scarves, baby sacques, fleece blankets, dish cloths, baby blankets, afghans and all our good wishes and prayers to Rev. Joe Powlas and to those folks in Cow Creek, Indian River and Booneville Presbyterian churches. A very special thank you to the Deacons who volunteered to pay for the shipping.

If there is anybody who would like to join with us to help make easy knitted baby sweaters for Joe and his congregations, we meet the first and third Monday of each month at 10:00 A.M. until noon and we would love to have you join with us. If you perhaps would like to have our pattern for these sweaters and would knit at home, just let the office know and we will be in touch with you immediately!!



OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVANTS



Worship Assistant

Greeters

(Blackberry Alley)

(Front Door)



Oct. 4 Cherie Saber

Howard & Judy Snyder

Carol Becker



Oct. 11 Billie Hawk

Zana Allison & Jane Shallcross

Terry Hack



Oct. 18 Sandy Dailey

Mike & Mary Sweigard

Allen Travis



Oct. 25 Pat Reidell

John & Jane Brindle

Evelyn Smith





THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



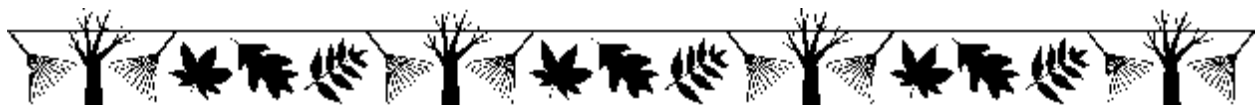
The Women's Association held its fall meeting with a covered dish dinner at Billy Hawk's house. The purpose of the meeting was to plan our projects for the very busy holiday season which is rapidly approaching. And once again we are asking our PIPC family to help us to help others.

One of our primary sources of revenue had been from the envelopes designated "Women's Association" in every member's box of envelopes for the year. The envelopes are no longer available. Therefore, we want to remind everyone that if you want to help the Women's Association financially, you may still do so. Write "Women's Association" on the front of the envelope (if you give cash and also write "Women's Association" on the check, if giving that way.

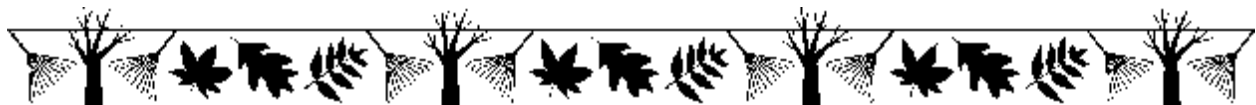
Sunday, November 22, is Harvest Home Sunday. We will be collecting food staples to donate to the Food Pantry at Messiah Lutheran Church. The children's Sunday School classes will prepare suggestions for items that you may donate; these suggestions will be distributed on November 15.

We will be mailing "goodie boxes" to our PIPC college students who are away at college. These boxes are sent soon after Thanksgiving so that they will be received in time for term final exams. We will be collecting snack and microwave items to keep the students nourished while they study. There will be a basket for these items under the coat rack. **If you want your student to receive one of these boxers, you need to give the Women's Association his or her college address.**

We have contacted Rev. Joe Powlas in Cow Creek, Kentucky. Many of you may remember his name from years ago when PIPC coordinated a missions effort with him. He is still serving in Cow Creek and was thrilled that we would again be assisting him. He asked that our help be in the form of Christmas gifts for the children. If each of us purchased one gift (a boy gift or a girl gift), think of the many children we would help to make happy. We will need to have these gifts by the middle of November so that we have time enough to get them to Cow Creek before Christmas. Bring your donations in soon. Try to get items that are sold in boxes; the packing will be much easier. Place them in the foyer so that we all may watch the donations multiplying. What a joyous way to celebrate our own Christmas.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The Women's Association's small group of dedicated women works hard, but we could not do what we do without your help.



The Women's Association is working on the program for the Advent night celebration. We will be serving ham loaf, mashed sweet potato casserole, and green beans. Desserts will be donated by church members. The cost will be \$6.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children over 5 years of age. Children 5 years old and under are free.

Soon we will be looking for volunteers to participate in the evening's program. If you feel a burning need to appear on stage before an adoring audience, please let Eileen Miller or Marilyn Zimmerman know about it. What a joyous way to celebrate our own Christmas!



QUARTERLY GIVING STATEMENTS

Quarterly Giving Statements are available for pick up
from the stand in the lobby.

Statements have been placed in alphabetical order.

Any statements remaining after October 21
will be mailed first class.



JOIN US FOR OUR "COMMUNITY NIGHT" FUNDRAISER

On Tuesday, October 20, 2009, Isaac's Restaurant & Deli (Oakhurst location) will host a fundraiser to benefit the **Progress Community Preschool**. Bring your friends and family to enjoy great food and great company while supporting our school. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the total cost of your meal will go directly to the Progress Community Preschool.

WHERE: Isaac's Restaurant & Deli
Oakhurst Shopping Center
2900 Linglestown Road (next to Giant)
(Valid at this location ONLY!)

WHEN: Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

HOW: Bring this flyer with you to Isaac's, complete the information, and hand it to the cashier when paying.

This form can be used for Dine-In or Takeout!

TAKEOUT: Call 541-1111 or come in and place your order.

Please complete this information for your server.

Name: _____

Number of People in Party: _____

Total Cost of Meal (excluding tax): _____

Bible Study

Invitation to the Old Testament



New Bible Study Series

This study approaches the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) by inviting you to hear the story of God and God's calling the people of Israel (our spiritual ancestors) through the many "voices" of the biblical text. Those many voices are not the writers of the text. They are the different styles of writing the text, such as prose, poetry, history and prophetic speeches, and the different ways in which the story is told.

We will explore the making of the Hebrew Bible, the creation of the people of Israel, the Exodus, the Promised Land, King David, prophets, exile, restoration and renewal. This study is an in-depth introduction to the Old Testament that includes weekly video presentations, group discussion and daily scripture reading. Participant books are available in the church office.

Please call the church office, 545-8711, to sign up.

**Wednesdays, for eight weeks, beginning October 7
1:00 - 2:30 p.m. in the Zarfoss Library**

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