



PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
351 MORROW ROAD  
FOREST PARK, GEORGIA 30297

JUNE 2014

# THE CROSSROADS

## LEAVING THE CHURCH

I met with a friend who is leaving our church. We had a good conversation about his reasons for leaving (they are legitimate) and then some discussion about how he can “leave well.” I told him that, based on my experience with people leaving our church or coming to our church after leaving another one, most people don’t leave well.

Here are a few ideas on how to leave a church well:

1. Have a good reason for leaving. Before you go, evaluate whether your reasons are good, legitimate and God-honoring. Here’s a thought-provoking post exploring GOOD POSSIBLE AND BAD REASONS FOR LEAVING A CHURCH. <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevindeyoung/2010/07/23/good-reasons-for-moving-on/> <http://secondmilechurch.wordpress.com/2010/07/29/good-and-bad-reasons-for-leaving-a-church/> I don’t think this list is comprehensive, but it’s good to make you think. If your reasons are good, go. If not, stay.

2. Communicate your decision to leave with the appropriate leaders. If you’re an active part of the church, (like a pastor) leaders will need to know you’re leaving. If you are serving, communicate it to your Ministry Team leader. If you are in a Community Group, communicate it to the leader. If you are connected with an elder or pastor, communicate it with them. Personal communication is preferable to written communication, but make sure you communicate.

3. Tell these leaders the truth about why you’re leaving. If you have legitimate reasons to leave then you have nothing to hide or worry about. If the reasons for leaving will sting church leadership, deliver it in the spirit of Proverbs 27:6, “Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.”

Scripture commands us to “speak the truth in love” (Eph 4:15), which means you don’t couch the real, sometimes difficult reasons behind a bunch of spiritualized nonsense. God may use your reasons for leaving to help the church or its leaders. I’ve had at least one “exit interview” that was immensely helpful to me as a leader — some of the truth of it stung, but it helped me grow. Whatever you do, don’t just leave without telling your leaders.

4. Appropriately transition or conclude your ministry commitments. If you’ve been an active part of ministry, your role will need to be transitioned. Hopefully you’ve been training and developing somebody to take your place anyway, but if you haven’t, give your leaders an appropriate time to find others to serve in your capacity. This period shouldn’t drag on, but you also should not just drop the ball on the people you’ve been committed to.

5. Leave graciously. In Ray Pritchard’s post on this topic, he writes:

“[Leaving] graciously means you refuse to speak evil of those who remain in the church. Look forward, not backward. Focus on your new church, not your old one. Think carefully before you speak about your former congregation. Don’t say anything that could be remotely construed as criticism. Even casual comments could stir up needless controversy. Let the Golden Rule guide all your comments public and private.”

If you’ve read this post and realize that you didn’t leave a church well in the past, it might be wise to circle back to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. If you have gossiped or stirred up division, you should make it right, apologizing not only to the leaders of that church but also to the people to whom you gossiped.

In the end, remember that Jesus loves the church you’re leaving and the one you’re going to — His blood was shed for both. Both churches are part of his bride. Do his bride the honor of leaving well and forgiving others. I have forgiven others so I am clear with God. How about you?

*Spencer*

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A light in the community that brings all people to God through Christ centered worship and ministry and nurtures their faith in order to extend His kingdom.

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# OUR PEOPLE!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...** 02/ Greg Downing, 06/ Jo Nelson, 06/ Jane Ashmore, 06/ Patty Boone, 08/ Tony Kitchen, 14/ Buddy Ashmore, 16/ Ethan Lyle, 18/ Asher Nevrekar, 18/ Jackson Randolph, 22/ Barbara Gibson, 24/ Betty Foster, 24/ Barry Billington, 25/ Grace Collier, 25/ Katie Clayton, 30/ JoAnn Tatzel  
**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...** 04/ Angela & Mark Russ, 05/ Diane & Van Banke, 17/ Beverly & Darr Johnson

## THIS MONTH'S VOLUNTEERS

**Ushers:** Greg Downing, David Hatch, Philippe Karka, Darr Johnson

**Nursery Workers:** 01/ Diane Kitchen, 08/ Barbara Barlow, 15/ Guest, 22/ Dot Pearce, 29/ Guest

### Kinship Care

In July, we will be collecting for Kinship Care Resource Center, a group that helps grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Watch for school supplies sales and clearances so that you can participate in the much needed ministry.

Connie McWilliams  
 Community Missions



JUNE 15

**TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER AND WITH CARDS** (new info in bold)

*Please notify us concerning updates. Inquiring minds – and prayerful hearts – want to know!*

*Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Louise Etheridge who's homegoing was May 15.*

- 04/28 Patty Bormolini (Pat Randolph's friend) – recovering from brain cancer surgery
- 04/28 Kenneth Brown (Joyce Smith's bro-in-law) – diagnosed with lung cancer
- 04/10 Anne Dunivin – recovering from lung infection
- 04/28 Charles NeSmith – recovering from nerve relocation surgery
- 04/28 Jason Trotter (Joyce Smith's nephew) – about ½ thru chemo treatment – doing good
- 04/11 John Pierce (Rick's brother) - having chemo and radiation for Squamish cell cancer
- 05/23 Aurora Staats—recovering from oral surgery
- 05/21 Bud Steele—dealing with detached retina

**OUR HOMEBOUND:**

*Please refer to the Church Directory for contact information*

Tye Bryant                      Jean Ray                      JoAnn Tatzel                      Dot Upchurch

**Prayer Request: Call 404-366-1851, Email [secyppc@bellsouth.net](mailto:secyppc@bellsouth.net) or click on [www.ppc-usa.org](http://www.ppc-usa.org).**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

## ***PW Message Corner. . .***

- JUNE 1—12:15pm—PWCT
- JUNE 17—11:30am—Busy Bees Circle @ Frances Youngblood's home, 316 Hayden Court, Stbg
- JUNE 21—10:30am—Circle One



## **THE CRAFT GROUP**

**JUNE 10**—11:30am @ La Parrilla Mexican Restaurant, Jonesboro Rd., McDonough

**JUNE 24**—11:30AM @ Green Manor Restaurant, Fairburn



## **Independence Day Celebration & Retirement Party**

**We will be celebrating the ministry of Dr. Spencer R. Frye upon his retirement**

at our annual 4th of July Cook-Out Celebration on June 29th. The church will furnish the hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, and condiment's. Plan to attend and bring your favorite side dishes and desserts. Join in this time of celebration.



## **Adopt a Camper!!**

It's almost time for camp! This year we are sending seven campers to camp due to your generosity in funding camp scholarships. The campers are:

1. Aurora Staats – Reach Out Day Camp – 6/16 – 6/20
2. Kaylynn LaFoy – Elementary Adventure – 6/15 – 6/20
3. Alissa Aquino – Elementary Adventure – 6/15 – 6/20
4. Elise Aquino – Elementary Adventure – 6/15 – 6/20
5. Devin Aquino – Elementary Adventure – 6/15 – 6/20
6. Serena and Aurora Staats – You and Me Camp – 6/29 – 7/1
7. Diane Kitchen and Kaylynn LaFoy – You and Me Camp – 6/29 – 7/1



We would like to give each young camper a goodie bag for camp. You can pick a child to sponsor and purchase the items for the bag or you can make a monetary donation to help purchase items for camp.

### **Goodie Bag Items:**

*Carrying Bag, Beach Towel, Flashlight and batteries, Sun Screen, Bug Spray or wipes, Water Bottle, Disposable Camera, Journal/notebook and pens*

Goodie bags and donations need to be given to Diane Kitchen no later than Sunday, June 8th.

Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity in sending kids to Calvin Center for camp.

OUR MISSION: To exhibit the kingdom of God to our community by being a witness to everyone who is within our reach that Jesus Christ is LORD. To proclaim the gospel by telling the good news of Jesus Christ while equipping all who will to be evangelist so the church will grow. To provide for the worship of God through traditional Sunday morning worship and offer alternative times and styles of worship to the community. To promote the ministry of compassion by providing opportunities for ministry and encouraging others to seek God's call for compassionate service. To preserve the truth of God's word by defending the faith against any deviation from the bible as objective truth. To educate the members of the body of Christ so they are equipped to live as becomes the followers of Jesus. To maintain the spirit of unity through the fellowship of the children of God. To expand the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

**Core Values of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church**

- Radical Hospitality** (Romans 12:9-21)
- Passionate Worship** (John 4:21-24)
- Intentional Faith Development** (I Corinthians 9:19-24)
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service** (Matthew 25:14-30)
- Extravagant Generosity** (II Corinthians 9:6-15)



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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:  
[WWW.PPC-USA.ORG](http://WWW.PPC-USA.ORG)

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