



PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
351 MORROW ROAD  
FOREST PARK, GEORGIA 30297

MAY 2015

# THE CROSSROADS

*Thoughts from your Pastor,*

## Welcoming Strangers

PPC is known as a warm and welcoming congregation. I am convinced those are strengths that God will use to build and grow the church. Many that God will send to and through our doors are brothers and sisters we have yet to meet. Our ability and willingness to welcome these strangers will help determine the church's vitality and viability in the days and years ahead.

Christian Hospitality, A Way of Life, a bible study curriculum written by Jason Foster, provides food for thought as we seek ways to become even more hospitable to those in our church, homes and elsewhere. The curriculum could well become the basis of a summer study here at PPC. Here are highlights from key concepts he has identified to help us think about that possibility.

**Key Concept #1:** Christian hospitality, as given to us in the Bible, is a sacred *process*

of receiving' outsiders and changing them from strangers to guests....the Old Testament (OT) is full of examples of hospitality being extended to strangers who become valued guests both during their actual time together, and beyond. The New Testament (NT) is no different.

**Key Concept #2:** Hospitality is not a specialized spiritual gift that only a few people possess. While it's true that some may be 'better' at hospitality than others, everyone has a stake in it.

**Key Concept #3:** There is an indispensable moral component to Christian hospitality...The act of offering welcome is basic to Christian identity and practice. Historically, Christian hospitality was a subversive act that obliterated societal barriers involving gender, race, economic condition, and citizenship status, and also directly attacked the often deadly devaluing of the personhood of 'undesirables'.

**Key Concept #4:** The entire Christian life can be seen through the grid of Incarnation and Hospitality. 'Incarnation', following the example of Jesus...is the act of proactively entering into the world of others...'Hospitality' is the flip side of 'Incarnation' (it) is the act of inviting other people into our world...

**Key Concept #5:** Hospitality cannot be separated from the coming of God's Kingdom both now and at the end of history... (It) is not only linked to the initial in-breaking of God's Kingdom into history; it is also the grand picture through which the consummation of all history is presented.

Please drop me a line if you would like to share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions regarding these concepts, Christian hospitality or the possibility of a bible study on the subject..

Your pastor, sister and friend,

*Sylvia*

CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY A WAY OF Life, by Jason Foster,  
(<http://faithepchurch.org/files/Documents/Discipleship%20Resources/Hospitality.pdf>.)

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*Rev. S. J. Wilson*

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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 ...** 03/ Parveen Yusufji, 07/ Rusty Taylor, 08/ Diane Banke, 12/ Annelle Maxwell, 16/ Chandler Murphy, 17/ Tye Bryant, 17/ Martha Smith, 18/ Kaif Nevrekar, 20/ Carole Masdon, 25/ Kathy Banke, 27/ Philippe Karka, 30/ Dinah Bingham, 31/ Jackie Hill

## THIS MONTH'S VOLUNTEERS

**Ushers:** Philippa Karka, Rick Pierce, Tom Smith, David Hatch

**Nursery Workers:** 03/ Mary Smith, 10/ Guest, 17/ Pat Randolph, 24/ Dot Pearce, 31/ Diane Kitchen

### THANK YOU

Dear Friends of PPC,

Thank you for your cards and well wishes. I'm beginning to get used to the retirement home here in Texas—but I miss Georgia!, and all of you.

Love,

Dot Linderman

### THANK YOU

Dear Philadelphia Presbyterian,

I just want to let you know that the council had received a thank you letter from A.T.L.E.T . , the togolese evangelical group that the church had helped with \$200.00 last December (Mission Togo) . They want to expand their gratitude to the whole church (PPC) for their on-going support which is making a big difference in the life of this young ministry.

Thanks,

Philippe Karka

### **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!***

04/08 Cheryl Ann Bobo (William Rosenberry's daughter) – chemo for lung cancer delayed due to fracturing back, to be rescheduled

04/07 Roy Kemper – recovering from serious bicycle accident

04/01 The Shields family – recently relocated to Clayton County and called the church to ask for prayers

04/07 Dawn Smith (Frances Youngblood's daughter-in-law) –treatments for Omentum Cancer ended, awaiting scan

**04/21 Bonnie Ward (Barbara Barlow's friend) - sick from chemo & radiation treatments**

04/07 Those lifted in prayer on Easter Sunday:

- Willie J Smith and others in Mary's family,
- Persecuted Christians around the world,
- People served through Securus House, Mission Haven, & other PPC partners and friends,
- One Great Hour of Sharing – an ecumenical Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters.

### **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...



- **May 3**—12:15pm—PWCT
- **May 9**—10:30am—**NO MEETING**—Mary & Martha @ Nancy Phillips' home is postponed until June 6.
- **May 16**—10:30am—Circle One
- **May 19**—10:30am—Busy Bees Circle

## THE CRAFT GROUP

**May 12**—11:30am—Truitts Luau, Hwy 54, Fayetteville

**May 26**—11:30am—Varsity, Atlanta, Car pool from Church 11:00am, Husbands invited.

## Session Summary...

The Session of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church held its monthly business meeting on April 19, 2015. The Financial Committee reported the PPC March 31 financial report as follows:

Balance in the Operating Fund	\$30,613.81
Total Assets	92,110.81
Total Revenue March	19,840.48
Total Expenses March	15,997.51
Balance for March	<b>3,842.97</b>

Worship committee and Pastor Wilson introduced new worship into the Easter season: Ash Wednesday Service and Stations of the Cross.

Fred Rohrbach reported on committee planning for the PPC 190<sup>th</sup> celebration. Volunteers needed.

Session and Pastor Wilson discussed shut-in visitation/communion schedule. Volunteers to visit welcome.

Session approved Pastor Wilson's request for vacation May 10-16.

Session approved a Graduation luncheon for May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Focus on Radical Hospitality to all visitors.

*Rick Pierce – Clerk of Session*

## GRADUATE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

On Sunday, May 17, immediately following Worship, we will have a covered dish luncheon to recognize our graduates.



## A LOVE OFFERING

We would like to take up a Love Offering for **Christopher Sparkman**. He is the young man who was shot at the FedEx facility about a year ago. He has had numerous surgeries and is still

needing more. He is unable to work at this time and isn't receiving much in the way of benefits or money. You may follow the story at: <http://www.11alive.com/story/news/local/marietta/2015/03/22/christopher-sparkman-jamie-lynn/25197701/>

We will collect a "Love Offering" on Sunday, May 3, 2015. If you feel so led, we ask that you contribute to this offering. Checks should be made payable to the church with "Love Offering" designated.

Thank you for your support

Christian Education & Fellowship Committee



## Church-wide Workday

Saturday, May 30

From 9:00am to 12:00 noon.

Please join us if you can.

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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