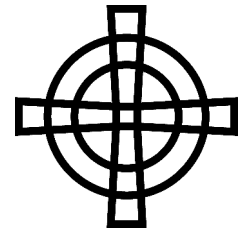


Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297



THE CROSSROADS

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Rev. S. J. Wilson

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404-366-1851

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Thoughts from your Pastor,

“...Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.” Matthew 17:1

The Christmas Season is fast disappearing in the rearview mirror of time and on the horizon we can catch glimpses of the season of Lent/Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and this year it falls on Feb. 10. Easter is forty days later, on March 27.

We can feel somewhat discombobulated when the two seasons are so close together. As a pastor, it's weird to begin preparations for the observance of the Crucifixion (and Resurrection) of our Lord so close on the heels of such joyous celebrations of his birth. I wonder. Might this be just the place God wants the church to be?

Admittedly, the Christmas season can be a somber time for some. But for the great majority, the days between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day are on fabulous festivity after another. Family, friends, fantastic food...decorating the house...shopping for, giving and receiving gifts...attending recitals and cantatas...singing carols and hymns...hearing familiar stories about Jesus (and Santa)...all serve to uplift our spirits.

Some of us try to hold on to those mountain top experiences for a lifetime. But the harsh reality is that as followers of Christ we are called and led into the valleys. To journey with Jesus is to journey into the muck and mire of this world.

Jesus needs us to be his hands and feet in the valleys, in the streets, in the spaces that aren't awe-inspiring and wonderful. He needs us to be living for and through him in normal, everyday life, with all of its drudgery, repetition, and yes, ugliness. He wants us to proclaim his Good News to people are suffering, hurting, abandoned, forsaken, or worse, those caught in a hell on earth.*

This Lenten Season PPC will be exploring the valleys where we've been placed and see how we may share more of God's goodness t/here. G. K. Chesterton said it well. "One sees great things from the valley, only small things from the peak."

Let us look for God in the valleys at the start of this Lenten Season of reflection, penitence and prayer by attending one of the 30 minute Ash Wednesday Services at 12:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 10 and traveling the Stations on the Cross that will be set up near the Gazebo, March 19 – 27.

Your pastor, sister and friend,
Sylvia

*<http://meredisciple.com/2011/03/why-doesnt-jesus-let-us-stay-on-the-mountaintop/>

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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.

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

Please notify us concerning any updates you may have.

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

- 07/ Mike Kirk
- 10/ Jeff Randolph
- 11/ Mary Smith
- 17/ Kaylynn LaFoy
- 18/ Hal Banke
- 21/ Barbara Barlow

- 01/24 Regina Allen (Dot Pearce's niece) – chemo treatments
- 01/04 Dennis Hermosilla (Tom Smith's nephew) – pancreatic cancer has returned and spread
- 12/20 Kayre Hines (Kathie Pierce's mom) – recovering from fall, fractured both wrists and jaw
- 01/22 Dawn Smith (Frances Youngblood's daughter-in-law) – continuing chemo
- 01/04 Michael Trotter (Joyce Smith's brother) – recovering from Pneumonia

THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/ Bob & Becky Huie

OUR HOMEBOUND: *Please refer to the Church Directory for contact information*

- Tye Bryant Becky Huie Jean Ray JoAnn Tatzel Dot Upchurch

THIS MONTH'S VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

- Rick Pierce
- Tom Smith
- Ray Morgan
- Mary Smith

NURSERY

- 07/ Mallory Banke
- 14/ Dot Pearce
- 21/ Guest
- 28/ Pat Randolph

PRAYER REQUEST: Call 404-366-1851, Email secyppc@bellsouth.net or fill in the I WISH card and drop in the offering plate.

A note of Thanks . . .

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards, calls and food, but most of all, for all your prayers on our behalf while we were in West Virginia. It is so good to be part of a praying church!

Thanks to the Craft Group for the great lunch they sent on the 8th and thanks to Danny & Cathy Morris for bringing it to us!

God Bless You All! Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Love,
Joyce Smith

Our 7th Great Grandbaby

Olivia Grace Baker

Born on January 4, 2016, weighing in at 7 lbs. 4.6 oz.

Parents are Trae and Meagan Baker

Grandparents are Tim & Cathleen Hatch

And the Great Grandparents are Cathy & Danny Morris



During worship on Sunday, January 17, the current Session announced their decision to remain with the PC(USA). The decision was reached after a lengthy season of discernment that included results from the CAT Scan, congregational input from several Listen and Learn Luncheons, morning

meetings, notes, private conversations and of course fervent prayers on the part of many members. The decision was unanimous and reflects the wishes of the great majority of members.

The Session will be reviewing the current mission/vision/values statements in preparation for writing the Church Information Form. Their goal is to have the congregation elect a Pastor Nomination Committee (PNC) by the end of March. Delaying the decision would have added a month or more to the process.

In the days ahead, Session will provide additional opportunities for congregational involvement. Your concerns and suggestions may also be shared at any time with any member of Session or submitted to them by mail noting that your signature will ensure a response. Please continue to pray for PPC, her members and her leaders.



Come join us at the Souper Bowl Sunday – February 7, 2016. It's that time of the year again. Our 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off. If you would like to be a part of the 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off, contact Mary (Pat) Smith.

Bring in soups, canned goods and non-perishables through February 7. Cash donations are accepted.

February 10 is



Ash
Wednesday

Dear Lord, As we enter this Solemn and Holy Season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming 40 days of Lent.

Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us as You humbled Yourself and gave Your Life on the Cross that we might receive the gift of Eternal Glory with You. AMEN.

PW MESSAGE CORNER



- **PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no PWCT meeting in February. The PWCT meeting Sunday January 31 takes the place of the normal February meeting.
- **PW Circles** will collect Blessing Boxes at their February Circle meetings. Presbyterian Women are encouraged to give thanks for all their blessings with their contributions.
- **FEB 13** 10:30AM—Circle One @ the Fellowship Hall
- **FEB 13** 10:30AM—Mary & Martha @ Lynn Vandiver's home
- **FEB 16** 10:30AM—Busy Bees Circle @ the Pares & Spares classroom

CRAFT GROUP

FEB 09 – 11:30AM @ Ann & Bill's Restaurant, Main St., FP

FEB 23 – 11:30AM @ Tim's Buffet, Fyvl

SECRET PAL PARTY



The Secret Pal revealing party will be February 14, at 12:15 in the church Fellowship Hall. If you are currently participating in this event, bring a gift for your Secret Pal and a covered dish. If you would like to remain a member and/or join for this coming year, fill out a card to be drawn at the end of the party. There are only two gifts given during the year, on the Secret Pal's birthday and @ the revealing party.



Believe in God

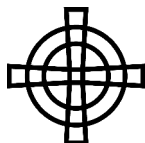
An ancient philosopher discussed belief in God. The philosopher proclaimed that if you believe in God and there is a God, then you win eternal happiness. If you believe in God and He doesn't exist, you lose nothing. If you do not believe in God and He does exist, then you will lose for all eternity. The philosopher's conclusion is that the only losers are the ones who reject God.

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.

Find us on the web
ppc-usa.org



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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