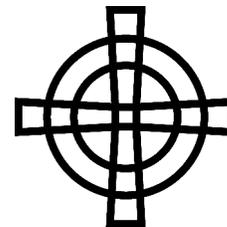


*Philadelphia Presbyterian Church*

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297



**THE CROSSROADS**

**PASTOR:**  
**Rev. Dave Omerod**

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**404-366-1851**

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*The Pastor's Page . . .*

**YOU HAVE THE ANSWER**

I've heard a lot about the need for church growth since I arrived just a few weeks ago. I don't yet know how widespread this view is in the congregation.

When you received the results of the Holy Cow Survey, church growth was probably the top choice or second to the top. This result is found in every congregation.

However, church growth is complicated and let me show you some reason why:

1. Does the congregation want to grow? If not, no matter how many new people attend, or how much advertising we do, there will be little to no growth. Guests sense whether they are wanted or not. This is the #1 reason churches don't grow.
2. It costs money to grow. Seldom do people show up at your front door any more. Advertising by direct mail is the best way to reach potential members. It gets us into every home in the areas where we choose to send the mailing. Advertising is a long haul venture.
3. When they arrive, guests need to be treated as if they already belong. A quick hello will not work. People know immediately how friendly our church is by how we welcome them and what we do with them after our welcome
4. If they join, they need something to do depending on their interest. If they are left alone after joining, they will not be around long.
5. If there is discord in the congregation, people won't join. Guests can tell when things are not right.
6. Most important, growing a congregation needs to be seen as part of God's mission for us. Are we here for ourselves or for others "and" ourselves. Do we want to reach out into this hurting world in which we live? Out of a sense of mission come passion and energy for the long haul of growing our church.

We have already been a much larger congregation and we have facilities for a 400 member congregation. We don't lack for space. However all over Atlanta are small congregations that used to be larger. I believe they are not growing because they became comfortable with having a small group of members.

I don't know the answer to whether our congregation wants to grow or not. You need to tell me and each other.

Dave

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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.**

**THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS**

- 02/ Greg Downing
- 06/ Jo Nelson
- 06/ Jane Ashmore
- 06/ Patty Boone
- 09/ Holly Ashmore
- 14/ Buddy Ashmore
- 16/ Ethan Lyle
- 18/ Asher Nevrekar
- 18/ Jackson Randolph
- 24/ Betty Foster
- 25/ Grace Collier (98)
- 25/ Katie Munro

**THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES**

- 04/ Angela & Mark Russ
- 05/ Diane & Van Banke
- 17/ Beverly & Darr Johnson

**THIS MONTH'S VOLUNTEERS**

**USHERS**

- Danny Morris
- Mary Smith
- Darr Johnson
- Celestine Karka

**NURSERY**

- 04/ Mary Smith
- 11/ Dossouvi Family
- 18/ Guest
- 25/ Diane Kitchen



Sunday, June 18, 2017

**Thank You**

Dear Philadelphia Family,

Thank you so much for your cards celebrating our 55th wedding anniversary and then for cards again a week later following the death of my stepfather, Bill Fenton. It was so sweet of you to remember us and your words of congratulations, and then sympathy, meant so much.

Much love,  
Lynn Vandiver

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

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

**Christian Sympathy is extended to Mike & McLean Smith, Frances & Darrell Youngblood, and family in the home-going of Dawn Smith on May 19. A Memorial Service will be held at Roswell Funeral Home, 950 Mansell Rd., Roswell on Saturday, June 3. The time of the service will be announced.**

- 04/24 Pam Hill (Mary Smith's friend) - 2 cardiac arrests, installed pacemaker
- 04/24 Brittany Jones (Mary Smith's friend) - 15 year old run away risk
- 05/18 John Randolph – treatment from A Fib & blood pressure problems
- 05/10 Pat Randolph –chemo for stage 4 Breast Cancer

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

Patty Boone    Becky Huie    Dot Upchurch

Prayer Request: Call 404-366-1851, Email [secypoc@bellsouth.net](mailto:secypoc@bellsouth.net) or fill in the I WISH card and drop in the offering plate.

**PLEASE NOTE:** if you make a prayer request or give an update during the Sunday worship service, please follow up with a call to the church office on Monday so we can update our prayer list.

**Congratulations Graduates!**

**Rachel Downing** graduated from Northern Illinois University. Her proud grandparents are Rolland & Betty Downing and her proud uncle is Greg Downing.



**Emily Lyle** graduated from Southern Crescent Technical College. Her proud parents are Angela & Mark Russ. Proud grandparents are Stan & Jenni Ashmore and proud great grandparents are Buddy & Jane Ashmore.

**Thank You**



The poet Robert Browning once said that all love begins and ends in motherhood, so perhaps it is fitting that mothers have their own special day. In America the day has been celebrated with bouquets of flowers, breakfasts in bed, and gaiety ever since it was established as a national holiday by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914. In keeping with President Wilson's desire it was only fitting that the Men recognize our Philadelphia Mom's with a Pancake Breakfast and a Pink Carnation. Thank you mom's, for letting us help make your "special day" special.

Jim Phillips  
Member  
Christian Education Committee

### PW MESSAGE CORNER



- JUN 4— 12:15pm—PWCT
- JUN 8 —10:30am—Mary & Martha Circle @ location TBA
- JUN 10—10:30am—Circle One

 **Save the Date** for our annual PW Retreat on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at Greg & Debbie Durden's house on Lake Oconee.

### KINSHIP CARE



In July, we will be donating school supplies for Kinship Care. Start looking for them now so we can be ready to collect them next month!

### CRAFT GROUP

**June 13 – 11:30am** - @ French Market, Locust Grove

**June 27—11:30am**—@ Monterrey Mexican Restaurant, 6590 Tara Blvd., Jonesboro

### PENTECOST SUNDAY



#### JUNE 4

Pentecost is the birthday of the church. It is the time when the disciples finally understood what Jesus meant with His teachings.

On this special Sunday, please:

- 1 – Bring a candle (any size & color) and a candle holder. We will place the candles on the Communion Table to signify the flames that danced around the room.
- 2 – Wear red to also signify the flames of the Holy Spirit.

This is also a good Sunday to invite a guest to worship. Please make plans to attend this special service.

### Thornwell—It's not just an orphanage anymore!

On May 4, 2017, Debbie Bray, Barbara Barlow, Connie McWilliams, and Debbie Durden traveled to Clinton, South Carolina, to visit Thornwell with other Presbyterian Women from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. We enjoyed a presentation and tour by the staff of Thornwell and saw the wonderful work that is done daily for families and children of all ages. Thornwell provides safe, loving homes for children in foster care; a highlight of our tour was visiting Berkele Cottage, presently home to eight middle and high school girls and their house parents. Thornwell presently serves a total of 137 boys and girls in their residential group homes.

In addition to seeing the group homes, we visited the beautiful Hartness-Thornwell Memorial Church with its unique stained glass windows, the Child Development Center, the Afterschool & Summer Learning Center, and the Kindergarten Readiness Program. The centers and readiness program are community outreach programs that have waiting lists. After lunch we toured the working farm, and we also saw where five teens and young adults who have graduated from high school live on campus as they pursue higher education or explore the job market. Teens are not required to leave when they reach the age of 18 as often happens in other foster care programs.

Thornwell also offers professional counseling and therapy as part of their community outreach, as well as a Strengthening Families Skill Building Program. In total, Thornwell served 1,901 babies, children, teens, young adults, and at-risk family members throughout Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina in 2016.

This year the Building Families In-home Program and Parenting Workshops will be expanded. They are now offered in four locations in Georgia: Roswell, Lilburn, Tucker, and St. Marys. Thornwell's programs are all rooted in the evidence-based Teaching-Family Model and value a family-style approach to healing. We were especially impressed with the emphasis placed on faith development as an integral part of the healing process. Thornwell provides physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual healing and hope for a brighter future. These children are well loved and cared for, but they can always use our help. We hope to have another collection of items for Thornwell later this year, and of course, they can always use our monetary contributions.



### Workday—June 3—9:00am

Hope you can come and help out.

You are invited . . .

#### Church-wide Covered-dish Luncheon

To welcome our new pastor

#### Rev. David Omerod

Sunday, June 11, immediately following worship.

Hope to see you there!

July 2 will be our annual **Patriotic Celebration** with Hamburgers & Hotdogs immediately following worship. Mark your calendars!

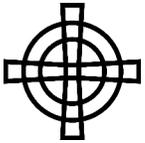


**OUR MISSION:** is to offer spiritual peace in a chaotic world through the stability of traditional Christ-centered teaching, worship and prayer.

**OUR CORE VALUES:**

- 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)

Find us on the web  
[ppc-usa.org](http://ppc-usa.org)



## THE CROSSROADS

*PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
315 MORROW ROAD  
FOREST PARK GA 30297*

## ***Session Summary...***

The Session of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church held its monthly business meeting on May 22, 2017. The Financial Committee reported the PPC April 2017 financial report as follows:

Balance in the Operating Fund	\$30,351.21
Total Assets	\$86,587.75
Total Revenue April	\$12,970.48
Total Expenses April	\$13,595.22
Balance for April	(\$624.74)

### **In other news:**

We are excited to have **Reverend David Omerod** join us at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet him, we hope you will make plans to join us at Sunday service soon and take a moment to introduce yourself to Reverend Omerod.

A **Congregational Meeting** was held on Sunday, May 21, 2017 for the purpose of dismissing the PNC. We would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to serving the church.

We are still in the process of relocating many of the items in the **Church Library**. If you are interested in something in the library or have any questions, please contact Diane Banke or Jennifer Rohrbach.