



PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297

THE CROSSROADS

Dear Philadelphia Presbyterian Church Family,

It all began on my birthday, December 30, 2019 when our boys and their families gave me a Christmas Gift called StoryWorth. I receive one question each week to answer and write my thoughts on the computer and send to StoryWorth who will print them at the end of the year into a book with all my life's questions answered, well at least 52!

It all became amplified in March, 2020 when the President declared that we all should stay home for the sake of our health. If you ask me how that has changed my life, I would tell you that being isolated has given me time to remember and time to answer many questions. As I reflect on my life, in remembering, I have become more emotional, more thankful, and more hopeful, and even more isolated, as I spend more time in my office and less time in front of the television.

Fortunately, Ginger was also given a present in 2019 from my cousin, Kathy... knitted, crocheted washcloths! If you ask me how that has changed Ginger's life, I would have to tell you that being isolated has given her time to rediscover her love for crocheting, and at the end of the year I will have to buy a storage shed to store a multitude of dishcloths! This gift has made my being in the office a little more bearable for her!

To tell you the truth, being isolated has also reintroduced us to Gunsmoke and we have now entered the realm of watching reruns of all the reruns of the reruns of Matt Dillon and Chester and Kitty and Festus! My dreams now are filled with confrontations and just endings and far too many trips up Boot Hill!

Years from now, our children's children will ask what life was like in 2020, and how it changed the lives of people in the world. How will we all remember the year we faced death and were isolated to stay well? How has life changed for you?

Stay home, stay well, and give thanks to God who never leaves us or forsakes us!

Blessing on you all,
Jack

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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.

Inside this issue:

Prayer List	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Volunteers	2
Music Ministry	2
Craft Group	2
PW Corner	2
Birthday Offering	3
Session Report	5

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

06/ Jo Nelson
06/ Patty Boone
24/ Betty Foster

THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

04/ Angie & Mark Russ
05/ Diane & Van Banke
09/ Ginger & Jack Westlund

THIS MONTH'S VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

Jim Phillips
Philippe Karka
Tom Murphy
Debbie Bray

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 Ray Morgan and family in the loss of his niece, Kay Piehl, due to COVID19.

04/28 Verena Ander's family – several with medical concerns and issues not COVID related

04/07 Jerry Carr (John Randolph's friend) – diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer

05/12 Nell Cates – continues to recover from lymphoma & low blood counts

05/12 Ruby Chapman (Serena Staats mom) – awaiting a Cardio Aversion

05/08 David Hatch – improving from accident, sent to rehab center for a couple of weeks

05/12 Alan Huie (Becky & Bob's son) – dealing with prostate cancer

05/05 Ray Morgan's family in Wisconsin – Niece - Nancy, out of coma and doing speech & physical therapy - her parents – Harold & Marcy are doing good. Niece - Kay passed away on Sunday, all dealing with COVID19.

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

Marie Foster Patty Boone Becky Huie Ann NeSmith

Prayer Request: Call 404-366-1851, Email secypcc@bellsouth.net

Greetings from the Music Department!

We hope you are all staying safe and healthy and enjoying the music we are able to share each Sunday. During this time, our choir has continued to meet virtually each week through Zoom and sing and pray together. Although we've been apart for some time we have enjoyed the connection we can make and that somehow we can still use our voices for worship! In fact, the choir has welcomed singers from around the country to join us on Sundays for rehearsals. I have been in touch with a handful of singers from my previous choirs who do not have any opportunity to sing at the moment. In typical Philadelphia fashion, our choir members have opened our doors to others and graciously invited anyone to join us virtually, inviting church choir singers from Maryland and Arizona to a spiritual and musical outlet.

We are also working on a special project for our 4th of July service! Although we do not know where we will be by then, our choir and guests plan to put together another virtual choir video to honor our National Holiday.

Stay safe, healthy, and trust in our God.

Peace, Verena



**PW MESSAGE
CORNER**



- JUNE 13—10:30am
—Circle One

(subject to COVID19 self quarantine)

CRAFT GROUP

06/09—11:30am @ Monterey Mexican Rest., Tara Blvd.

06/23—11:30am @ Tim's Buffet, Hwy 85, Fayetteville

(subject to change due to COVID19 self quarantine)



Each year a few special programs are chosen by the Presbyterian Women for the Birthday Offering. This year, among the 4 programs, is one in our state of Georgia! Giving to our PW 2020 Birthday Offering is a great way to celebrate the blessings in our lives to the benefit of others who need our help.

Center for Social Assistance to the Disabled, Family, and Children —PREOBRAZHENIYE

Assisted Living Facility, Davydovo, Russia: In Russia, facilities for adults with disabilities are state nursing homes that are inadequate to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of their patients. The goal for PREOBRAZHENIYE is to create a Christian model of housing and community. The Birthday Offering grant will help construct a new home that provides suitable living conditions, constant medical support, and an environment in which the residents can realize their rights to freedom of religion and work.

GAP Ministries of Augusta, Georgia

Expand Access and Service Space, Northeast Georgia Presbytery: For 40 years GAP Ministries has served a community on the margins of society, helping with food, clothing, toiletries, prescription assistance, photo IDs and storage bins for homeless persons. By renovating the second floor of their historic church building and adding an elevator, GAP can address other needs such as a Saturday service for the working poor, expanded health assistance and meeting spaces for partner ministries.

Community Presbyterian Child Learning Center in Payson, Arizona

Childcare and Prekindergarten Facility, Presbytery of the Grand Canyon: Established in 1979, the Community Presbyterian Child Learning Center provides daycare and prekindergarten programs for children in Payson, Arizona; the Tonto Apache Tribe; and neighboring communities. The center currently uses two historic buildings and a modular structure that is small and not well suited for child care. This grant will help build a modern facility that will increase the number of children served and provide infant care that is currently not available in Payson.

Liberty Community Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Northside Healing Space Expansion, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area: The Northside Healing Space is part of Liberty Community Church, the first and only African American-led Presbyterian congregation in Minnesota. This community-driven “healing homeplace” provides supportive housing, workforce development, access to healthy food, K–12 school initiatives, and care for survivors of trauma and commercial sexual exploitation. The Birthday Offering grant will help renovate their historic building and expand programming based on the expressed needs of the community.

WE WILL BE RECEIVING GIFTS FOR THE BIRTHDAY OFFERING DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2020

-- Debbie Bray

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



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315 MORROW ROAD
FOREST PARK GA 30297***

Greetings from the Philadelphia Session,

I hope this finds you and your family all doing well and still practicing your "social distancing". I have had the opportunity to talk with several of you over the last few weeks and it was so good to hear your voice.

I wanted to let you know that the Session has continued to meet on a regular basis using Zoom for our online meetings. If you aren't familiar with Zoom or Google Meet, I would strongly recommend that you check them out. It's a way for you to meet with family and friends and actually see them while you're talking. There are several other ways to do this but these have worked well for me.

I wanted to update you concerning our financial situation. Rick Pierce, Finance Co-Chair, contacted Heritage Bank back in April and was able to acquire the PPP loan/grant for our Church. Please read his update below.

Financial Update

The finance committee reports that current giving, while below normal levels, is quite good during these unpredictable times. Your support via mail and drop-off has allowed us to meet our utility expenses as well as pay our fulltime staff.

We have some very good news. We were able to apply for and receive a loan via the federal Paycheck Protection Program to cover 2.5 months of payroll. This loan becomes a grant (do not have to pay back) if we continue to pay our staff till at least July 2, 2020. We want to thank you, our church family, for your past, current, and future financial support of our church home.

Rick Pierce
Co-chair Finance

Homecoming

In the April Crossroads I mentioned having a HOMECOMING Committee and that we needed to start planning. This year is a BIG year for us – 195 Years!!! However, at this time, Session is not sure how our Celebration is going to look. While we would love to have a huge celebration we are not sure that will be possible. We will have a celebration but it may be on a smaller scale. Once we are able to actually meet and have service at Philadelphia we will decide how to plan/prepare for HOMECOMING. If you have any ideas or suggestions, I/we would love to hear from you.

When do we return?

I wish I had a definite answer to that question. It has been discussed just about every time Session has met – and we have met many times these last few months. The State of Georgia has recommended that those who are age 65 and older and/or are medically frail continue to shelter in place at least until June 12th. **At least through June 7, 2020 we will continue to provide music and sermons through our Facebook page as well as post these on the Church webpage. The Session plans to meet again on/before June 12th to discuss when we may return.**

We all look forward to again meeting in the sanctuary of Philadelphia Presbyterian church, safely. Session is reviewing state and federal guidelines as well as Presbytery guidelines. We are also considering the general health concerns of our particular congregation for when to eventually reopen our doors.

We are working on how/where we will sit, will we be able to sing, do we need to wear masks, making sure the facilities are clean and kept clean. There are many decisions that have to be made but we are working on them. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any of the Session Members with your questions or concerns.

A Final Note:

We wanted to let you know that we have been approached by a church – *A Way of Salvation Church* – and they have requested to rent part of our facilities so that they are able to hold church service. After several meetings, the Session has agreed and entered into a contract with this church so that they have a place to meet and worship. They will not be using the Sanctuary but will use the Dance and Lower school Classrooms in the Education Building.

Stay safe, get plenty of rest and sunshine – when you can. If we can be of any help, please let us know. Please keep in touch with one another and if you know of someone who is having difficulties and/or just needs prayer please let us know. We hope to see you soon in person!!!

Love,
Jennifer