



PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297

THE CROSSROADS

Dear New Friends at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church,

I am very excited about joining you March 1 for a time of ministry together. I have met members of your Nominating Committee and Cindy, your PPC “rock” (we all know that the Church Secretary is the glue that holds a church together). I look forward to meeting all of you soon. Although we are in a period of distancing from COVID and quiet reflection in this Lenten season, I am reminded when I look out my windows that spring is coming. My jonquils are beginning to bloom, the roses have some new little leaves, and one blueberry bush is budding out. I tell the blueberry bush every day to STOP that – there are no bees yet to pollinate those blooms that are coming, but it doesn’t listen to me.

I love this time of year as we begin to see evidence of new growth. My husband Jim and I have a routine at the end of every day when we “survey” outside. In the winter, there’s not a lot to see, but we do it anyway. It’s our time to walk around the house and out in the garden and reconnect, get some fresh air, and relax from the day’s work. But now, there’s something new every day to see. Even the koi and goldfish in our water garden are coming up for food. I can usually bring in something that is blooming – a camellia or a Lenten rose or an early jonquil.

I call this time of year “liminal” time – that word is from the Latin “limen” or threshold. We have left hard winter behind, but spring isn’t quite here yet. We’ll know it is when everything turns yellow from the pine pollen. And we are in liminal time in the church year – we left Christmastide not too long ago but we haven’t arrived at Easter yet. We are in that season of waiting and pondering Jesus’ journey toward Jerusalem and his fate. I hope you will take advantage of the daily Lenten devotions on the website and also listen to the hymn of the week that goes with them. There is a link on the home page to the devotions. As we read scripture and reflect and pray in this time, we can be assured that spring is coming. Easter is coming. And while we live in this liminal time, Christ is always with us.

With blessings,
Jeanne



PASTOR:
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

PHONE:
404-366-1851

PASTOR E-MAIL:

SECRETARY E-MAIL:
secyppc@bellsouth.net

WEBSITE:
ppc-usa.org

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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Rev. Jeanne Simpson will be in worship with us on Sunday, March 6, 2021. You may learn more by going to our website home page and clicking on [Meet Rev. Jeanne Simpson.](#)

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

- 02/ Chris Banke
- 03/ Jennifer Rohrbach
- 05/ Rose Enow
- 15/ Angie Tharpe
- 18/ Diane Kemper
- 19/ Don Nelson
- 19/ Andrew Durden
- 20/ Pat Randolph
- 24/ Pegge Murphy
- 26/ Henry Brock
- 28/ Erwin Gettys

THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

- 20/ Karen & Howard Nelson
- 28/ Celestine & Philippe Karka

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!

01/21 Dinah Bingham—broken arm & bruised hip from a fall

02/23 Dene Long—Nancy Phillips’ sister—recovering from emergency Colon surgery

01/24 Carole Masdon—suffering with bone cancer - surgery possible this week

02/02 Richard Phillips (Jim’s brother) liver cancer-chemo not effective, radiation & surgery next

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

Nell Cates Marie Foster Patty Boone Becky Huie Ann NeSmith

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

Philadelphia Church Family,

Loosing someone that you have known every day, every hour, every minute of your life is a shock to your system. Such was the case in the passing of my older brother, DJ. Your prayers, calls and cards provided a much-needed safe portr dum our storm. We say God is Good All The Time and wqe truly felt His presence through your support. Thank you and may God continue to bless PPC.

Jim and Nancy Phillips



Dear Philadelphia Presbyterian Church Family,

It seems like yesterday, that on December 22, 2017, I received a call from Greg Durden asking if I could possibly preach to Philadelphia on Christmas Eve Sunday morning. I told him, "I can do that!" And after over twenty years, I found myself standing once more behind the pulpit of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church proclaiming the Good News of the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am sure neither Greg or I ever imagined that this would lead to over three years of ministry with our Philadelphia family.

Both Ginger and I want to express our thankfulness to you and to our God for this unexpected season of ministry and fellowship. We have been blessed by your love and encouragement throughout these last few years and for many years when first called to serve this historic church on the south side of Atlanta.

We have been very blessed in these last days with a superb staff. My thanks to Cindy for her patient dealings with us all and being at the forefront of our communications and setting the weekly order of worship. My thanks to Verena for her always excellent choral leadership and setting the tone on the piano and with her beautiful voice for our sacred worship. Thanks also for the untold hours she has given us in preparation for worship during these challenging days of virtual worship. Special thanks to Verena for inviting Will to share in her ministry with us. My thanks to Eliot for his faithful years of service and for enabling us to lift our voices in song to the Lord through his gifts at the organ. And a special thanks to Eliot for being one of my constant encouragers. My thanks to the Philadelphia Choir who throughout the years lift us and move us and unite us in the praise of our Lord. My thanks to Katie for her bright spirit and inspiring proclamation of the gospel, strengthening us all in these trying days. My thanks to our Elders for their leadership and encouragement of this pastor and laying the foundation for all we do to the glory of God. My thanks to the saints who open the doors of the church, keep our church warm in the winter and cool in the summer, and in this year of the Covid, clean and sterile. And my grateful thanks to our many members who faithfully hold us in prayer, worship with us each Sunday... at home and in our Sanctuary, and keep us connected to each other. And my eternal thanks to our Heavenly Father who calls us, strengthens us, forgives us, heals us, comforts us and sends us out into the world to proclaim to our friends and neighbors the good news of Jesus Christ our resurrected Lord.

And now, thanks be to God in calling a new Pastor to serve Philadelphia and lead His church into the future! Now is the time to once again, bid our goodbyes and to lift our hearts, though our voices must be silent, to sing an old familiar song:

"May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back .
May the sun shine warmly on your face, The rain fall softly on your fields;
And until we meet again, until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of His hand."

God's blessings on your new Pastor, Jeanne Simpson and her family and God's richest blessings on you all,

Jack

PW MESSAGE CORNER:

MAR 11—07:00pm—Mary & Martha
(virtual)

MAR 13—10:30am—Circle One



Workday

Saturday, March 20 at 9:00am

Please come and help out if possible



HOW TO HELP YOUR NEW PASTOR BE SUCCESSFUL

1. Accept JEANNE SIMPSON as the one God has chosen to serve PHILADELPHIA Presbyterian Church. If she is not to your liking in every way, remember that God has sent her to you for a purpose, so accept her as God's choice and let her pastor you. If you give Jeanne the benefit of the doubt you will discover that She is a genuine servant of God and a faithful Pastor.
2. Remember that each pastor is different. Your new pastor will have the gifts and graces and skills that God knows you will need over the next years. Jeanne will be specially gifted to take Philadelphia on the next stage of the journey, so value her as God's gift to you.
3. Be an encourager. I have experienced your generous encouragement. Encouragement is energizing to pastors. To have some say, "God is using you to bless me" makes a pastor want to work ten times harder. Encouragement motivates, so use it liberally with your new pastor. Accentuate the positive; most pastors work best in an atmosphere of affirmation.
4. Let Jeanne be a family person as well as a pastor. There will be times when her needs and her family have to take precedence over the needs of the church. Ministry inevitably puts strains on a Pastor's life, but there are things you can do to make it less so. Encourage your pastor to take time to rest and be renewed. Little things make a big difference over the long haul. Pastoring is a high-stress occupation. Pastors need vacation from the responsibilities of the call, to rest and be renewed.
5. When differences arise with your pastor, go to her and honestly share how you feel in a constructive manner. Try to understand why they are doing what they are doing. Forgive her when she apologizes for having offended you and forget the matter. One of the most destructive things a person can do to a pastoral relationship is to refuse to share honest, significant criticism *directly with* the pastor.... while spreading it throughout the church through parking-lot conversations, telephone gossip, anonymous letters, and e-mails to others.
6. Remember that pastors are only human. Sometimes they get sick. Sometimes they get tired. Sometimes they make mistakes in judgment. Sometimes they will not be at their best because of weariness or distraction. Forgive Jeanne for being human and expect that God's strength will be made perfect in her weakness.
7. Invite your new pastor into your home. Nothing makes a new pastor feel more welcome than an invitation to visit or share a meal in someone's home. No fancy cuisine is necessary, just a warm invitation and some good conversation will help your pastor get to know you better. Of course, this applies to the time after we are covid safe. Telephone calls can be appreciated.
8. As time goes by, don't stop saying thank you. After the honeymoon period of the first few months, it is easy for congregation and pastor to start taking each other for granted. Much of a pastor's work is unseen by most of the congregation most of the time. So it is easy for a pastor to feel overworked and underappreciated. Management leaders tell us that "unless people are told they are doing a good job and are appreciated, they will assume the opposite."
9. Hold your pastor accountable for nurturing their own spiritual life. Encourage her to do whatever it takes to keep her spiritual fire glowing. Encourage her to take time regularly for personal prayer and Bible study. Encourage her to go on regular retreats. Let your pastor know that their fitness is important to you, and do everything you can do to ensure that they take the time that they need to nurture their relationship with the Lord.
10. **LAST AND MOST IMPORTANT:** PRAY for your pastor *daily*. Nothing will help your new pastor more than your regular heart-felt prayers offered up on her behalf as well as for the ministry of the church. Pray that she will be empowered and equipped for the ministry. Pray that the Holy Spirit will anoint her for her work of ministry. Especially pray for her early on Sunday mornings as she prepares to lead worship. Pray for her as she ministers with the sick and dying; for this is challenging and draining work. As the Apostle Paul exhorts those in his day, pray unceasingly, and as you do, pray for all the saints, especially Jeanne. God will bless this prayer ministry to not only the good of your new pastor but the congregation as well.

Blessing on each of you as you welcome your new Pastor,

Jack

*An edited edition, originating from former Moderator of the General Assembly and a colleague of mine in Interim Ministry, the Rev. Joan Gray

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



*THE CROSSROADS
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315 MORROW ROAD
FOREST PARK GA 30297*

PPC Clerk's Corner

Greetings from the Philadelphia Session,

I hope this finds you and your family doing well and staying safe and healthy. We continue to have service in person at church and have had no problems so far and for that we are all very grateful. We are also continuing to live stream the service on Facebook for those who aren't able to join us in person at this time. If you aren't able to watch us live on Facebook, you can always go to the church's webpage to see the service there once it has been uploaded.

We are very excited to announce that Reverend Jeanne Simpson will officially become our pastor effective March 1, 2021. We hope that you will reach out to Reverend Simpson, introduce yourself, and make her feel welcome – in true Philadelphia style.

While we are excited to have Reverend Simpson join us, this transition does come with some mixed emotions. I would like to thank Reverend Westlund for ALL that he has done for us over the last three years. Reverend Westlund came at a time when we needed help and willingly came out of retirement to lend a hand. He has been a continuous source of help as we have traveled through uncharted territory during this last year. He will be missed, but we are so excited that he can retire once again, and it is my hope that he will do so with a sense of accomplishment.

While doing a covered dish luncheon isn't advised at this time, the Session is planning to do some type of recognition for Reverend Westlund later in the spring and it is our hope that many of you will be able to join us.

The Session did meet on February 18, 2021 via Zoom to conduct our monthly business and it is our plan that we will meet on the third Thursday of each month.

Please continue to check on one another and please let either myself or one of the other elders know if someone is in need.

I ask that you please pray for Reverend Simpson as she starts her time here at Philadelphia, pray for Reverend Jack and Ginger as they once again start enjoying retirement, and please pray for us as the church elders and that God will continue to guide us.

Much love to you all!!!

Jennifer

LENTEN DEVOTIONS 2020

I would like for you to have a daily devotion for this liturgical season. You have already begun to receive a set of daily devotions each week from the church, written by Dr. Roger Gench and published by The Presbyterian Outlook. These devotions will be sent to you through Holy Week. They are designed to provide scripture, a hymn, and ideas for your reflection during this time when we pray, repent, and follow Christ's journey toward the cross.

I hope that this daily process will enrich your spiritual practices during Lent. I urge you to take some time each day to use these devotions to read, reflect, and pray. It will be a quiet time to breathe deeply as we move toward Good Friday and Easter, and to remember that you are always God's beloved child. *Jeanne*

The hymns suggested to go along with the Lent Devotions can be found on YouTube and these links:

Feb 28 Week: Amazing Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DeuxXvw5aA>

March 21 Week: Crown Him With Many Crowns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INo42lyvszY>

March 7 Week: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XVwxOfGtoY>

March 28 Week: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqkVTtT-Dxg>

March 14 Week: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meqDwUcSIY>

