

The Bridge Builder

A Monthly Newsletter from Heritage Presbyterian Church

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POW-WOW WITH PASTOR BRIAN

There is a very famous passage in Scripture, 1 John 4:18, that says “perfect love casts out fear,” I love this passage because to whomever John was writing there is no way that it did not ring true either universally or simply in light of who Jesus revealed himself to be. God is perfect love and when we trust in that love the fear and anxiety that we feel from any aspect of our lives is diminished if not outright shattered. The problem for us in our culture and depending on our view of things is that the corollary is also true, perfect fear casts out love. As we move into our first ever Stewardship Season in the Spring it is important to look at the things of which we may still be afraid even when seen in the light of the resurrection.

I wonder sometimes what it would really look like for the church to take the actions of the early church briefly reported in Acts 2 seriously. There it says the church, “held all things in common, shared with each member according to their need, daily attended to prayer, and enjoyed the good will of all the people.” It’s a nice thought, but even for Luke who wrote Acts this ideal is short lived, by chapter five members of the church are withholding goods and money and pay with their lives; Ananias and Sapphira are representative of the extreme opposite of the Acts 2 ideal. But their story is interesting, they hold something back, they are afraid of something, maybe that the church is not all they thought it would be. Maybe they are afraid the funds won’t be used well or will go to something they do not like. It really doesn’t matter all that matters is that they are worried.

The Acts 2 church is short lived. Before you know it the people are holding back some of what they have, being persecuted by people like Saul of Tarsus (so there goes the good will of all the people,) being scattered around the countryside, and trying to figure out if Gentiles can be followers of Jesus Christ. It’s nice to have an ideal to shoot for but let’s be honest, ideals are rarely realized. This is still true for the church today. Far from enjoying the goodwill of all the people the church today often finds itself defending its existence within the wider culture. This is not to say that place we once held at the top of the cultural food chain was appropriate; just that there are those who would just as soon see the church no longer exist. In addition to this the two largest expenses a church incurs are the salary of the pastor and property maintenance. While I am deeply grateful for your generosity towards me, and love worshipping and doing ministry in our building this doesn’t seem to line up well with the Acts 2 ideal.

(continued on the next page)

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But then stewardship is not about living up to an ideal anymore than pledging to the church is about what the budget will be spent on. Stewardship in the light of the resurrection is about letting go of those things we are afraid of, so that the resources we think we have to pour into keeping the wolves at bay can be used for God's kingdom purposes (perhaps in the next article I will discuss the kingdom purposes of paying the pastor's salary.) The truth is though that stewardship in the church has less to do with the amount of money we give and much more to do with letting go of the fear we have if the money is no longer in our pockets but in the hands of God. Godly stewardship in American culture resides squarely at the empty tomb of Christ, where an angel tells us not to fear but to use all our effort to get back to Galilee so that we might see him there. When we get there we may still have some fear but then Jesus will tell us to "fear not." As you discern how your gifts will be used in 2017 and beyond, think not only about the amount you think you can give to the church but also about how much you would give if were you completely unafraid to do so.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian



2017 College Graduates

- ★ *Marisa Bens is graduating from Bucknell University with a B.A. in Economics and Political Science with a minor in legal studies. She is planning to work in Washington, D.C.*

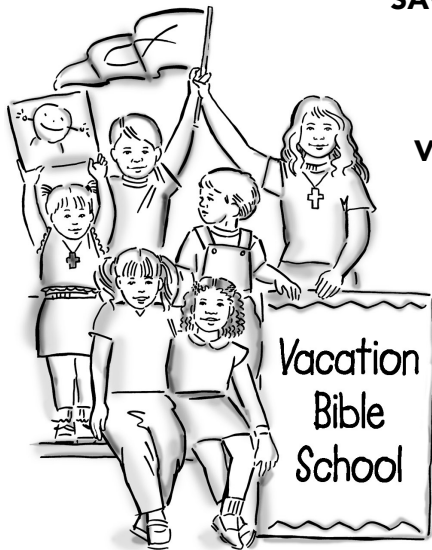
 - ★ *Alexis Jani is graduating from West Virginia Wesleyan College with a Bachelors degree in Educational studies and minors in Gender studies and Psychology. She is planning on taking a year off and studying for the GRE and then applying to graduate schools.*

 - ★ *Gillian Lawhead is graduating from Duquesne University with a Bachelors degree in Communications. Her immediate plan is to fulfill her assignment as a New Wilmington Mission Conference Summer Service Team member. Their mission trip is for six weeks of missions all over the Dominican Republic, beginning June 5.*
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May Tea

Believe it or not, it's almost time for the May Tea! Plan to stay after church on Sunday, May 7 for an old fashioned Tea Party. Enjoy snacks and a warm, comforting cup of tea (or a nice cold iced tea!) with your friends and family. If you have been participating in Secret Sisters, you will find out who has been encouraging you, and be able to reveal yourself to your secret sister. Bring your last note/gift to the tea for the "big reveal." Hope to see you there!



SAVE THE DATES

July 10 - 14

for

**Vacation Bible
School**

Light of Life Mission

3rd Monday of each month,
May 15, 2017

Volunteers are needed for hands-on outreach at the Light of Life. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

*4:45 - 6:00 pm - Volunteers serve meals and clean tables.

*6:30 pm - Chapel Service - Volunteers needed.

If your gifts include preaching, teaching and sharing the Gospel with others (either in word or song), consider volunteering.



Pentecost

Sunday, June 4 is the feast of Pentecost on which we celebrate the descending of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples. This event takes place after Our Lord ascended into heaven. This year the Ascension is celebrated on Thursday, May 25. We celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the church since "...the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47b).

Newsletter



We will be doing a combined June and July Newsletter.

Make sure that

you get any information that you would like in the newsletter to Terry in the office by Monday, May 9. Thank you.

In Memoriam

The following donations were made in memory of friends and or loved ones. Gifts placed in the Memorial Fund will be used appropriately at the discretion of the Session.

Hal Trunick

- Bill & Donna Johnston
-

Body & Soul Update...Spring Into a Healthy Summer!

Body & Soul had a wonderful first birthday celebration. We are thankful to all of you who make this ministry possible and look forward to seeing what God has in store for us next. As always, we encourage you to stop by the gym and say, "hi" to your Body & Soul staff and volunteers.

Now is the time to Spring into a Healthy Summer. Why not give the circuit a try or take a class? Sign up sheets with times are available in the gym. You can also find more details at our website (heritagepcusa.org). Simply hit the Wellness Ministry/Body & Soul tab on the top navigation.

A 4-Session Wellness Seminar, **Fit for the King**, is being planned. More details to come. It will be four Thursdays starting May 11th at 6:30 pm. Sessions will be 30-45 minutes long with time for questions. Though all four sessions work together, you need not be present at all four. Each also stands alone. Topics include the 8 Steps to Preventing Disease and Creating Health in your Body, Foods that Empower/Foods that Devour, Cancer Proof your Life, and Ruling and Reigning Over Stress. These health discussions will be led by Dr. Dan Turo. Please invite a friend. Women and Men are welcome to attend. There is no charge to attend.

We could always use a friendly Heritage volunteer especially during the summer. Just a few hours of your time will make it possible for Body & Soul staff and regular volunteers to enjoy a day off or to go on vacation. Volunteering is really easy and enjoyable. You just need to unlock/lock the doors, answer the phone, smile and be encouraging.....we can teach you the few other minor details you need to know. Whatever fits your schedule...two or four hour shifts.

Please see Wendy, Joanne or Carolyn if you have any questions or would like to get involved. Or, you can stop by the gym.



A Mother's Love



*There are times when only a Mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappointments
And calm all of our fears.*

*There are times when only a Mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.*

*There are times when only a Mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.*

*For a Mother's heart and a Mother's faith
And a Mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the Angels
And sent from God above.*

Mission, Service & Outreach
Prayer Ministry



...Please pray for those we know who are ill or have concerns:

Barbara Berger - classmate of Donna Johnston
 Betty Jane Burke - cousin of Wayne Dillner
 Annette Curtis - neighbor of the Johnston's
 Evan Dillner - grandson of the Dillner's
 Linda Felkar - member
 Joyce & Pete King - Donna Johnston's sister & brother-in-law
 Louise & Jim Martin - Terry Martin's mother-in-law & father-in-law
 Eric McAleer - member
 Mike McAleer - member
 Tim McAleer - member
 Cammy Nichols - daughter of Donna & Bill Johnston
 Alan Pettengill - Nancy Pettengill's brother
 Chrissy Mills' uncle
 Alta Pettengill - Nancy Pettengill's mother
 Chrissy Mills' grandmother
 Ralph Tissue - brother of Carol Harvey
 Ginny Trunick - member
 Elaine & Ed Wilson - members
 Caroline Wise - member

If you would like prayer or know someone who should be added to this list, please contact Terry Martin in the church office at 412-366-1338 or heritagepcusa@verizon.net.

Also, if you are willing to prepare and deliver a meal, drive to doctor appointments or grocery shopping, or can babysit, the Deacons have an "at need" individual that they can pair up with you.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to put something on the Prayer Chain, first contact Terry Martin in the office between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday 412-366-1338 or at heritagepcusa@verizon.net. If your request is other than the church hours, please contact Donna Johnston at 412-364-3340 or dmj5393@verizon.net. Thank you.



*Birthdays
of the
Month*

MAY BIRTHDAYS	
Doug Ritchey	5/8
Reed Harvey	5/19
Steve Paulson	5/22
Christopher Wise	5/28
Sam Lough	5/30
Nancy Pettengill	5/31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES	
April & Zach McCabe	5/2
Joanne & Winn Dunmyre	5/7
Karen & Peter Wildfong	5/17
Melanie & Randy Thomson	5/22
Connie & Craig Bentzen	5/23
Maddie & Justin Thomson	5/24



Worship Volunteers May					
Date	Worship Leader	Sound System/ Projection	Coffee Setup/ Cleanup	Nursery (Worship)	Ushers
5/7	Mike McAleer	Marilyn Bond Dave Briggs	Lisa King Joanne Dunmyre	Carolyn Briggs Connie Vitale (B) Dolores Boeh	Roy & Quentin Halyama
5/14	Linda Felkar	Marilyn Bond Rick Berg	Carolyn Briggs Dolores Boeh	Sonny Jani Matt Joseph (B) Erika Jani	Lex Felkar Pete Olson
5/21	Rick Berg	Bill Johnston Grace Cibula	Barbara White Cyndi McAleer	Joanne Dunmyre Nancy Wise (B) Katy Berg	Sonny Jani Matt Joseph
5/28	Reed Harvey	Winn Dunmyre Morgan Halyama	Lisa King Bobbie Berg	Karen Hayworth Grace Cibula (B) Melanie Thomson	Lex Felkar Steve Paulson

B = Back up

Please consider joining our volunteers, contact the following:

Coffee Setup/Cleanup, call Reed Harvey 724-774-4895

Nursery Worker, call Karen Hayworth Wildfong 412-259-8056

A/V Sound System, call Jim Cummins 412-364-3172

Usher, call Bob Nestor 412-369-9278

Projection Crew Phone Numbers

Rick Berg 724-709-8601
 Dave Briggs 412-364-6225
 Grace Cibula 412-364-7885
 Pam Dierker 412-812-3599
 Morgan Halyama 412-548-3270
 Quentin Halyama 412-548-3270

Sound Team Phone Numbers

Marilyn Bond 724-625-2537
 Jim Cummins 412-364-3172
 Alex Dunmyre 412-367-4771
 Winn Dunmyre 412-367-4771
 Bill Johnston 412-364-3340

Thank you for taking the time to serve!

	Communion Preparation	Communion Servers	May Counters
May 7	Carol Jo Seapker	Cyndi & Mike McAleer Carolyn Briggs	Pam Dierker Randy Thomson
May 21	Pam Dierker	Dolores Boeh Pam Dierker Connie Vitale	



Communion Dates

DAY	DATE
Sunday	June 4
Sunday	June 18
Sunday	July 2
Sunday	July 16

May CHILDREN'S SERMON SCHEDULE	
DATE	TEACHER
May 7, 2017	Pastor Brian
May 14, 2017	Cyndi McAleer
May 21, 2017	Bobbie Berg
May 28, 2017	Ted Griffin

Heritage Calendar of Dates May, 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Eat N' Park	6
7 10:00 am Worship Service May Tea/Secret Sister following service No Sunday School 6:00-7:30 pm Youth Group	8	9	10	11 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting	12 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Eat N' Park 6:30 pml Stewardship Dinner	13
14 10:00 am Worship Service Mother's Day 11:15 am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 6:00-7:30 pm Youth Group	15	16	17 7:15 pm SAF Team Mtg.	18 7:00 pm CE Team Meeting	19 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Eat N' Park	20
21 10:00 am Worship Service Last day of Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 6:00-7:30 pm Last Youth Group	22 5:00 pm Bellevue Meal Ministry	23	24 6:30 pm ReCharge/ Anchorpoint	25 7:00 pm Session Meeting	26 7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Eat N' Park	27
28 10:00 am Worship Service Graduation Sunday	29 Memorial Day (Offices Closed)	30	31 6:30 pm Last Day of ReCharge/ Anchorpoint			

CE=Christian Education
M&E=Mission & Evangelism
MFC=Membership, Fellowship & Care
SAF=Stewardship, Administration, Finance
FH=Fellowship Hall

HERITAGE CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

<u>Christian Education</u> Denton Bond '17	<u>Worship</u> Rick Berg '17	<u>Mission & Evangelism</u> Melanie Thomson '18
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<u>Stewardship</u> <u>Administration & Finance</u> John Cibula '17 Randy Thomson '17	<u>Membership, Fellowship & Care</u> Reed Harvey '17
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**BOARD OF DEACONS
(Class of 2017)**

Dolores Boeh
Sara Briggs
Pam Dierker
Chrissy Mills
Nancy Pettengill
Barbara White

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
AT
HERITAGE**

10:00 am Worship Service

MAY, 2017 NEWSLETTER FROM

Heritage Presbyterian Church

2262 Rochester Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237-1518

***Proclaiming the good News of Jesus Christ
to our community and the world!***