



DOE RUN NEWS

Doe Run Presbyterian Church
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October 2008

On Our Way Rejoicing!

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15) has always been one of my favorite verses in the Bible. My father said that every day and as I complete my ministry here, I understand what the Apostle Paul means in these words. Christian love means having empathy, sharing others’ joys and concerns. It also means that there is always something to celebrate along with the tears that come over the events and changes in daily life. I find myself doing both in these early days of fall 2008.

There is much to rejoice about at Doe Run church! Committee meetings resound with laughter and fellowship while new, exciting opportunities to worship and serve are created. The pews before, during and after worship, are filled with people of all generations smiling and saying a fond “hello” to each other. The Sunday school continues to grow in numbers and children. The fellowship hall continues to blossom with new paint and carpet, ready for many more fellowship events to come. New members and baptisms of young children portray growth and new life in this congregation. Missions giving and work are on the rise, taking the faith out of the building into the community. Another successful stewardship campaign is in the works for November 16, encouraging members to invest in a new chapter of ministry and mission based on what God has given each one of us. A new pastor is on the horizon bringing with her a new chapter in the life and ministry of this generous and dedicated church family. I rejoice at all the love that emanates from the walls of this lovely, historic building...and yet weep at the thought of leaving you on October 12.

I have been truly blessed to be here almost two years and be part of the transition and experience Doe Run church as an energized, invigorated, renewed and joyful band of disciples. I rejoice that this church stands on the threshold of expanded ministry and growth as it welcomes Rev. Brynne. I look forward to meeting her in person on October 5, but I have communicated with her already and find her to be excited, engaging and energetic! I will not attend the Saturday October 4 festivities as Interim protocol encourages me to let you bond with her without my presence. And bond you will, I am sure! But I get the pleasure of hearing her preach on October 5 at 9:30 am and moderate the congregational meeting where you elect her as your pastor that day. I can’t wait to watch and hear about Doe Run’s church life and ministry in the future. But I will do it from afar as I step back and watch you go! I expect to move on to another church wherever God sends me and Interim protocol prevents me from returning for church events. But know that you always will go with me in my heart, thoughts and prayers as I rejoice in what God has planned for us all in his future!

Thankfully,

Rev. Ann G. Dickey, Interim Pastor

New Consecration Sunday Is Coming Again to Doe Run November 16!

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Stewardship committee has once again selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship program as a way to teach biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this fall.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During the one blended morning worship at 9:00am on New Consecration Sunday November 16, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on New Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader, Rev. Phoebe Kitson, Interim at First Presbyterian in Parkesburg, will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship. It will also be the first Sunday that Rev. Brynne Crowe will lead worship, although she will not preach until November 23.

We will encourage participation in New Consecration Sunday events through the New Consecration Sunday team (the Stewardship committee) and board members. Since we will make no followup visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend New Consecration Sunday and **free brunch that follows worship**. Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic participation in the upcoming Consecration Sunday events. Please save the date of November 16 on your calendar! (More details to come in November newsletter.)

The Stewardship Committee

Financial News: August 2008

<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>August Deficit</u>	<u>2008 Surplus</u>
\$12,023	\$13,551	\$1,528	\$211

Per Capita charges for 2008 are \$25.39 per member.

Per Capital charges for **2009** will be **\$26.51** per member.

Presbyterian Women: Selling Current Stationery and wrapping paper thru October 23rd to raise funds for a worthy cause. If you would like to participate by either purchasing or selling these charming items, please contact Suzanne Graves.

Fellowship/Hospitality Committee: Thank You! To all who helped with the Successful Picnic at Bert Reel Park. A beautiful day, little hot but a fun day enjoyed by all. We had around 65 people, wonderful food and games for all. So many people volunteered to help the Committee bringing food, helping with the Bingo, the Youth Group planned games for the younger children. A special Thank You to Dale Hensel for bringing his grill and cooking the Hamburgers, hotdogs and sausage.

Mark your Calendar for coming events: **October 25th, Saturday**, A Halloween/Fall harvest Celebration starting at 5:30 with Soup/Chili/Rolls and Dessert followed by a Magic Show. A fun night starting at **5:30** with a costume parade for the young and young at heart. Come dressed up if you like. Treats will be given to all in the parade. After our Soup Dinner we will be treated to a wonderful Magic Show by a local Magician. (If you would like to donate Soup, Chili or dessert please contact one of the Committee Members. An offering will be taken to help defray the cost of the Magician. **November 22nd, Saturday**, A Colonial (Williamsburg Style) Dinner. This was a big hit last year so get out your colonial dish receipts and dresses. More information in the November newsletter. **November 30th, Sunday**, 7:00, The Greenwood singers will return for their wonderful Holiday Concert. Refreshments following concert. An offering will be taken to help defray their expenses.

Crop Walk: Help raise money for local food cupboards as well as world food organizations. Please come walk with us to show your support of the effort to help make more people be less hungry. Sunday, October 5th, 2:00 starting at Central Presbyterian Church in Downingtown proceeding along Struble Trail. You can walk 5 minutes or the entire couple of miles. If you would like to join this event and walk for Doe Run, please see me to get a walker's envelope. If you can't walk, please help by making a contribution to a walker. So far, I know that the youth group will be helping out this year. See them or me if you would like to contribute money. Thank you for your support. *Kim Campbell*

Safe Harbor: The second Friday of every month, Doe Run serves dinner at Safe Harbor (homeless shelter in West Chester). Lisa Urban and her daughter Becky have been doing it for about 10 years. No you don't have to cook, buy dinner on the way (fried chicken and salad), funds provided by church from local mission fund. Meet at the church or at Safe Harbor in West Chester. It only takes a few hours. Let's give Lisa some help and kudos to her and Becky for being so loyal to this mission.

City Gate Mission: October-coffee creamer; November-all size freezer bags; December-creamed soups

Deacon of the Month: October-John Graves; assistant-Donna Thompson.

Communion: When served by Intinction, Doe Run will now have a separate chalice and plate of bread for those with gluten allergies.

Guest preachers are lined up for Doe Run: During the period after Rev. Ann and before Rev. Brynne begins, Doe Run will be blessed with some fine preachers at both 9:30 and 11:00 am services. They are:

October 19: Rev. Steve Getty, Honorably retired, former Pastor of Pequea in Gap

October 26: Back by popular demand; Doe Run's own Scott Cheek will preach at the 9:30 am service and lead a hymn sing and preach at the 11:00 service.

November 2: Dr. Dick Streeter, Honorably retired, former Pastor of Paoli Church will preach and celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

November 9: Seminary Student Annalie Korengel Lorgus returns.

November 16: **9:30 am blended worship!! One service only! Rev. Brynne Crowe leads worship for the first time! New Consecration Sunday preacher Rev. Phoebe Kitson, Interim at Parkesburg will be the guest preacher and challenge us on our Stewardship! Free brunch to follow service!**

Emergency pastoral care will be provided by Rev. Steve Getty during this time and he will moderate the Session meeting in October. Contact Clerk Bill Dyke for pastoral needs and he will contact Rev. Getty.

Elder Ed Martin's continuing reflections on his experience at the GA this summer.

I had been asked to present to presbytery observations of visible trends/directions of the denomination. To understand where we are going I believe we must understand where we are right now. Presbyterians embrace and encourage free thought. The denomination is composed of three groups—the right wing, called the conservative-evangelicals; the large majority in the middle, called the centrist-ecclesiasts; and the left wing, referred to as liberal progressives. Please be mindful that all three groups are under the umbrella of the Presbyterian denomination. But individual churches, sessions, pastors, and congregants tend to align with one of these causes over the other two. When that happens, there is conflict. We know that positive conflict is stimulating and progressive, but negative conflict breeds elitism, anger, and distrust.

Because Presbyterians have always embraced and encouraged free thought, and left, right, and center have always been a part of our denominational culture, we have had many heated, confrontational battles over the years. And that, for good or bad, is where we are now. As we know well, some conservative churches will leave the denomination rather than attempt consensus. These are usually single-issue churches that will take their Bibles and sulk off to their own little domiciles, where they don't have to listen to any arguments that are different from their narrow, penurious interpretations. The centrists, the voice of reason, tend not to talk because they don't want to hurt feelings. So the status quo is seldom broken. But then too the problem(s) are not confronted or solved. As for the liberals, their agendas are out of the closet and on the table. They are going to talk and prod and push until they get their way. These members claim

to be the intelligentsias of the church—just ask them! They tend to roll their eyes and give their “opposition” the brush-off. Depending on how single-issue some of these churches are, we may see some of them leave the denomination. But my guess is they will be around to fight another day.

So we are a fractured church, but most of us are big enough and bold enough and smart enough to work toward solutions. And therein lie our greatness and our ability to sustain our denomination.

Where are we going and how fast? Whether by design or by cultural change, rapidly the Presbyterian Church (USA) is getting more liberal. I believe the General Assembly YAADs (Young Adult Advisory Delegates), were manipulated by their liberal mentors at their nightly meetings, gatherings, and parties. Their voting certainly showed a liberal trend. Their public comments reflected a left wing voting. Reverend Bruce Reyes-Chow, pastor of Mission Bay Presbyterian Church, a new church development congregation in San Francisco, was elected Moderator of the 218th General Assembly. Bruce is a person of color, Philippine and Chinese. Energetic and charismatic, he seems to be the face of the emerging liberal leaning Presbyterian Church. Also the “morelight” group of commissioners, an ultra liberal group on sexual and social issues, voiced their opinions at GA repeatedly and often. Their presence permeated the General Assembly.

Most of us would agree that the future of the church rests with attracting, teaching and maintaining youth. The contemporary focus during worship, using dance, art, music, and visuals, all speak to a trend away from the traditional to a more colorful and youth attracting worship.

Does this mean there is no place for conservatives or centrists in the denomination? Absolutely not. We are a denomination that celebrates diversity. The pendulum forever swings—presently to the left, at other times it will swing right. Spiritually there is room in our denomination and in our individual churches to embrace all creeds, all people in the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Can we survive? Certainly, yes we can, if we want to and if we work together. The common bond in the divisions of our denomination is that we glorify diversity through our Love of and for Christ. His Love is what makes us all come together and yet be able to be faithful to our own convictions and ideals.

My friends, even though the Presbyterian Church (USA) is so big that the left hand does not always know what the right hand is doing, it is alive and well and moving forward. It has a great future. Let us all strive for consensus building and coming together in Love for Christ, so we can serve the needs of all the people. Bless you all.