



PLAIN TALK



September 2013

Plains Presbyterian Church

Serving the community

Plains Presbyterian Church



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Can it be?!? Is school really starting again already??? Yes, school is beginning again and that signals the busy-ness of activities and events that surround the onslaught of the start of the annual cycle we know as the school year.

So, let's all go to school (okay for just a moment) How about a take home True or False exam?

True or False

T/F The Church is a provider of spiritual good and services to make people feel better.

T/F The Church is a gathering place where people have individual spiritual experiences.

T/F The Church is an entertainment experience with audience ratings.

T/F The Church is a religious club for people who share the same world-view and experiences.

T/F The Church is a coalition of people united around a set of social or political causes.

If you answered true to all of the questions, then you reflect the influence of American culture and what our culture would have us believe about the Church. But, if these statements are all judged on Biblical and theological grounds, they are all false.

Searching the pages of Scripture, the Bible is filled with images for the Church. The Church is...the people of God, the body of Christ, a light in the world, a royal priesthood, a temple of the Spirit of God, a city on a hill, the bride of Christ, a demonstration of the kingdom of God to the world. In the New Testament, the word for Church is *ekklesia* in Greek which literally means "the called out ones." These various images from the Bible emphasize a single thing that sets the Church apart from other institutions and organizations: God owns the Church, and God created the Church to accomplish His purposes, and not our own.

And that puts us in conflict with American culture. Our theology runs head on into what the culture believes that the church is or should be as a provider of goods and services. As an efficient business, its job is or should be to satisfy its customers or members, according to the culture.

And that puts us in conflict within the church. Many members of the Church see themselves just as the culture does... as customers. So, they look at any given congregation and determine if it's a very good provider of the religious goods and services and if there are religious goods and services they wish to purchase there...with their offering to God, of course.

And that puts us in conflict with God. The Church was designed to be driven by God and not the needs or wants of members, clergy, or leaders. The Church's purpose can be found in Micah 6: 8, "But He's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women.

It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love,

And don't take yourself too seriously— take God seriously." (from The Message)

In His service,

Kimberly

Worship Schedule



September 1~ Communion

9:00 am Adult Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service

September 8

11:00 am Worship Service
Rally Day

September 15~Heifer Sunday

9:30am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
Coffee Connections

September 22

9:30am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

September 29

9:30am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

Helping with Worship This Month

Worship Leaders		Greeters		Nursery Workers	
01	Tiffany Aloï	01	Frank & Tiffany Aloï	01	Julie Young
08	Steve Solman	08	Frank Leisie & Eunice G.	08	Erika Stafford
15	Frank Aloï	15	Barb Ronksley & Jean T.	15	Amy Roscoe
22	Tim Rausch	22	Arch & Maggie Simpson	22	Denise Kremmel
29	Tony Poletì	29	Tim & Amy Roscoe	29	Norah Collins

Elder of the Month

Ron Carter

Deacon of the Month

Joann Bark



Sept. 02	Bill Stafford Jr.
Sept. 03	Robert Young
Sept. 04	Nancy Jones
Sept. 10	Jordan Showers
Sept. 18	Janet Duncan, Rich Magill & Susie Roscoe
Sept. 19	Rhonda Sproat
Sept. 20	Chase Leisie
Sept. 22	Bob Ronksley
Sept. 25	Martha Malone & Jonah Sproat
Sept. 29	David Sturrock
Sept. 30	Betty Budney



Please keep our Elders and Deacons in your prayers as they lead Plains into the future.

- Jack Bark •Leeann •Ellen Elliott •Susan Budney
- Armel's sister, Nancy •Wesley •Randy Goehring
- Elizabeth Rausch •Burt Duerring's dad •Matt •Lisa
- Ron Carters, cousin, Candy •Eunice's sister, Nancy
- Angela Kushner's husband, Bob •Lucas •Cheryl K.
- For Christians in Syria, Egypt and other places in the world where their lives are threatened.
- Kay;s niece, Karen •Sue Verba & Louann •Bob Glaspey
- Susan Reed
- For our friends who are in assisted living: Howard Reed, Marilyn Stamp, Bob Ronksley & Gibbie Sponsler



Sept. 03	Burt & Nancy Duerring
Sept. 20	Bob & Barb Ronksley
Sept. 25	Jim & Leslie Dambaugh
Sept. 30	John & Nina Finlay

History Corner



Session Minutes Sept. 27, 1872

This meeting was held in the newly built parsonage with elders and their wives present. The parsonage was occupied by the Rev. Levi Risher as of July 2, 1872. Neat, comfortable and pleasantly situated, we believe it to be worth mentioning as part of our history and look upon it as an evidence of healthy progress and trust that it is a promise of liberal things for the future. *(The parsonage was situated somewhere across the field toward Franklin Road and Bristol Creek [behind or near the Novak house]. It is not known what happened to the parsonage or how long it was in existence.)*



Coffee Connections

September 15

Sponsored by the
Heifer Helpers

Please note:

Session meeting: Sept. 16 at 7pm

Deacon's meeting: Sept. 18 at 7pm

Time change:

**11:00am Worship Service
starts on September 8th**



Effective August 5th, our new address is:

Ron & Meredith Cox

122 Liberty Lane

Freedom PA 15042-2664



**WE WILL BE
CLOSED ON
LABOR DAY**

September 2nd

Plains Presbyterian Church
Session Highlights
June 2013

Session met on June 17, 2013 – Here are some highlights from that meeting.

Approved the baptism of Leah Catherine Young.

Church Minute and Roll book annual review and approval completed.

Communion served to 55 total on Sunday, May 19, 2013 (7 wine 48 juice). One home communion was served the same day.

Offerings are a bit lower than normal. Overall financial position is not too bad.

Deacons will be collecting shoeboxes for operation Christmas Child. More information to follow.

Deacons distributed candy to men of the church for Father's Day.

Deacon's Strawberry Festival completed and \$274 collected.

Melanie Sturrock has been approved by Session to serve on the school board.

Repaired railing along sidewalk, Installed new door bell on Christian Ed Building, Stopped recycling with refuse company for June, July, August.

Working with Real Estate agent for manse rental and house inspection.

Shelter reserved for picnic in the park on August 25, 2013.

Church Information Form (CIF) has been completed. CIF has been posted online, and approved by all of the people that need to approve it. We received 7 self referred people, and with 568 pastors matching our requirements. Need to have additional training with COM on how to review PIFs. Excellent progress.

Motion passed to purchase a new Sound Amplifier / Mixer for approximately \$650.

Rev. Kimberly closed with prayer at 8:39 p.m.

Next Regular Session Meeting – August 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy G. Roscoe
Clerk of Session

PNC UPDATE

If you have been following our progress in the back of the Church on the bulletin board, it may seem that the PNC has been quickly progressing towards our goal of calling the next pastor to Plains. While we have worked in a fairly expeditious fashion, recall that our process began well over a year ago when Reverend Ed Heller announced his retirement as our stated supply pastor.

Since our PNC was formed in late March, we have indeed been very busy. Most Sunday nights since our formation have been spent doing the work of the PNC at an average of two hours per meeting.

We spent the first two months discussing the questions and completing our Church Information Form. We posted our form to the PCUSA web site in early June. Soon thereafter, we were matched by the web site with over 500 potential pastoral candidates. Other pastors also “self-referred” to our pastor position, even though PCUSA did not match us.

Since late June, your PNC has reviewed over one hundred pastor forms together. We discussed the pros and cons of each potential candidate, and have conducted first round phone interviews with many candidates. While we cannot share any details of our conversations, we believe that the Holy Spirit is guiding us to call the pastor that God has chosen to lead our congregation. We ask for your continued prayers and patience as our PNC moves forward on our journey together.



Operation Christmas Child:

Please remember to start gathering your items for the shoe boxes.

More information to follow in upcoming bulletin announcements and the October Plain Talk.

A Time of Change

The Personnel Committee has been informed that Allen Frederick will be departing Plains Church, effective September 30. Allen has decided to pursue other ministries and we thank him for his music ministry with us these past seven years.

We are already searching for someone with musical experience. Please contact any member of Session if you or someone you know is interested.

On Sunday September 29, we will be holding an appreciation fellowship and coffee hour in recognition of Allen's devoted service to our Church. Please make every effort to attend if possible.



CNS News & Highlights

Cranberry Nursery School is gearing up for the new school year, which will begin on Thursday, September 5th. This year will bring many new families, as well as familiar faces, as we meet and make new friends for the children, parents and staff. The first classes are shortened and split into two groups to help the kids get oriented.

We've added a Half-Pints (two and a half year old) program which has filled up rather quickly. We do have a few spots available in the Nursery Class and the PM Pre-K class. If you know of anyone that is interested, please send them our way.

Please welcome our new Aides, Young Hwang and Laura Reese. We are happy to have both talented women on board. You are always welcome to come and see the school and meet the Teachers, Director, or Aides. Anyone wishing to share an interesting hobby with the children or volunteer during library time is always welcome!

On the behalf CNS & Plains Church, CNS made a \$500 donation to the Kids Castle Playground, a Cranberry Uniting Playground. This is for the new playground that is being built in Cranberry Park.

CNS welcomes new board member, Melanie Sturrock. Thank you for stepping up to take on these roles for the pre-school. We would also like to thank outgoing board members Tiffany Aloï and Denise Kremmel for their time and effort this past school year.

Plains Presbyterian Church Financial Update

Our actual giving continues to be under our budget giving in 2013. We have receipts that are **\$6,000 less** than our budget through July 31.

Fortunately our expenses are also a bit below our budget at this time, but we can't count on expense controls making up for the disparity in our actual versus budgeted receipts. As you can see below, our net income is over \$4,300 in the red for the year to date period ending July 31.

One issue is that our per capita receipts are much lower than budget. We normally only receive approximately 50% of our budgeted per capita each year, but this year this figure is less than 40%. But the larger issue is general giving is less than expected.

We will need to tighten expense budgets in 2014 if this trend continues. If you have any questions please contact Frank Aloï at FrankAloi@MSN.com.

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$61,279.33	\$67,315.06	(\$6,035.76)
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES:</u>	<u>\$65,637.41</u>	<u>\$66,665.08</u>	<u>(\$1,027.77)</u>
NET INCOME:			(\$4,357.98)



We are looking for someone who is interested in volunteering a little time after Church each Sunday. We are in need of someone to count and record our weekly offerings. Please see Frank Aloï if you are interested.



These items were left at Church in the Park on Sunday, August 25th at North Boundary Park:

2 Servings Spoons

2 Blue & White Lawn Chairs

1 Beige Towel

The items have been placed by the desk area in the lobby of the church.

ZELIENOPLE-EVANS CITY MEALS ON WHEELS GOES INDEPENDENT

The Zelienople-Evans City Meals on Wheels is no longer affiliated with Lutheran Service Society as of September, 2013. The mission of Meals on Wheels is to provide meals Monday thru Friday to those unable to shop and/or cook for themselves. The cost of the meals is \$20 a week for a hot and cold meal each day. Our paid cook at English Lutheran Church, Grandview Avenue and High Streets, in Zelienople, prepares the meals.

Meals on Wheels began on June 1, 1970 delivering meals to Zelienople, Harmony, Evans City, Callery, Northern Cranberry Township, and Fombell areas.

This is a non-profit organization relying on donations from community and individuals. Volunteer drivers, deliverers, and packers are always needed. You may contact the kitchen at 724-452-4270 or Barb Kaufman, director at 724-452-6676 for more information.

Faithbuilders continues the WALK in the Fall.

Join us as we **Walk as Jesus Walked** in our Adult Sunday School class. This DVD series with Ray Vander Laan focuses on discipleship, our relationship with Jesus, with other disciples and with the "unchurched". The next chapters will be an in-depth study of **Why Christians Suffer – the Weight of Gethsemane and Don't Forget Us**. Faithbuilders Adult Sunday School welcomes you to grow in your faith with us.

Join us for Rally Day on September 8th. Then, we will meet at 9:30AM in the lower level starting September 15th.



Women's Retreat for 2013
"When Wallflowers Dance;"
looking at discipleship
with
Rev. Kimberly Merrill
October 18th and 19th, 2013
Camp Crestfield, Slippery Rock

It is that time again to start thinking about the women's retreat! This retreat presents a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and renewal. The hotel-like facilities and autumn surroundings provide a relaxing atmosphere. All women are invited—part-time participation is encouraged!

Mark your calendars now! The length of the retreat is the same as last year. It will be Friday night and all day Saturday until about 7:00 p.m. Just a reminder, that if you wish to come only on Saturday the programming is scheduled so that you will not miss any of the major sessions. Save this weekend for fellowship and study with Rev. Kimberly Merrill from our own Plains Church.

If you have any questions please call: **Bonnie Carmichael at 724-538-9576.**

Attached below is a registration form and rates. Choose your package and write your check payable to Plains Presbyterian Church (Women's Retreat somewhere on check.) Payment will be due September 15, 2013.

Cut here

PLEASE MARK YOUR INTENTIONS (room rate does not include meal cost)

Double occupancy rate is:

One night \$49.00 Name of roommate _____

Single occupancy rate is:

One night \$75.00 _____

Meal rates are::

Saturday breakfast	7.00
Saturday lunch	8.75
Saturday dinner	10.50

Name _____ Phone _____

Samaritan's Purse ~ Operation Heal Our Patriots ~ Samaritan Lodge Alaska ~ Port Allworth, Alaska

This Lodge and Program has been designed for the care and healing of our Service People who have come home from war, wounded and in need of help to get their lives and their marriages back together.

Through rest and recuperation, the couples are able to work through some of the trials and tribulations that come through dealing with physical and mental damage caused by the effects of war. During this one week together, there are Marriage Enrichment Classes taught, based on Scripture and they begin to learn and understand where each other is coming from and how to overcome their differences. This time provides opportunity to discover each other anew and how much God loves them. Some accept Jesus as their Savior for the first time, others renew their commitment and choose to be baptized in the icy cold Alaskan water. They come as individuals and by the end of the week they celebrate being a family, helping each other live again in newness of life.

This "Minute for Mission" is to help you wonderful givers at Plains Church to know that your gift of \$400 will help other couples to be able to, not only meet our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ but to start life anew. THANK YOU!

If you would like to view some of these videos for yourselves log on to: Samaritan's Purse, Operation Healing Our Patriots.

You will be very Blessed to know and see the wonderful work being done for our HEROES at no cost to them. Isn't our Father God AMAZING!

Praise His Holy Name.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
** 11:00 am Worship begins on Sept. 8th						
<h1>SEPTEMBER 2013</h1>						
1 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service <i>Communion</i>	2  The office is closed	3	4	5  1st day for CNS M&M Café 9am-3pm	6  M&M Café 9am-1pm	7
8 11:00 am Worship Service 	9	10	11	12	13	14 F.H rental 11a-4p
15 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service <i>Coffee Connections</i> <i>Heifer Sunday</i> 3:00 pm Cub Scout mtg.	16 7:00pm Session meeting	17	18 7:00pm Deacon's mtg.	19	20	21
22 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	23	24	25 6:00 pm Brownies mtg.	26	27	28
29 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	30					



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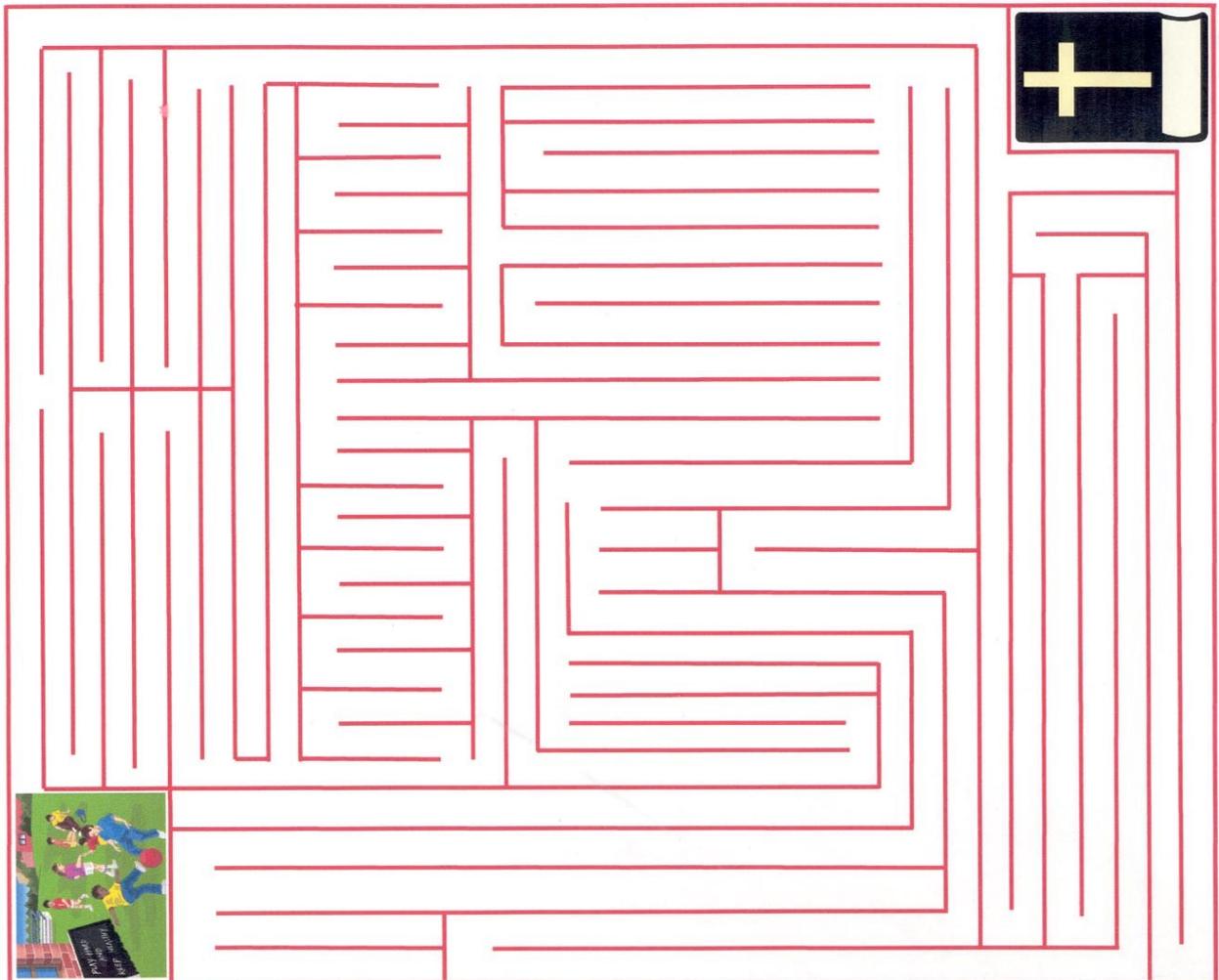
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“As disciples of Christ, we share the gospel with one another and the community.

We are committed to growth in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through worship, study, teaching, and fellowship.”

Stay True!

Stay on the path and follow the word of God.



Kids' Zone