



May 2008  
Volume 19, Issue 5

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# The Caller

## May 2008 Worship Schedule

Elder Joe Marzullo, speaking  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
May 4, 2008  
Sixth Sunday in Easter

### *Waiting for the Aha Moment!*

Text: John 7:39  
Dr. Lolla, preaching  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
May 11, 2008  
Pentecost Day

*People of the Truth*  
Text: II Corinthians 13:8  
Dr. Lolla, preaching  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
May 18, 2008

*Staying Focused*  
Text: Matthew 6:34  
Dr. Lolla, preaching  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
May 25, 2008  
Memorial Day Weekend

The Presbyterian Church of  
Plum Creek

550 Center-New Texas Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15239  
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[www.plumcreekchurch.com](http://www.plumcreekchurch.com)

The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek publishes *The Caller* monthly (with the exception of July and August). If you have an item to contribute, please email it to [secretary@plumcreekchurch.com](mailto:secretary@plumcreekchurch.com) or place it in *The Caller* mailbox in the church office. To submit a newspaper or magazine article to be reprinted in *The Caller*, include the name and date of the newspaper or magazine where the article was originally published. To submit an editorial be sure to include your name. The deadline for all articles is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. **Please provide submissions in computer-ready (WORD 2002 or text) format when possible.** Thanks!

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**Church Address:** Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek  
550 Center-New Texas Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15239

**Office Phone Number:** (412) 793-4525

**E-mail Address:** [secretary@plumcreekchurch.com](mailto:secretary@plumcreekchurch.com)

**Office Hours:** Monday – Friday,  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Minister:** Dr. John J. Lolla

**Praise & Worship Team Leader/  
Children's Choir Director:** Kathy Grabigel

**Worship Services:** Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**Church School Classes:** Sundays 9:40 to 10:50 a.m.

## Letter from Reverend Lolla- May 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

Mother's Day falls on Pentecost Day this year – a time of celebrating new life. Mothers bear the labor and hope of new children for their family. Pentecost celebrates the delivery into the world of the covenant community of God's children– the Church. The two are intimately related. God's love for us is experienced through a child's birth – not only once and for all in Bethlehem – but in our homes. God's love for us is also experienced through His spirit of love within the Church's nativity on Pentecost. The eternal love forming the Church on Pentecost Day reforms our homes day in and day out when we live as children of Christ.

Christ's love – first found during his infancy with his mother in the manger is later rediscovered in Christ's spirit that unites the Church on Pentecost. The birth of the Church is as miraculous as the birth of a child. Apart from Christ's continuing resurrected presence in our lives, the Church would not exist. Where Christ is missing from the covenant community God has established the Church disintegrates. Without the joy of Christ's appearance among the Apostles, there was no reason for them to continue to associate with one another following Jesus' death. The unique gift of new life, announced by angels to shepherds on a Judean hillside outside of Bethlehem, and reannounced by angels outside Joseph of Arimathea's tomb, and experienced in the Upper Room is the joy that regenerates the human spirit and unites the community which he created.

As you celebrate God's blessing of new life on this special day, may His gift regenerate your spirit as it did Christ's original followers so long ago!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jack

## **BIRTHDAYS**

No May Birthdays

If you know anyone who is 70 or older, please let the church office know. We do not want to miss anyone.

## **DAY CAMP AT PLUM CREEK – MEMORIAL GIFTS:**

For Christ Bante

Mrs. Nancy Bante

Ms. Pamela Costanza

## **DEATHS**

James Depelligrin

3/28/08



# **RUMMAGE SALE**

**May 2-3, 2008**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of PLUM CREEK**

**550 Center New Texas Road**

**9A to 7P on Friday, May 2**

**9A to 2P on Saturday May 3**

**Clothing, furniture, toys, appliances, jewelry, shoes, house wares**

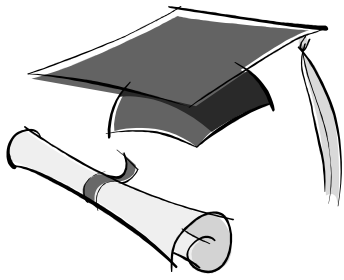
**Refreshments/Bake Sale Friday**

**9A to 1P**

**Flowers and Vegetables on Saturday**

**9A to 2P**

**Baby sitting available**



**ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES** – Graduate Sunday will be Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. If you know of anyone graduating from High School, College, or any kind of school, please let us know, so they can be included in Graduation Sunday. Call Lucy Ofstun at 412-793-2373, or let the Christian Education Committee know.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

Spring is here and Summer is coming quickly. That means that Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. Vacation Bible School will take place in the middle of June, from June 16-20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM- 12:00 Noon. Mark these dates on your calendar and make plans for your children or grandchildren to attend this exciting week of learning more about God while having tons of fun. Spread the word to the children in your neighborhood. It is sure to be a GREAT WEEK!



## **Memorial Sunday**

Sunday, May 25, 2008, will be a day to remember and honor your loved ones in church. We will create a bouquet with individual flowers that you bring. You can bring a flower from your yard or one that you purchase. Along with your flower, please bring the name of your loved one printed on a card. We will include the names we receive in the prayer during both worship services.



**HELP WANTED** – We need some additional help in putting together this monthly newsletter. We already have one person in place who takes all the articles submitted and puts them together into the Caller. We would like to have a second person who is willing to do the same thing. That way, the two people putting together the Caller could take turns and could fill in for each other when needed. This is not a great commitment of time since you would only be needed 4-6 times per year. So, if you have computer skills and would like to donate a few hours to help out occasionally, please call Kathy Kirk in the church office (412-793-4525).



## **YOU CAN HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH!!!!**

We want to be able to get information to our church family as quickly and efficiently as possible. As you realize, email is the way to communicate today and we would like to try to begin using email to communicate with all church members. This would enable us to let you know of information that needs to be disseminated quickly such as scheduling changes or urgent messages about people or events here within our church. Also, email would be cost saving over printing and sending information through the Post Office.

So, please let us know your email address in the space below. You can place this sheet in the basket in the narthex or mail it to the church office.

Another option is to just send Kathy in the church office an email indicating who can be reached through that address.

Kathy's email address is [secretary@plumcreekchurch.com](mailto:secretary@plumcreekchurch.com)

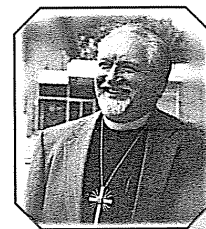
Thanks for your help.

Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY



Dear Siblings in Our Lord,

*“Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them. ‘I am going fishing.’ They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.” (John 21: 2-3)*

Perhaps we can describe Peter and his peers as the first of the growing demographic segment called “unaffiliated,” albeit “religious unaffiliated.” Here was the core group of Jesus’ followers. Yet after his resurrection, even after the resurrected Christ has appeared to them twice, the disciples resort to their former lives and vocations. They become unaffiliated, at least for a while.

The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life’s “U.S. Religious Landscape” ([www.pewforum.org](http://www.pewforum.org)) reveals that religious affiliation in America is “both very diverse and fluid.” “More than one-quarter of American adults (28%) have left the faith in which they were raised in favor of another religion – or no religion at all.” “Those Americans who are unaffiliated with any particular religion (16.1%) have seen the greatest growth in numbers as a result of changes in affiliation.” How can we account for such mobility across denominational, confessional and interreligious lines?

A positive spin could suggest that this fluidity is indicative of the success of the ecumenical movement. No longer do we condemn the Christian faith of our neighbors, in fact we feel quite comfortable going wherever Jesus Christ is proclaimed as Divine Savior and Lord, regardless of denominational brand. Or conversely, this could be seen as the relativizing of truth. Such is our American civil religion – “It doesn’t matter what you believe, so long as you believe in something.”

I fear that for the Church this ease of moving from denomination to denomination or to unaffiliated is the consequence of our becoming captive to both consumerism and individualism. Denominational loyalty has been replaced with shopping to have one’s felt needs satisfied. Our congregations have frantically sought to accommodate the demand for more programming so as to offer something for everyone. All the while most of our congregations cannot support nor sustain such a menu of options for these consumers of religious services. At the same time we as Church have lost the sense of the communal, and of seeker’s responsibility to the corporate nature of faith. Individualism, “what do I get out of it,” has replaced our sense of community, communion, and an individual’s sense of “what do I give to this religious experience.”

But what about those who are like Peter and his peers, those who once were affiliated but now are not? Many of them proclaim to be “religious,” that “religion is somewhat or very important in their lives.” Is that another symptom of individualism, where we seek to be religious and spiritual without engaging in organized religion? It took an encounter with Christ to bring those disciples back to Jesus’ fellowship of believers. In this Easter season, may we have the passion and will to build such communities of faith where Christ’s presence is obvious to others. May we also look forward to Pentecost and the Spirit’s empowerment to enable us to witness with gladness, winsomely and convincingly to those unaffiliated to experience Christ in the fellowship of the Church.

In Christ’s love and transforming grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Don Allen".

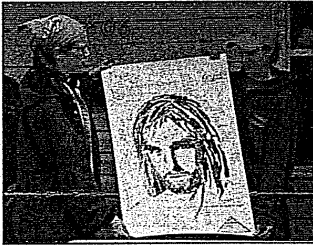
Hosanna Industries, Inc.

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"The greatest gift is a portion of thyself."  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson



"What you do today can improve all our tomorrows."  
-Ralph Marston



"To find joy in work is to discover the fountain of youth."  
-Pearl S. Buck



Hosanna Industries  
serving the needy since  
1990.

March 26, 2008

Dear Friends,

Greetings! I hope this finds you all well and caught up on some well deserved rest! It's hard to believe that it has been less than one week since we said our good-byes in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. On behalf of all of us here at Hosanna Industries, I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you once again.

They are two very small words that hold so much love and gratitude in them. Thank you for giving your time! All of your volunteer efforts combined throughout the week tallied to at least \$150,000 in market value! You were true servants by persevering in all different types of weather, and for most of you, new situations in which you were able to learn and grow and help further the Kingdom! For your commitment of time we are truly thankful for all that you gave to be a part of the Beaver Falls Triple Blitz.

Thank you for being so giving of your talents! Whether you are skilled or unskilled, all of your efforts combined showed people that miracles can still happen today! The Lord leads and guides us all and I am grateful for Him leading you and all of your efforts to help Hosanna Industries and the miracles that happened during Holy Week 2008!

Until our paths cross again, thank you dear friends and blessings with you!

In His Service,

*Amy Lee Firek*  
Amy Lee Firek  
Mission Worker

*Jack,*

*Please pass my thanks on to all the wonderful volunteers from Plum Creek! Thanks for joining with us again during Holy week! Blessings - Amy*

Hosanna Industries, Inc., as other charitable organizations that solicit funds in Pennsylvania, is required to file an annual registration statement with the state. The official registration and financial information of Hosanna Industries, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of state by calling toll free. Within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. As always, written information about our programs can be obtained by calling or writing us at the address on this letter.



