



January 2010
Volume 21, Issue 1

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**The Presbyterian Church of
Plum Creek
October/November, 2009
Worship Schedule
550 Center-New Texas Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15239
secretary@plumcreekchurch.com
www.plumcreekchurch.com**

The Caller

January Worship Schedule

January 3, 2010 – 10 a.m.

Vera White

Pittsburgh Presbytery – Director of NCD,
Stewardship, and COM

January 10 – 10 a.m.

Betty Angelini

Executive Director of Crestfield Camp

January 17 – 10 a.m.

Pastoral candidate

January 24 – 10 a.m.

Dr. Richard Morledge

Pastor Emeritus from First Presbyterian Church of
Bakerstown

January 31 – 10 a.m.

Pastor Jim Kirk

Associate Pastor of KenMawr Presbyterian Church

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 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 15th of the month. **Please provide submissions in computer-ready (WORD 2002 or text) format when possible.** Thanks!

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
Office Hours:	Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Minister:	vacant
Praise & Worship Team Leader/ Children's Choir Director:	Kathy Grabigel
Director of Educational Ministries	Andrea Hall
Organist	Kathy Novak
Worship Services:	Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes:	Sundays 8:45 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

January 15 Helen Morrow

If you know anyone who is 70 or older please let the church office know. We don't want to miss anyone.

Attention YOUTH!

The WINTER RETREAT will be held **February 5 - 7, 2010** at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center. For more details or to sign up, please see Andrea by January 20.



Mark your calendars!!! This year's Adult Retreat will be held **February 26 - 28, 2010** at Camp Crestfield. Our speaker will be the Reverend Ed DeLair. Ed was instrumental in helping Plum Creek to hold adult retreats, as he was the speaker for our first and second annual retreats. If you were at those retreats, be sure to attend this year to welcome Ed back. If you weren't at those retreats, be sure you don't miss this one, so that you can be challenged spiritually as you bask in Christian fellowship and good eats!! **All** are welcome! Cost will remain at the low, low price of \$70 per person. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



Stewardship - Where Are You?

As you read this a month has gone by since we began our giving campaign for 2010. As has been the trend in the past two years, a small percentage of the congregation pledges to support the Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek. Five years ago in 2005 our congregation had 185 members pledging their financial support for the work of the church. In 2009, that number had dropped to 96. By mid December, our pledges stood at 47 committed Christians that want to give financially for 2010. So, we ask, Where are you? One of the two hundred and twenty-seven members who have not responded to the call to support our church?

We are in a period of change. This can be an exciting time in the life of the Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek. We hope you will once again join us in pledging and honoring that commitment for 2010.

In closing, a big thank you to those members that continue to support Gods' work by giving to our church. Without your dedication many of our programs and mission opportunities could not occur.

In His Name,
The Stewardship Team

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ and Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone has been renewed by the beautiful Christmas season and is ready to start this new year of transition. January is such a unique month in the course of our church year. It is sort of in the in-between time. We are finishing up the celebration of the Incarnation and the Birth of the Lord, but we are not yet quite to the season of Lent, when we begin to look toward the cross and the sacrifice that was made on our behalf.

It is during this in-between time that we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord (January 6), the Baptism of the Lord (January 10), the Presentation of the Lord (February 2), and the Transfiguration of the Lord (February 14). Well, let's be honest. How many of us will really celebrate any of these days in our homes? My husband and I will probably celebrate Epiphany, but only because we have friends who have an Epiphany Party every year. Sadly, these are days of celebration that we, as Presbyterians, do not often recognize, but they are not insignificant events. So, in the hope that these events would not go completely unnoticed this year, I thought that I would give a very brief synopsis of these celebrations.

The Epiphany of the Lord is the day that we commemorate the visitation of the magi to the child Jesus. Particularly, we celebrate the fact that Christ became manifest to the world, and we continue to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation. This festival is celebrated in many different ways throughout the world. Did you know that Epiphany is the day that begins the Mardi Gras season? It is known as King's Day, and special cakes are made and parades are held in Louisiana.

The Baptism of the Lord is a day that is somewhat self-explanatory: we celebrate the baptism of Jesus! As we know, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, and this event kicked off Jesus' adult ministry. A voice from heaven declared: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Many people have wondered why Jesus needed to be baptized. After all, he was sinless, and baptism is for the cleansing of our sin. There are a number of reasons why Jesus was baptized, but one reason is that Jesus, from the beginning of his ministry, identified himself with sinners. Of course, this culminated in Jesus dying a sinner's death and paying the penalty for the sins of the world. From the beginning, Jesus was first and foremost *for us*.

The Presentation of the Lord is a Feast Day in many Christian traditions. This day remembers the account in Luke 2:22-40 when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple forty days after his birth so that Mary's ritual purification could be completed and so that the redemption of the firstborn could be performed. While at the Temple, the Holy Family encountered Simeon and Anna, both of whom prophesied that Jesus would redeem Israel. It is one of the most ancient feasts celebrated by the Christian church. (Perhaps we should have a potluck?) It is also known as Candlemas and the Meeting of the Lord.

The Transfiguration of the Lord is the day that we celebrate what happens in Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. It is one of the most puzzling and wonderful accounts in the life of Jesus. Jesus is transfigured upon a mountain. He becomes radiant. He speaks with Moses and Elijah, and a voice from heaven calls him "Son." The Transfiguration is one of my favorite stories, mostly because it is so strange and because it's a miracle that happens to Jesus himself. Our Catholic, Anglican, and Orthodox brothers and sisters celebrate this feast day in August.

Although these days do not garner as much attention as Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost, they are nonetheless important days. As we settle into this time that sits in between Christmas and Easter, I hope that we can all take a moment and recognize that there are celebrations going on all around the world. Christians everywhere are remembering these events. In our own small ways, let's join them. Let's give thanks to God for these events in the life of Jesus, without which we would know much less about who he is and what he has done for the life of the world.

Blessings,
Andrea Hall
Director of Educational Ministries

SOUP SALE SUNDAY January 24th

The Retreat Committee is selling Chicken Noodle and Beef Vegetable Soup as well as fresh baked rolls. Proceeds help to lower the cost of Church Retreats.

We can always use quart jars, lids, and rings. If you have any you can spare, please leave them in the kitchen by January 19th. They will be much appreciated. If you would like to help with the soup preparation, please join us in the church kitchen on either Friday, January 22nd at 9:00 AM or Saturday, January 23rd at 9:00 AM. We will be making soup both days. We also need assistance on Sunday, January 24th at 7:00 am to make the rolls and pack orders for pickup.

Please place your order form in the box in the narthex. Please do not put your order form in the collection plate. Orders are due by Sunday, January 17th.

For more information about the soup sale, please call
Carolyn Ressler at 412-793-9686.

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SOUP ORDER FORM

\$4.00 a Quart / \$1.00 bag of six fresh baked rolls

Orders due January 17, pick up on Saturday January 23 or Sunday January 24

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Chicken Noodle - # of quarts: _____ x \$4 = _____

Beef Vegetable - # of quarts: _____ x \$4 = _____

Fresh Baked Rolls (6 per bag) - # of bags: _____ x \$1 = _____

Total Due: \$ _____

I will pick up my order _____ Saturday afternoon 2 pm – 3 pm

_____ Sunday morning after 10 am service

Deacon's Corner

Greetings from the Deacons!

As we begin a new year, the Deacons would like to thank the congregation for their support and generosity throughout 2009. Specifically, we would like to thank all the participants in Operation Christmas Child's Christmas Shoebox campaign. Because of your generosity and in conjunction with Plum High GLA, we were able to donate 74 shoeboxes. Thank you also to Gary and Sharon Lasser for delivering the boxes.

We would also like to thank you for your donations to Military Connections. We received a large bag of goodies to be sent overseas.

Thank you for donating to the family in Pitcairn that lost everything in a fire. We received 2 boxes and 6 bags of clothes.

Thank you for your support to the food pantry. As a result of the November Food Campaign, we donated 24 bags and 2 boxes of food to Plum Food Pantry.

We would also like to express our thanks to all Church Board Members that have faithfully fulfilled their commitment to Plum Creek and we welcome the new members who are joining the Boards for 2010.

We are so blessed to have such a giving congregation and look forward to serving the needs of our church members and our Community in 2010.

In His Service,

Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek Board of Deacons



