



February 2010
Volume 21, Issue 2

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**The Presbyterian Church of
Plum Creek**

**550 Center-New Texas Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15239**
secretary@plumcreekchurch.com
www.plumcreekchurch.com

The Caller

February Worship Schedule

February 7, 2010 – 10 a.m.

Lay Pastor Dorothy Come
(friend of Larry Sturchio's)

February 14 – 10 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Doug Portz

February 21 – 10 a.m.

Moji Christianah Adeyeye, Ph.D, Mission
Committee Guest

February 28 – 10 a.m.

Elder Tim Mayo

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

February 13 – Dorothy Hopperstead
28 – Virginia Johnson

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

DEATH

Dorothy (Allwynne) Miller December 27, 2009

MEMORIAL GIFTS

For Dorothy (Allwynne) Miller
Mr. and Mrs. David Nesbit
Ms. Betty Bachelder
Ms. Johanna Binnie
Earl and Grace Righi
Doug and Linda Iams
Maryanne Kozul
Mr. and Mrs. James Carr
Mrs. Lois Holmes
Mr. and Mrs. J. Charles Stover
Scott Beatty and Jaclyn Lombardo
S & T Bank
Rita and Don Watson
Jack Rich and Family

WEDNESDAY EVENING COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Please join us Wednesday nights in Lent for a wonderful time of worship and fellowship with fellow Presbyterian churches from our local area. Series involves churches, pastors and choirs from Pine Run Presbyterian Church, Plum Creek Presbyterian Church, Poke Run Presbyterian Church and Union Presbyterian Church. What a wonderful opportunity to join others to lift up our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in this very special season!!

February 17, 2010
Ash Wednesday
Poke Run Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m.
Taize service with Imposition of Ashes
Communion service

February 24, 2010
Delmont Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Ken Chorle preaching
Poke Run Presbyterian Church Choir

March 3, 2010
Plum Creek Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Pete Goetchius preaching
Union Presbyterian Church
Choir



March 10, 2010
Poke Run Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Lanny Mellinger preaching
Delmont & Plum Creek Praise & Worship Team

March 17, 2010
Union Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Wayne Barrett preaching
Pine Run Presbyterian Church Choir

March 24, 2010
Plum Creek Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m.
"Eyes of Faith" Lenten Musical Ministry
A preview night for all participating churches

March 31, 2010
Pine Run Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m.
Drama Presentation

The Lenten services will focus on the theme, "The Hope Behind the Cross". A time of fellowship and refreshment will follow most services. An offering to go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program will be taken at each service. Please come and join us!!!!

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

What is vision? Vision is more than the ability to see. A vision is a sight that motivates; it's one that inspires. In the Scriptures, we meet many of God's people who have visions. These visions are all unique, but they share one thing in common: true visions are a gift from God.

If I were to ask the people of Plum Creek, "What is our vision for the future?", what would you say? What do you think others would say? Do we all have a clear understanding of what our vision is?

These are the kinds of questions that I have been thinking about and discussing with others. I've found that many of us are unclear about where God is calling us in the future. In addition, many of us are unsure how to figure out where God is calling us. We haven't quite figured out how to receive the gift of a true vision from God.

Receiving a vision from God is not easy. We must first know who God is. Otherwise, we are likely to listen to another voice. We must also know who we are. This means that we must have an understanding of our past. And, we must also be honest and realistic about the circumstances into which God has already placed us.

Receiving a vision from God is also not easy because we are often afraid to behold the vision that he has set before us. During my time in Alaska, I used the pastor's truck to get around every day. One day, while running an errand, I backed out of a parking spot too quickly (and amid snow and ice), and I heard and felt a big crunch. I immediately closed my eyes and just sat there for a minute. I didn't want to open my eyes and turn around, because I was afraid of what I might see. Sure enough, when I finally opened my eyes, I saw that I had left a rather large dent in the driver's door of someone else's car. As soon as I saw the sight, I was stuck; I had to deal with the problem. I couldn't ignore what had just happened. I had to go find the owner of the car and make arrangements to fix it.

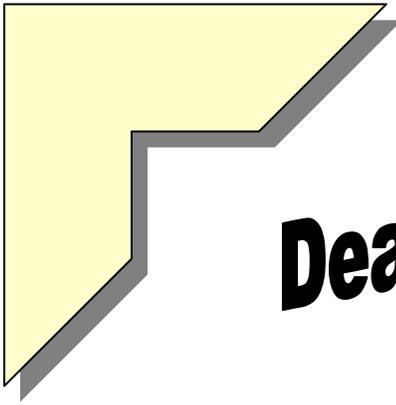
We do the same thing. We choose to keep our eyes closed, because we are afraid that the vision that we see might not be the one that we wanted. Unfortunately, whether we ignore it or not, the reality is that the vision is before us. I think about the apostle Paul. He was certainly a man who had options for his life. He was educated and a natural leader. Yet, Paul traveled around preaching and teaching and making disciples. He eventually ended up in prison and suffered death. He did these things, not because he didn't have any other choice, but because he saw the vision that God had given him, and once he saw the vision, he was stuck. He couldn't ignore it; he had to pursue it.

I don't claim to know what God has in mind for Plum Creek's future, and I don't believe that we can receive God's vision in the course of one silly newsletter article. However, I believe that God has a unique vision for Plum Creek and that he has given us all that we need in order to see and pursue that vision. We just need to open our eyes.

Dealing with the dent in that car was difficult. I was embarrassed, and I felt guilty. But, in the long run, dealing with it was much better than avoiding the situation. I could have just driven away and left the car to be found by the owner. I am sure that I would have felt even more guilty if I had done that, and if I had been found, I might have gotten into big trouble. I would have traded in one difficult situation for an even more difficult situation. God may gift us with a difficult vision, but so what? Refusing to pursue the vision that he has given to us is sure to yield greater consequences. Besides, just because something is difficult doesn't mean that it doesn't bring great joy! (If you are married or if you have raised children, you know what I am talking about!)

So, in this new year and during this time of transition, let us joyfully open our eyes to the vision that God has set before us and pursue it passionately for his glory and for the benefit of his children!

Blessings,
Andrea Hall
Director of Educational Ministries



Deacon's Corner

Greetings from the Deacons!

We would like to thank the congregation for all of their help and support over the past year with the funeral dinners/receptions that were held. We appreciate so much the volunteers that served as well as all of the delicious cakes/cookies that were contributed.

We would also like to welcome the new Class of Deacons, some are new and some have graciously agreed to continue to serve: Lois Holmes, Larry Sturchio, Wilma Elicker, Bob Stalnaker, Laura Burnett, Carol Pekarek, and Barbara Grossi. Thank you for answering God's call to serve the congregation and the community.

Upcoming Events:

Spring Blood Drive: April, 2009 (details to follow next month)

In His Service,
Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek Board of Deacons

Stewardship Report



On Tuesday, January 12th, The Stewardship Committee convened for our monthly meeting. We were in for a wonderful surprise!!!

- Our number of giving units who are pledging for 2010 jumped from 45 at the last the meeting to 84 as of 02/12/10.
- The amount of \$\$\$ pledged also rose to \$215,000.
- And our proposed operating budget for 2010 is \$253,000.

Now, don't jump to conclusions! Since the giving is all in one category, Session has pledged that the first 10% of your giving is to go to Mission. That means that our church will pledge \$25,300.00 to Local, National and International Mission.

- This puts our spending Plan up to \$278,300.00
- Take into consideration that we usually collect about \$26,000++ in loose offerings.
- That means we need only 16 more pledging units at \$50.00 per week- that's \$2400 per year.
- It seems logical to us that there are at least 16 more families who have not yet pledged. (That would bring our number of pledging units to 100. And last year it was at 96.)

**Please, make a pledge to our church.
Or raise your pledge amount by five or ten dollars per week.**

This way, our programs, our staff, our building maintenance, and our Mission work can properly serve The Lord as we "go into all the world and preach The Gospel" (Mark 16:15).

A belated merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

As I look back on 2009 I am overwhelmed with the blessings that have been showered on our family. Rebecca completed her senior year in high school and received the blessing of being able to return to Murree Christian School and graduate with her class there in Pakistan. She has enjoyed and just completed her first semester at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Nate completed his junior year at Atherton High School Here in Louisville and has begun his senior year. In the fall he competed with the soccer team and has enjoyed performing with the Atherton Chamber Singers. He is still deciding where he will go to school next year and is honored to be a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist. He too enjoyed returning to MCS to see Rebecca graduate and to share in end of school activities and fellowship with many of his friends at the school.

Carol has enjoyed her work teaching as a member of the faculty in the OB/Gyn department at University of Louisville. This year her work was recognized by both the medical students and residents with awards for excellence in teaching. When we went to Pakistan for Rebecca's graduation she had the pleasure of delivering to Memorial Christian Hospital, Sialkot a laparoscope donated by a fellow faculty member. She spent several days helping to set it up and teaching them how to use it.

After several fits and starts I was finally able to have surgery to begin the process of deep brain stimulation (DBS) to treat my Parkinson's disease. The delays were blessings as well. One meant that I could accompany the family to Pakistan to see Rebecca graduate and the other led us to a very skilled and capable surgeon. The three surgeries to implant the hardware have all gone well and I am recovering according to schedule. Through all of this it has once again been an awesome experience to be upheld in prayer by people all over the world, people we know and others we have never met before.

God has certainly been present with us through all of this and it is in the knowledge that He goes before us that we approach 2010. Where does the beginning of the new year find us?

Rebecca has returned to Grand Rapids for January term and then her second semester of college. She is adjusting well and lobbying hard that her brother joins her at Calvin in the Fall.

Nate begins his last semester of high school. He looks forward to a trip to Pakistan in late May to see his class there graduate and to share in their celebration.

Carol will continue at U of L. Now that my health issues are almost taken care of we will address some of those of the rest of the family. This month Carol will have a hip checked out that may need to be replaced sooner rather than later.

I will begin 2010 with a brief hospital stay for the programming and set up of my DBS treatment. This is where we learn how successful the surgery has actually been. DBS is not a cure but a means to control some of my symptoms and reduce the amount of medication I am taking. We are hopeful that it will help me to be able to have increased endurance and a more regular schedule.

One of the greatest blessings that we experience is the fellowship of our friends. In 2009 several people have come through Louisville and stayed with us. Please know that should you for any reason be coming this way or you just need a weekend away we would love to have you stay with us. On behalf of our whole family I pray God bless you richly in 2010.

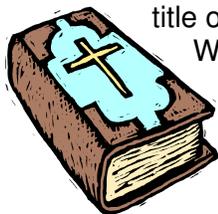
Jim & Carol Brees
1509 Rosewood Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204
jdbrees@yahoo.com

30 HOUR FAMINE

World Vision's 30-Hour Famine is just around the corner! Along with youth from all over the country, Plum Creek's youth will be fasting for 30 hours on February 26 and 27 to raise money and awareness for starving children all over the world. This year, all of the funds that we raise will go directly to earthquake relief in Haiti. We have a goal of \$2,000, and we ask that you would consider sponsoring one or more of our youth in this endeavor. If you would like to sponsor someone, please see Andrea!

Men Saturday Morning Bible Study

The men of Plum Creek are beginning the study on how to discern God's will in making decisions. The title of the study is "Listening to God in the Times of Choice", *The Art of Discerning God's Will*, by Gordon T. Smith. This is particularly timely for our church at this time. Do not forget, the first Saturday of the month we meet at McDades' for fellowship and breakfast at 7:45. Please come to Fellowship Hall at 7:30 AM the remaining Saturdays, rain, snow or shine.



Many thanks to the entire congregation of Plum Creek Church. We are so overwhelmed by the outpouring of support and concern of everyone for our family. Many thoughts and prayers have been sent to us in so many kind ways.

The gathering in our social hall was a special tribute to Allwynne, and she would have been smiling at all the wonderful sandwiches, fruits and special desserts her church family provided. We truly appreciate the work of our session, the true diligence of the deacons and the many volunteers who helped with the reception. We have been blessed to have a church that is so caring and with so much love to give.



Sincerely,
The Earl Miller Family

