



October 2010
Volume 21, Issue 8

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**The Presbyterian Church of
Plum Creek**

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

The Caller

October 2010 Worship Schedule

October 3, 2010 – 10 a.m.
World Wide Communion
“Guard Dogs”
Rev. Brenda Barnes

October 10, 2010 – 10 a.m.
Brandon Petras, speaking

October 17, 2010 – 10 a.m.
“Sound Off”
Rev. Brenda Barnes

October 24, 2010 – 10 a.m.
Meredith Hedeem, speaking

October 31, 2010 – 10 a.m.
Reformation Sunday
“Re-Formed”
Rev. Brenda Barnes

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 Reverend Brenda Barnes

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

**Director of Educational
Ministries** Meredith Hedeem

Director of Youth Ministries Tori Campbell

Worship Services Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes Sundays 8:45 a.m.

***To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)***

Fall is upon us! The trees in my backyard are beginning to drop their leaves. Our regular after-dinner trips to the woods with the dog now require sweaters . The sun sets earlier. We've already had a touch of frost north of here. Seasonal change is upon us once again as we prepare for the cooler weather.

The outward changes we see in the seasons are part of the ongoing movement in all of God's universe. God's purpose for creation has yet to be completed. The same can be said for our lives as believers. Each day brings new possibilities for how we can view ourselves, our lives together as a community, and our call to be a light on a hill.

Often times the call to change is a painful one. It isn't always easy to live with things in a state of fluctuation! Yet, God is constantly calling us to be open to the "Good News" of the gospel. When we open our lives to this we can't help but find our lives changing as we respond to the love of Christ.

What can we rely upon to be constant in our lives? As the Psalmist writes:

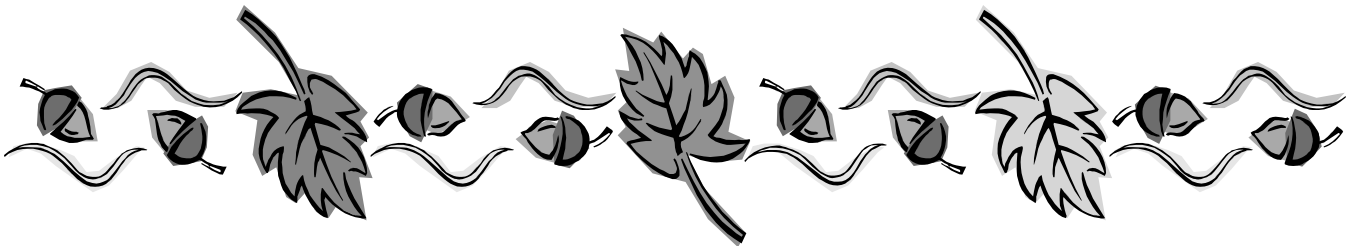
God is our refuge, a strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change. And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea. Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride...The Lord of Hosts is with us; The God of Jacob our stronghold.
(Psalm 46)

As change continues to be part of our personal spiritual growth, as well as our growth as the Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek in community with one another, let us hold fast to the promise that is ours. Indeed, the God of Jacob will be our stronghold. We will be able to stand, together!

Amen!

Happy Autumn!

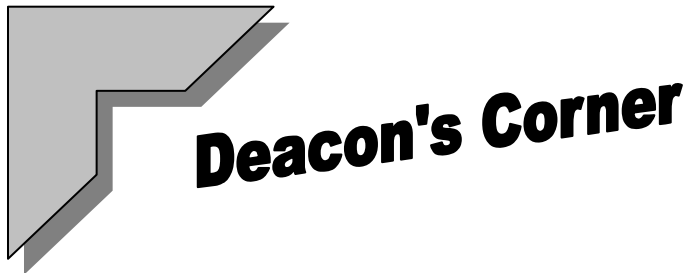
Pastor Brenda



BIRTHDAYS

October 2 Espe Ressler
October 8 Alice Yearn
October 10 Hazel Berringer
October 21 Helen Young

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



Deacon's Blood Drive

Sunday October 24, 2010
From 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Social Hall
Sign-ups will be Oct. 3rd, 10th & 17th after service in the Narthex.



Coffee Hour after service on Oct. 3rd in
Narthex or outside, weather permitting.



Change Sunday will be held on November 3rd.



Operation Christmas Child will commence on October 17th and must be returned by November 14th. Shoeboxes will be available in the Narthex on October 17th.

Letter to the Congregation

Change is intimidating. Change is inspiring. Change is inevitable. Even as I write my first letter to you as the new Director of Educational Ministries of our church, I am humbled and awed by the changes occurring in not just my family, but the changes occurring in those families around me and in our church, the Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek. At the same time, I would challenge all of us to see change in a different, less intimidating light. Change is the opportunity for growth, humility, and gratitude as we take each step with our Father, who never abandons us to experience these changes alone.

Our lives are constantly in a state of flux, often felt most personally within our families as the economy impacts our jobs and our financial situations or as new babies or grandbabies are born, as our older children begin new school years and head off to college or as new marriages are celebrated while we mourn the loss of loved ones. Our church is also in a period of transition as we seek to address not just the many social and economic pressures that continuously try to attack our personal faiths and our beliefs as a church, but as we seek the Lord's guidance and will in moving forward to continuously serve Him in all that we do, say, and think individually and together.

Certainly change is not an easy part of life; it often challenges the very core of our beings as we seek to uncover what God's desires are in our lives, even if they may not be what we had idealistically imagined. Change is the opportunity to draw even closer to God, to pray more fervently for His divine guidance, and to watch so carefully for our unchanging Father to lead us according to His will. This is not to say that oftentimes there are things that can remain the same, but it is in our willing reception of new ideas and opportunities to serve God in diverse ways that we truly focus on Christ's presence within our own hearts and within the heart of our church. There are so many of these budding possibilities to experience Christ's teachings and example at our church. I would challenge all of us to pray about each one, to seek Christ in each idea, and to be willing to openly discuss whether or not to accept each idea into our church's setting.

So I would suggest to you, while Plum Creek is in its current phase of transition, that we reconsider the word "change" and replace it with "grow." Clearly, our church is in a wonderful place for growth in faith and in fellowship. We are called to grow in our dependence upon God and in our existence as Christians while we follow Christ's example in all that we do, say, and think at home, at work, at play, and at church.

Jesus told us quite explicitly, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful...Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches... This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (John 15:1-2, 4-5a, 8).

May we continuously strive to be fruitful branches of the vine of Jesus Christ, glorifying God, seeking His will, and demonstrating our discipleship in His name.

In Christ,
Meredith Hedeem
Director of Educational Ministries

Christian Education Corner

Education is not just the job of one person; it is the responsibility we all have to raise up our children to become successful and knowledgeable adults, to provide ourselves with ongoing opportunities to expand our minds and horizons. Christian education carries an even greater responsibility and accountability as we are not just responsible for the depth of mental knowledge of our brothers and sisters in Christ; we are accountable for the eternal salvation of each other. Certainly this responsibility cannot fall solely on the shoulders of one person, especially since the very sacrament of baptism within the church requires the congregation's commitment to join with the newly baptized and his or her family while exemplifying and teaching the baptized about Christ.

Therefore, I am already asking you for help even as I begin my new role in the life of our church. I truly cannot take on this task alone, without your assistance. There are so many ways that you can serve the Lord and share the educational responsibilities that we all are called to have. It can often become too easy to say that we don't have the time or gifts to help with something, but I would challenge you to think otherwise.

1 Corinthians 12 discusses the membership we all have in the body of Christ, however significant or insignificant we believe our role may be. "God has combined the members of the body and has given no greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it" (1 Cor. 12:24b-27).

As we are all members of the body of Christ and of Christ's church, I would implore you to seek what your role in His church and in the Christian education therein could be. Below, you will find several areas where you could serve the Lord in our Christian education endeavors. Throughout the year, you will learn of more ways that you could help. I ask that, if you feel called to do so, please complete the form below and return it to me at the church either via the collection plate on Sunday mornings or sending it to the church office.

Don't be surprised though if you receive a phone call or email asking for your assistance, even if you do not complete the form! There are too many tasks for even a small army to fulfill, and many hands absolutely make the work load lighter. That being said, it is God we seek to serve, and not a perceived obligation to an individual.

in Christ,
Meredith

Name: _____ Phone: _____(H)
_____ (C)

Email: _____

Address: _____

- _____ I might be able to help with short-term projects (ie: Living Nativity, Advent Family Night, Vacation Bible School, etc)
- _____ I am willing to help provide materials for C.E. activities (ie: craft supplies, food, wood-working, etc)
- _____ I might be interested in teaching Sunday School or in leading Bible studies or small groups
- _____ I would like to help plan special C.E. events (ie: conferences, dinner discussions, etc)
- _____ I am interested in helping with new C.E. opportunities (ie: college/young adult ministry, support groups, etc)
- _____ I might be able to help with other C.E. needs (ie: bulletin boards, annual classroom set-up/clean-up, etc)
- _____ I am willing to help, but I don't know where yet