



January 2011
Volume 22, Issue 1

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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

January 2011 Worship Schedule

January 2, 2011 – 10 a.m.

Epiphany

"Gold Star"

Rev. Brenda Barnes

Sacrament of Communion

January 9, 2011 – 10 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord

"Go Deep!"

Rev. Brenda Barnes

January 16, 2011 – 10 a.m.

"But Christ"

Rev. Brenda Barnes

January 23, 2011 – 10 a.m.

"The Light Revealed"

Rev. Brenda Barnes

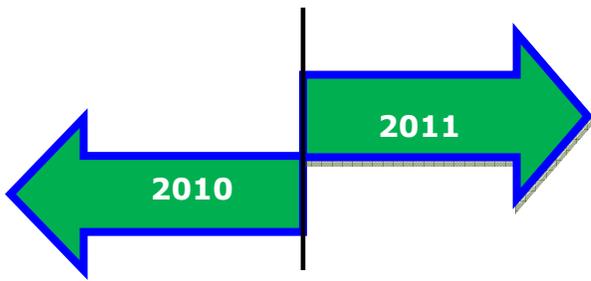
January 30, 2011 – 10 a.m.

"The Plague of Darkness"

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. 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
Director of Music/Worship Team Leader and of Dramatic Ministries	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.



Happy New Year!

Greetings in 2011! As I readied my new logbook and journal for the New Year, I looked back at the goals I had set for 2010...uh oh!

Did you know that only 40% of the adult population of the United States makes at least one New Year's resolution? The usual top resolutions are: lose weight; exercise; reduce stress; and manage money...the usual list changes little from year to year.

At the beginning of each new year, we make new resolutions with the full intent to "keep" them, but discover within a short period of time that our intentions fall short of the goal. In fact, statistics show that only 75% of resolutions are maintained after the first week. Within the first month, only 64% are kept and within 6 months, less than half of resolutions are still in place. Whew! I thought I was the only one!

Resolution means "the state or quality of being in firm determination." Are New Year's resolutions self-defeating prophesy or just empty wishes? It's a mystery.

New Year's Day as we know it was not adopted until 1752 because the Puritans of the New World shunned the types of the celebrations that occurred in Europe. Rather, they encouraged each other to meditate on the year past and the one to come. Jonathan Edwards, the great Puritan pastor and promoter of America's First Great Awakening, made many resolutions. It is his "life list" which he made after graduation from Yale University over which most admirers of the past three centuries continue to marvel.

His first resolution was not to lose weight, or stop smoking, or manage his finances better. His first resolution was: 'Resolved: to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly, and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.' Nothing was so trivial that Edwards couldn't work to improve it. There are 70 resolutions in all, which Edwards regularly reviewed and evaluated throughout his life.

We start 2011 with the ability for you to make the same first resolution as Pastor Edwards...to study the Scripture – steadily (by reading for 15 minutes), constantly (every day), and frequently (every day with weekly small group discussions and Sunday worship planned around key passages). We hope you will be willing to be a part of the spiritual growth of our congregation by participating in the Year of the Bible (YOTB) reading ministry and by taking the opportunity for the new year to be a time for you, as a Christian, to resolve with Edwards "to renew the dedication of myself to God." A good first step is to read His Word to keep our spirits and our souls focused on the important things of life.

Deuteronomy 4:9 is about keeping our souls in good shape:

"Only be on your guard and diligently watch yourselves, so that you don't forget the things your eyes have seen and so that they don't slip from your mind as long as you live. Teach them to your children and your grandchildren."

(Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Happy New Year, Friends. And may the Lord bless you this coming year in ways which will be apparent next New Year's Day!

-Pastor Brenda

BIRTHDAY

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.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

For Dorothy Hopperstead
Laurie L. Cochran
Carilon and Jim Carr
Larry and Dot Mills
Nancy Woods
Rycon Construction, Inc.
David and Mary Jo Nesbit
Ben and Nancy Kupka
McCormick Taylor, Inc



Christian Education Corner

A NOTE TO THE CONGREGATION

Happy New Year! I hope and pray that you and your families have been able to enjoy the many blessings that the season of Advent, Christmas, and now Epiphany provide.

As we step into 2011, we are beginning a few new Christian Education programs and Bible studies that will coordinate with the Scriptures and sermons for Sunday mornings. Over the course of the year, we are planning to follow the *Year of the Bible* during worship, in adult Sunday School, during Oasis on Wednesday nights, and in other ministries and Bible studies.

A new year offers opportunities for us to challenge ourselves in various ways, perhaps through new year's resolutions or similar promises. Pledge this year to focus your mind and soul on God's Word as we explore the Bible through a variety of studies throughout the week and on Sunday mornings.

Since even our congregants who have read the Bible cover-to-cover for decades can still find new Bible passages every time they read it anew, rereading God's Word in entirety can only serve to provide new Christ-filled insights into your daily life and Christ-based foundations upon which to continually build your faith walk. No matter where you are in your journey with our Lord and Savior, please join us as our congregation heads into the *Year of the Bible*.

in Him, through Him, because of Him,
Meredith



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS

- *Year of the Bible* Adult Sunday School, led by teams of congregation members
- *Year of the Bible* Oasis class, led by elder Larry Wood
- *Year of the Bible* Men's Group study



MOVIE NIGHT REVIEW

Between the pizza party, popcorn and Veggie Tales movie, and the ice cream sundae bar, the 60-75 kids and adults who attended the movie night seemed to have a tummy-filling, fun time! It was such a blessing to see so many kids and a great evening was had by all! Look for information regarding another movie night in the next few months! A big thank you to the Sr. Citizens Center for the borrowed use of their very cool popcorn machine and to the various volunteers who helped to organize the food and movie-showing!

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS

Beginning this Advent season and continuing throughout the new year, there will be Children's Worship Bulletins available to children ages 3-6 and 7-12. These are age-appropriate bulletins, containing a variety of activities that have been customized to coordinate with either the Bible passages or the sermon for the morning, or for the current church season. Coloring pages and crayons are still available for younger children. Please be sure to take have your children take a look at the new worship bulletins, especially for them!

ADVENT CELEBRATION UPDATE



What a blessing it is to have to set up more tables and place settings at an event! We had more than thirty extra people join us for the Advent Celebration on Nov. 28th, resulting in about 110-120 people attending! Following one of our famous PCPC potluck dinners, a wonderful puppet show by our own puppet team, special music from Gloria and Brad Mayo, chime ringing by kids and adults alike, and craft time to make ornaments to decorate our sanctuary Christmas tree, we enjoyed a beautiful, traditional carol sing in the sanctuary around the Christmas tree. Thank you to all who helped and attended, creating a true reminder of the faith, fellowship, and fun that can be found worshipping God and sharing Christ's love within our church family and friends.

YEAR OF THE BIBLE

In 2011, we will be following the *Year of the Bible* in worship services, in adult Sunday School classes and Wednesday night Oasis Bible studies, as well as in other ministries like the Saturday morning Men's Group Bible study. It is our hope and prayer that our entire congregation will focus on God's Word, the messages therein for all of our lives and for the life of Plum Creek Church, and the direction that the Lord is leading us in as we all begin a new year in Him.

Year of the Bible Participant's Guides are available in the Narthex, the Church Office, and the Christian Education Office. Please pick up a copy as soon as possible so that you are prepared to follow along as we begin this study in January! We look forward to participating in this endeavor together as a church family!

YEAR OF THE BIBLE DISCUSSION LEADERS WANTED

For the Adult Sunday School *Year of the Bible* classes, different teams of leaders will be guiding the discussions each month. There is a Leader's Guide with activities, questions, and more that will be provided to each month's leaders. Leaders do NOT have to create their own lessons or discussion questions as everything is already prepared by the Bible study authors with supplemental information provided by Pastor Brenda. Leaders are asked to read the week's passages and to review the Leader's Guide before Sunday morning in order to effectively guide the discussion and organize any activities. If you are interested in leading the discussions or would like to talk further about potentially becoming a discussion leader, please talk with Meredith!

ANGEL TREE

Thank you so much to everyone that donated gifts to our Angel Tree families this year. I was in awe at the outpouring of love that you shared through your gifts. You truly embodied Christ's love through your generosity, and touched families that received the gifts and the agencies that facilitated the gift giving. On behalf of the Christian Education committee, thank you again for all you to do make Plum Creek truly special.



Alexis Peifer and the Christian Education Committee.



Make your reservations now for Day Camp 2011 and get the discounts for this year's camp. It's a great way to get your children outside and busy learning about "SPIRIT" and what they can do with it.



The Day Camp at Plum Creek
 550 Center New Texas Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15239
 412-793-4525 Ext. 15
 Fax: 412-798-1492
 www.DayCampAtPlumCreek.org

2011 Registration Form
 (Please print and complete in ink)

Date: _____

"The Day Camp at Plum Creek" is a Christian-based adventure camp for elementary aged children and is open to any elementary-aged child who has completed grades 1 through 6 who would like to attend.
Please use one form per child. Copies of this registration form are acceptable.

Camper Information Male ____ Female ____ Returning Camper? (Y/N) _____

Camper Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Home Phone: _____

Date of Birth (M/D/Y) _____ Grade completed as of June, 2011 _____ Child's age as of June 1, 2011 _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Name: _____ Relationship to Camper: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Relationship to Camper: _____

Emergency Contact Phone Numbers: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Registration Information

(Child may register for one or more sessions. Costs per family reflect discounts for multiple weeks and/or multiple children)

Session(s)	Postmarked on/before March 31, 2011		Postmarked April 1, 2011 or after	
	1 st child/week	Each add'l child and/or week	1 st child/week	Each add'l child and/or week
<input type="checkbox"/> Week 1 - June 27-July 1	\$100	\$90	\$125	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> Week 2 - July 5-July 8 <i>(20% discount for 4-day week)</i>	\$80	\$72	\$100	\$96
<input type="checkbox"/> Week 3 - July 11-July 15	\$100	\$90	\$125	\$120
<input type="checkbox"/> Week 4 - July 18-July 22	\$100	\$90	\$125	\$120

**If utilizing multiple child discount, please indicate here by listing names of other children registered: _____

Envelope must be postmarked by cutoff date to receive corresponding price. Full camp fee must accompany registration.

Payment Method: Please make checks payable to: **Day Camp at Plum Creek**

Check Money Order Total enclosed: _____

Mail Registrations to: The Day Camp at Plum Creek
 c/o 88 Green Meadow Court
 Pittsburgh, PA 15239

T-Shirt size: Child Small Child Medium Child Large Adult Small Adult Medium Other _____

One free t-shirt per camper given first week of attendance.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Until May 31, 2011 and as space permits, registration fee may be applied to another session during this camping season. Cancellations occurring by May 31, 2011 will result in forfeiture of 1/2 (one-half) of the total registration fee.

No refunds after May 31, 2011.

SOUP SALE SUNDAY JANUARY 30th

The Retreat Committee is selling Cream of Potato and Wedding 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 25th. 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 28th at 9:00 AM or Saturday, January 29th at 9:00 AM. We will be making soup both days. We also need assistance on Sunday, January 30th 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 23rd

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

SOUP ORDER FORM

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

Orders due January 23rd, pick up on Saturday January 29th or Sunday January 30th

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cream of Potato - # of quarts: _____ x \$4 = _____

Wedding Soup - # 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

YOUR MISSION DOLLARS AT WORK

On January 3-14, Dr. Bob Beasley will climb Mt. Kilimanjaro as part of Project Water. The climb is sponsored by World Serve and is a fundraiser to raise money to dig water wells for villages in South Africa. These water wells will not only improve the living conditions of thousands of African people, but literally save the lives of children who suffer from waterborne diseases. During and after the drilling, missionaries will be on site to minister to the village people. Plum Creek will be supporting Dr. Beasley in the Kili climb.



2010 Annual Report

Everything for the 2010 Annual Report is due to the secretary by Monday, January 24, 2011. Please send your contributions by email. Call Kathy at 412-793-4525 if you have any questions.

Notes from the Session meeting of November 16, 2010

The Deacon's Corner - a flyer for the Blessing Board ministry was passed out. Items can be provided to this ministry, but it was suggested that we express any interest in providing items to the Deacons', so they can make the appropriate arrangements.

97 shoe boxes delivered for Operation Christmas Child.

Trustees - Lining of the parking lot is something that needs addressed, now that the repaving is completed.

Worship and Music Committee - Motion made by committee to ask Session for \$500 to purchase four new mics for the children's musical on December 19, 2010.

Mission -

Send \$750 to World Serve for Kili Climb (Dr. Beasley) to provide water wells in Tanzania and Kenya.

Pay \$185 for a scholarship for a family in need to attend Fall Festival at Crestfield in October.

Send \$117 to Light of Life Ministries for 50 Thanksgiving meals.

Pay up to \$600 for Living Nativity expenses.

Christian Education -

Children's Worship Bulletins - Meredith would like to use some age appropriate "activity" handout bulletins for the children to use during the worship service. Motion to start using the children's bulletins in January.



The Deacon's want to thank the congregation for ALL they have done to help us with the needs we've had this year. We are very grateful for the out pouring of love & kindness in the many things the congregation has given to help us, help others. We are helping many more families every week and could not do it without their kindness and support.



The Deacon's Corner

Did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

James 2:5

Winter 2010



Wants & Needs

Do you or someone you know have a need that can be fulfilled by the Blessing Board?

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Need: _____

Do you or someone you know have household items they no longer need or use? You can help those in need by donating.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Items To Donate: _____

The Blessing Boards Mission

Our Mission is to be a blessing to as many people as possible by donating furniture, appliances and miscellaneous household items.

Founded in 2005 by Tom Mitlo

The Deacons are currently working with Tom to fill the needs of many. We are collecting household items, furniture, appliances (big & small), pot & pans, clothing, linens and most anything you no longer need.

Contact Donna Pellegrino at 412-965-0525 or Clyde Barley at 412-793-7624 to donate or with a need.

Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful
songs. Pslam 100:2



A Stewardship Message

As we turn the page on the old year at Plum Creek we are still trying to plan for next year's budget. Everything from staff salaries, committee budgets, along with what maintenance to do around the Church and manse are being decided. Now you may ask "why in the world would you wait until the last minute to do something so important? I don't run my house like that!" Well the answer is quite simple. We received 107 pledge cards back during the Stewardship drive in November. Not bad, but there are another 158 members that have not returned their pledge cards. So, without complete giving numbers Stewardship makes a leap of faith to put a budget together. The question is how big of a leap do we make? From experience the committee understands that there are folks who support the Church without pledging. While this is appreciated, it none the less makes budgeting difficult. We are asking you to prayerfully consider pledging this year. The past year the Church has experienced newfound hope, faith, and growth. Budget decisions to support these new beginnings must be carefully made. Your decision to pledge makes these decisions easier. If you have misplaced your pledge card, you can get a new one at the Church. Thank you for your support and understanding.

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom 8:1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven, I am significant (Phil 3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom 8:31-34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-38)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom 8:28)
I have been chose and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph 3:12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15:1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor 3:16). I am complete in Christ (Col 2:10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor 3:9, 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil 1:5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
Who you are?