

**November 2013
Volume 24, Issue 9**

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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

Here's what's
happening!

OASIS

Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

Youth Group at Corn Maze	October 27
Youth Group Games Day	November 2
Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner	November 2
Change Sunday	November 3
Election Day	November 5
Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast	November 9
Veterans' Day	November 11
December Caller Articles Due	November 15
Dave Ramsey Support Group	3rd Sunday each month at 6pm



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 – Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Pastor	Allan Drake
Director of Youth Ministries	Heather McGarvey
Director of Christian Education	Justin Pearl
Business Administrator	Kathy Kirk
Worship Services	Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes	Sundays 8:45 a.m.





Planting & Reaping! Putting it all in for the cause of Christ!

Thoughts for the month of November by Pastor Allan

Galatians 6: 7-10 says, "A man reaps what he sows. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest..."

The Bible clearly says that we get out of our faith what we put into it!! God stands ready to bless us, ready to work many wonders into our lives, but He doesn't force those blessings upon us nor does he necessarily just give them! Yes we definitely can "count our blessings and name them one by one", as the old hymn says! There are so many ways that God actively blesses us every day! Food, clothing, money to pay our bills, good family and friends. But to some extent those are just the basic staples of what God can and does give to us! There are so many more blessings from God which are ready to be showered upon us if we are willing to become actively engaged in the work of Christ! Recently I took my father-in-law Dale to the Pirates Wild Card Game. Dale asked me "how much did you pay for those tickets?" I shrugged it off and didn't want him to worry about it. He didn't know that the tickets were \$120 apiece. I didn't care what the cost was. I wanted to bless this wonderful 83-year-old man who might not get back to PNC Park for a playoff game ever again!

What could we do for the work of our local Church and the Kingdom of God if we "put it all in" like that?! What kind of transformational ministry could be realized if we just threw loads of time, talents, and treasure at the Lord's work? Truth be told, I just about had my seminary education paid for by a wonderful friend named Buddy and my late departed Pastor, Dr. Phillips who contributed finances. What crop has come from that goodness? I've made mistakes over 17 years of ministry, but I'd like to think God has used my hands for more good than bad. The aforementioned financial gifts which were generously given have made the crops possible! What a good and pleasing thing it is to lavishly give to the Lord's work! In the picture above you see some volunteers who got up early to head to West Virginia to do needed mission work! Think of the lives blessed by their efforts! During the month of November we will begin to think about ways that we can lavishly bless the Lord's work at *The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek*. I am amazed at the work that gets accomplished for the Lord here at Plum Creek, and I am delighted to see that we actually have working committees of people striving to work in unity with one another for the Glory of God! This past Sunday we welcomed the McNatt family as new members of our church as I baptized their adorable daughter Elaina! I told them that we needed their gifts! In most of our Churches there is an unspoken 80/20 rule which says that 20% of the people do most of the work! I'm not sure what percentage we have at our Church, but I'm praying that we will become a Church where we are all contributing in generously active ways to really grow our Church! Remember that as you strive to allocate your gifts of time, talent, & treasure towards the Kingdom's work through Plum Creek that you will be blessed for the good work you do and promote! We don't contribute to receive the blessings; we give because of our love for Jesus. Just the same, when we lavishly give to the Lord's work, blessings will flow! It's a promise we find throughout the scriptures! Soon you'll be receiving the infamous yearly *Giving Letter* from our Stewardship Committee! I pray that you will not say to yourself, "There they go at that Church wanting money again. That's all they want from me." I pray that with the excitement buzzing around a new Pastor and his family and a new beginning at Plum Creek that you will want to *help keep the buzz going* through your generous gifts of your time, talents, and your treasure!

~With Love, Pastor Allan!

BIRTHDAYS

Arleen Bradley November 1
Wilma Elicker November 9
John Thompson November 24
If you know anyone who is 70 or older,
please let the church office know.
We don't want to miss anyone.

BAPTISM

Elaina Anne McNatt October 13, 2013

WEDDING

Adrienne L. Lewis & Jarrett R. Benda
September 21, 2013

WINTERFEST FEB 1st



Winterfest is returning! Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Winterfest on *Saturday, February 1st* from 9AM—Noon when we take a break from the winter drearies and head to the beach! *Activities are geared toward toddlers through elementary-aged kids, but kids of all ages are welcome to attend! A parent and/or guardian must accompany the children at Winterfest.*

If you are tired of trying to entertain yourself, your kids or grandkids, or you know someone who is, get out of the house for a couple of hours to hit the indoor beach and play some balloon volleyball and a bunch of other games, try your hand at sand art or cookie and cupcake decorating and different crafts, and soak up some fun!

If you are interested in helping out with planning and/or leading the games or crafts, check out the sign-up sheet located outside the sanctuary in the Narthex. Please be sure to include your contact information and your interest area! Looking forward to working with you!!!

If you have any questions, would like to volunteer, or are willing to bake or donate items, contact Meredith Hedeem at meredithhedeem@yahoo.com or (412) 798—0156.

Any and all contributions are very much appreciated!

GINGERBREAD HOUSES DEC 7th

You're Invited to the 2nd Annual Gingerbread House Building Party!
Invite a friend too!

Who: Kids of all ages (please have a parent/guardian present)

What: Build your very own, super-unique gingerbread house!

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: Saturday, December 7th from 10:00-11:30AM

Why: Have fun with your own family and friends and with our church family!

Kick off the Christmas season in a yummy, creative way that you can take home!

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex, outside the Sanctuary. Please let us know you're attending and what house-building ingredients you will bring. There will be a collection box located next to the sign-up sheet for house-building food donations. Donations should be brought to the church by Sunday, December 1st so any additional supplies can be purchased.

We hope to see you on Saturday, December 7th!
If you have questions, please contact Meredith Hedeem.





SHOEBOX DEDICATION NOV 24

Operation Christmas Child has changed the lives of children since 1993. Every year generous people across the world lovingly pack shoe boxes with gifts as simple, yet powerful messages of God's Unconditional Love. When a child opens a shoebox, they're opening up their community to a world of life-changing opportunities. On Sunday, October 13, 2013; Plum Creek will began its Operation Christmas Child campaign. Shoeboxes and necessary labeling will be available in the Narthex. Our goal for this year is 125 boxes!

The boxes will be collected and dedicated during the Sunday, November 24, 2013 service. Any questions contact Nancy Slater at (412) 913—5010 or (724) 339—3174.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS UNDER WAY

Religious Education Committee and I are excited to report that our Sunday school classes have been doing some really exciting work, having some deep conversations, and of course, having a lot of fun! Apart from Sunday school, Oasis Jr. has been a great time of games and learning. There, every Wednesday night the 1st-6th grade class has been working to discover what the kingdom of God is like. Is it for the rich or the poor? the weak or the strong? the destructive? the know-it-all? Ask one of our Oasis Jr. members to find out! Also, you may not believe it, but Advent will be here any minute. Keep your eyes and your ears open in the coming weeks as me and Gloria Mayo will be sharing information about the Student Christmas Program, and recruiting many young actors. Lastly, I have been very happy to have gotten to know many of our wonderful students (and parents), thank you all for your support as I acclimate myself to this new job and community. I look forward to continuing to build relationships with all of you as we dive into the future.

~Sincerely, Justin

Director of Christian Education

Classes include:

Toddlers*	Rotational Curriculum
Preschool	Rotational Curriculum
Kindergarten	Rotational Curriculum
1 st -2 nd	Rotational Curriculum
3 rd -5 th	We Believe
6 th -8 th	Re-Form: Ancestors

9 th -12 th	Putting Plan B into Action
Adult Class	Scripture-Based Discussion

*A parent should be present to assist there young student



DAY CAMP AT PLUM CREEK NEWS

One of the many activities that the campers did this year was to write short letters to themselves about what they learned at Day Camp. Below are a few of those letters written by our campers that we would like to share with you. They are re-printed anonymously exactly as written.

Dear ____:

I learned that god loves us no matter what and he'll always forgive are sin. And that he'll never forget us when we forget him. God loves all of us.

Dear ____:

I learned that I can play four square.

Dear ____:

I learned about god and jesus.

Dear ____:

I learned god is allways with you and will allway love me no mater what.

Dear Me:

I have learned that god will always be with me. That the inside is better than the outside.

Dear ____:

I learned about the bible and I did the zipline and rock climbing wall and I did mountain boards and play foursquare and I had fun in crafts and I colored with chalk and played with wave and Paris and I saw Auntie LarLar and many nice teachers.

These are just a few of the letters that were written and as you can see, the campers were learning, enjoying time with friends, and having fun!



COMING SOON: The Angel Tree in the Narthex. There will be some Angels on the Angel Tree for Day Camp. These Angels will be used toward registration fees for campers that need extra assistance to possibly attend additional weeks. Our Scholarship recipients can receive one week of camp through our Scholarship Fund but many want to attend multiple weeks.

ALSO COMING SOON will be the registration information for Summer 2014. A week of Day Camp makes a great gift for a niece, nephew, grandchild.....

THE HEART OF OUR STORY

by Heather McGarvey

Have you ever read a good book and become so engrossed in the story that you felt as though you were a part of it? As if everything that is happening to the characters is impacting your life? What if there was a story where that was true? You could read the book, but also be a part of the book? Well there is, and the youth group is diving into that story. One of the most wonderful and mind-blowing things that I see in GOD's Word is the simple fact that even though we can read from beginning to end, we are *living in between* the beginning and the end!

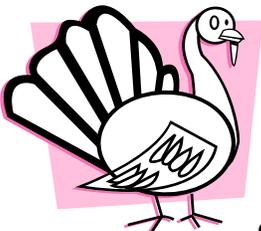
In youth group this year we are diving into the big picture of the bible and searching out how we fit into GOD's design for His creation. So far, we began our first week by looking at what the world thinks about the bible, what we think about the bible, and what scripture has to say about the bible (check out 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Then we took a look at the source of everything through the account of creation in Genesis 1-2:3. Our GOD's world was created to be good and He gave us every reason to be thankful for the beauty that He created around us. But as we all know, we now live in a broken world, and in our third lesson we talked about how the brokenness in our world has impacted our relationship with GOD, others, His creation, and even how we view ourselves. As we continue this journey through the scriptures we will be looking at the redemption that GOD has offered to us, the choice we have in accepting this redemption, and what it means to live an authentic life as a child of GOD.

For the teens who attend Oasis on Wednesday evenings we've been exploring the Book of Ecclesiastes and what it means to find what is truly essential in life. Our world keeps insisting that we need more and will only find pleasure in material things, but the wisest man to ever live (King Solomon) has a different opinion. In fact, as he explored every aspect of life the repetitive exclamation that he shared was "Meaningless, meaningless...there is nothing new under the sun." So where is the meaning? Only in a life with Christ, since that is what offers eternal value and purpose for us. We've been challenged to think twice and consider that we will be giving an account to GOD for all that we do. But rather than being a burden, it's actually the greatest freedom we could ever know when we give it all to GOD!



I have been enjoying getting to be a part of ministry in this wonderful church family and it is my hope and prayer that as we serve God together the young people of this church will grow in their relationship with Christ. After all, this year's youth group theme is E.P.I.C. because we want to Encounter and Pursue the Impossible through Christ (Mark 10:27). As the great preacher and missionary William Carey said, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."

COAT TREE THANK YOU



important ministry.

The Plum Creek Deacon's would like to extend our thanks to everyone who donated a coat during the Coat Tree Drive. A total of 28 coats were donated to individuals who utilize the resources of the Plum Food Pantry. In addition, a note of thanks also goes out to all who donated time to pulling the coat drive together, including the Deacons at Calvary Lutheran Church. Throughout the holiday season please remember to continue to make donations to the food pantry and pray for all those involved in this

A NEW BEGINNING

You are receiving a letter from Stewardship in November asking that you prayerfully consider providing your commitment to Plum Creek. Your input is needed to meet the many missions and ministries of Plum Creek. We are a community active church with the VBS, Lenten Musical, Living Nativity, Youth Group, Sunday School, Oasis, Day Camp, Praise at the Pavilion and on and on. We are such an active church and the community recognizes it. However, in order to meet all these obligations we need to have some idea what our budget is. For that, we need you to complete the Stewardship Card of Commitment.



“Honor the Lord with your wealth. With the first fruits of all your crops: Then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10)

God honors those that honor Him so please consider this in your commitment so that “our vats will brim over with new wine.”

Please bring your card of commitment to church on November 17 and present them during the service so Pastor Allan can consecrate them to the mission and ministry of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please remember that our tithes and offerings aren't “payment” for His blessings; rather, they are evidence of our faith and obedience to Jesus Christ. Thank you for your past support and we are looking forward to: A New Beginning.



The Deacons Say Thanks

Thanks to everyone who participated in any way with the blood drive at Plum Creek Church on September 22.

In many ways it was very successful. First of all 29 people volunteered to be donors: a great response to our pleas. because of illness, last minute change in plans and inability of some of us to meet the blood bank's requirements, we ultimately ended up with 21 units of blood to be placed in the blood bank. This was a respectable result and we are grateful for everyone's effort.

But that was not the only positive on that day. There were 4 people from the community, not associated with our church, who came to donate blood. We were able to invite each of them to come back to Plum Creek to attend services. We also had an opportunity to have a discussion with a young woman who is looking for a church for her family. We told her about what we have to offer for children and adults and that they would learn to know Jesus and be welcomed in love. We also told her she will be in our prayers. We made arrangements to contact her in the future to encourage her.

Lastly, it was a great time for the Plum Creekers to visit together informally. Many stayed beyond the obligatory 15 minutes required by donors, to drink coffee, and share a time of camaraderie and friendship. Thanks for the cookies.

We were uplifted by the day.

The Deacons

2013 CHURCH BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Session (Elders - E)

Jeff Burnett (a)
Laura Campbell (b)
Karen Delo (b)
Bill Gibson (b)
Rodney Horner (a)
Gloria Mayo (a)
Jeff Mueller (a)
Ed Ray (a)
Sam Shaneyfelt (a)
Ed Smith (a)
Al Tresco (a)
Larry Wood (clerk)
Open
Open

Deacons (D)

Linda Bartley (a)
Pat Croyle (a)
Keith Donnell (a)
Jeremy Ewing (a)
Sheri Gibson (a)
Doris Hedeem (a)
Susan Horner (a)
Nancy Mayo (a)
Lucy Ofstun (a)
Dave Plance (a)
Nathan Polacek (a)
Nancy Slater (a)
Emily Szitas (a)
Sharon VanLemmeren (a)
Open
Open

Financial Review Committee

Jenny Caliendo
David Nesbit (chair)
Mary Ann Racki

Building, Grounds and Finance Committee

Don Campbell
Jim Delo
Keith Donnell (D)
Bill Gibson (E)
John Hedeem
Marty Holmes
Al Tresco (chair) (E)

Christian Education

Linda Bartley (D)
Rodney Horner (E)
Alexis Peifer
Carolyn Ressler
Sam Shaneyfelt (chair)(E)
Janet Wood

Evangelism

Bonnie Caliendo
Joe Delo
Jeremy Ewing (D)
Ed Ray (E)
Ed Smith (chair) (E)
Larry Sturchio
Marilyn Sturchio

Memorial

Dave Plance (D)
Al Tresco (chair) (E)
Elaine Tresco

Mission

Jeff Burnett (E)
Bonnie Caliendo
Laura Campbell (chair) (E)
Sandy Cole
Susan Horner (D)
Gaye Mallisee
Dea Wingard
Lynn Wolfe

Nominating Committee

Bill Gibson (chair) (E)
Karen Ewing
Nancy Mayo (D)
Rick Ofstun
Stephanie Plance

Personnel

Rodney Horner (chair) (E)
Emily Szitas (D)
John Thompson
Al Tresco (E)

Stewardship

Laura Burnett
Ed Ray (chair) (E)
Ed Smith (E)

Worship and Music

Laura Burnett
Karen Delo (chair) (E)
Gloria Mayo (E)
Jeff Mueller (E)
Rick Ofstun
Joy Smith

Pastor Nominating Committee

Laura Campbell
Jamie Donnell
Dave Plance
Tim Mayo
Ed Smith (chair)
Larry Sturchio
Emily Szitas
Larry Wood

10/17/2013
01:52 PM

Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek
November 2013

November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30p-Girl Scout Troop 58445	2 7:30a-Men's Bible Study 10:30a-Youth Games Day 4:00p-Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner
3 8:45a-Sunday School 9:00a-Worship Team Practice 10:00a-Worship (Change Sunday) 12:00p-Campbell Shower	4 6:00p-Cub Scouts 7:00p-T.O.P.S. 7:00p-Women of Grace 7:30p-Boy Scouts	5 7:00p-Mission	6 1:00p-Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study 5:30p-Oasis 7:30p-Fresh Encounter Prayer Group	7 4:30p-Staff Meeting 6:00p-Worship Team Practice 7:00p-Bell Choir Rehearsal	8	9 7:00a-Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast 7:30a-Men's Bible Study
10 8:30a-Bell Warmup 8:45a-Sunday School 9:00a-Worship Team Practice 10:00a-Worship (Bells) 6:00p-Youth Group	11 Veterans' Day 6:00p-Cub Scouts 7:00p-Building and Grounds Meeting 7:00p-T.O.P.S. 7:00p-Women of Grace 7:30p-Boy Scouts	12 6:00p-Stewardship 7:00p-Worship and Music 7:00p-Deacons	13 1:00p-Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study 5:30p-Oasis 7:30p-Fresh Encounter Prayer Group	14 6:00p-Worship Team Practice 6:30p-Girl Scout Troop 53052 7:00p-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00p-Christian Education	15 6:00p-Girl Scout Troop 55150 11:00p-Caller Articles Due	16 7:30a-Men's Bible Study 8:00a-Northside Common Ministries Day-Youth Group
17 8:45a-Sunday School 9:00a-Worship Team Practice 10:00a-Worship (Stewardship Sunday) 6:05p-Dave Ramsey Support Group	18 6:00p-Cub Scouts 7:00p-T.O.P.S. 7:00p-Women of Grace 7:30p-Boy Scouts	19 6:00a-Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:00p-Session Meeting	20 1:00p-Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study 5:30p-Oasis 7:30p-Fresh Encounter Prayer Group	21 6:00p-Worship Team Practice 6:15p-Girl Scout Troop 55150 7:00p-Bell Choir Rehearsal	22	23 7:30a-Men's Bible Study 10:00a-Laing Party
24 8:30a-Bell Warmup 8:45a-Sunday School 9:00a-Worship Team Practice 9:00p-Deacon Fruit Baskets 10:00a-Worship (Communion) (Bells)(Shoobox Dedication) 6:00p-Youth Group-Thanksgiving Party	25 7:00p-T.O.P.S. 7:00p-Women of Grace 7:30p-Boy Scouts	26 7:00p-Evangelism Committee	27 1:00p-Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study 7:30p-Fresh Encounter Prayer Group	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30 7:30a-Men's Bible Study 9:00a-Sanctuary Decorating