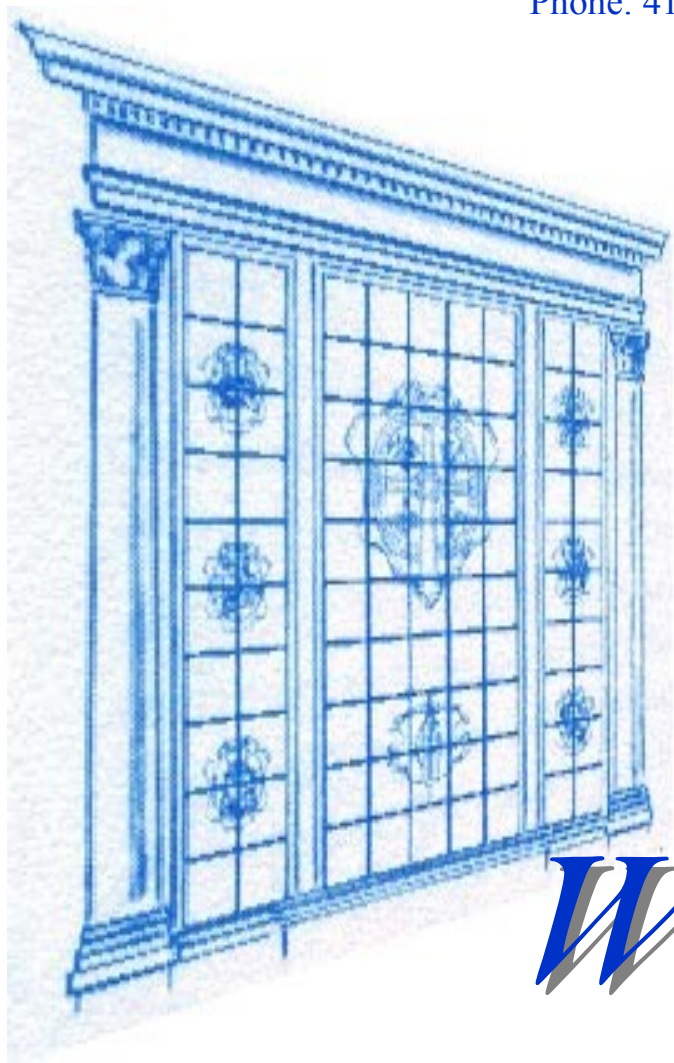


**Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church**

384 Fox Chapel Road † Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Phone: 412-963-8243 † Fax: 412-967-9134

Website: [www.fcpc.us](http://www.fcpc.us)



*THE*  
*WINDOW*

*VOLUME 58, NUMBER 9*

*SEPTEMBER 2011*

## Coming in September



Labor Day, Monday, September 5, 2011, office closed

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Wednesday Nite Live starting, September 7, 2011, 7 p.m.

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Homecoming Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, September 11, 2011  
8 a.m., Fellowship Hall (Kitchen half)

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Sunday, September 11, 2011, ONE SERVICE, 10 a.m., Sanctuary

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Mission Fair, Sunday, September 11, 2011, Atrium and Chapel  
Following worship

P.W. is looking for a new Treasurer. If you are interested in helping P.W. we are looking for a new treasurer for the coordinating team. Call Christine Bennett at 412-828-1123, if you are able to help.



Articles due by noon  
Monday, **September 19, 2011**  
for the October newsletter  
to Ruby Ralicki.

# September Worship Schedule

8:30 am	<b>Childcare</b> (Birth to Kindergarten) Childcare for worship and education volunteer children.	107
9:00-9:45 am	<b>Children's Choir</b> (Kindergarten to Grade 5)	208
10:00 am	<b>Traditional Worship</b> <b>Contemporary "H<sub>2</sub>O" Worship</b> Childcare (Birth to 2)	Sanctuary Fellowship Hall 107
	<b>Children's Classes</b> Children attend worship with their parents and then are dismissed to go to their classes. Age 3-K are signed into class by a parent - Grades 1-4 follow the "Light of Christ". Ages 3 to Kindergarten Grades 1-4	223, 237/239 204, 206, 208 & 223
11:15 am	<b>Education Hour</b> Childcare (Birth to age 2) Going Deeper with God (Ages 3-K) Creation Station (Grades 1-4) Golden Thread (Grades 5-6) Breakfast Club (Grades 7-8) "Live" Small Group (Grades 9-12) Special Speaker Series (Adult) Conversation with the Pastor (Adult) Training in Discipleship (Adult)	107 233, 237/239 223 306 305/307 301/303 Chapel Lounge Library

## Worship Schedule

**September 4th**—8:30 a.m.—Traditional—Lee Nichols - **Communion**—Sanctuary  
**September 4th**— 10 a.m.—Traditional—Lee Nichols - **Communion**—Sanctuary  
**September 4th**—10 a.m.—H<sub>2</sub>O—Cathie Smith - **Communion**—Fellowship Hall  
**September 11th**—10 a.m.—ONE SERVICE—HOMECOMING— Doug Portz  
Sanctuary  
**September 18th**—10 a.m.—Traditional—Chris Taylor—Sanctuary  
**September 18th**—10 a.m.—H<sub>2</sub>O—Cathie Smith—Fellowship Hall  
**September 25th**—10 a.m.— Traditional—Chris Taylor—Sanctuary  
**September 25th**—10 a.m.—H<sub>2</sub>O—Cathie Smith—Fellowship Hall



# Year of Discovery

## Strategic Planning

In April the session, noting that it had been more than five years since the church's last self-study and the series of cottage meetings, asked four elders to examine possibilities for strategic planning – a regular exercise in goal-setting familiar to many in business and non-profit organizations. With the completion of the summer's renovations to the church, the coming year seemed a good time to consider "what next?"

After exploring three different possibilities, the elders recommended – and the session agreed to – a process proposed by Rev. Dr. Doug Portz, the Presbytery's Associate Pastor for Mid-Sized Congregations, that seemed more appropriate for a church since its focus is clearly spiritual and on discerning God's mission for us. (See accompanying article on "discernment.")

The process proposed by Doug involves prayer, theological reflection, information gathering, and a focus on "What is God calling our church to be and do?"

A strategic planning team from the session, now chaired by Charlie Skinner and including Chris Taylor, has already met twice with Doug to work out a program that is tailored to our church and that the team hopes will launch a year of discovery at Fox Chapel Presbyterian.

Doug, who has a strong record of increasing church membership in his own pastorates, will serve as our "outside" interlocutor or shepherd. He will preach at Homecoming on September 11, as he did last year on Consecration Sunday, and meet with the session, staff and members of the congregation at various times throughout the year, including at the session retreat in February and a special leadership retreat toward the culmination of the process on April 28.

Members of the strategic planning team led by Jill Millard are working to set up prayer groups and to ask existing groups within the church to undergird the process with spiritual discernment. There will be sign-up opportunities at the Mission Fair after the Homecoming Service and two books have been ordered to aid our theological reflection: Glen McDonald's *Disciple-Making Church* and Reggie McNeal's *Present Future*.

In September Karen Connor and Bob Ball will recruit action groups to begin the process of preparing to interview members and to engage the community.

Jeff Au will conduct a demographics study using Mission Insite [www.missioninsite.com](http://www.missioninsite.com) and review ten-year trends using the PCUSA website in the fall. Kim Power will lead the effort to develop church-specific survey questions, while Mary Harrison and others will familiarize themselves with the survey process and work to ensure it is comprehensible to all members. As the season progresses the whole team will work to gather information from the prayer and action groups.

In January and February, a survey using the church assessment tool provided by Holy Cow Consulting will be undertaken, and teams led by the action groups will interview members of the church and the community. The session will be briefed on results at the February retreat, and the whole congregation thereafter (date to be determined).

Following consideration of all the information gathered, from the prayer and action groups, the demographics and trends studies, the CAT survey and the interviews, the session and staff will hold a retreat at the end of April to try to bring together the insights of this process of discernment and to identify goals, missional challenges, and adaptive changes with a focus on initiatives. Follow-up session meetings will be held to figure out how to implement these conclusions, plans and initiatives and an evaluation process will be put in place to monitor and adjust the efforts and initiatives as necessary. Throughout all these steps prayer groups will be asked to continue to pray for the process.

Discernment is an ongoing process rather than an isolated event. It is grounded in a life of prayer, and it makes use of rational processes, intuition, imagination, and emotion. It always includes the testing of a discerned decision.

The purpose of this process is for the people of God in a particular place – Fox Chapel Presbyterian and the community we serve -- to discover God's will, desire, and direction for ministry. This process assists the leadership of the church, and the entire congregation, in taking ownership of God's call upon them and to prayerfully seek God's plan for the future. We hope this process will invoke an exciting year of discovery for all.

— Charles Skinner, for the Session's Strategic Planning Team

# *Discernment*

## Strategic Planning

"Discernment" has been described as "a way of making Christian choices, of following the Spirit of God in the decisions we make."

— David Lonsdale, *Listening to the Music of the Spirit: The Art of Discernment*.

In discernment, individuals and groups allow the experience of a dynamic relationship with the Living God to give shape to their decisions, seeking to judge between choices that are obedient to God's will and those that are contrary to God's desires. It is often associated with the call of God to a particular person or group.

Discernment is an ongoing process rather than an isolated event, and is grounded in a life of prayer. It makes use of rational processes, intuition, imagination, and emotion, and always includes the testing of a discerned decision.

From the Latin *discernere* meaning "to sift apart," as in the practice of sifting wheat to remove the chaff.

As a spiritual practice discernment refers to the process of:

- Prayerfully seeking to notice with clarity and without bias. Taking "a long, loving look at the real." Noticing the many values and possibilities that are present. Asking God to show us Spirit's presence and values in them. Considering them through the light of Scripture and our faith community's wisdom. Imagining the various responses and choices we might make. Noticing the likely outcomes each presents.
- Prayerfully taking time with each outcome and asking God to help us see the effects our choice creates. Identifying our choice or response and then praying with it for a period of time (if needed days or weeks) and noticing whether it has "Spirit-life" to it or feels and thinks "deadening."

If it prays, feels and thinks right, choosing to prayerfully follow that course of action.

— Steven Wirth, "Communal Discernment: Choosing with God in Community."

"The practices of faith are not ultimately our own practices but rather habitations of the spirit, in the midst of which we are invited to participate in the practices of God."

— Craig Dykstra, *Growing in the Life of Faith in Education and Christian Practices*.

### **What is the Purpose of a Discernment Process?**

The purpose of a discernment process is for the people of God in a particular place (i.e., a church or community) to discover God's will, desire, and direction for ministry. This process assists the leadership of a church, and the entire congregation, in taking ownership of God's call upon them and to prayerfully seek God's plan for the future.

This process involves:

- Seeking God's will (i.e., vision) for your congregation and community.
- Assuming God is already active in your community.
- Listening for and to God's voice through prayer and reading God's Word.
- Experiencing the power of prayer and intercession.
- Taking scripture's witness, guidance and wisdom seriously.
- Activating the session and pastor to take a leadership role.
- Getting the entire congregation involved in discerning the future.
- Praying by the congregation and church leadership.
- Goal setting, planning and implementing faithful steps into the new vision.
- A commitment by the pastors and leaders to follow the process.
- Being open to the Spirit's "surprises" along the way.
- Knowing that things can seem messy when the Spirit of God moves!

### **Beginning the process of discernment: Seeking God**

Jeremiah 29:4, 7, 11-14: <sup>4</sup>Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>7</sup> ...seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ... <sup>11</sup>For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup>Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup>I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

*Adapted from handouts on discernment for the strategic planning process provided by the Rev. Doug Portz*

## News from the Pews

### Babies

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." - Matthew 19:14



We want to join in celebration of the birth of Cole Thomas, on May 11, 2011, grandson of Bob and Jean Simmonds, Tyler Vaughn, on May 17, 2011, son of Ken and Anne Finn, Jonathan Holder, on June 10, 2011, grandson of Jerry Sauers and Brek on June 11, 2011, grandson of Cindy Simons.

### Weddings



Congratulations-Let marriage be held in honor among all. -Hebrews 13:4

The ministers and congregation extend their congratulations to those who have recently married: Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Staum (Katherine Wolff) on June 5, 2011.

## Entered the Church Triumphant

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in were destroyed, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Corinthians 5:1



The ministers and congregation extend their deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Suzanne Barnes, who died on June 30, 2011, Mary Racek, who died on July 4, 2011, Mary Lou Beeken, who died on August 6, 2011., Libby Linhart, who died on August 14, 2011 and Adren Ziringer, who died on August 14, 2011.

### Baptisms



There is ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.~ Ephesians 4:4

We welcome into the church Cooper Richard, baptized on May 15, 2011, son of Steve and Heather Lukaszewicz, Samuel Robert Thomas and Charles Marcel, baptized on July 17, 2011, children of John and Astrid Bitzer, Matthew Peter, baptized on July 17, 2011, son of Robert and Kimberly Bartolacci, Kelsey Price, baptized on July 24, 2011, daughter of John and Nancy Delaney and Mia Sophia, baptized on August 21, 2011, daughter of Thomas and Lisa Stelitano.



## *Helping Hands - Healing Hearts*

# *Fall Five K*

Sunday, September 25

2:00 pm.

Hartwood Acres

Join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Helping Hands–Healing Hearts  
5K Run/Walk

*A fun event to support a great cause!*

Registration forms are available at FCPC or at

[www.helpinghands-swpa.org](http://www.helpinghands-swpa.org)

Pre–registration available through September 9

To volunteer contact:

Betsy Hawley [helpinghands@fcpc.us](mailto:helpinghands@fcpc.us) or

Maddy Mulert [madster727@gmail.com](mailto:madster727@gmail.com)



## Bible Quiz

At the outset of his reign as Israel's third king, Solomon saw the Lord in a dream. God invited Solomon to request anything he wanted. What did Solomon ask for?

- The ability to discern between good and evil
- Long life
- Riches
- Conquest over his enemies



Answer: D (See Kings 3:4-14)

## Labor of Love

During Labor Day weekend worship, many congregations bless members of various occupations. From painting to parenting, from truck driving to teaching, from farming to pharmaceutical research, work is honored as holy.

Some might believe that certain jobs—pastor, missionary, bishop—are holier than others. But in his classic book The Practice of the Presence of God, Brother Lawrence tells of performing even the most common, tedious tasks as holy service to God: "I turn the cake that is frying on the pan for the love of [God]," he wrote. "It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God."

No matter your field of work, remember that any task done in God's name and to his glory is holy.

Author Unknown



## *Cell Phone vs. Bible*



I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?
- What if we used it when we traveled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?



This is something to make you go..hmmm, where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think "where are my priorities"?

# Children's Ministries



## **Mission Fair** Homecoming Sunday, September 11th Children's Ministries Table *"Cup of Water"*

The Children's *Cup of Water* Rotation Model Workshop focuses on reaching out to our congregation, community and world through becoming informed about the living conditions, life styles, customs and needs of those who live with us and around us.

Stop by our information table at the "Mission Fair" on Sunday, September 11th and discover how even the smallest among our church family care for and nurture this congregation, support our local community through special service projects and care for the world through our four World Vision Adopted Children.

Also see other special projects like...

Summer Giving Well project - Clean Water for All of God's Children

Nativity Story Book project—for Helping Hands, Healing Hearts

Advent project—Heifer Gifts that Keep on Giving

## **Where oh where has Mrs. Teele gone?**

If you are looking for...

FCPC Preschool Art Room.....

*Creation Station...*

*How Great Thou Art....*

*Get Glued...*

*Artisan Market....*



**...you will find Mrs. Teele  
and these GREAT classes  
in room 233!!!**

Submitted by Delinda Donovan



# Family Ministries

## Introducing... Faith at Home: Building Blocks

A series of workshops, programs and celebrations that:

- celebrate important steps in the spiritual development of children and youth;
- provide resources and encouragement for parents and grandparents to nurture spirituality at home;
- walk with children and youth and their families as they reach milestones in the life of the church family.

### Building Blocks Coming in September...

**Beginning in Worship** (1st graders and their parents) Children are given a “touch and see” tour of both worship spaces and are given a simple introduction to baptism and communion. Families practice the spiritual discipline of *examen* together, receive a playlist of music used in both worship services to listen to in the car or during play time at home, and will be part of a special celebration moment in worship.

**Workshop:** Sunday, 9/25 11:15a.m. -12:15 p.m.      **Celebration in Worship:** Sunday, 10/2 10:00 a.m.

**Communion Workshop (2nd-5th graders and their parents)** This building block workshop is not required for “first communion,” but serves as an opportunity for parents and children (grades 2-5) to learn together, in more depth, about the origin, purpose and meaning of communion. Families will take part in a special celebration moment in worship, and will have the opportunity to bake communion bread for a future Sunday. Children will learn a communion liturgy they can lead during future communion services.

**Workshop:** Sunday, 9/18 3:00-5:00 p.m.      **Celebration in Worship:** Sunday, 10/2

**Pre-Confirmation (6th-8th grade) and Confirmation (9th grade)** Confirmation at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church is a multi-year, multi-layered process. Young people enter into this process during the middle school years. As young people begin this process in the fall, parents and students gather in this workshop to celebrate and honor this important step in their spiritual life and in their life in the body of Christ, the Church. The spiritual disciplines of blessing, bedtime routines, mealtime prayers, family Bible time, *examen*, and personal Bible time are reviewed and updated for a family with young teenagers. We will explore and practice different ways to pray, as parents and students add the discipline of personal prayer to their daily spiritual routines. At a special celebration moment in worship, students are presented with a cross pendant to mark this important step in their faith journey and the adventure they will begin together.

**Workshop:** Sunday 9/18 11:15 a.m.– noon      **Celebration in Worship:** Sunday, 10/9

**To register for any of these workshops, contact Nichelle Nelson at [nelsonn@fcpc.us](mailto:nelsonn@fcpc.us) or 412-963-8243.**

# Preschool

*Welcome back staff and families! You will observe many physical changes in the preschool that meet the needs of our growing preschool population. We have added an additional PreK class, additional Kindermusik Classes, and a Faith-Based Music class, led by Ryan Slye, PreK teacher. We are also fortunate to have Libby Petrolias leading children in piano songs, and Delinda Donovan facilitating Monthly Worship in the Chapel.*

*Preparing for this year required hours of packing, cleaning and moving! Due to the tremendous effort of the following, we were able to accomplish much in a short time!*

*Wayne Dailey*

*Delinda Donovan, and her volunteer staff of Michelle Connor and other youth, working to help pay for their mission trips over the summer.*

*Tim Donovan, Mike Hails, Alvin Peoples, Keith Deller, Cathie Smith,*

*Bobbi Cabbage, Sharon Lee, Kathy Novakoski,*

*Barbara, Ian and Lindsay Patterson, and Jill Rowland*

## **September Dates To Note:**

*Tuesday, September 6, 6:30 pm—  
Parent Orientation*

*Wednesday, September 7—  
First Day Preschool*

*Sunday, September 11—  
Worship Service -Commission of Preschool  
Staff*

*Monday, September 12— First Day Lunch  
Bunch*

*Tuesday, September 13— First Day Art and  
Kindermusik*

*Thursday, September 29— Staff In-Service;  
Preschool Closes at 11:30.*

## **September Themes: Creation**

*Colors: Green*

*Letters: F,E,D*

*Shapes: Circle, Square*

*Fruit of the Spirit:  
Kindness*



## *Preschool Staff for 2011-2012*

Small Wonders	Debbie Kurtik and Carol Mulley
Time For Twos	Kim DeBaldo and Anne Kerr Debbie Kurtik and Carol Mulley
Threes	Amy Connelly, Barbara Patterson, Jill Rowland Lynn Harbison and Erica Strohm
PreK Fours	Katie Battalina and Ryan Slye Melissa Killian and Amy Teele Kathy Novakoski and Cindy Simons Bobbie Cabbage and Missy Fry
Art	Jill Rowland and Amy Teele
Lunch Bunch	Barbara Patterson and Jill Rowland
Extended Day	M—Bobbie Cabbage and Ryan Slye T— Cindy Simons W— Kim DeBaldo and Cindy Simons TH— Cindy Simons F— Bobbie Cabbage and Ryan Slye
Kindermusik	Drew Martier
Music With Libby	Libby Petrolias
Music With Ryan	Ryan Slye
Business Manager	Monica Hamilton
Director of Preschool Ministries	Ellen Schall

For more information regarding the preschool, please call Ellen at: 412-963-8243, ext. 60

# It's Coming 10/16/11

## Consecration Sunday Is Coming!

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills.

Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis.

*New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive.

Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship.

*New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

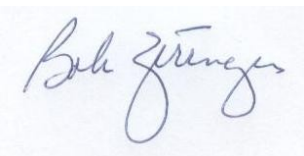
Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members.

We will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Ziringer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "Z" and "R".

Bob Ziringer  
Chairman of Stewardship Committee

## PW

Book drive a great success thanks to Fcpc! Many thanks to all who participated in the PW Book Drive for Anchorpoint Ministries this Spring. Anchorpoint sent us a thank you reporting the book drive raised \$20,363.00 and will provide counseling and tutoring for the low income families it serves. Our church was the largest single contributor to the drive.

**Help Wanted for Flower Guild** If you are interested in working with the flower guild we are looking for a coordinator for the arrangements. This person would work with the florist to make sure there were flowers provided in the Chancel each Sunday, arrange for the announcement in the weekly bulletin and coordinate paying the bills. This is only for the flowers for the worship services.

We are also looking for someone to be the delivery coordinator. This person works with a team of volunteers to ensure the flowers used in the sanctuary for worship each Sunday are delivered to members who are ill or in the hospital. If you are interested in simply volunteering to be one of those on the delivery team we always appreciate extra people in the rotation. Such a simple way to extend our ministry here at Fox Chapel into the community! If you are interested in participating in any of these ways please call Christine Bennett at 412-828-1123.

## Priscilla Circle

### Membership in Priscilla Circle

Any woman who is interested may join Priscilla Circle. You do not have to be a church member, in fact we have several members from other churches, Presbyterian or not. We follow the purpose of national Presbyterian Women (PW): to nurture our faith through Bible Study and prayer, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive caring community of women to strengthen the church and witness to the promise of God's kingdom.

Women of the circle enjoy the fellowship time together with refreshments at the beginning of each meeting, and lunch together in the Pub at Longwood afterwards. Each May, Priscilla Circle hosts a salad luncheon for the church staff in appreciation for their support. It is held in the formal dining room at Longwood and always draws a crowd. If you have any questions about any of this, please call me. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Wilberta Pickett, Circle  
Leader, 412-826-4797



## *Priscilla Circle Starts With a Bang and a Pow-wow*

How about the Beatitudes and Banging of Drums to get our year started in style!

### **Bible Study on Beatitudes**

Our dynamic Bible study leader, Kitty Skinner, again will lead the HORIZONS Bible Study being used by Presbyterian Women throughout the nation, "Confessing the Beatitudes," written by Margaret Aymer, chair of Biblical Studies at Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA; and Rita Boyer, Certified Christian Educator at Prospect Presbyterian Church, Maplewood, NJ.

Priscilla Circle will resume monthly meetings Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at 9:45 a.m., at the back of the formal dining room at Longwood at Oakmont. Carpools from this side of the river are arranged by calling Jean LaMond at 412-963-7570.

The Bible Study Books are at Ruby's desk in the church office. Please pick yours up. The price is \$8.00. The assignment for the first meeting: read Matthew 5:3 and Luke 6:20, 24; and Chapter One in the Study Book, "Greatly Honored are the Poor! - Seeing the Community Around Us." Always helpful to read the material ahead of time, but even if you don't get it read, come anyway to learn and discuss what the Beatitudes have to say about our Christian witness in the world today.

### **Mission Study and Visit to Three Rivers Pow Wow**

Following the mission presentation of the upcoming Native American Day and of PW's mission to Native Americans, plans will be made to attend the 33rd Annual Pow Wow of the Three Rivers Council of American Indians at the Singing Winds site at Dorseyville on Saturday afternoon, September 24. A bus has been requested for Longwood members, and car pools from the church will leave at 12:30 to get there in time to buy lunch. We will return about 3 p.m.

There will be food, competitive dancing among tribes from Western PA, and many booths to shop for Native American clothing and crafts. Please take your own folding chair. In order to plan for transportation, if you will be leaving from Longwood, please call Mary Harrison, 412-826-5833 to make a reservation. If you're leaving from church side, please call Jean LaMond, 412-973-7570 to reserve a spot. Guests are welcome for this outing as well as at all meetings. Priscilla Circle continues to support East End Cooperative Ministry by monthly donations to their Food Pantry, as well as other local and international missions as needs are made known.



## *Music Notes*



### *Chancel Choir Resumes September 1<sup>st</sup>*

Our marvelous Chancel Choir will resume regular weekly Thursday evening rehearsals on September 1<sup>st</sup> from 7:30-9:00 p.m., and they will return to our 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. At that time, the Choir will offer Mack Wilberg's poignant arrangement of "Be Still, My Soul" after a special time of remembrance for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11, 2001 tragedy, and then join with the H2o Praise Team for Michael Barrett's rousing "He Put a New Song in My Heart" for the Offertory.

**Our Choir is really a strong "family", and we are always looking for new members. If you or someone you know (high school-adult) might be interested in joining us in this rewarding ministry, please contact David Billings (412-963-8243,x29) or Guy Russo (412-963-8243,x49).**

### *Fox Chapel Ringers Resume on September 8<sup>th</sup>*

Our church's handbell choir will resume regular Thursday evening rehearsals on September 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Our ensemble currently consists of eight ringers, and they participate in worship approximately once per month. **We are occasionally looking for new members or even substitute ringers, and if you or someone you know (high school-adult) might be interested in joining us, please contact David Billings (412-963-8243,x29).**

### *A Special Welcome to Our New Bass Soloist/Section Leader*

We welcome **Zachary Wood** as our new bass soloist/section-leader in the Chancel Choir! A 2010 graduate of Slippery Rock University in voice, Zachary had been a Choral Scholar at Trinity Cathedral downtown from 2006-2011, and he has been a Chorus Member of the Pittsburgh Opera Company since 2009. He has already been featured in our worship service a few times this summer; however, his tenure officially begins on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Zachary is currently living in Oakmont, and some of you may also recognize him as he has been a lifeguard at the Fox Chapel Golf Club this summer. We look forward to Zachary's presence with us at FCPC!

A decorative border of musical notes and staves surrounds the text. The background features a faint image of a musical score with a pencil resting on it.

*FCPC Special Musical  
Events Series*

*Special Musical Events Series at FCPC*

Please Join Us and Bring a Guest!

Sundays at 9:45 a.m. before the 10 a.m.

Traditional Worship for 2011-2012:

September 25—Pittsburgh Baroque Ensemble

October 30 (Reformation Sunday)—Pittsburgh Ceremonial Brass

November 20 (Christ the King/Thanksgiving)—Pittsburgh Ceremonial Brass

December 11 (Advent III)—Pittsburgh Baroque Ensemble

December 18 (Advent IV)—Annual Service Of Nine Lessons and Carols with The West Virginia Brass Quintet

January 1—Moravian Love Feast in Fellowship Hall

April 8<sup>th</sup> (Easter) at 8:30 and 11 a.m.—Easter with The West Virginia Brass Quintet

*Special Musical Events Series for 2011-2012:*

Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.—“An Evening of Contemporary Christian Praise: H2o Band and Friends”

Saturday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m.—“Organ Plus” Concert, David Billings, organ, with Michelle Regan, flute and Paige Riggs, cello

Saturday, December 3 at 8 p.m.—Pittsburgh Concert Chorale Christmas Concert

Saturday, February 18 at 7:30 p.m.—University of Pittsburgh Men’s Glee Club Concert

Sunday, March 4 at 4 p.m.—Pittsburgh Concert Chorale Concert

Saturday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m.: 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Sponsorship Concert with The Academy Chamber Orchestra

Saturday, May 5 at 8 p.m.—Pittsburgh Concert Chorale Pops Concert

## *Friday Morning Reading Group*

### **We welcome new members!**

Plan to come to our first meeting on Friday, September 9 to share ideas about a book or books we might choose to read and discuss this fall.

During September, while waiting for our book order to come through, we will be watching and/or listening to several videos/audiotapes as follow-up to reading we did last year on the life and beliefs of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German theologian who sacrificed his life by taking a stand against the Nazi regime. No prior knowledge, experience or preparation is necessary.

We have a wonderful intergenerational group that meets every Friday morning 9-10 in the Fox Chapel Church Lounge in an informal, caring atmosphere. We all prepare for discussion by reading the assigned chapter(s), with leadership for the day rotating among those who enjoy doing this. Everyone is encouraged to participate and all opinions are honored and respected. Participants come from a variety of churches and some members do not currently have a church home.

Except for holidays and snow days, we meet every Friday morning, with coffee (provided by the church) and sometimes a snack provided by one of our members. It's fun, challenging and very often inspiring.

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### *Anchorpoint Counseling Ministry*

20 new tutors needed for September

The Anchorpoint tutoring program is seeking volunteer tutors ages 16 years and older. No experience necessary. Work one-on-one with students in grades K-12. Assist with homework; help students study for tests and complete projects. You'll have a wonderful opportunity to mentor and encourage students in need. The tutoring program operates Monday-Thursday 3:30 - 8:30 pm. Volunteers may tutor one or more hours per week. Training is provided.

Contact Sandy Niekum: [tutors@anchorpointcounselingministry.org](mailto:tutors@anchorpointcounselingministry.org) or 412.366.1300.

# Mission Fair



*September 11, 2011 in the Atrium and Chapel following  
the 10 a.m. Homecoming Service*

In the past **Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church** has supported an ever increasing number of worthwhile mission groups, organizations, and agencies. As the world economy has declined so has the amount of money that has been given to the church for its day to day expenses, and even less has been donated for mission causes. In order to make our mission donations most effective, the **Mission Committee** has had to make some tough choices in the past year as we reevaluated all of the past recipients and considered new ones. The Committee chose to decrease the total number of recipients while increasing our annual commitment to those selected. We are reaching out to these mission groups to establish closer ties and accountability.

Most of our recipients this year are local, which now permits active participation in their programs. We are seeking volunteers to aid the Mission Committee by working with our selections and getting to know these organizations and their effectiveness from the inside. We plan to write articles about each of our selections throughout the year and to publish these accounts in the WINDOW, the weekly Bulletin, and in frequent Minutes for Mission. We would like additional members-at-large to join the Mission Committee to champion individual missions. Hands on involvement is not limited to local missions, however. FCPC has been active for years in national and international projects as well. Many of our members have worked with and visited these national and foreign missions, which continue to need our support. Since Jesus commanded us to "Go to all nations..." we need to continuously search for new opportunities to serve others everywhere and help make disciples for our Lord Jesus Christ through our outreach efforts. We desire to become a **Missional Church: Every Member a Missionary**.

On **Homecoming Sunday, September 11, 2011, the Mission Committee is sponsoring a Mission Fair** to be held in the Atrium and the Chapel following the 10 a.m. service. This will give all members of the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, young and old, a chance to meet and talk with the various organizations, agencies, and missions that the our church supports. We want you as disciples of Jesus Christ and Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church to look carefully at these projects. Perhaps there is one there that you can feel attached to, one that speaks to you, one that you would like to learn more about, one with which you would like to become involved. This is your chance to talk first hand with many of these organizations and to become involved. Plan to come to church on Homecoming Sunday, September 11, 2011, and then stay afterwards and come to the **MISSION FAIR**. Become an active missionary for Christ. Let's make **FCPC a truly Missional Church: Every Member a Missionary**.

## Some Thoughts - 12

*If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?*

As promised, herewith the quixotic story of the good Reverend Doctor Charles Augustus Briggs (1841-1913). From childhood, he was pious, convinced of his own sinfulness (as any good Presbyterian of the time), and evangelical, writing to his sister about the care of her soul. He showed promise of academic excellence early in his educational path and pursued study at the University of Virginia, Union Theological Seminary (NY) and the University of Berlin. After a brief turn as pastor to a small Presbyterian church in New Jersey, he was called by Union Theological Seminary to be a lecturer in Hebrew. His scholarship was such that his continuing promotion was assured. He co-authored a book which every divinity student has used to this day – the famous Brown, Driver, Briggs (BDB) lexicon of the ancient Hebrew. Finally, in 1891, this renowned expert was appointed to the prestigious chair in Biblical Theology at Union.

That's when things went wrong for our "hero". It was during his inaugural address that he stated bluntly, not only his very orthodox doctrinal beliefs, but also his desire to "cut down everything that is dead and harmful [*in current teaching of and about the Bible*], every kind of dead orthodoxy. Criticism [*i.e. historical criticism of the Bible*] is at work with knife and fire." In a rather curt and abrasive manner, he stated "there are errors in the Scriptures that no one has been able to explain away." He went on to question the authorship of the books of the Bible, the miracles contained therein, and the prophecies with respect to the Christian tradition. In brief, he wanted to discover the pristine "Word", as it were, unadulterated by scribal and other contemporary ancient commentators and authors, which search he knew to be a chimera.

That was just too much for the good burghers of the New York Presbytery. They tried him on charges of heresy (!) and after lengthy deliberations found him not guilty. Fueled by Briggs' own rather contentious manner, and by the efforts of the august and very conservative professors Warfield and Hodge at Princeton Seminary, Briggs' case was reviewed by the General Assembly. He was stripped of his appointment at Union Theological. That was just too much for the Seminary and they withdrew from the Presbyterian system of theological schools. The next year, 1893, the General Assembly suspended Briggs from the ministry for "views, doctrines, and teachings contrary to the doctrine of Holy Scripture and in violation of his ordination vows." Notwithstanding the censure from

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<sup>1</sup>*The Authority of Holy Scripture, An Inaugural Address*, C.A. Briggs, Scribners, NY, 1891. *My editorial comments.*

<sup>2</sup>ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. GA), 1893, 2 vols.

the General Assembly, Briggs continued a prominent career at Union. He later became a priest in the Protestant Episcopal Church. Quixotic indeed. The only windmill he wanted to skewer with his new ideas, the inerrant Bible, struck back through its agency, The Presbyterian Church, which, in turn, knocked him off his "Rocinante".

This all occurred during the decade 1890-1900, a time when the social fabric was beginning to show some wear. In a few years, Queen Victoria would be celebrating her diamond jubilee – no other monarch had reigned so successfully and for so long with the concomitant effect on the mores of the times – things were done properly and in good order. The Presbyterian Church was just a few years away from asserting the "Five Fundamentals" as essential for the proper doctrinal teaching of the faith - the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture being one of them. And of all crazy things, in this decade l'Assemblée Nationale of the French Third Republic had come within one vote of reestablishing the French monarchy! By this decade, however, the conservative fabric was beginning to thin. L'Affair Dreyfus would not go away; there was the infiltration of German theological teaching concerning the Bible; the findings of Charles Darwin were being hotly debated; Albert Schweitzer was only 6 years away from publishing the "Quest for the Historical Jesus"; and probably the most disquieting was the emphasis and teaching of Freud of the sufficiency of self.

This was a time when basic principles were being questioned and foremost among them was the exact nature of the Bible. From the time of the Westminster Divines, the written Bible had been considered, if not inerrant, at least "the Word of God, the only rule of faith and obedience." That was written in the years 1643-49. It was only 30 to 40 years later that the good Calvinist theologian, Francis Turretin, declared that Holy Scripture was inerrant – that is: without any error even to the placement of the vowel points in the ancient Hebrew. That was the accepted norm for two and a half centuries. Turretin's work was the backbone of study at Princeton Theological Seminary until the 1870s, as an example. This emphasis on the inerrancy of Scripture has led to two polar extremes: that misguided engineer, Harold Camping, who dated the end of the world as starting at 6:00 PM sharp on May 21, 2011. As foolish as this is, however, there is another extreme, not foolish but cautionary – the case of Bart D. Ehrman. Dr. Ehrman, chair of the Religious Studies department at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, is an eminent expert on textual criticism of the New Testament. He assisted Bruce Metzger, the dean of NT textual critics, in the assembling of the best Greek text of the New Testament for the NRSV bible. He was raised and educated through college as a fundamentalist Christian, believing every word in Scripture to be of divine origin and without error. That was his belief until he began serious Bible study at Princeton Theological Seminary, which, by now, had changed its tune indeed. His thorough study of the texts of the New Testament convinced him that Jesus was not God but had been written about as such by anti-adoptionist scribes careful to disparage those early Christians who believed that Jesus was only a man who was "adopted" by God at his baptism. This, coupled with the theodicy problem, caused him to lose his religion. He became a self-avowed agnostic.

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(Philadelphia: Office of the General Assembly, 1893), 1:165.  
4The Westminster Larger Catechism, question #3

## Some Thoughts

I would not wish any extreme. What I do wish is that we consider why the Scriptures were written in the first place. The authors wished to serve God, to be a part of his household, to help others to the same position. Seen in the light of the Jewish Bible where the laws were considered to be directly from God with the collateral expectation that they were immutable but in fact were changed even in the Laws, Prophets and Writings themselves, then the new, higher criticism must be a part of the greater scheme of the revelation of God and as such deserve to be viewed as a service to God. I will close with a quotation from the Geneva Bible; it seems to cover the bases: The Bible is

*"...the light to our paths, the keye to the kingdom of heaven, our comfort in affliction, our shielde and sworde against Satan, the school of all wisdom, the glasse wherein we behold God's face, the testimonie of his favour, and the only foode and nourishment of our soles."*

Keep well, my friends. Pray often.  
Bill Martin

<sup>5</sup>Read Ehrman's, *Misquoting Jesus*, Harper San Francisco, 2005

<sup>6</sup>Read Ehrman's, *God's Problem*, HarperCollins, 2008, pp 3-7



## *Prayers and Squares*

Prayers and Squares is the prayer quilt ministry here at the church. We meet every Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon to create quilts for the ill and bereaved in our community as well as for the older patients at the Children's Home of Pittsburgh. No experience is needed to participate as we need shoppers, cutters and machine sewers, as well as an historian.

This group also meets on the 3rd Friday evening of each month at 7 o'clock for Wine and Twine, a fellowship event where we add the knots that tie the quilts together. Again, no experience is needed for this - just a good heart and nimble fingers. Contact Diane Donovan at 412-487-6560 or [dianedonovan71@mac.com](mailto:dianedonovan71@mac.com) for information or questions.

## *Scotland Trip*



### BEST OF SCOTLAND

Come along with Chris and Bonnie Taylor on a wonderful journey through Scotland.

The tour will begin on June 18, 2012 and last ten days. Don't miss out on this opportunity to experience the history, culture and remarkable scenery of Scotland.

Together we will build a storehouse of memories that will surely last forever. For more information, contact Penny Young in the church office.

# A daily reminder

Make this bookmark to remind you that God is with you every day.

### What you need:

- An old calendar
- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Glue stick
- Pencil or marker
- Stickers
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn



### What you do:

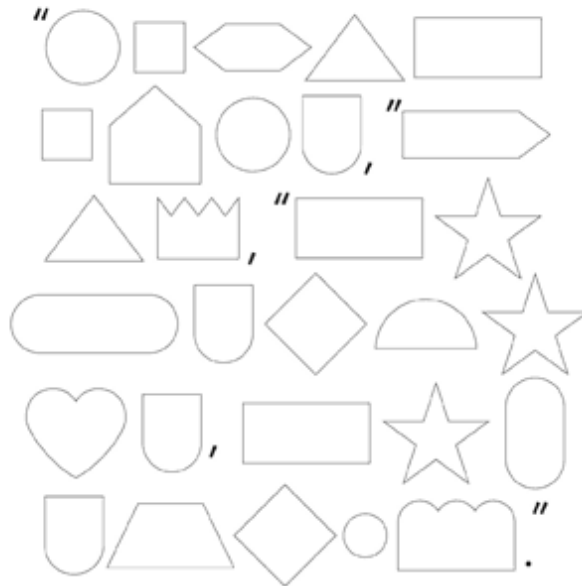
1. Cut out the first line of squares from an old calendar, including the days of the week along the top.
2. Cut the cardstock into a rectangle a little larger than the calendar section.
3. Glue the calendar section onto the cardstock.
4. Write "God has plans for me" (Jeremiah 29:11) on the bookmark.
5. Add stickers or other decorations on the back.
6. Punch a hole on one end of the bookmark.
7. Loop some ribbon or yarn through the hole.



## GOD'S PLAN

When we ask God for guidance, he will show us his perfect plan for our lives.

Directions: Use the shape code to the right to write out Jeremiah 29:11, NIV.



Answers: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

## *Coming in October*

**Sunday, October 2, New Member Class, 11:15 a.m., Library**

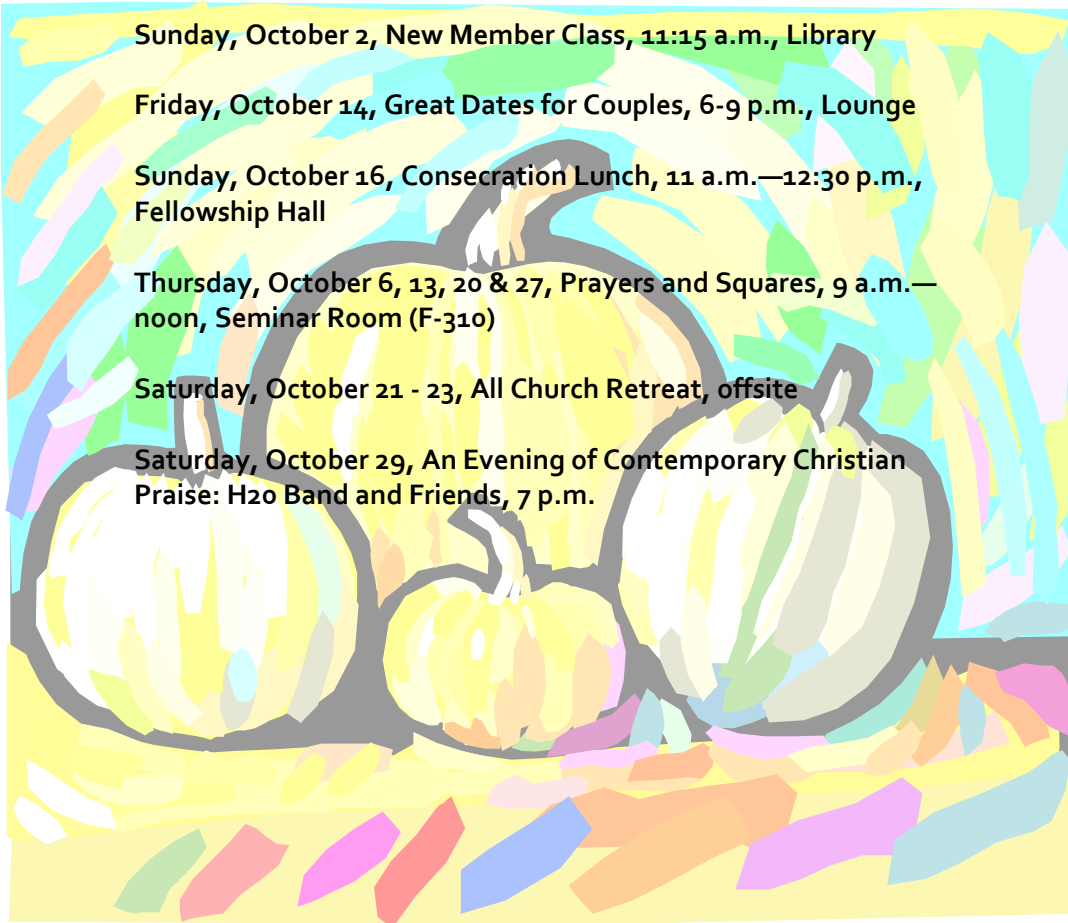
**Friday, October 14, Great Dates for Couples, 6-9 p.m., Lounge**

**Sunday, October 16, Consecration Lunch, 11 a.m.—12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

**Thursday, October 6, 13, 20 & 27, Prayers and Squares, 9 a.m.—noon, Seminar Room (F-310)**

**Saturday, October 21 - 23, All Church Retreat, offsite**

**Saturday, October 29, An Evening of Contemporary Christian Praise: H2o Band and Friends, 7 p.m.**



**Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!**

## **STAFF**

### **Ministry and Program**

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H2o Worship Leader, **Rob Krogh**  
Organist Emeritus, **Don Wilkins**  
Director of Children's Choir, **Carol Young**

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Caretaker **Alvin Peoples & Carl Collins**

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Charles Skinner, Janet Ummer, David Work

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