

The Focus

September 2016

A Note From the Pastor

"The heavens are telling the glory of God."
from Psalm 19

How was your summer vacation? Some would call mine a "stay-cation" in that I stayed close to home, but the truth is, it was most definitely a va-cation. I definitely vacated the place where I can normally be found – my routine, my surroundings. These were all made completely different by spending four weeks with young grandchildren.

My grandson, Keegan, was my most constant companion. We engaged in a whole variety of activities, but my favorite was the week we spent camping in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. I'm a life-long camper, but what I got out of this trip was something very different.

During our week, I was able to see God's creation through the eyes of a six-year-old. There is one basic rule when camping – don't be afraid to get dirty. I was amazed at just how much dirt can completely cover the body of a small child, and how quickly. Everything was covered – face, hands, legs, arms, ears, hair... well, you get the point. But it was how he got covered in so much filth that was awe-inspiring. He had to touch everything because everything was a fascinating play-toy. There were fence lizards, frogs, turtles, ants, crickets, butterflies, worms, birds and fish to try to catch bare-handed. There was charred wood from last night's fire to feel to see if it was still hot. The "soil" in the Pine Barrens is mostly sand mixed with dirt – a whole wide open sandbox where treasures could be buried and castles created. And every trip to the bathroom was undertaken by kicking a stone all

the way down the road, spraying sand and dirt everywhere (I learned to walk behind him, not in front). It seemed that no matter what I was doing, Keegan called me excitedly, "Grandma, look at this!"

I did look, at whatever treasure, anomaly or fascination which happened to catch his attention in that moment. It didn't take me long to really look – through his eyes that then became my own and realize that this is an amazing world that God created.

Every night as we crawled into our sleeping bags, we said our prayers. Each night I asked Keegan what he would like to tell God and each night there was a litany of thanks for all the amazing things he saw that day. I thanked God for being able to see with six-year-old eyes. You should try it.

Yours in Christ's service,



Sunday School

We welcome your children back to “Sunday School” at Forest Grove Church! Everyone at the Sunday school is excited to engage with the children again this year to teach them more about God’s amazing love and grace!

On **September 11th** we look forward to connecting with the children and youth. On **September 18th** the Confirmation class (8th & 9th grades) and adult class begins. Below is the 2016 fall schedule:

9:00 Jr./Sr. High & Confirmation classes and Adult Sunday School
 10:00 Worship Service (Nursery available for ages 3 and under)
 10:15 Pre-K through 6th grade dismissed from Worship to go to Sunday School (Shepherds assist them to the Sunday School rooms from the sanctuary)*
 11:15 Sunday School concludes

*Please remember, the first Sunday of each month children stay in the sanctuary for a family worship service.



The Voice in Your Heart

Do you feel a gentle calling towards the Sunday School? Then you are the volunteer we need to help teach our children! If you would like to find out more information on how to get involved please e-mail Carice at cariceml@gmail.com.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study is Moving

Day and Place beginning October 5

Tuesday Morning Bible Study is becoming the Wednesday Morning Bible Study and will be held in the clubhouse at Buckingham Springs at 10:00. This change is taking place for a few reasons. First, this fantastic group needs to share the wealth of its knowledge and devotion with others. Jesus instructed us to go out into the world and proclaim the Good News and this is a way that we can do that by making it available to others outside our congregation. While we have always been welcoming of those who are not members here, now we will be intentional in our outreach housing the study where others might be more willing to go. It is hard to enter an unfamiliar place, having the study at the Springs will put us within the comfort zone of others and may allow us to grow our fellowship.

The change of the day to Wednesday is due to the increased scheduling conflicts that Tuesday presents. The group will try this new time and pray with God’s help, that it will work. It’s time to resume our Tuesday morning reflection and study on God’s holy word. This group is open to new members as well as those who are not affiliated with Forest Grove. Each week’s lesson is self-contained so that if it is necessary to miss a week, you can always return easily.

This is a wonderful group that not only has deepened their faith and understanding through participation, but has also become a group of friends through their fellowship. ALL are welcome. The study is from 10:00 – 11:30 AM with the option of going to lunch together afterward.

New Book Club to Start

Do you like to read? Have you read any good books lately? Would you like to share that with others? Pastor Su and Kim Wertz are thinking about starting a book club that would meet monthly for fellowship and to discuss a book everyone has read. The ideas for what to read will come from the group. When the group will meet has yet to be set. Right now, interest is being determined. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, please sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact the church office. Those who have indicated interest by September 25th will be consulted regarding the logistics.

The Church Has Left the Building - November 6

“Don’t go to church. Be the church!”

It is getting close to that very special Sunday in November when Forest Grove heeds Jesus’ command to “go and do likewise.” Jesus’ own ministry wasn’t centered in a building. Rather he moved around to where people were living their everyday lives and touched them in their greatest places of need. His final command to his followers was to “GO.” And so we do.

This year’s theme is “Inside Out: The Church Has Left the Building.” Joining a growing number of congregations from many faith traditions, Forest Grove will once again dedicate this Sunday to going out to be a blessing and to be blessed. All ages will be able to engage in pre-arranged projects that bless our local community and beyond. The Mission Committee is currently making the necessary preparations for this day by selecting the appropriate missions. There will be some familiar favorites as well as a few new initiatives which will be publicized in October. Remember, God wants us in the world!

Once again there is a Small Group study as well as daily devotions based on lessons from Luke’s gospel. The daily devotional booklet will be available on October 9, our kick-off Sunday. We hope that everyone will take the four week challenge by reading the daily devotions in preparation for this exciting day when God’s Spirit is so very visible.

Here’s the four-week schedule:

October 9: Daily Devotional Guide and Small Group Guide

October 16: Kick-off Sunday for “Inside Out: The Church Has Left the Building”
Sermon series based in Luke’s gospel begins
Sign up begins for pre-arranged mission projects

October 17: Daily Devotions begin (available in Fellowship Hall)

November 6: The Church leaves the building

9:00 AM – gather for prayer at the church

9:10 AM – the church leaves the building for mission (some projects will take place in our building)

5:00 PM – Meet at Woodside Presbyterian Church for a pizza supper followed by worship with Communion

November 13: Re-cap our “Inside Out” experience during worship

Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard

What is that? It is the small wooden cupboard located by the entrance to the sanctuary in Fellowship Hall where donated food items are to be placed. There is an ever increasing need for all food items at the Doylestown Food Pantry. It is true that other parts of the county have even greater numbers of recipients of the pantry’s food items. But hungry is hungry wherever you are and we are a part of Central Bucks where, yes, there are hungry people who can’t afford to go to the grocery store to purchase food. Please don’t forget them by bringing food items to the cupboard. Even one item per person per week can make a big difference. Food items always needed include:

Canned Meats, Tuna/Canned Fish, Spaghetti Sauce w/Meat, Chunky Soups/Stews, Spaghettios, Raviolis, Gravy, Baby Food Rice, Boxed/Canned Potatoes, Stewed Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Black Beans, Applesauce, Fruit Cups, Healthy Snacks Sugar, Coffee, Salad Dressing, Mayo, Ketchup, Cooking Oil, Peanut Butter, Grape Jelly, Cereal, Oatmeal, Shelf Stable Milk

Fresh produce that does not require refrigeration: Onions, Garlic, Oranges, Carrots, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Apples, Pears

Let’s try to fill Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard to overflowing every Sunday!!!

God’s Garden Update

As summer begins to wane into fall, the garden is ending its production of much appreciated vegetables for those who need the services of the Doylestown Food Pantry. Hundreds of pounds of zucchini, tomatoes, beans, carrots, peppers and cucumbers have been donated. Even with the constant battle against bugs, blight, dry weather and weeds, that’s a whole lot of fresh food! Thanks to those who cared for the garden while Pastor Su was on vacation. The youth group will be gleaned the last of the vegetables and then the season will be at an end.

Welcome Seminary Intern Kate McShane

Kate is a senior student at Princeton Theological Seminary. The daughter of a Presbyterian pastor, this part of the world is very familiar to her as she grew up in Springfield, PA. She earned her undergraduate degree at Chestnut Hill where she majored in English.

Church has certainly been the center of her life. She has taught Sunday School since she was in high school and even wrote the curriculum. Her faith was strengthened at Kirkwood, that place where she felt that she truly walked on holy ground when attending summer camp. Kate is an ordained elder and has provided significant leadership in her home church including setting up a Spirituality Center and developing creative worship experiences. Pastoral care, spirituality and work with children and youth are her current interests. When seeking a field education placement she wrote, "Forest Grove seems to be a Christian community that wants to not just be Christian scholars but Christians' in the world."

This past summer Kate served as an intern at Beacon Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. Working there will likely invite possible deeper connections for us with that congregation. During her year here, Kate will be focusing her talents and attention on the confirmation class, adult Bible study, pastoral care through visitation and regular worship leadership. Don't be surprised if you see her dipping into all areas of ministry.

Kate, her husband Seth Vail and their two cats currently live in the married student housing at Princeton Seminary. Get to know Kate and Seth and make them both feel welcome by chatting with them during the fellowship time after worship and/or invite them to lunch. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in fellowship hall for lunch opportunities on the first Sunday of each month. Feel free to invite them at other times as well!

CROP Walk on October 9

This year's local CROP walk is on October 9 beginning at 12:00 at the Doylestown United Methodist Church parking lot. Once again our youth group will be participating in the 10K walk and others from the congregation are invited to join them. Everyone can participate by either walking and/or supporting a walker with a donation.



CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots development efforts around the world. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community. This year these funds will be donated to FISH, a organization that follows the example of Christ by helping the poorest and weakest members of our community with emergency assistance when no other timely assistance is available.

In general, CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools to wells and water systems, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs - something CWS has learned through 70 years of working in partnership around the world.

When CROP began in 1947 (under the wing of Church World Service, which was founded in 1946), CROP was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. Today, they have outgrown the acronym but retain it as the historic name of the program.

Please help in whatever way you can with this important mission. As always, prayers are also needed!

Blood Drive on September 17

We are pleased to announce our yearly Red Cross Blood Drive will be on Saturday, September 17, in Fellowship Hall from 8AM to 2PM. Perhaps you would like to make a donation in honor of a loved one, or, perhaps just to help someone in need. The best part; every blood donation can help save THREE lives. If interested please add your name to the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. For questions, please call Dana 215 598 7489.

Aging with Grace Older Adult Series

The Parish Life Committee is sponsoring an important series regarding issues pertaining to aging. The lengthening of the average human lifespan is one of the remarkable achievements of the 20th century. In 1900, life expectancy was only 47, but over those 100 years, it rose to 75 for men and 78 for women. The percentage of older persons in our global society is growing and expected to nearly double between 1990 and 2030.

This trend is no less apparent here in the United States and is especially noticeable within our own congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), where the average age of worshipers is 58 — and rising. For every worshiper under the age of 25, there are more than six worshipers over the age of 65, which account for 35% of all Presbyterians.

With aging comes its own set of challenges and uncertainties. Most of us would like to age gracefully and maintain our dignity as well as make our own decisions regarding our welfare. This series will offer both useful information as well as the opportunity to actually put into place directives for family members for “when the time comes.” Basic information is provided on the flyer included in this newsletter. A more detailed description is as follows:

October 5: 1:00 – 3:00 PM - Respecting Healthcare Choices: An Advanced Care Planning Program

Program by Dr, Carolyn Newsom

Talking about end-of-life choices may not be easy, but it's important to define and share decisions with loved ones about the care you want if an accident or illness leaves you unable to speak for yourself. This workshop will help guide participants through the process of defining personal values and preferences that shape end-of-life decisions and how to share them with loved ones.

October 12: 1:00 – 3:00 PM – Estate Planning: Preparing for Your Financial Wishes

Program by Alice Hart Hughes, Attorney at Law

This workshop will help guide participants through the process of making decisions about their assets and financial power of attorney. End of life decisions can be overwhelming and it is often hard to navigate legal papers or even know where to begin. Planning ahead can be the greatest gift you can ever give to the people you love. Everyone should decide about their own assets and not the government.

October 19: 1:00 – 3:00 PM – Funeral Arrangements

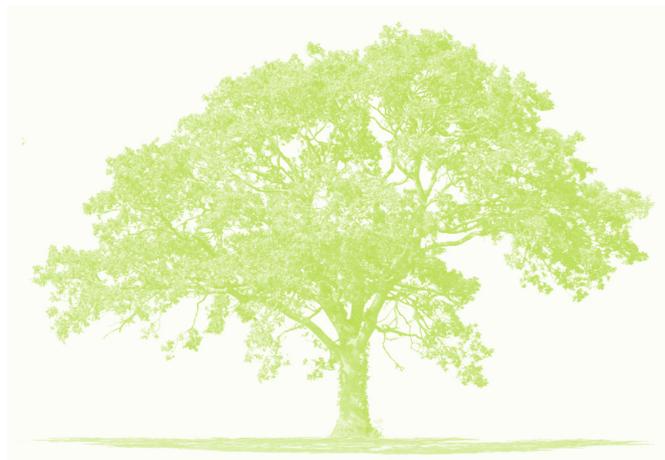
Program by Lou Bayne, Leaver-Cable Funeral Home, Inc.

What do you want for your final farewell? The death of a loved one is a very emotional time and can lead to disagreements among family members as to what the deceased's memorial should look like. This workshop will provide you with information about funeral choices and arrangements. This is not a sales-pitch, but an opportunity to understand the possibilities and procedures.

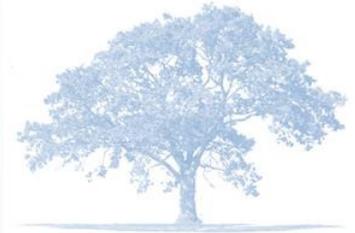
October 26: 1:00 – 3:00 PM – Spirituality and Emotional Care of the Elderly

Program TBA

(Please see the flyer on the next page. If you can take a flyer and hang it somewhere to advertise these events, please see Kim Wertz in the office.)



Aging with Grace



*How can you
plan ahead
for your own needs?*

Join the discussion at Forest Grove Church.

All sessions are free and will be held in fellowship hall.
Join us from 1-3pm. All are welcome.

October 5: Respecting Healthcare Choices

Give your loved ones the gift of knowing your choices.

Presenter: Carolyn Newsom, Ph.D., Esq.

October 12: Estate Planning

Things to take care of while you are still living.

Presenter: Alice Hart Hughes, Esq.

October 19: Funeral Arrangements

What do YOU want?

Presenter: Lou Bayne, Leaver-Cable Funeral Home, Inc.

October 26: Spirituality and Emotional Care of the Elderly

Program T.B.A.

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church ~ 1856 Forest Grove Road

Questions? 215-794-8575

Forest Grove
Presbyterian Church

CHICKEN BBQ

Saturday **24**
September

4 to 7 PM
OR UNTIL SOLD OUT

Call to reserve your place at the table!

Pre-Order Tickets available from any church member,
or by calling the church office at 215-794-8575.
www.ForestGroveChurch.org

\$14 adult
\$9 child

Fourth Annual Chicken BBQ

Tickets are on sale now, so please buy your ticket to guarantee your dinner! If you can sell some tickets, you can sign them out....see Kim Wertz for tickets either during the week or on Sunday morning.

Beth Conti, Carol Eckmeder, Dee Tori and Kevin Kilgore head up this community outreach event. If you would like to be a part of the fun behind the scenes by helping either to cook, prepare side dishes, serve or clean up, please contact one of them or sign up in fellowship hall. It really is great fun!

September Schedules

Ushers

9/11 - Jim Conner, Jim Hampton
9/18 Walter & Emilie Cullerton
9/25 Becky Schroeder, Sharon Ruth

Nursery

9/11 Jenny Kimbel
9/18 Beth Conti
9/25 Donna Jencks

September Birthdays

9/2 Pete Mills	9/14 Jill Greytok	9/23 Linda bowers
9/4 Sally Wiley	9/18 Merrily Henley	Sarah Lucera
9/10 Liam Hyndman	Amanda Kilgore	Keegan Fullman
Aaron Lang	9/19 Jesse Ruth	9/26 Kevin Rosencrance
Alex Lang	9/20 Leanne Yerkes	9/27 Doris Elliott
9/12 Andrea Myers	9/22 Ralph Tinari	9/28 Addie King
9/13 Beau Bradney		

Operating Fund 07/31/2016

Collections & Income	\$ 103,023
Large Fund Income	9,731
Total Income	112,754
Expenses	
Pastor Compensation	53,057
Staff	33,514
Office	8,797
Music & Worship	885
Christian Education	1,048
Property	15,663
Stewardship/Finance	169
Parish Life	326
Other	3,400
Total Expenses	116,858
Operating Surplus	(4,104)
(Deficit)	(4,104)
Fund Balance @ 12/31/15	34,080
Fund Balance @ 7/31/16	29,976

Benevolence Fund	
Balance @ 6/30/16	4,600
Receipts/Disbursement	
Balance @ 7/31/16	\$4,600



Forest Grove Presbyterian Church

1856 Forest Grove Road
 PO Box 462
 Forest Grove, PA 18922

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

10am Worship Service

Church Office Hours

9am-2pm (Monday-Thursday)

Phone 215-794-8575

Pastor: Reverend Susan L. Fall

Email: pastorsu@forestgrovechurch.org

Administrative Assistant: Kim Wertz

Email: office@forestgrovechurch.org

www.ForestGroveChurch.org

September

11 9am - Jr./Sr. High Sunday School 10am - Worship Service Sunday School begins today! 7pm - Youth Group	12	13	14 9am - Deacons	15	16	17 Blood Drive 8am-2pm
18 9am- Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Confirmation Class begins 10am- Worship Service 10:15am- Sunday School for grades K-6 7pm - Youth Group	19	20 11:30am - Christian Ed Meeting	21	22	23	24 Chicken BBQ 4-7pm
25 9am- Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Confirmation Class Adult Ed 10am- Worship Service 10:15am- Sunday School for grades K-6 7pm - Youth Group	26 11:30am Mission Meeting	27 7pm- Session Meeting	28 11:30- Nominating Committee 7:30pm - Stewardship Meeting	29	30	1 <i>October</i>
2 9am- Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Confirmation Class Adult Ed 10am- Worship Service 7pm - Youth Group	3	4	5 1pm - Aging with Grace	6 10:30am - Parish Life	7	8