

Dovetales, a newsletter of Gladwyne Presbyterian Church,
1321 Beaumont Drive 19035 610-649-2235 www.gladwynepres.org
P. Todd Stavrakos, Pastor
July 2008 edition

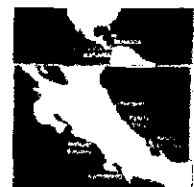
Costa Rica Corner

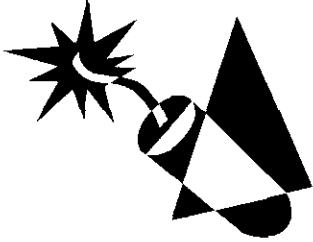
The mission trip is just around the corner! The mission team is getting really excited about the work they will be doing in Costa Rica. The youth group is leaving on July 12th and returning on July 19th. The youth will be working with the Costa Rica Presbyterian Church updating the safety codes at a church in Los Guido, outside the capital of San Jose. There is a new law in Costa Rica that says that the churches must have handicap accessibility and handicap accessible bathrooms. This will help many of their older and handicapped members come to the church for worship. The youth will also help the church to improve their appearance to bring more members. Each night, after a hard day of work, the youth will work together to recap the day and do a devotional for each night, which will include journaling.

The youth are also very excited for their day off which will include a tour of the rainforest from zipline, a horseback riding adventure, and a aerial tour of the rainforest.

If anyone would like to become a prayer sponsor for any of the members of the mission team, please sign up in the back of the church on Sunday July 6th.

Please keep the team in your prayers as they travel and experience God through the people of Costa Rica.





JULY

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| July 4 | | HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY |
| July 9 | 7:30 p.m. | Session meeting |
| July 10 | 7:00 p.m. | Women's Book Group* |
| July 12 | | Youth depart for Costa Rica* |
| July 13 | 10:00 a.m. | Taize Service – Chapel in the Woods* |
| July 15. | 5:30 p.m. | League of Women Floaters* |
| | | Meet at GPC parking lot to travel to
Kanzinger's pontoon on the Schuylkill |
| July 20 | | Pool Party at Williams' following worship* |
| July 27 | 10:00 a.m. | Taize Service – Chapel in the Woods* |

Reminder:

Church Office hours are different in the summer.

Call office before coming in*

It's great to be free!?

The Fourth of July! It's official - summer is here - Fireworks, picnics, trips to the shore. It is a good thing that the signers of the Declaration of Independence made public the document on July 4th because it just would not have been the same if they made the announcement in the middle of February. Who wants to celebrate when it is freezing outside? Try getting people out to watch fireworks with snow and sleet falling around them. No, it is entirely fitting that Independence Day falls in a summer month.

Freedom conjures up images of vacation, of being free from the stresses of the world. Freedom means being able to do what one wants to do, and that means no 9 to 5. The relaxing part of vacation is the freedom of knowing that you don't have to be someplace you don't want to be. You don't need to be in the office, or check your email. You don't need to be in class. On July 4th we celebrate our freedom and we explore our freedom during our vacations.

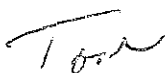
So this is where I burst your bubble because in all reality, you and I are not free. We are not free because God has chosen not to be free. God is the only being who is truly free; God needs no one in order to exist or depend upon. This freedom we call sovereignty, God is free to act as God chooses. Yet God made a choice and God has chosen to not be free but to live with humanity. In God's freedom, God chose to live in relationship, amongst herself, as the Trinity, and with all of creation. God's freedom is known through God's choice to live with us. We have been given this freedom.

We tend to view our freedom as our own self-assertion over others. Karl Barth, the 20th Century theologian from whom we have a better understanding of freedom, proclaimed that God is free for humanity and free to coexist with humanity. At the essence of our Christian freedom is the understanding of being freed for and to, we have been freed for God, to the glory of one another, for if God's freedom has been bound to creation, to the Trinity and to humanity, than our freedom is likewise bound.

Barth points out that unfree men and women are bound by chaos in their belief that they are free, while the faithful are truly free to live in relationship with God with its commands and boundaries. At the heart of our freedom is the joy of realizing one's election by God and the discovery of one's gifts from God. We are then able to truly explore the relationship with God that was the intention behind Creation.

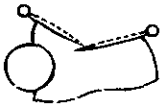
As we celebrate our freedom this July, let us remember that we are not truly free until we enter into a relationship with God and enter into the freedom that is only God's to give. Then we can become truly free, free for God and free to each other.

God Bless





Recently Jennifer Stavrakos lead COALESCE in a discussion regarding the Nurse Family Partnership, the organization she works with which pairs home visiting nurses with first time low income mothers. The desired outcome of the program is to prevent such things as drug addiction, juvenile delinquency and other social ailments, by creating a strong bond between mother, and father, with their babies. An outcome of this discussion has lead individuals at GPC to inquire how they could become involved with NFP. On Saturday, September 6th, GPC will host a picnic celebration for the mothers, children and nurses. If you would like to support and volunteer for this celebration please contact Sandy Drayer. Volunteers will be needed to help transport mothers and children to GPC, prepare lunch and provide for entertainment.



Knit or Knot

We will 'knot' be meeting in July or August but will resume in September - Tuesday Sept. 16, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Barbara Frazer's home.

From the office

Beginning July 7th and continuing through Labor Day, the Church office will be closed on Mondays and Fridays with reduced hours on Tues., Wed. and Thurs. As in previous years, we suggest you call before you come in to make sure someone is here. Thank you.



July birthdays

- 8 Doris Olewiler
- 11 Sandy Day
Chase Markman
- 20 Linda Stevenson
Janet Ferrell
- 22 Paul Holland
- 24 Lindsey Freed
- 25 Ashton Gardner
- 28 Chris Hall
- 30 Mac Gallagher

The Deacons will celebrate July birthdays following worship on July 13th.



Women's Book Group

Thanks to Sandra for leading our June 12 meeting in a discussion of *Red River* by Lalita Tademy.

Our next meeting is July 10 at 7 PM. Ann Guise will lead us in discussing Barack Obama's book, **Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance**

From Publishers Weekly

Elected the first black president of the Harvard Law Review, Obama was offered a book contract, but the intellectual journey he planned to recount became instead this poignant, probing memoir of an unusual life. Born in 1961 to a white American woman and a black Kenyan student, Obama was reared in Hawaii by his mother and her parents, his father having left for further study and a return home to Africa. So Obama's not-unhappy youth is nevertheless a lonely voyage to racial identity, tensions in school, struggling with black literature?with one month-long visit when he was 10 from his commanding father. After college, Obama became a community organizer in Chicago. He slowly found place and purpose among folks of similar hue but different memory, winning enough small victories to commit himself to the work?he's now a civil rights lawyer there. Before going to law school, he finally visited Kenya; with his father dead, he still confronted obligation and loss, and found wellsprings of love and attachment. Obama leaves some lingering questions?his mother is virtually absent?but still has written a resonant book.

*****Note that the August meeting is canceled as too many people will be away.*****

Presbyterian Children's Village

I recently went out to visit the Preheim Center which is the PCV's Southwest Philadelphia ministry center. While I have always heard about the work of PCV in Philadelphia, I was amazed at the level of services that the center offers to the community. From behavioral health to homework assistance, from its Curfew Center to the foster care program, the Preheim Center has become a vital source of assistance in this community. Jane Maehl, VP for programs, explained to me that the Center has become a safe place in the community for families needing to go to find assistance. By building bridges with the local police district, school district and community leaders and activists, the center practices a holistic presence in the community.

I would attempt to describe each and every program, but fear I would leave something out, but suffice it to say, if you can think of a need, PCV is trying to address it at the Preheim Center. I would invite you to check out the PCV website: and look under programs to get a sense of the work and ministry that is occurring in southwest Philadelphia.

I would also encourage you to explore the volunteer opportunities that exist at PCV. The partnership between GPC and PCV is one that is growing and I hope will continue to grow. As I consider the heart of our own ministry which focuses on children, social justice and the inner and outer journey, I then ponder how PCV also focuses on those areas. My prayer for us is to discern how our two ministries might forge together as one and work to transform lives.

Peace

Todd



TLC¹ for our Chapel in the Woods – Summer 2008

We have some good news and some “challenging news” regarding our lovely renovated Chapel in the Woods. The “good news” – we have planned 6 services (God-willing) “in the Woods” this summer!

The “challenging” news: we all need to pitch in to make it work! This will require some serious “community-building” on everyone’s part!

Please sign up for the tasks which you are willing *and able* (without straining yourself physically) to help. We might need *physically able folks* to sign up several times! Thanks in advance! The tasks include:

- 1) **Week-Before Prep:** Pre-service weeding and beautifying during week before service (preferably the Saturday before – on your own or coordinate with other volunteers) – some tasks will be on a list posted in the back of the church, others are up to your discretion. Creativity is encouraged, although remember the deer might enjoy it too. Please leave tree-planting up to the coordinating committee.

- 2) **Pre-Day-of-the-Service Prep:** at about 9am on day of worship:
 - a. Clean sticks that might trip anyone off trails
 - b. Sweep off benches (brooms/brushes in janitorial closet in basement of church)
 - c. Wheel about 15-20 folding chairs cart from foyer closet, out community room door (down handicap-accessible ramp), down driveway to edge of parking lot at entrance to Chapel
 - d. Set up about 5-10 folding chairs in Chapel area
 - e. Place altar dressing and small cross from church on stone altar
 - f. If/when flowers arrive, place on altar
 - g. Bring bulletins down to Chapel

- 3) **Post-Day-of-the Service Clean-up** - 11:30/12noon-ish after worship:
 - a. Fold up chairs and return them and the cart to foyer of church
 - b. Pick up any extra bulletins/papers and recycle
 - c. Return altar dressing and cross to appropriate places in church

¹ Tender Loving Care!

Please check your calendars, be generous with your time and sign up for several of our 6 services planned for the following dates. Please send any electronic responses to Margaret, who will coordinate the list and send out reminders. Otherwise, please sign up on sheet in church sanctuary. Remember, when/if at all possible, try to build community with your service commitment. There's nothing like hauling folding chairs all over our property or pulling weeds together to strengthen our church family bonds. ☺

Coordinated by Linda Stevenson and Todd Stavrakos. ☺

We are aiming for 3 names in each box, to cover the bases in case of any unexpected absences or unforeseen consequences. Reminders will be sent out a few days prior to your service.

Date	Week-Before Prep.	Day-of-Service Preparation	Day-of-Service Clean-up
Sun. Jul. 13	1) 2) 3)	1) 2) 3)	1) 2) 3)
Sun. Jul. 27	1) 2) 3)	1) 2) 3)	1) 2) 3)
Sun. Aug. 10	1) 2) 3)	1) 2) 3)	1) 2) 3)
Sun. Aug 24	1) 2) 3)	1) 2) 3)	1) 2) 3)



ATTENTION – ALL WOMEN

Join THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN FLOATERS for a relaxing cruise of the Schuylkill River on Tuesday, July 15. Meet at 5:30 at church front parking lot to car pool to the River Road Cruise Terminal. Bring finger food to enjoy on cruise. The best cure for those dog days of summer.

Our boat of choice is the Kanzinger's Pontoon Boat with Captain Bill at the helm.

Call Ann Guise at 215-748-5454 to reserve your spot. Limited seating.

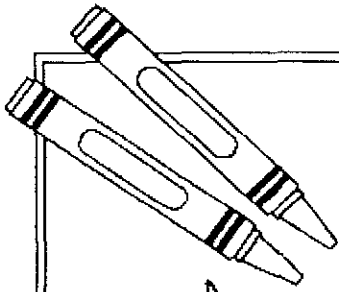
Cruise is weather dependent. This float is a relaxing summertime favorite. We thank the Kanzingers for this opportunity for fellowship, relaxation, and fun.



Upcoming All Church Activity

July 20 - Swim Party at the Williams' following worship. Bring your suit and a dish to share. The grill will be fired up for hamburgers and hot dogs.

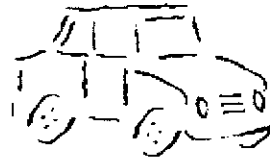




Just for **KIDS**



Vacation and Travel Time



Most people in the world today can move from one place to another easily. We can hop in the car, catch a bus, ride a bike or fly in a plane!

*Fill in the missing parts of the words in this story.
The missing parts are in the list below. Read the story.*

In Bi_____mes tra_____ was diff_____ and _____ow. A full day's _____ney was _____nty miles. The _____ual way to _____vel was by _____king. _____keys were some_____ used. Ox c_____ car_____ hea_____ads. Ca_____ were used for _____ade cara_____ _____oss the _____ert. The mili_____, _____thy _____ple and ro_____ _____sengers used ho_____ and _____lots. Bo_____ were used once in a while.

_____ble ti_____vel _____icult sl_____jour_____twe_____ us_____tra_____wal_____Don_____times _____arts _____ried _____vy lo_____rts tr_____vans acr_____des_____tary weal_____peo_____yal pas_____rses char_____ats