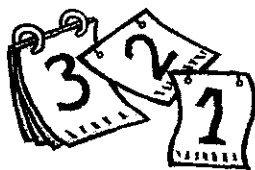


Dovetales, a newsletter of Gladwyne Presbyterian Church,
1321 Beaumont Drive 19035 610-649-2235 www.gladwynepres.org
P. Todd Stavrakos, Pastor
September 2008 edition



- Sept. 2** 7:00 p.m. Deacons
- Sept. 6** 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Nurse-Family Partnership Picnic*
- Sept. 9** 11:00 a.m. Bible Study resumes (every Tues. morning)*
- Sept. 10** 7:30 p.m. Session
- Sept. 11** 7:00 p.m. Women's Book Group*
- Sept. 14** 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Club Kickoff
IHOP
9:30 a.m. Discovery
Forum
10:15 a.m. Pre-school Discovery
11:00 a.m. Worship
- Sept. 16** 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Knit or Knot*
- Sept. 21** 9:45 – 11 a.m. Rock
4 – 8 p.m. Youth Group Bowling Night!
- Sept. 28** 9:45 – 11 a.m. Rock



SAVE THE DATE*

**October 4 – 5 weekend – 50th Anniversary Celebration of Gladwyne
Presbyterian Church at this location. Several activities planned to mark the
celebration.**

Good things come in small packages.

It only took twelve people to start it, a rather remarkable beginning in its humility. To think that twelve people could change the lives of so many is rather amazing. Those twelve moved by the Spirit carried their message with them and touched the lives of all those they encountered. I could be talking about the apostles, the twelve men who Jesus called to preach the gospel to the twelve tribes of Israel, but instead I speak of the twelve individuals who came together in 1874 to form the First Presbyterian Church of Lower Merion.

Jesus speaks of the Kingdom as a mustard seed, the smallest of all grains, which grows into the largest of shrubs. The potential of the Kingdom to sprout and grow is all around us and can be found in the most unlikely places. How else can we explain the spread of the Gospel from its humble beginnings to a body that spans this world? How else does it explain the growth seen in Gladwyne from a humble beginning of twelve individuals, who lacked the money to fully compensate their first pastor, in a small village found in a difficult location, to be a vibrant community of faith spanning 130 years?

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the church building, we also celebrate the ministry that began here in Gladwyne. In this celebration, we are reminded of the potential that resides in each of us, the potential to carry the gospel wherever we go. That potential is the Kingdom, ready to burst forth. This is not only the legacy that we inherit but it is the essence of our present and future.

In *The Celtic Way of Evangelism*, George Hunter recounts how Patrick and a handful of priests and students, took the Gospel to the Celts, a people believed to be barbarians and uncivilized, and over the period of a couple of decades founded over 700 churches and converted 40 or more (out of 150) of the tribes of Ireland. The Roman church was upset that Patrick spent so much time with these heathens, instead of with the faithful. Of course the church failed to see the parallel between Patrick and Jesus.

Today we face a culture that, if not hostile to the Gospel, is indifferent to the message of the church. Yet deep within each of us is the potential to change another life, to bring the Gospel to another person, to transform that person. It is a mission that the Apostles accepted, it is a mission that the twelve individuals in 1874 accepted, it is a mission that stands before us this day.

As we celebrate the 50 years here on Beaumont Drive, let us recommit ourselves to reaching out to those around us. Let us reach out to unbelievers, to those who have fallen away from the church, to those whom others ignore. Let us plant the seed of the Kingdom and watch it grow.

Blessings

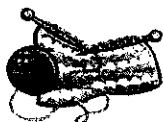

Todd



3) Pat suggested : *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. This is very popular and has many holds on it in the LM system. I suggest we do it in November, if the group wants to read it.

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—Zusak has created a work that deserves the attention of sophisticated teen and adult readers. Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids, acid-tongued mothers, and loving fathers who earn their living by the work of their hands. The child arrives having just stolen her first book—although she has not yet learned how to read—and her foster father uses it, *The Gravediggers Handbook*, to lull her to sleep when she's roused by regular nightmares about her younger brother's death. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: the boy Rudy, the Jewish refugee Max, the mayor's reclusive wife (who has a whole library from which she allows Liesel to steal), and especially her foster parents. Zusak not only creates a mesmerizing and original story but also writes with poetic syntax, causing readers to deliberate over phrases and lines, even as the action impels them forward. Death is not a sentimental storyteller, but he does attend to an array of satisfying details, giving Liesel's story all the nuances of chance, folly, and fulfilled expectation that it deserves. An extraordinary narrative.



Knit or Knot

Our group will resume knitting and knotting on Tues., Sept. 16th at Barbara Frazer's home from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. If you are interested, with any level of knitting experience from beginner to advanced, come check us out. We'd love to see you.



Barnabas Fund

Gladwyne Presbyterian Church has always been committed to assisting others in need. One of the ways GPC does this is through the Barnabas Fund. The fund was set up to provide a means for the congregation to provide assistance to those who contact the church seeking assistance, frequently monetarily. The amount that we can provide is directly tied to the amount that individuals offer as contributions to the fund.

Over the past year we distributed over \$3000 in assistance to those in need. Some went to help the fire victims in Norristown, other funding went to help families with heating oil costs, while still more went to housing assistance. With the ever increasing heating costs and uncertain economic times, demand is on the increase. Please consider making a contribution to the Barnabas Fund so that we can continue to provide aid to those who desperately need it.

Pastor Todd



Nurse-Family Partnership Picnic
Saturday, September 6th
1 - 4 PM
Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown

Plans for the picnic are well underway! It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet young mothers and their young children (2 and under or not yet born). All are residents of Montgomery County and many live in the Norristown area.

A shaded picnic area at the Zoo has been rented for our use from 1 to 4. GPC and Staff from NFP will provide food and drinks for attendees.

Some of you have left touching messages on my phone offering to be there to help. I am grateful and brazen enough to offer a "Wish List":

- Brownies
- Cookies
- A guitar player (with a guitar!)
- A photographer with a digital camera (to take a group photograph and perhaps individual photos of moms and dads with their child or child-to-be)

While private funding will cover the admission fee for all NFP family members over age 2, NFP Staff members have offered to pay their own fees (\$5.75/person). We hope GPC folks can do the same. Since this is the Group Rate charge, we'll need to know in advance who is coming.

Pete and I are in and out of Gladwyne this summer. I can get e-mails while away at sdrayer@comcast.net or receive messages from our phone at 610-642-6671. My wishes to you all for a happy and restful summer season.

Sandy Drayer

=====



Revelation or the End?

What exactly is the Book of Revelation? Is it an insight into the end, providing a blow by blow of what will happen? Or is it a revealing of God's ultimate victory, a message to early believers to offer hope? This year **during bible study on Tuesdays at 11 am, (beginning Sept. 9th)** we will explore the Johannine letters: First, Second and Third John and the Book of Revelation, and explore the themes that are found within the Johannine community. Come and join us as we begin another year of exploration of scripture.

offering will be P.F. Chang's in Plymouth Meeting. <http://www.pfchangs.com> Attaining harmony of taste, texture, color and aroma by balancing the Chinese principles of fan and t'sai is the goal of every dish. Meet at the church at 5:30 for a 6:00 PM meal. Their offering of shrimp, candied walnuts, cantaloupe and a mustard sauce has some of us drooling already. It is moderately priced. It is a Chinese bistro, a national chain, but universally known for excellent food. We will meet on the fourth Friday evening of September.



Renewing the tradition of the Lost Souls Thanksgiving dinner. Decades ago, Beryl Lawn had annual Thanksgiving dinners for those in the congregation who had no significant family members to share what is traditionally a family dinner. She tongue-and-cheek named it the "Lost Souls" dinner. If you or someone you know does not have a place to celebrate Thanksgiving, please let us know. Please put your name on the list if you would like to join others for a mouth watering potluck Turkey day treat so that we know how big a place we need. This will, of course, take place on Thanksgiving Day. We are also looking for someone who can host such an event. Sign up in the community room.



Movie night. Would members of the church value a set evening each week or two or monthly to attend a movie somewhere near Gladwyne? Some options might be seeing a movie at the Bryn Mawr Film Institute or having a family option. Sign up for movie night information in the community room.



Connections with the youth. GPC has always been strongly committed to the youth of the congregation. This year we would like to build upon intergenerational connections and partner a youth with an adult in the congregation. All youth, from pre-school to high school age, will be included. The expectation is simple, to hold each other in prayer throughout the month and look for opportunities to get together to further the connection.

College student cards. Another way we can better support our youth is to remember those students who have gone away to college. On the second Sunday of every month we

Costa Rica Corner

This summer has flown by but it would not have been the same summer without the Youth Mission Trip. The youth went to Costa Rica over the wonderful week of July 12th-19th. The youth had a great time over the seven days that we were in Costa Rica. Most were nervous about leaving home and going to a foreign country but most nerves were masked by excitement.

The youth met very early on Saturday morning to get to the airport. After a send off by Pastor Todd (who biked there and was still wearing his spandex) and a quick team picture the youth were off to the airport. Though the long lines and security were brutal nothing could calm the excitement and chatter of the youth on the airplane. After landing in Costa Rica and getting a bite to eat the Mission team were transported to the headquarters of the Iglesia Evangelica Prebieriana Costarriense (Presbyterian Church of Costa Rica). Pastor Stacey Steck was the one who greeted us and is the coordinator of the mission work in Costa Rica. When we arrived he gave us a brief orientation of the work that the church does down there along with some cultural differences that we should be aware of. He told us about the area that we would be working in. Worthy projects are chosen for the mission teams that come through this organization to Costa Rica. We were working outside of San Jose in a very poor area. This area, Los Guido, was a small rural community now burgeoned to 600,000 people, mostly immigrants that have fled to Costa Rica from neighboring countries. These people came with nothing, have nothing and the government would like to pretend they aren't here. Many of the homes are shacks with corrugated metal walls.

The first time we saw the church was for their Sunday night service. This service was quite a bit different from what we are used to at Gladwyne. The service normally runs about two hours where you are standing for most of the time. The Pastor preached for about 45 minutes (don't get any ideas Todd). The pastor has been there for about 15 years and tries very hard to bring hope to his congregation and is often discouraged by the general despair of the area. He showed us the church (one room house) and where we were going to work. The government had recently put out a law saying that all churches need to have handicap accessible bathrooms or have the threat of been shut down. Stacey explains that this is the Catholic government's way of shutting down the non-catholic churches in the area. Along with the bathroom, we had a goal of sprucing up the outside and inside of the church.

On our first day of work the hole for the bathroom was dug over two meters deep. This was after the mission team broke through the concrete floor. By the last day we dug the hole way over John's head, filled it with two-ton concrete pipes, and covered it again with cement. We had also painted all the window frames, and the rod iron fence surrounding the church. The kids had also made many friends with the children of the community and played many games of soccer (or football as they called it).

In our evenings we cleaned up, had wonderful meals made by the house cook, Adela, and shared during our devotional time. The youth all prepared a scripture and discussion for the night. We also shared time with songs, and games.

Overall, the experience was moving to all and hopefully Gladwyne Presbyterian could help support the church of Los Guido where the youth made such a great connection.

Thank you to all who supported the Mission team, financially and emotionally, over the last year.

Laura Cozzens, Youth Leader



THE **5**  th ANNIVERSARY
1958-2008

of Gladwyne Presbyterian Church
at 1321 Beaumont Drive

COME JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

5:30 - 9:30pm



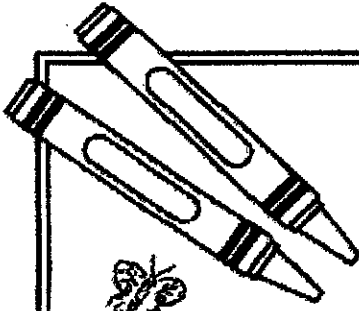
**GPC HERITAGE AND HISTORY
EXHIBIT AND PRESENTATION**

**RUN of the MILL
STRING BAND**

www.runotmill.com

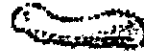
**Country-style Catered Dinner with GPC Family and Friends
Push back the pews for Music and Square-Dancing!**

CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE 610.649.2235 www.gladwynepres.org



Just for **KIDS**

Changes



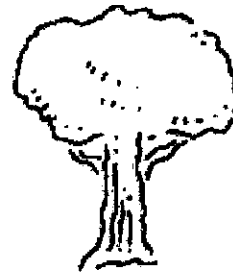
Everyone experiences changes in life.
Sometimes they make us happy - sometimes not!
What does the Bible say about this?



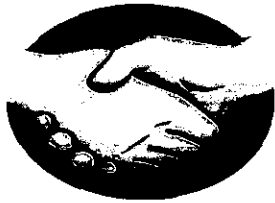
Find Ecclesiastes 3:1 below.
Change some letters - then read the verse.



Change:	W's to N's
L's to T's	Z's to O's
J's to E's	P's to H's
Q's to I's	X's to R's
K's to S's	B's to A's



"
 L P J X J Q S B
 L Q M J F Z X
 J V J X Y L P Q W G' B W D
 B K J B K Z W F Z X
 J V J X Y B C L Q V Q L Y
 U W D J X P J B V J W"
 "



The **Outreach Committee** met over the summer to discuss the coming autumn season and set a few goals. We decided to work toward deepening our involvement in some areas and to explore others in which GPC members have a strong interest.

The Alternative Market will be held on December 7th, the week after Thanksgiving weekend. Please offer suggestions for items we could sell that would help groups that have an involvement with us or that are in need of help.

We will continue to go to Central Presbyterian Church to help with the feeding program on the 4th Saturday of the month. If this is too much of a time burden for us, we will go back to the every other month schedule. Please let us know. The next date is the 27th of September. Because of the anniversary celebration in October, we may skip October. Again, more information is needed.

On that note: JUST ONE MORE is a program spreading across the country through churches involved in providing food for food banks. First heard on World News, it seeks to help the increasing number of food shortages in food banks since there is more demand now. We're sure you must have read about it or heard it in the news. It is very simple. Every time one goes to the market, JUST ONE MORE item is purchased and left in the car to be delivered to the church where it will be delivered every month. Coupons that aren't usually needed or "twofer" are good ideas. Non-perishables only, preferably high protein. I will meet with the woman at Central Pres to see what items are most desired. There will be a container in the back of the church to place items.

Presbyterian Children's Village is always welcoming volunteers. They need help at both centers. Some folks escort kids to plays and movies, help with crafts, or make welcome afghans and quilts for each new child to keep for their own. Help is especially needed with Christmas craftmaking and wrapping gifts. These are only a few ways that volunteers are useful. Darlene Hewett at 610-525-5400 would be glad to make other suggestions. Kathleen would be a good person to contact to hear more.

Gun control is very much on all our minds but there does not seem to be much we can do directly. However we can, and need to stay in contact with our state legislators about this issue. Ann Guise receives email alerts on this that she will pass on to those interested and willing to contact legislators. It is not just an urban issue.

Another issue that we wish to explore is the possibility of using outreach dollars to fund micro-loans to help small groups or individuals get started on financial stability and independence. We are uncertain if this should be international or national. We would love to hear from any one with knowledge and/or interest in this area. Perhaps Laura and the youth group have some ideas.

Finally, outreach is a commitment we all have. The committee is quite fluid. Please join with us or just come when a meeting is announced to help out or to share information.

Pat McCole, Elder for Outreach, Jana Mosey, Ann Guise, Sally Stevenson and YOU!

will have a card at the back of the sanctuary for one of our college students. We will do a different student every month, maybe expanding to twice a month, as a way of keeping the Gladwyne connection with our students away at college.

Building small groups within the congregation. The core of any community of faith is the small group. This core group can be a source of fellowship, support and prayer as well as a means for outreach and evangelism. The Congregational Life Committee would like to begin the discussion, and possible implementation, of organizing the church into small communities for a period of maybe six months, or perhaps longer, so that groups will get together for socializing sometime during their 6 month period. This is for building connections among members.



A QUESTION FOR ALL

What to do about flowers and refreshments after church? We need suggestions from everybody in the congregational community. For the past untold number of years, we have had volunteers sign up to provide flowers and refreshments at Sunday services. However, over the last couple of years, we have had fewer and fewer volunteers. Having fresh flowers provides a vivid reminder of the beauty of God's creations as well as can offer a means to offer a gift in the name of another person, while providing refreshments creates a hospitable atmosphere in which we can greet one another or guests.

Should we:

- (a) assign people in groups of three, mandatory dates or months for which they would be responsible for refreshments and/or flowers?
- (b) have no refreshments or flowers?
- (c) should the church have refreshments every other Sunday?

Involved are bringing refreshments to the church, setting up, cleaning up, and making sure the fridge remains free of too many long-term items. Should the church be responsible for beverages and have other folks supply the food items? Social hour is wonderful and it's great to have people hang around and not just come to worship and hit the parking lot before the last chord of the postlude. We will have questionnaires in the church bulletin the first three Sundays of September. Otherwise email or call your ideas to Ann Guise.. We hope that everybody will fill out one questionnaire so that the will of the majority will carry.

From the Church Life Committee:



Three special times

We had a splendid cruise on the Kanzinger's Schuylkill Queen pontoon boat. Captain Bill's eagle eye pointed out deer along the banks of the Schuylkill as well as made interesting observations about trash in the river. We devoured Sally's banana bread and other delicacies brought by the participants. Barbara Murray came with her aunt, which was a treat. Other participants were Barbara's sister in law, Lindsay, and husband, Bob (who was a classmate of Ginger Fifer at Harriton High back in the day), Sally Stevenson, Ann Guise, Ginger Fifer, Barbara Kanzinger and Pat McCole. It is certainly something for the women of the church to put on their calendar next summer, getting away from the stress of mundane life, and floating down the Schuylkill.

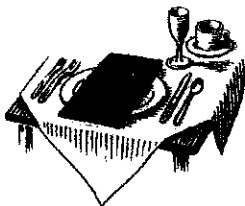
The annual Williams pool party provided relief from hot muggy July. Their screened back porch is a lazy Sunday afternoon perfection. Good food was shared as Morris cooked the perfect hamburgers.

Sunday the 24th, we will gather at the Days if Faye says away for another afternoon of fellowship.

Thanks to the Kanzingers, Williams, and Days for hosting these events.

Gathering to discuss what directions that church life could take:

One Sunday in July gathered Brian Gibson, Ruth Williams, Bruce MacCullough, Barbara Murray, Barbara Kanzinger and Barbara Holmes. We wanted to brainstorm different events that would help build the church community and support members. Some of the things that we discussed will require more definitive action before they can be implemented but several of the activities we want to publicize now..



Continue the international dinners. Last year we went to three different restaurants from Afghanistan, Liberia, and Vietnam in West Philadelphia, Olde City, and Bryn Mawr. We decided that 30 minutes is as long as anybody needs to drive, and the closer to the heart of Gladwyne the better. We are taking suggestions. Our criteria for selection is interesting food, easy parking possible, and reasonable prices. Please call Ann at 215-748-5454 or write to annguise@verizon.net with your suggestions. Our September

Community of Adult Learners Ready to Come Together---to COALESCE

You are cordially invited to gather at 9:45 AM on Sunday Mornings in the Community Room to have some of the most open and stimulating conversations that you are likely to have at any point of your week. A safe place where you are encouraged to speak or just listen as a variety of viewpoints are considered on a range of topics.

As we resume our time together after a summer hiatus, we will continue to discuss our theme of "What Does It Mean To Be a Christian in the 21st Century?" Themes that arose from our time together last year focused on the issues of Hunger, the Environment, Religious Pluralism, Islam, Considering Traditional Christian Thinking and Way of Life in New Ways, looking at our own faith journey as an individual, as a member of the GPC faith community, and the larger faith community beyond our church.

COALESCE is a community of learners open to suggestions around relevant themes that can be discussed by reading parts of or entire books, magazine articles, viewing videos, bible study, speakers from within and outside of the church. Concerted effort is made to link our conversations and thinking to action.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to connect to each other in a very special way. The coffee is on and a seat is waiting for you. Come join this **Community Of Adult Learners Seeking Continuing Education!**

We will start COALESCE 2008 with the short book *Learning to Fall: Lessons of an Imperfect Life* by Philip Simmons, a book that comes highly recommended by Mark Fifer. "One of those books that you read that changes your life view---a top ten on his list!" A summary from *Publishers Weekly* follows:

Living fully in the face of a debilitating fatal illness is the challenge Simmons, then an associate professor of English at Lake Forest College in Illinois, faced when he was told in 1993 he had ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and had less than five years to live. As his illness progressed, a wheelchair-bound Simmons moved with his wife and two children to southern New Hampshire, near the rugged mountains he once had climbed. Writing in his cabin in view of an old dump, Simmons describes the wonders of nature remembered and still visible from his abode. He tells of his search for life's meaning in a variety of religious and secular texts, among them the story of Jesus, the philosophy of Zen, Sufi and Buddhist masters, medieval Christian mystics, Emerson's essays and the poetry of Yeats. In a wry disclaimer, Simmons notes that learning to live richly in the face of loss is a highly individual undertaking, and adds, "I'm not in the business of issuing directives, offering tips, imposing lists of spiritual dos and don'ts, or providing neat, comforting formulas." Indeed, his little book of thoughtful essays offers no easy solutions to dealing with suffering and sorrow, but it does chronicle how the experience of living at the edge can become an extraordinary connection to the eternal.

This is a well written chronicle of a spiritual journey. **DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO COALESCE AND DISCUSS THIS AMAZING PIECE!**



Women's Book Group

The next three books are:

1) **Sept. 11th – 7:00 p.m.** September's book is *Girls of Riyadh* by Rajaa Alsanea and Marilyn Booth. Since there are only two copies available in the LM library system, you may need to buy it.

Jen Stavrakos has volunteered to lead the discussion.

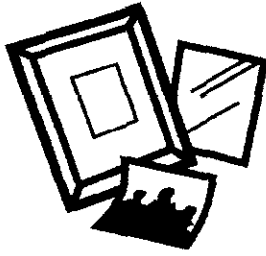
From AudioFile

This is chick lit with a major difference: It gives us four upper-class Saudi girlfriends who hope for true love and fulfilling marriage just as much as Elizabeth Bennet ever did--but in a very modern cultural setting far more confining as to women's power over their own futures than eighteenth-century England ever was. As social history it is fascinating. The translation from Arabic seems fluent; the author has provided many necessary footnotes explaining cultural semiotics (dress, accents, food, worship) whose import the non-Saudi reader would miss. Kate Reading handles these gracefully, and her Arabic pronunciation is confidence-inspiring. Best, she delivers believable, sympathetic characters and keeps the pot on the boil. This book is an eye-opener.

2) Martha Ann will lead the October book group discussion of *Mama Day* by Gloria Naylor.

From Publishers Weekly

The beauty of Naylor's prose is its plainness, and the secret power of her third novel is that she does not simply tell a story but brings you face to face with human beings living through the complexity, pain and mystery of real life. But *Mama Day* is a black story as well as a human story, which is, paradoxically, what makes it such an all-encompassing experience. A young black couple meet in New York and fall in love. Ophelia ("Cocoa") is from Willow Island, off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia but part of neither state, and George is an orphan who was born and raised in New York. Every August, Cocoa visits her grandmother Abigail and great-aunt Miranda ("Mama Day") back home. The lure of New York and the magic of home and Mama Day's folk medicines and mystical powers pull at the couple and bring about unforeseen, yet utterly believable, changes in them and their relationship. Naylor interweaves three simple narratives, Cocoa and George alternately tell about their relationship, while a third-person narrative relates the story of Mama Day and Willow Island. The plot is simple; the mystical events of the novel's second part throw a retrospective glow across the more unprepossessing first part, revealing a cornucopia of spiritual and religious themes throughout. Naylor's (The Women of Brewster Place, Linden Hills) skills as a teller of tales are equal to her philosophical and moral aims. The rhythmic alternation of voices and locales here has a narcotic effect that inspires trust and belief in both Mama Day and Naylor herself, who illustrates with convincing simplicity and clear-sighted intelligence the magical interconnectedness of people with nature, with God and with each other.



MEET YOUR NEW AND RETURNING ELDERS AND DEACONS

Session Elders

Jana Mossey, Clerk of Session
Ralph Hall, Treasurer
Linda Stevenson, Worship
Wicky Dayton, Building and Grounds
Pat McCole, Outreach
Joanne Markman, Christian Ed.
Ann Guise, Congregational Life
Larry Cozzens, Evangelism

Deacons

Sue Althouse
Lin Hall
Barbara Holmes
Barbara Kanzinger
Kathleen Troncelletti
John Weisgerber
Evan Gibson



September Birthdays

1	Barbs Murray	15	Jay Gallagher
2	Ginger Fifer	17	Jason Loux
	Denis Andruhovici	19	Chad Kanzinger
10	Meagan Weisgerber	20	Jana Mossey
12	Pete Drayer	23	Bill Kanzinger
14	Ruth Williams	26	Will Richards
	Lydia Stavrakos	28	Camilo Romero Stevenson