

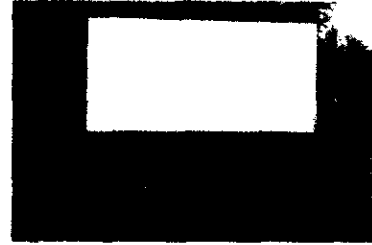
MR AND MRS H HOLMES
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Dovetales, a newsletter of
Gladwyne Presbyterian Church,
1321 Beaumont Drive 19035 610-649-2235 www.gladwynepres.org
P. Todd Stavrakos, Pastor
June 2009 edition



June

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 2 | 11 a.m. | Bible Study (every Tues. a.m.) |
| | 7 p.m. | Deacons' meeting |
| 10 | 7:30 p.m. | Session |
| 11 | 7 p.m. | Women's Book Group |
| 16 | 11 a.m. | Bible Study (last meeting) |
| | 7 p.m. | Knit or Knot |
| 18 | 7:30 p.m. | Men's Group |
| 21 | 11 a.m. | Last Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.
Congregational Meeting following worship |
| 28 | 10 a.m. | Summer Service in Chapel in the Woods
(weather permitting) |



It is all about the struggle

So, one day, you are sitting down getting caught up on the day in sports, or the business news or watching movie reviews or whatever you do to kill time and God appears. If you are like me, that would fall under the category of “careful what you wish for.” I am known to say that I am a little dense and I would prefer God to be very obvious with me, I don’t due subtlety. If God has a plan for me, tell me with a big billboard, nice tall letters, neon, the whole bit. Of course, that leaves a problem, what do I do when God finally sends that billboard? It would be kind of hard to rationalize away God’s call when it is pretty blatant. How could I ignore the message when it is right in front of me? Now God is right there, in living color, or however God appears, in my living room? “Todd, I want you to change your life and do these things.”

Bill Cosby (yes, this is my second use of Bill Cosby in interpreting scripture. Might be a record) captures such a moment when he portrays the interaction between God and Noah, “Noah, this is God”, to which Noah responds in a very cynical way, “Riiight” God follows up with the command, “I want you to build an ark,” to which again Noah responds with an equally cynical “Riiight.” I wonder how Isaiah really felt, or Moses, or Jeremiah, or Deborah, or Mary, when God appeared to them. I give them all credit, they hung in there and leveled their concerns and then negotiated their deals, and God gave them some latitude but God also got them to do what God wanted. None immediately were excited about the prospect of doing God’s bidding. All had their reservations and raised them. It is apt that Jacob was renamed Israel, or one who strives with God, because that most aptly describes how we interact with God, with struggle.

So what would you do if God appeared to you and said “go and follow my commands”? How would you respond? As we enter the time of Pentecost, we are reminded that Pentecost was a tradition that began in the Jewish tradition of Shavuot, or the Festival of Weeks. It is during Shavuot that Israel marked the giving of the Torah, or Law, to Israel. Israel was given the Torah and told to go into the Promised Land and live up to this new covenant. Shavuot is also a time when Israel brought their harvest offerings to God to demonstrate their stewardship of the land, the gift of God. These fruits were the finest of the harvest, the most valuable, the greatest possession that these farmers possessed. Shavuot, and Pentecost, is a time to remember what God has asked of us and to consider are we bringing our best fruits forward?

So what would you do for God? What are you willing to give to God? How far are you willing to demonstrate your servanthood to God? Those are the questions that are posed to us this season of Pentecost. We have been given the first fruit of the Resurrection, the Holy Spirit. We have been given spiritual gifts of all sorts. Now what? To be a child of Israel means that we too strive with God. The fullest definition of strive

Christianity 101: Atonement



The theory of atonement has to do with the work of Jesus Christ, what does it mean that Jesus died for our sins, as scripture reminds us. In discussing atonement we are venturing in soteriology or question of salvation. The issue of atonement and soteriology revolves around the cross, what is the significance of Christ's death on the cross? What was accomplished there that opens the door for salvation?

In the western church, the predominant view of atonement is that some sort of sacrifice was needed to remove the taint of original sin or sin from humanity. Since God is just, some sort of remedy must be offered. In the Old Testament, in order to seek forgiveness for sins, Israelites would offer sacrifices to God. Yet the sin of the world was such that a simple sacrifice would not suffice for amount of sin present. Therefore something of tremendous value must be offered up, hence the need for Christ to be sacrificed on the cross. The term the Lamb of God, refers to Jesus as the sacrifice much like the lamb was the sacrifice for Passover.

While this is the predominant view, it is not the only view. For some the cross is the scene of victory, victory over death. Since death was the ultimate expression of evil, the cross is the victory over death. It is at the cross that God's power trumps Satan's and the Resurrection is the sign of that victory. Another view is the moral example in which Jesus clearly demonstrates the power of love; first a love willing to risk death, and second the love of God to overcome that death. Hence, we too can live in this kind of love, a love that transforms and brings life.

The Eastern Orthodox comes at the issue a little differently, less legally than those of the West. In general the eastern churches maintain a high regard for the mystical, while the western churches have always tend toward a legalistic view of faith. Atonement in the east deals more with the power of transformation in that Christ death offers an expiation of sin so that we might be able to get closer to God. It is transformative in that it changes who we are in relation to God, yet at its heart it is mystical.

The truest theory of the atonement probably embraces all of these traditions. Since scripture never really gives us a clear rationale for the why or how, just that it must happen, we are left to wonder about the death of Christ and what it means for us. Perhaps that is why God in her wisdom has left open the door on this issue. Perhaps it is up to us to find for ourselves the transformative power of atonement, for at the heart of the issue is "at-one-ment", or God's desire to be united with us, to be at one with us. While we can have different theories on how this happens, the truth is that atonement is an action of God to bridge the gap between us, the created, with God, the creator. It is an action of love and grace, an action that can be explained or left up to mystery, but an action that begins and ends with God.

“SUMMERTIME, AND THE LIVEN’ IS EASY”



George Gershwin’s lyrics to “Summertime” indicates that work grinds to a halt now that warm weather is here. Indeed many will soon be leaving for the beach, mountains or other exotic places. Now is a chance to kick back, relax and forget about all our worries; however, please remember that the work of GPC continues during the summer months. Traditionally our income drops dramatically as our congregation travels. In addition, the income that we receive from the Wetherill School diminishes while classes are not in session. We have already worked through the early surplus from prepaid pledges, and will soon be forced to draw on our dwindling savings to maintain the ministry of our church. Summertime is a time when expenses continue unabated, and in some cases can actually increase.

You can help keep our ministry alive with continued financial support during the summer months. If you can’t attend worship, please consider mailing or delivering your contributions to the church office. Prepaying all or part of your planned giving for the summer will help keep our savings intact until our income returns to normal in the Fall. Some members have already made advance payments. As always, any extra contributions that you are able to make are greatly appreciated, and will help reduce our budgeted deficit.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing summer.

Ralph Hall



It's Working

With your support and \$\$\$ help, the **Mystery Shopper** was able to send two large boxes of non-perishable food stuff to the Food Closet at Central Presbyterian Church in Norristown in April and two again in May. Included were cereals, rice, tuna, pasta, macaroni, canned veggies, canned tomatoes, soups, etc.

Easy for you and fun for the "**MS**", let's continue what we've begun. *Soooooo*, if you have forgotten to bring a non-perishable item for Central Presbyterian Church's food cupboard, please drop your pocket change or a few dollars into the Jug on the refreshment table in the Community Room.. Then the 'mystery shopper' will do your shopping for you. Thank you.



REFRESHMENTS (and teams)

Thank you to Team 5 for providing refreshments in May.

June's team is Team 1 and includes: Sandy and Bobbi Day, Paul Holland, Barbara* and Carrie Kanzinger, Bruce and Noreen MacCullough, Donna and Willa McGowan, Kathleen Troncelliti*.

Please call Barbara (deacon) or Kathleen (deacon) so we can continue the tradition of building community through the sharing of food.

June 14 will be June Birthday celebration Sunday.



Women's Book Group

Thanks to Donna for leading the lively discussion on *Belong to Me*.

Our next meeting is June 11 to discuss *The Soloist*. Please let Sandra or me know if you need a copy of the book. Is there any interest in getting a group together to see the movie?

Sandra and I have come up with the list of books for the next year. We based our selection primarily on what books are available from the book bag list and suggestions from librarians, and people in other book groups. I've added one that I loved where there are several copies in the LM library. If someone has a book they'd like to suggest, we can add it, or switch with one already chosen as long as we don't make too many changes!

July 9 - *The Daughter of Time*, Josephine Tey

August - off

Sept 10 - *Little Heathens: Hard Times & High Spirits on an Iowa Farm during the Great Depression*, Mildred Armstrong Kalish

Oct. 8 - *Midnight's Children*, Rushdie

Nov 12 - *First Mothers: The Women Who Shaped the Presidents*, Bonnie D'Angelo

December - off

Jan 14 - *The Double Bind*, Bohjalian

Feb 11 - *The Alchemist*, Coelho

March 11 - *The Help*, Kathryn Stockett - need to get from LM

April 8 - *Loving Frank*, Horan

Other possibilities from the book bag:

Animal Vegetable, Miracle, Kingsolver

I Capture the Castle, Smith

Pride & Prejudice, Austen

Sense and Sensibility, Austen

Handle with Care, Picoult

Tender at the Bone, Reichl

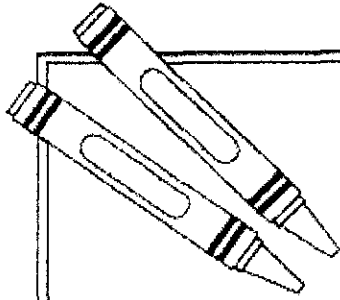
Testimony, Shreve

While My Sister Sleeps, Delinsky

Mystery Potpourri (bag of different books)

Fiction Potpourri

Peace Like a River, Enger



Just for **KIDS**

A Biblical Picnic

In the warm weather months we like to go on picnics. What do you pack in your picnic basket? If you lived in Bible times, what do you think you might have packed?

Below are the names of some people in the Bible. Use the code to find out what each person may have taken on a picnic. Look up the verses to read more about each person.

Code: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
S T U V W X Y Z
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

1. Saul 16 15 13 5 7 18 1 14 1 20 5 19 (1 Samuel 14:2)
2. Jonathan 8 15 14 5 25 (1 Samuel 14:29)
3. Eve 6 18 21 9 20 (Genesis 3:6)
4. Daniel and friends 22 5 7 5 20 1 2 12 5 19 (Daniel 1:12-16)
5. John the Baptist 12 15 3 21 19 20 19 (Matthew 3:4)
6. The 5,000 people 12 15 1 22 5 19 & 6 9 19 8 (Matthew 14:17)
7. Israelites in Egypt 3 21 3 21 13 2 5 18 19 (Numbers 11:5)
8. Esau 19 20 5 23 (Genesis 25:34)
9. Isaac 23 9 12 4 7 1 13 5 (Genesis 25:28)
10. Ruth 7 18 1 9 14 (Ruth 2:1-4)

Gladwyne Church Teams for Refreshments

April: Team 4

May: Team 5

June: Team 1

July : Team 3

August: Team 6

September: Team 2

* designates elder or deacon who serve as coordinators for THE TEAM

Work as a team to provide simple refreshments after Sunday services in community room.

SUE	ALTHOUSE*	2	CHARLES	LAMBDAIN	2
DENIS	ANDRUCHOVICI	2	GREG	LOUX	3
ILEANA	ANDRUCHOVICI	2	PALMER	LOUX	3
JOYCE	BAKER	3	ADAM	LOUX	3
LYNN	BALLARD	4	BISSIE	LOUX	3
LAURA	COZZENS	6	JASON	LOUX	3
LARRY	COZZENS*	6	BRUCE	MAC CULLOUGH	1
SANDY	DAY	1	NOREEN	MAC CULLOUGH	1
BOBBIE	DAY	1	BRUCE	MACCULLOUGH	5
WICKY	DAYTON*	4	CAROLYN	MACK	2
SANDRA	DRAYER	3	CHRISTOPHER	MACK	2
PETE	DRAYER	3	VALERIE	MACK	2
Family	PRATT	2	ETHAN	MARKMAN	5
BETH	FEATHERMAN	2	CHASE	MARKMAN	5
MARK	FIFER	4	JOANNE	MARKMAN*	5
GINGER	FIFER	4	PAT	MCCOLE*	4
LIBBY	FIFER	4	DONNA	MCGOWAN	1
BARBARA	FRAZIER	5	WILLA	MCGOWAN	1
LINDA	GERSTEIN	5	JANA	MOSSEY*	5
BRIAN	GIBSON	6	BETTY	REEVES	6
EVAN	GIBSON*	6	ALFRED	REEVES	6
DONNA	GUILE	2	SANDRA	STASHIK	6
ANN	GUISE*	2	JEN	STAVRAKOS	4
VERONICA	HALL	3	SALLY	STEVENSON	6
RALPH	HALL*	3	LINDA	STEVENSON*	6
LIN	HALL*	3	KATHLEEN	TRONCELLITI*	1
MARTHA ANN	HANSON	4	BRIANA	WEISGERBER	6
PAUL	HOLLAND	1	MEAGAN	WEISGERBER	6
HANK	HOLMES	5	JOHN	WEISGERBER*	6
JACK	HOLMES	5	RUTH	WILLIAMS	2
KARLA	HOLMES	5	MORRIS	WILLIAMS	2
BARBARA	HOLMES*	5	CHRIS	ZARIFIOU	5
CARRIE	KANZINGER	1	JESSICA	ZARIFIOU	5
BARBARA	KANZINGER*	1			



June Birthdays

4	Esteban Romero
6	Sara Pilling
7	Bruce MacCullough Briana Weisgerber
8	Joe Kanzinger
13	Barbara Frazer
15	Sara Hudson
18	Adam Loux Brady Loux
21	Mark Fifer
24	Ann Guise
25	Mary Black



Mother's Day Concert

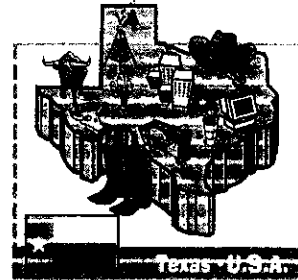


Kudos to Annie Sciolla, Rick Hall, Justin Binek, Chair of the Vocal Jazz Dept. and their students from the University of the Arts School of Music, Voice Department. All donated their time and talent on Mother's Day to help us raise \$800.00 for Peter's Place, one of our mission partners.

Those who were lucky enough to attend were treated to outstanding performances by very talented students whose names we will be hearing again and again as they continue to delight audiences!!

Thank you all.

'A very happy attendee'



Minute for Mission

The coffee house and silent auction was a great success! On May 17th, 2009 the youth and chaperones from the 2009 Mission team put on the coffee house and silent auction. The youth and adults brought in the big guns of talent to make this the best year yet. We had acts out the wazoo! Libby entertained us with wonderful songs including Taylor the latte boy, a humorous song about a girl in love with the boy who makes her lattés at Starbucks. Paul played a beautiful piece from Coldplay on the piano. Evan and Brian put together a few Beatles covers that took the roof off, while Donna closed out the evening with a wonderful slideshow of the past mission trips at Gladwyne. Of course some of the favorite acts of the night were Brian doing his rendition of a famous Opera piece, and the youth getting the whole audition singing and dancing in the aisles with "We are marching in the Light of God".

Not only did the youth bring the house down with their amazing talents but the items were the best this church has ever seen. There were amazing gift baskets from all over the main line and gift certificates for anything you can think of. The most popular items were, of course, the two dinners hosted by Sandra and Donna respectively, the commissioned painting by Bissie Loux, and the very comfortable Snuggie Blanket, which Paul ended up taking home.

In all, the night went fantastically well and the Mission team raising almost \$3000 towards their goal! Fun was had by all and Lin Hall gushed that this was the best talent she had ever seen. Thank you to all the parents who helped put this together. The evening could not have run without you.

If you missed the event but still would like to make a donation to the Mission team please contact Laura at Ladance5522@yahoo.com or 610-308-7952, or you can make a check out to Gladwyne Presbyterian Church and place youth mission in the memo.

Thank you again,

Laura

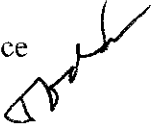
You can also check out the articles about the mission trip in the May Dovetales.

takes into account the notion of struggle. For Jacob, this would not be an easy journey but one in which he was constantly challenged, both by God and the world. It will be no less for each of us. Yet struggle is a necessity for within the struggle we find God and God's intentions for us.

As we begin the summer season, a time of vacations, rest and recovery, let us ponder how we will answer God's challenge to each of us. How will we serve God at GPC? How will our lives reflect the glory of God? What new ways will we allow ourselves to be pushed beyond our limits? In so doing, we will recognize that we are children of God, children of Israel; those who strive with God.

What would you do for God? Are you doing it?

Peace



Calling all men – GPC and beyond.....



The Men's group met on May 21st and led by John Weisgerber, had a very spirited discussion and a time for sharing. We welcomed another new member again this month. We will meet again as usual on the third Thursday in June (the 18th).

We also discussed the potential of supporting a worship service on Father's Day and helping with the renovations in the school downstairs.

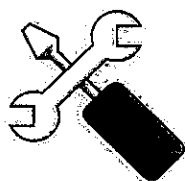
Larry Cozzens



Up the Lazy River

Save the date for the annual League of Women Floaters event as they float on the Schulykill River with Captain Bill Kanzinger and first mate Barbara. There are a limited number of spaces available so make your plans and let Barbara Kanzinger know.

July 14 5:45 with raindate of
July 21 5:45



Our Own 'Maytag Men and Women'

Kudos to the Mystery repair person (now exposed!) John Weisgerber who skillfully reattached the freezer handle in our kitchen. We are extremely lucky when church members take it upon themselves to make repairs, move pews, plant flowers, supply refreshments or flowers. This is truly an expression of time and talent; people working together as a faith community.



KNIT OR KNOT??

Knit or Knot will meet **June 16** at Barbara Frazer's home. I wonder what those ladies are making now?