

GRAPEVINE

October 8, 2008

Parson to Person

Some pastors are challenging the IRS rule that forbids churches taking positions on particular political candidates, if the church claims tax exemption as a religious organization. They feel their freedom to be politically influential is curtailed; they would describe it as curtailing their voicing of God's will.

Under the tax-exempt law, I may not endorse or criticize a candidate from the pulpit, or actively use the congregation's resources for such purposes. However, I may take positions on issues. Then, the members of the church may make the application to a candidate.

I believe that the current tax situation is a trade-off that is more a blessing than frustration. The tax status of the congregation is not jeopardized. Also, it reduces politicization and polarization of congregations over the pastor's politics. (Note that I did not say over God's will. When grasping God's will, we pastors do not agree any more than politicians do.) A recent evening news program showed segments on two pastors. One urged the congregation to vote for a presidential candidate. The other damned a candidate and said that no Christian could vote for him. They sounded like other political commercials.

I wish to avoid politicizing of worship. Jesus stressed that the house of God was to be a place of prayer. I believe that should be my focus as a pastor. Issues are legitimate subjects. Application to candidates is by the members.

I may express my assessment of candidates as a private citizen, just as may any citizen. (In reality, in people's minds, private citizen is almost impossible to separate from my pastoral function.) If I want to campaign for an individual, I may join a party. I may create an organization for that purpose that is independent of the congregation. Then, those who support the organization know the position being supported, and give specifically to the cause. Further, I am not using my church as my political base. Here is an example: I write a letter to the editor and sign it with my name only; I do not identify my church because that implies the backing of the church. I have options for expressing my political views apart from using the pulpit or the donations of the members.

Given the trade-offs and options, the present IRS law is more blessing than frustration.

Yours,
Harry

Inside:

- 2009 Stewardship Campaign
- PW Rummage Sale
- Buz Myers Series
- Becky Wareham's anniversary celebration

Celebration Giving

Enclosed in this newsletter is a Celebration Giving envelope. Presbyterian women continue to support a wide variety of mission programs: the work of PW in the Synod and the Presbytery, mission programs of Presbyterian Women churchwide, and the mission programs of the Presbyterian Church worldwide. Your continued generous giving is both a blessing and the foundation of meeting our commitments. Thank you, and remember PW activities are open to ALL women in our church. Please join us.

Thank You:

THANK YOU to Ralph Lambert for coordinating the parking lot resurfacing and relining.

Dear GPC Church Family,
Words cannot describe how grateful we are to everyone in the GPC who not only prayed for the safety and well being of our twin boys (Evan and Sean) during their stay in the Harrisburg Hospital NICU, but who also helped to organize meals during such a big transition for us once the boys came home from the hospital. The phone calls, cards, words of encouragement, and almost daily contact from Harry, Lou, or Candace showed us just how caring and compassionate this church truly is. We are happy to report that both boys are now home from the hospital and are doing very, very well with no complications from their premature birth. We are not only blessed to have beautiful twin boys, but a church family who cares about them as much as we do.

From the bottom of our hearts.....thank you!
Scott and Michelle Snyder

Thank you to everyone who helped make the PW luncheon a success!

Mamie Eisenhower wowed the ladies at the annual PW fall luncheon. Several women in the audience shared their memories of the Eisenhower's time here in Gettysburg with Ruthmary McIlhenny, a.k.a. Mamie, following the presentation. Carolyn Hankey remembered being part of the Gettysburg High School marching band that was invited by Ike to march in the Inaugural Parade in Washington, DC. Special thanks to Amy Deitch for her lovely decorations, Rebecca Zepp for her work on publicity. Ralph Lambert has been named an honorary member of Presbyterian Women for his Herculean efforts to make sure that the parking lot was open and functional for the event.

Mamie's Fudge Recipe

12 oz. semisweet chocolate bits
12 oz. German sweet chocolate, broken into bits
1 pint marshmallow cream
2 cups chopped walnuts or pecans
1 can (13 oz) evaporated milk
4 1/2 cups sugar
2 tablespoons butter
Pinch of salt

In a large bowl, combine chocolate bits, sweet chocolate, marshmallow cream and chopped nuts. Reserve.
In a saucepan, over medium heat, combine milk, sugar, butter and salt. Bring to boiling, stirring constantly. Simmer, stirring continuously, for six to seven minutes. Pour the boiling milk and sugar mixture over the reserved chocolate-nut mixture, and beat until the chocolate is melted and the fudge is creamy.
Pour fudge mixture into a buttered 9 x 9 inch pan, and let cool at room temperature for a few hours or overnight, before cutting into squares. Store in tin box or other airtight container. Enjoy!



Mid-Ship News!!



The Middle School Fellowship (Mid-Ship) group is off to a great start! We enjoyed a picnic and outside games at the church on September 21st, then had more "getting-to-know-you" games and some discussion on September 28th. This is going to be a wonderful year.
The Mid-Ship after-school small group will be held on Wednesday afternoons this fall, rather than Tuesdays, as had previously been listed. The first small group will be on Wednesday, October 8th, from 3:00 to 4:30. Kids are encouraged to walk up after school and participate in this fun group. Snacks are served and friends are welcome!
Please call Libby Crowe at 359-9719 or (717) 476-0821 with any questions pertaining to the Mid-Ship group, or e-mail at fourcrowes@embarqmail.com.

New Arrivals:

- ô Evan & Sean Snyder, sons of Scott & Michele Snyder, and grandsons of Larry & Deb Snyder, born August 28, 2008.
- ô Eliza Ridgely Dreves, daughter of Andrew & Amy Dreves, born on August 28, 2008
- ô Ann Brookes Vander Vort, daughter of Paul & Kim Vander Vort and granddaughter of Henry & Carol Heiser, born September, 5, 2008
- ô Hunter Redford Flagg, son of Tim & Ande Flagg, born September 22, 2008.



Upcoming Events:

<u>October Music Schedule</u>		
10/12	8:15 a.m.	Youth Bell Choir Youth Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bell Choir Primary Choir
10/19	8:15 a.m.	Chapel Bell Choir Chapel Choir Early Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Choir
10/26	8:15 a.m.	Early Choir
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Choir

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

October

- October 12 12:15—3:00 p.m. We'll walk to a nearby Spot for lunch after church and then go somewhere surprising for our afternoon devotion (bring about \$10 to cover lunch and BRING A FRIEND)
- October 19 5:30—7:30 p.m. Survivor Game Night (note new time)
- October 26 5:30—7:00 p.m. Halloween Party & Game Night

Last Call for the Moscow Ballet at the Majestic Theater

The Moscow Ballet will be presenting *The Nutcracker* at the Majestic Theater in Gettysburg on Friday, December 12th at 7:30pm.

If you would like to attend this performance, let me know. The ticket prices are as follows:

\$65, discounted \$15, **now \$50**
\$45, discounted \$10, **now \$35**
\$35, discounted \$5, **now \$30**
\$25, no discounts

You may reply to Becky Wareham at 359-7623 or bbwareham@embarqmail.com. Make checks payable to "Moscow Ballet" and give the check to Becky or the church office. Deadline is: October 12th.

MidSHIP Schedule

October

- October 12 12:15—3:00 p.m. Rollerskating *
- October 19 5:30—7:30 p.m. Survivor Game Night (note new time)
- October 26 5:30—7:00 p.m. Costume Party & Game Night

* We will leave from the church. Please bring \$6.00 to cover costs.

PW RUMMAGE, PLANT, AND BAKE SALE

Time is running out, so get busy if you haven't already, and get your homeless items ready to recycle. And, if you have not yet signed up to help, and still want to, you can call Melanie Keller, 334-7392, Susie Snyder, 642-9199 or Kathy Kircher, 334-5294. **Please NO toxic substances or items that require special handling for disposal. Bring only items that work, are clean and in good condition.**

Rummage & Plant Sale: Friday, Oct. 17th 8:30 a.m. -- 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 18th, 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

Bake Sale & Lunch: Friday, Oct. 17th, 8:30--Noon (or until sold out). Lots of scrumptious baked goodies. Lunch menu is hot dogs with sauerkraut, Sloppy Joes, chips and sodas.

Drop-offs: On Monday, Oct. 13th put everything in the corner next to the main outside entrance of Fellowship Hall.

Deadline for drop-offs is Noon Thursday, Oct. 16th.

Marking & Sorting: Tuesday Oct. 14th, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday Oct. 15th & 16th, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Baked Goods: Drop off by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 17th or the night before if frozen.

Plants: Can drop off on Mon. or Tues. but please be sure they are moist; Wed. or Thurs. Oct. 15th & 16th is best.

Clean-up: Saturday, Oct. 18th from Noon until done.

Volunteers are needed. Please call Melanie, Susie or Kathy to offer your help.

Thank you in advance for your wonderful support for this worthwhile PW project.

PW CIRCLES

Elizabeth Circle

Monday, October 20 @ 1:00 p.m.

Hostess: Sarah Lambert
363 W. High St.
Gettysburg, PA
334-4667

Study Leader: Joan Pore
Lesson 2ô Luke 7: 1-23



Mary Martha Circle

Monday, October 20 @ 7:30 p.m.

Hostess: June Westcott
169 Early Ave.
Gettysburg, PA
334-6407

Lesson 2ô Luke 7: 1-23

Esther Circle

Thursday, October 16 @ 9:30 a.m.

Members meet in Eisenhower Lounge
Study Leader: Charlotte Winsheimer
Lesson 2ô Luke 7: 1-23

Ruth Circle

Date & Time to be determined

Contact Laura Davis for information
at 334-1557 or ldavis8488@yahoo.com

You're invited:

**The Word -
word by word!**

**Bring your Bible!
Sunday evenings
@ 6:00 p.m. in the
MacAskill Room.**

ALL WOMEN INVITED

“COME TO OUR CELEBRATION”

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
IN THE PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE
FALL GATHERING**

**SATURDAY, October 25, 2008
First United Presbyterian Church, Newville
111 W. Big Spring Avenue
Newville, PA 17241**

9:00 AM -- Registration

9:30 AM -- Devotions, Business Meeting & Information Sharing

MORNING PROGRAM

10:30 AM -- 20th Anniversary of Presbyterian Women

Presented by Mertie Woolcock, our synod representative to the Church-wide Coordinating Team

11:15 AM -- Stretch and Sing

11:30 AM -- 2009 Church-wide Gathering -- An invitation to us by Mertie Woolcock to attend the 2009 Churchwide Gathering & hear about our larger organization of Presbyterian Women.

12:00 PM -- A light lunch will be provided

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

1:00 PM -- 2008 Global Exchange -- Presented by Christine Fuller, our synod representative on the 2008 Exchange. The Global Exchange to Eastern Europe focused on how the changing political climate of Eastern Europe has affected women, the Church, and the Roma people.

2:00 PM -- Closing

***This will truly be a celebration of Presbyterian Women
and the good work that we do.
Please Come and Bring a Friend***

**Rev. Buz Myers
Begins Series
On October 19**

A special 5-part Bible series begins on Sunday, October 19. Rev. Charles (Buz) Myers, who is a Presbyterian minister and head of the religion department at Gettysburg College, will present “The Christian Hope: The Apostle Paul’s Gospel for Today”. This study of the book of 1 Corinthians will be held on Sunday mornings from October 19 – November 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the MacAskill (Heritage) Room. Come join us for an enlightening and stimulating Bible study, led by one of our favorite guest speakers here at GPC.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join us Sundays at 9:30 am in the sanctuary!
Come and worship God with us!

Sermon Series: *Jesus' Facebook Friends-The Galilean Network*

Oct. 12 Jesus and Bartimaeus

Oct. 19 Jesus and Mary and Martha

Oct. 28 *Service of Communion*

“What are you looking for?” Come and See

John 1: 38a and 39a

Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, October 16, 2008

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
208 Baltimore Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325
(717) 334-1235

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