



September

FIRST CHURCH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2016 "Helping all people build life-transforming relationships with God and each other."

Dear members and friends,

As the summer draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on activities that have taken place in the life of FPC the past 3 months. As I reflect, the theme emerging in my mind is one of going out and coming back.

As the summer began, we visibly saw the stained glass of the sanctuary removed, refurbished and returned to place again. The stunning beauty of the work is evident as light shines through them each Sunday.

Barb and Noel Piercy travelled to Europe for study leave, visiting many Holocaust and WWII sites. They ended that trip taking 2 students to Taize to experience a monastic community founded to bring peace and reconciliation to our world. They have returned refreshed from a wonderful trip.

Jaime took 2 groups of students to Pittsburgh where they once again helped rebuild homes of those who are disadvantaged or elderly, in the context of learning what it means to follow Christ. Those students have come back eager to share their experience.

A group of student leaders travelled with Jaime to Triennium, a Youth conference held once every 3 years. The theme of the conference this year was "Go" and how that is a directive to an amazing adventure of serving God. Those students returned excited about the opportunities to serve God.

Brittany Heun went to the PC(USA) General Assembly and learned of all that the PC(USA) is involved in. She is eager to see all that she was a part of, come to life.

And of course, though he has not yet returned, Pastor Rick has been on Sabbatical this summer being renewed after nearly 30 years of ordained ministry. We look forward to hearing from him on his return of how God has been at work in him this summer.

The theme of going out and coming back is one that Scripture picks up on. In Luke 10 where 72 followers of Jesus are sent out to spread the message that the Kingdom of God is near. They return back to Jesus excited about their faith and encouraged to continue following Jesus. Paul continually goes out on 3 missionary journeys and returns to report back on how lives and churches are changed.

We at the First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell are called to Go Out also!

In the next few weeks, the New Beginnings Advisory Board is going to be sharing new ways that we as a congregation can seek to be Christ-like in serving others in our community. Ask yourself; "How can I be more Christ-like in my service to others?" "How can I participate in the mission that Jesus is sending us on?" Let us bring the kingdom of God to this world! Let us follow Jesus and serve others!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Don

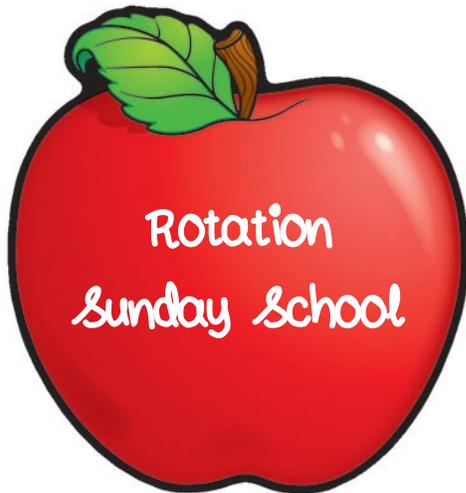
Children's Ministry News



We are excited to let you know that our Sunday School program will kick off its 2016-2017 school year on Sunday, September 11th with a fun Kickoff Sunday Program!

Arrive at 9:30am to register for Sunday School and find out more about our awesome new Rotation Sunday School program. Worship will begin at 10:00am in the Sanctuary. Younger preschool children may begin in their classroom. Children in Kindergarten and up will begin in worship with their parents.

Following the Time with the Children, children will be dismissed to our Rotation Workshop Sunday School.



We are excited to announce our new Sunday School program for this fall! We will begin a Workshop Rotation Sunday School on Sunday, September 11th.

In Workshop Rotation Sunday School, we teach the same Bible story for 4 weeks in a row to all our elementary and middle school students. (Preschool classes will rotate within their own class). Each week, classes rotate into a new and unique workshop; however, teachers stay-put in the workshop of their strength, repeating their lesson each week to a new group, while adapting and improving their lesson during the "rotation."

Our Rotations from September 11th through October 9th will be based on the story of David - Cooking, Video, Music and Science.



New for this year!!

Children in Preschool will be picked up by a parent in their classroom (A4) at 11:15 am.

Children in Kindergarten through 7th Grade will be dismissed to a parent in the gym at 11:15am.

Jr. High

Youth Fellowship News

Sr. High

"The purpose of our Youth Ministry at First Pres is to REACH OVER to students in our congregation and community, providing a safe, caring and fun environment in order to equip them to REACH UP - learning about God, challenging them to grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ, and fostering a desire to REACH OUT, providing opportunities to serve others in Jesus' name and become leaders within the church."

Our youth meet several times a month. Permission slips are required for off site events!

Jr. High Fellowship - 6th-8th Grade

Our Jr. High Youth meet each Sunday afternoon/evening for a variety of activities beginning on Sunday, September 11th.

4-4:45pm - Chapel Bells

4:45-5:30pm- Pilgrim Choir

5:30-6:00pm - Dinner

6:00-7:00pm - Jr. High Fellowship

Sr. High Fellowship - 9th-12th Grade

Our Sr. High Youth meet on Sundays from 11:30-1pm

Sunday, September 11th - Fall Kickoff Carnival

Sunday, September 18th - Pizza and Fellowship

Sunday, September 25th - Pittsburgh Project Reunion BBQ



Please join us in welcoming Mike Diercksen as our 2016-2017 Youth and Children's Ministry Intern. Mike grew up at First Pres. Caldwell, participating in youth club, youth choirs, youth group and Pittsburgh. He graduated from

Roger Williams University and currently works at William H. Connolly & Co., LLC in Montclair. Mike is excited to be back as a daily member of the First Pres. community and to reconnect with the youth of the church!



Confirmation Class 2017

All incoming 8th graders and their parents are invited to join us on Sunday, September 18th from 9-10am for a Confirmation Class Orientation Breakfast. We will go over class requirements and scheduling and students will be able to sign up for their projects. Our Confirmation Class goes from September-May with Confirmation Sunday on June 4th. Please contact Jaime Staehle for more information and to register.



All high school girls are invited to join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month for some deeper discussion from 8-9pm in the Youth Room.

Contact Jaime Staehle, Emma Davison or Lydia Mullin for more information.





“On Thursday, June 16 at 4 A.M. I set out on my adventure to Portland, Oregon to attend the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate. When I walked into an almost empty assembly hall on Saturday morning, I knew that I was about to be a part of something big. After a brilliant sermon given by the Moderator of the 221st General Assembly, Heath Rada, I truly began to understand the importance of what I was going to be doing that week. On that very same day, I was part of the history making election of the first ever Co-Moderators of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), Jan Edmiston and Denise Anderson. I had the privilege of listening to some amazing sermons, other than Heath Rada’s; the first given by Bishop Reginald Jackson from the African Methodist Episcopal Church, who some may recognize because of the tragedy that occurred at his church in Charleston last year, and the second given by Dr.

Alice Ridgill of New Faith Presbyterian Church in South Carolina. The first two days of the assembly, Monday & Tuesday, we had our assigned committee meeting, in which we discussed, debated, and voted on different proposed overtures from Presbyteries around the PC(USA). My committee for those two days was the Committee on Middle East Issues, as you can probably gather it was a bit of an intense two days for me! On the third day, Wednesday, we started our Plenary sessions, where we brought everything we passed in committee to the Plenary floor. The Plenary sessions are where we, the Commissioners and Advisory Delegates, made the final decisions about the overtures and reports that were accepted in committee. I was a Young Adult Advisory Delegate so I had a vote in committee but in plenary my vote served as guidance for the commissioners.



Now onto the polity of the GA! It was Wednesday night when we made our biggest and most historic decision of the assembly. During our final session of the day we voted to add the Belhar Confession to our Book of Confessions. The moment was so special and a true honor to be a part of. To see over 100 people standing, applauding, and singing to celebrate this historic moment, was something I will never forget. This moment only got better when we witnessed the co-writer of the Belhar confession, Allan Boesak, take to the podium and speak to us about how important this is to him, and to his people in South Africa. After his moving speech, Co-Moderator Denise Anderson, lead the delegation in a spontaneous and moving rendition of “We Shall Overcome” while we all joined hands with one another. This was a truly amazing way to start off our Plenary sessions. The following day we elected J. Herbert Nelson as the new Stated Clerk, who would take over after Gradye Parsons following our assembly. Some of the more important or more debated overtures include an apology to the LGBTQ community, correcting our youth and child protection rules, a promise to take action and improve the conditions for minorities within our denomination, aiding displaced sisters and brothers in faith, a promise to divest from fossil fuels, and to revisit the idea of a two-state government in Palestine and Israel. After many LONG Plenary and committee meetings I found myself sad that my time in Portland had come to an end. As I left the Plenary Hall on Saturday morning with a fellow YAAD, I was overcome with emotion because I was sad to see my journey come to an end. I did however, find myself rejuvenated and excited about all that we had accomplished in those six days of deliberation. I am excited to see what lies ahead and to see all that I was a part of, come into fruition.

My deepest gratitude goes out to Jaime Staehle for nominating me and to the Newark Presbytery for sending me on this incredible journey. I have grown in my faith and learned so many new and exciting things about our denomination.”



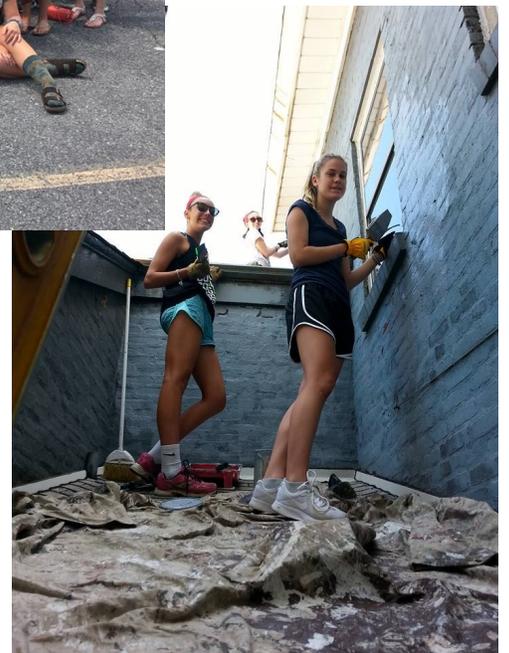
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-Brittany Heun



“Over my past 7 years at the Pittsburgh Project every year has been a learning curve and time for me to grow as an individual. The Pittsburgh Project is a week to serve others and serve God and in my experience it's a week to get in touch with your faith. Pittsburgh provides a safe place to rediscover or discover your faith and relationship with God. Overall I've learned a lot about relationships with others, God, and myself. Pittsburgh is a safe place and it's an experience I believe everyone should have in their life because it does so much good for all those around it.”

Rose Schuchard (12th Grade)



Pittsburgh Project Sunday - September 25th

This summer we sent 63 teens and 14 adults to the Pittsburgh Project for a week of service camp. Our teams spent two weeks serving elderly and disabled homeowners in the city of Pittsburgh - doing dry wall, painting, roofing, doing landscaping and other minor home repairs. We hope you will join us on Sunday, September 25th to hear how God worked through these teens as they share their experiences during the 8:30am and 10am worship services.

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH Triennium

“At first, going to Triennium was a tough decision for me to make. Although it seemed truly fun and touching, I had no idea what it would really be like. Despite this, I took a leap and decided to go on the trip as a way to grow closer to my church and to God. As it grew nearer I was both apprehensive and slightly regretful of my decision to go on a 14 hour bus ride that ended in the middle of Indiana, but I had faith that once we reached Purdue University that the bus ride would become more than worth it. After experiencing the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, I can honestly say it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. Triennium was genuinely amazing for a number of reasons that were clearly seen by all the delegates who attended. My favorite part of Triennium was the community, 5,000 teenagers who shared the same faith, similar morals, and one ultimate goal of getting closer to God and finding the path that he has created for

them. Through small groups, sermons, and everyday conversations Triennium taught everybody to go. To go in the direction that God has given them, to go into the world without fear, and to go and do. Prior to Triennium the words "go and do" had little meaning to me, yes I had heard them in the bible, but I never related it so closely to my life. Triennium taught me that everyone is able to go and do whatever God feels that they should. Fear and insecurities keep many from following their path, but the sermons at Triennium all taught me, along with my 5,000 friends, that you need to release the things restraining you and trust that God would never let you go through life alone. The last sermon spoke of being an agent of change, how every single person can be an agent of change. Going back to New Jersey after a week in Indiana has given me time to think of the ways I can be the hands of God and make a change. So many things in this world are cruel, so much hate is found where love once was, but we can change that. Love can override the terrorism, the homophobia, the sexism, and the racism because if hatred was gone then everything would change for the better. It may seem like I, a teenage girl, am not able to be an agent of change, to alter the world and make it better, but if Triennium taught me one thing, it is that no age, no gender, and no race can keep someone from changing the world the way God has instructed them to. I don't know yet how I can change the world, but thanks to Triennium I know that when God tells me what I need to do, I will be able to go and do it.”

-Olivia Carrara



Taizé

"I had been to Taizé once before so this time around I went into the experience with a fair number of expectations. I remembered days of simplicity and long silences during the prayer services so I planned for a week of quiet reflection. I had forgotten, however, the thousands of other young adults who flock to Taizé and the structures the Brothers have put in place to get them all interacting with one another. Because I'm a native English speaker, it became my job to read aloud Bible passages to my large Bible Introduction group and facilitate discussion in my small group, both of which met twice a day. It didn't take me long to remember that Taizé isn't always so quiet. People sing, play games, give out free hugs. I ended up learning more about how I interact with other people than how I exist as an individual. I also learned a great deal about how I relate to God. As a chronic avoider, I needed a week in France to finally tackle some of the questions I've been having regarding my faith, and while I still don't have all of the answers, I'm finally moving forward. For that I am very grateful. Was my week in Taizé exactly what I had expected? No. But was it worth it? Absolutely."

Michael Hardenberg



"One week ago, I arrived at Taizé, not knowing what this week would have in store for me. Throughout this week, I have made many friends and have made memories with every single one of them, from happiness to sadness to love. This was the greatest week of my life and I hope to see all of my friends again soon!"

Austin Mattern



Welcome Back to Choir!



- Chancel Choir** (Adults) - Thursdays at 8pm-9:30pm
- Westminster Choir** (Grades 8-12) - Sundays at 6pm-7:30pm
- Pilgrim Choir** (Grades 6 & 7) - Sundays at 4:45pm-5:30pm beginning September 11
- Children's Choir** included in the BLAZE intergenerational program—Wednesdays beginning October 5
- Cherub Choir** (preschool) - December 3, 10 & 17 at 10am-11am
- Chancel Handbell Choir** (Adults) Thursdays at 6:30pm-7:45pm beginning September 15
- First Church Ringers** (Grades 9-12) - Sundays at 7:45pm-9pm beginning September 11
- Chapel Handbell Choir** (Grades 5-8) Sundays at 4pm-4:45pm beginning September 11

Young Adult Upper Room Gatherings

All Young Adults (ages 18-30) are invited to join us in the Upper Room at Cloverleaf every other Monday at 7:30pm for dinner, drinks and discussion (September). Just let Jaime Staehle know if you can join us!



NEW BEGINNINGS

Your New Beginnings Advisory Board has been working over the summer to be part of the excitement in September. It's time for you to be a part of the New Beginnings initiatives.

Please visit www.firstprescaldwell.org/new-beginnings to view our New Beginnings September Newsletter and other documents. Also, sign up to help with a program that you feel passionate about!

SEPTEMBER 11TH REMEMBERED

It has been 15 years since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the thwarted attack on the White House (the plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, PA after its passengers tried to overcome the hijackers). The attacks killed 2,996 people and injured over 6,000 others.

We will prayerfully remember these events during an Interfaith Worship Service on September 11th at 2:30PM at The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell. The service will include special music and readings. All members of the community are invited to join us for this memorial event.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN OUR PRAYERS

We share the joys and sorrows of life and in all things give thanks to God for his blessings to us.

HEALING AND SUPPORT TO ...

...Harry Coppens, The Dennison Family, Bill Hayden, Don Hults, Edith Jipp, Diana Linfante, The Marr Family, Barbara Piggery, Louise Ritscher, Nancy Saulter, Christina Turkington, The Collin Williams Family, Laura Winter and Clarence and Helena Wispelwey.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

... Michael and Kelli Glynn on the birth of their daughter, Mackenzie Elizabeth Glynn, born on July, 9, 2016. Paternal grandmother is Carolyn Glynn.

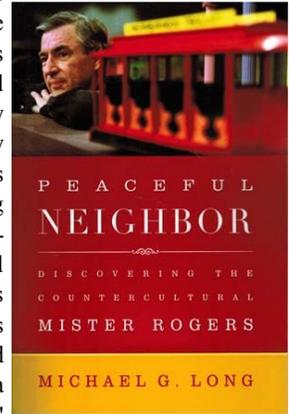
... Joseph and Caroline Panella on the birth of their son, Christian Stephen Panella, born on July 14, 2016. Paternal Grandmother is Marcia Fricke.

Please let the office know if there are others to include.

Library in the Corner

Check out all the great books we have in our library cart during Coffee Hour, including **Peaceful Neighbor: Discovering the Countercultural Mister Rogers** by Michael G. Long.

"Fred Rogers was one of the most radical pacifists of contemporary history. We do not usually think of him as radical, partly because he wore colorful, soft sweaters made by his mother. Nor do we usually imagine him as a pacifist; that adjective seems way too political to describe the host of a children's program known for its focus on feelings. We have restricted Fred Rogers to the realm of entertainment, children, and feelings, and we've ripped him out of his political and religious context. Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian minister, and although he rarely shared his religious convictions on his program, he fervently believed in a God who accepts us as we are and who desires a world marked by peace and wholeness. With this progressive spirituality as his inspiration, Rogers used his children's program as a platform for sharing countercultural beliefs about caring nonviolently for one another, animals, and the earth. To critics who dared call him "namby-pamby," Rogers said, "Only people who take the time to see our work can begin to understand the depth of it." This is the invitation of Peaceful Neighbor, to see and understand Rogers's convictions and their expression through his program. Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, it turns out, is far from sappy, sentimental, and shallow; it's a sharp political response to a civil and political society poised to kill."



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell

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Dr. Richard N. Sommers, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

Rev. Don Brown, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Barbara Jo Piercy, *Minister of Music*

Rev. Todd Shumpert, *Pastor of Spiritual and Missional Engagement*

Jaime Staehle, *Director of Youth & Children's Ministries*

Michael Diercksen, *Youth Intern*

Nancy Felter, *Office Manager*

Lauren Restaino, *Communications Specialist/Admin Assistant*

Brittany Heun, *Sunday Morning Receptionist*

Noel Piercy, *Associate Director of Music*

Chris White, *Building Manager/Head Sexton*

Matthew Pereira, *Sunday Custodian*

Kathleen Carlson

Director of the Weekday Nursery School

973-226-6674

David Hicock

Superintendent, Prospect Hill Cemetery

973-228-4410

Dr. Robert R. McGruther, *Pastor Emeritus*

Rev. J. Robert Pryor, *Parish Associate*

Stephen Ministry

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September

				1 7am Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Caldwell Diner 8pm Chancel Choir	2 5:30pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall	3 8am DADS With a Mission @ Rockin' Joe
4 10am Worship Service & Kids Page	5 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6 930am Staff 7pm Building and Grounds 7pm Personnel	7 12:15pm Women's Fellowship Luncheon 7:30pm-9:30pm Young Adult Bonfire	8 7am Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Caldwell Diner 10am Old Guard 8pm Chancel Choir	9 5:30pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall	10 8am DADS With a Mission @ Rockin' Joe
11 830am Worship @PPC 10am Worship Service & Sunday School 11:15am Kickoff Sunday 11:15am Worship Committee 2:30pm 9/11 Worship Service 4pm Chapel Bells 4:45pm Pilgrim Choir 5:30pm Jr. High Fellowship 6pm Westminster Choir 7:45pm First Church Ringers	12 7pm Yoga 7pm Venture Scouts	13 930am Staff 5pm Finance 6:30pm Deacons' Soup and Salad	14	15 7am Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Caldwell Diner 6:30pm Chancel Bells 8pm Chancel Choir	16 5:30pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall	17 8am DADS With a Mission @ Rockin' Joe
				Jr. High Fall Lock In		
18 830am Worship @PPC 9am Confirmation Orientation Breakfast 10am Worship Service & Sunday School 11:15am Adult Education 11:15am Church Life 11:30am-1pm Sr. High Lunch 4pm Chapel Bells 4:45pm Pilgrim Choir 5:30pm Jr. High Fellowship 6pm Westminster Choir 7:45pm First Church Ringers	19 7pm Yoga 7pm Venture Scouts	20 930am Staff 6:15pm Mission 7:30pm Session 8pm-9pm God Squad Girls Group	21 7:30pm Young Adults @Cloverleaf	22 7am Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Caldwell Diner 10am Old Guard 1pm Women's Fellowship Board Meeting 6:30pm Chancel Bells 8pm Chancel Choir	23 5:30pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall	24 8am DADS With a Mission @ Rockin' Joe 8am Soup Kitchen 3pm Cub Scouts
25 PITTSBURGH SUNDAY 830am Worship @PPC 9am Confirmation Class 10am Worship Service & Sunday School 11:15am Adult Education 11:30am-1pm TPP BBQ 4pm Chapel Bells 4:45pm Pilgrim Choir 5:30pm Jr. High Fellowship 6pm Westminster Choir 7:45pm First Church Ringers	26 7pm Yoga 7pm Venture Scouts	27 930am Staff	28	29 7am Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Caldwell Diner 6:30pm Chancel Bells 8pm Chancel Choir	30 5:30pm AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall	1 8am DADS With a Mission @ Rockin' Joe