

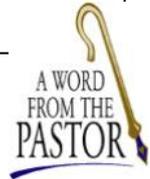
THE GOOD NEWS

May 2016

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Reverend Mrs. Pamela McShane, Pastor
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NOMADIC FAITH

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.” Hebrews 11:8

A lot of our ancestors in faith were wanderers – people who set out not wandering aimlessly, but stepping out into the unknown in answer to God’s call. I have always admired those people who have been able to drop everything and move out in faith, not only Abraham and Sarah, or Moses and his followers but the disciples as well. Mine has been a more rooted existence, with ties of family and inertia that held me to one place.

But as Ruth Santana-Grace points out in the article at the end of this newsletter, living a nomadic lifestyle does not always mean physically picking up our tents and moving. “Instead,” she says, “I believe ‘nomadic’ includes the spiritual, emotional, psychological and physical challenges of moving beyond and letting go of the human symbols that offer us security and compliancy to ways of life – ways of life that include thinking and acting in manners that do not reflect the values of Jesus whom we claim we believe and follow. “ In other words, you don’t have to physically move in order to be called to let go and move out into a place that is new and less comfortable.

Those of us at Princeton and Chambers are moving into a season of nomadic faith as we prepare to set out on a new adventure, creating a new church out of our two existing churches. As uncomfortable as that may make us, it is times like these that also lead us into places where our faith grows deeper as we rely more and more on the sustenance that God alone can give. Starting on Pentecost, May 15, following our combined worship service at 11 and in smaller home groups over the next couple of months, we will be talking about what it is about our faith that sustains us and what values and beliefs we want to take with us into the future, into a new church.

As we move ahead, we are grateful for our ancestors in faith who blazed the way before us, not only people like Abraham and Sarah, but also our ancestors who built our current churches and, in the case of Princeton, had the courage to pick up and move in answer to God’s call. May we be as faithful.

Peace!
 Pam



W o r s h i p

PRAYERS ASCENDING

Over the next couple of weeks as we prepare for Pentecost, you are asked to share your prayers. In the bulletin each Sunday will be a piece of origami paper on which you are asked to write a prayer for our church. That prayer could be for your current congregation, for our new church, or for the church in the world. The prayers will be folded into a paper dove which will be part of our worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 15. If you would like to help fold the doves, there will be an origami tutorial at Chambers on a date to be announced.

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

Pentecost is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into the church. This year we will be celebrating Pentecost together, with a combined service at 11 a.m. at Chambers. We will have a festive but abbreviated worship service, complete with a Pentecost Tree, that morning. What is a Pentecost tree? Come and find out! Worship will be followed by a special time of work and fellowship in McCrone Hall. There will be historical displays from both churches so we can learn one another's history, and a very important and fun activity that will be the next step toward developing a vision for our new church. Please make it a priority to attend!



Music Notes

Now that we are knee-deep in spring, it's time to admire the flowers and think about end of choir season plans. Since on May 1 we are off to Hershey, PA for Randy's Grieg concerto performance with the Hershey Symphony, he is offering a sample or two in worship on Sunday, April 24 with organ standing in for the orchestra. During the rest of May, the choir will sing anthems on May 8 ("The Lone, Wild Bird") and Pentecost May 15 ("Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit). Guest classical guitarist Keith Calmes is planning to join us at the 11:00 am worship on May 24.



In June, we will close our choir season with a special anthem: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" from *Requiem* by John Rutter. Randy will provide an "oboe" solo part on keyboard. The choir will gather for a celebration at the Poes' house on Thursday evening, June 9 before taking off for the summer months. Special instrumental or vocal music is welcome – so please let me know if you'd be interested in providing some music during worship over the summer.

We are looking forward to our Scandinavia trip the first week in July, followed by a visit to Galway and Dublin in Ireland before we return on July 15. By the time we return, it's likely that our oldest daughter Jessie and her husband Carl will have moved East from their Oakland, California apartment. If so- I'm hoping they might join us for worship sometime.

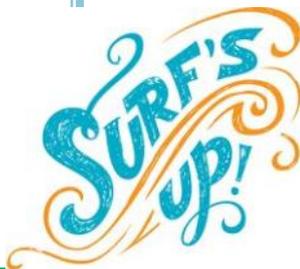
Best wishes to all!

Pamela Poe
Director of Music

Vacation Bible Camp is Coming!

Mark your calendars now!

Vacation Bible Camp will be July 11 – 15 in the evening at Princeton Presbyterian Church. The theme is Surf Shack, so be prepared for a week at the beach!



FIVE YEARS FOR THE FEAST FROM THE GARDEN!

When you receive this newsletter, the gardening season will have begun at Princeton. We plan to clean out the beds and add new soil as well as plant for this season on Go Green Day, April 23rd. We hope you were there to be part of kicking off our fifth season! Our great partnership with our



neighbors at Chester Eastside will continue. Pete Washington loves to take care of the seniors by delivering fresh vegetables to them from our garden. Once again, Swarthmore United Methodist and Trinity Episcopal, both located in Swarthmore, will be partnering with us. As our new plantings begin popping up through the soil, weeding is crucial so the plants can grow and watering is crucial, especially during the hot summer months. The more the task is shared, the easier it will be. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or speak to Shaun or Carolyn if you have some spare time to help with these tasks. **If you can sign up for a week of watering, it will be most helpful. If you can water a day or two, that is also appreciated. Your help will be much appreciated on Sunday after church once the growing season takes off.** There will be vegetables to pick and bag. The other task for Sunday is delivering the produce to Chester Eastside, with one pick up on the way at Trinity Episcopal. There is a sheet for each month for watering and a separate sheet for other tasks. Picking and delivery will begin the first Sunday in June.

Do you or your neighbors have gardens? Remember, we welcome any over flow of vegetables to be added to our harvest for delivery to Chester Eastside. Consider how you can be part of the feast from the garden. The more hands doing the work, the easier it will be. **Let's have a great season in the garden!**



Our Community Cup Coffeehouse

Our Community Cup Coffeehouse is a joint ministry of Chambers Presbyterian Church and New Avenue Foundation providing a hang out space with dinner and live music. It's a welcoming space for everyone, but particularly for young adults with disabilities and their families. Dinner is served every Friday night about 6 p.m. and music starts at 7 with an opening act and a headline act at 7:30. There's great live music in a variety of styles. Jessica Graae, one of the great singers we met at Share the Love Fest in February will be back with us on May 6 for an evening of popular music. On Friday May 20, we'll be in McCrone Hall to hear the a capella group "The B Flats", a group of about 20 voices, followed by the acoustic sounds of the John Clark duo. Volunteers are needed to provide food and help with serving and cleaning up every Friday night. If you are willing to help out, please talk to Ginny Warmerdam or Pam McShane. Or just come out and enjoy the music at the end of a long week!

Flea Market

SPRING FLEA MARKET AT PRINCETON JUNE 11

The Spring Flea Market will be on Saturday, June 11th from 9 a.m. -3p.m. **Mark your calendars now and tell your friends and neighbors!** It will be a great day with many vendors and Chick fil A sandwiches to eat there or take home. Our church will also have a table selling "attic treasures". We need items to sell, so please keep us in mind as you do your spring cleaning. Items to sell may be left on the stage in Boggs Hall.

If you or a friend is interested in renting a space, the cost is \$30 paid in advance. Flyers will be available in the church office or the church bulletin.

We need *everyone's* help for the Flea Market, and there's a job for each person's skill set. Some of the jobs include:

- early morning set-up and end of day clean up,
- parking control and vendor management
- early morning coffee and donuts,
- helping at the church table
- selling pretzels and soda
- baking items for the bake table (and running the bake table, if that's your thing.)

Please sign up for the job of your choice on the sheet outside the library. If you don't sign up, we'll be calling you!

AFTER OUR FALL RAINOUT, THINK SUNSHINE FOR JUNE 11!



Chamber's April Session Notes

The Session of Chambers Church met on Wednesday, April 6. The following items were discussed:

- The Corporation voted to place the proceeds from the manse sale into a money market fund at Citizens Bank. This will be designated as a Manse Fund, to be used to pay the housing portion of the pastor's salary.
- Approval was granted for a collectibles sale to be held in McCrone Hall the weekend of April 30. Any profit that Chambers makes will be donated to The Village.
- Jim Wurster was given permission to use McCrone Hall for coffee house functions on May 13, May 20, and June 17.
- Pastor McShane postponed her Sunday off from April 10 to April 24.
- The Administrative Commission has given permission for the Steering Team to move ahead with looking at both churches in a comparative way. Physical and financial assets will be studied. The team will also begin to address the task of creating a vision for the future church.
- Mary McDowell will represent Chambers at the next Presbytery meeting on May 17 at Media Presbyterian Church.
- The Church picnic has been scheduled for June 19 following a joint worship service at Princeton.

Princeton's April Session Notes

Clerk's Report – March 1st stated meeting minutes were approved as presented. The Statistical Report for 2015 was approved for submission to the denomination. The total active membership was 58 at the end of the year.

Administrative Team – The Session approved the team recommendation to have George Fieo audit the church records for the years 2014 and 2015 at a fee of \$950 as well as the recommendation for approval to transfer from Capital Funds to Current Funds cash as required to meet our expenses for this year, up the budgeted 2016 deficit amount of \$9,978. Session approved building use by First Presbyterian, Springfield, for a confirmation retreat, waiving fees.

Building Community Team – Session reviewed the report of the April team meeting. Main focus was planning for the kick-off of the garden. We also discussed plans for Girl Scout Sunday.

Nurture Faith – Debby reported that there was a high level of community participation at our egg hunt. Pam asked for feedback on our worship during the season of Lent. The responses were very positive and meaningful, especially the Maundy Thursday worship in Boggs Hall.

Report of the Pastor – Pastor Pam reported that Emma and Madison Martin have both applied to be on staff at Kirkwood this summer.

Concerns for Steering Committee – Pastor Pam has been in conversation with Rev. Rachel Pedersen concerning the listening sessions that took place and also to clarify next steps. Committee is working on inventory of our facilities.

Flea Market – June 11th was approved as the date for the spring flea market as well as the \$30 per space rental fee.

Merger Update

During the month of April, the Steering Team and others in the church have been working on completing an inventory of both buildings looking at the physical assets we possess. Alan Buchta also put together a first draft of a comparative budget looking at the bottom line for operating out of each of the two existing buildings.

The major work of the Steering Team this month was developing a plan for coming up with a vision for a new church. Work on developing this vision will begin on Sunday, May 15 following our combined worship service at Chambers. On that day, we will have historical displays from both churches so we can learn each other's history. Everyone there will also be asked to participate in a fun and thought provoking exercise that will help us discern our core values. Next steps in this process will include home groups to provide opportunity for deeper discussion and interviews with stakeholders (people who are not members but have concern and connections with our churches, especially those using our buildings). We are seeking grounding in our faith for the church we will build as well as a sense of the specific direction in which God is calling us to go.

The Steering Team will meet with the Administrative Commission on May 9 for further work.



THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 5, 2015

Delaware County Observance - 11:30 a.m.

County-wide Special Program at Rosetree Park to bring people of all denominations, ethnic and cultural backgrounds together for the purpose of honoring God and seeking His mercy and blessing upon our community, state and nation. It will be held in the park under the Big Flag adjacent to the parking lot. Praise and worship will be led by the Acapella choir from Eastern University enriching this event, joining with Clergy and community people in prayer for the many concerns and issues of our nation. Everyone is encouraged to come and bring friends.

Bring chairs for your comfort.

On Faith and the Call to a Nomadic Lifestyle

A Reflection on Hebrews 11:8-12

By Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Philadelphia

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place

How often do we think of ‘faith’ as it relates to those ancient and “great ancestors” of our Christian heritage? I find that I often think of those “courageous” saints upon whose faithful witness and shoulders we are able to stand. I find much encouragement in remembering their acts of faithfulness – whether it be Moses leading through the wilderness against all odds; Esther – revealing her identity in order to save a people; Ruth – leaving a familiar life to walk with her mother-in-law; Joseph, who forgives past injustice and opens his life of privilege and security to those who had wronged him; or Abraham – who leaves all behind to go to new and unknown land. How about the disciples – who leave family and friends for a mission that clearly turned in an unexpected direction? Then, there are, of course, the more contemporary heroes that have shaped our minds. Consider Martin Luther King, Jr. and his quest for righteous equality. How about Mother Theresa who in her simplicity gave human touch, hope and acceptance to those rejected by the world? In the face of these and other great witnesses, it is easy to perceive our own faith journeys as bland, irrelevant or convenient at best. Perhaps you have asked yourself on an occasion – how would I fare if faced with such monumental challenges? Would I be willing to touch those others reject? Would I risk imprisonment for my understanding of the Gospel? Would I find it in my heart to forgive those who have intentionally hurt me? Would I be willing to risk my security in order to save others? Would I be willing to lead into an unknown future? **Would I be willing to leave the comforts of my life to build a new life in a new land with a new people?** These questions are the themes of great movies. These questions are the themes of our lives. What role does faith play for you and me? How are we like those great people of faith before us? I am struck by the fact that many of the great heroic figures of faith – like Abraham – are called to live nomadic-style lives. I used to have a literal understanding of ‘nomadic lifestyle,’ which allowed me to think “faith” of this importance was limited to a few chosen men and women. That was my way of rationalizing that not everyone is called to this “Abrahamic” kind of lifestyle or level of faith. As I grow older, and at times, even wiser, I’ve come to understand this ‘nomadic lifestyle’ in new ways. Nomadic, in a spiritual sense, does not necessarily require our leaving our homelands or homes. It is clear that many of us will live in the same place for many years. Nomadic should not be limited to physical transplanting from one location to an-

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Instead, I believe ‘nomadic’ includes the spiritual, emotional, psychological and physical challenges of moving beyond and letting go of the human symbols that offer us security and compliancy to ways of life – ways of life that include thinking and acting in manners that do not reflect the values of the one Jesus in whom we claim to believe and follow. It is this call to move beyond that will require us to call on “Abrahamic-like” faith in ways that challenge and even surprise us.

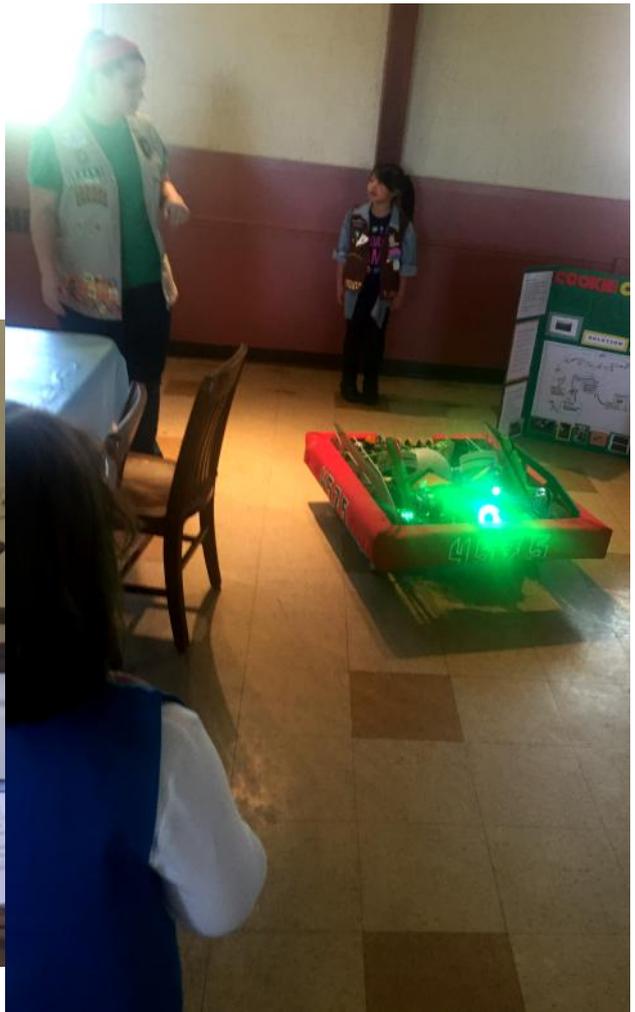
It is my belief that each of us has been called in one way or another to venture out in faith – into places and spaces unimaginable and at times, even unwelcomed by us. I believe that we are each called to step out of what keeps us complacent and comfortable into places that make us nervous and uncomfortable – deep places where we turn to God for sustenance and guidance. In fact, today I would argue that when we find ourselves feeling too complacent and smug about our views and lifestyle, it is probably time to reflect seriously on whether or not we are living out the values of our faith. And if not, it is probably time to be ‘nomadic.’ It is probably time to once again step outside those values back into the values of our faith.

This is a wonderfully rich text in that it invites me to think about those whose faith has served as a courageous example for my own life. It invites me to think about the many ways that faith has sustained me through these deeper and difficult times; of how faith in God; faith in the companionship of our Lord Jesus and faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, has carried me through those wilderness moments into new possibilities.

I love the truth that God keeps calling us into new places and spaces of possibilities, allowing for new life – even when and especially when we can’t imagine what it will be. I love even more that you and I are descendants of faith. I love the imagery of the stars and the grains of sands that represent each of those who have gone before us and who will follow. We are blessed to be part of an intricate tapestry, rich with examples and stories that strengthen our own journey; journeys of those who have been invited, responded, fallen and been redeemed. **As you begin this week, I invite you to reflect on how your faith has been sustained by the stories of the past. I invite you also to reflect on how you have been invited (willingly or not) into a “nomadic” season – and how faith in the God of creation has accompanied you along the journey. And as you do so – know also, that your faith serves as encouragement for mine own.**



Girl Scout Sunday





Birthdays of the Month

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

- 19 ~ Jim Shaw
- 21 ~ Rev. Walter Bruinsma
- 21 ~ Eileen Berges
- 23 ~ Kevin Wilbank
- 24 ~ Jack Borsch
- 28 ~ Angela Piech
- 31 ~ Ellen Grace



May 12 - Alan and Lin Buchta



We will recognize our graduates during worship in June . If you are aware of anyone in the Chambers or Princeton family who is graduating from high school or college this year, please let the church office know!



Save the Date

Spring Combined Worship & Church Picnic
Sunday, June 19 at Princeton
11 am Worship - 12 Noon Picnic



Those Serving at CHAMBERS for the Month of May

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Coffee and Conversation
May 1	Marian Andrews	Gay Wilbank, Mary McDowell, Sheila Buzza	
May 8	Bobbie Morrison	Bette & George Alburger	
May 15	Bette Alburger	Mary Waltz, Bobbie Morrison, Marge Aungst	
May 22	Debbie Walsh	Mary Ann & Jim Bramwell and Bill McLean	
May 29	Annette Donnelly	Evelyn Petre, Ellen Grace and Leslie Kirsch	

Those Serving at PRINCETON for the Month of May

Date	Lay Liturgist	Ushers	Fellowship Hour
May 1	Debby Richardson		
May 8	Kathy Morrell		No Fellowship
May 15	Combined Worship	Combined at Chambers	Combined Worship
May 22	Carolyn Jeffrey		No Fellowship
May 29	Brian McShane		

Princeton Counters: Kathy Morrell, Alan Buchta, Diane Denk