

The Philagram

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

Mint Hill, North Carolina

Volume LVIII, No. 4, May 2011

www.philadelphiachurch.org



Dear Friends,

For my Philagram article this month, I want to share with you a prayer written by William Barclay.

O God, our Father, bless your Church. What in her is dark, illumine; what is low, raise and support; what is wanting, supply; what is in error, take away. Make her here and all over the world a real fellowship in which there are no quarrels and no divisions, no distinctions of race or color, of class or party, a fellowship in which all are really one. And help us in our church to work and to pray to make the Church like that. Amen.

This is my prayer for our church.

Seeking God,

From Lee A. Koontz, Associate Pastor

In last month's Philagram, I wrote about the Belhar Confession, which is one of three proposed changes to our PC(USA) constitution. The second and third proposed changes are the new Form of Government (nFOG) and Amendment 10A.

The new Form of Government would replace our current form of government (found in section "G" of our Book of Order) with two sections: *Foundations for Presbyterian Polity* and the new *Form of Government*. Taken together, these two sections provide a theological and scriptural basis for why we Presbyterians govern ourselves the way we do, and also reduce what is now eighteen chapters of church polity down to about six. The stated goal of the new Form of Government is to "maximize flexibility to meet the changing needs of particular contexts, while maintaining standards that are appropriate to the practice of the whole church." It moves away from a "one size fits all" polity for each governing body, and instead stresses the broad principles and responsibilities of each body. The specific structures and procedures used to carry out these responsibilities are left to the wisdom and discretion of the local governing bodies (such as church Sessions and local Presbyteries) allowing each governing body the flexibility to determine how best it can fill its responsibilities. There is also a greater emphasis on the congregation as the principle agent of mission, which suggests a church order that is more decentralized and in which

the higher governing bodies find their purpose in advancing the work of lower governing bodies.

Amendment 10A would re-write the current G-6.0106b section of our Book of Order (which deals with ordination standards) to read: *Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.*" The new wording would allow – but not require – churches and Presbyteries to ordain as deacons, elders, and ministers, those who are in committed lifelong same-sex partnerships. As you can imagine, this is controversial. Some believe that this is a change that is long overdue, and others believe it is the beginning of the end for the Presbyterian Church. This is obviously an issue about which good Christians seeking the will of Christ and guided by scripture can disagree – but even that statement is controversial. Many on both sides of the debate believe that theirs is the only faithful position.

As I mentioned in last month's Philagram, the PC(USA)'s General Assembly last year approved all three of these constitutional changes. They now must be ratified by two-thirds of the nation's Presbyteries to be fully adopted. Our Presbytery of Charlotte will vote on all three issues at our May 17th Presbytery meeting. Regardless of how you feel about these particular proposals, I hope that you will keep the Presbytery, the voting commissioners, the denomination, and our local churches in your thoughts and prayers. Pray that God will guide the process, and that we will be able to maintain our unity in the midst of our disagreements about significant issues. As always, Chuck and I would be happy to listen or answer questions if you have any concerns you'd like to share. Please don't hesitate to call, email, or stop by the church office if you'd like to discuss something further. As an alternative, you can read a vast collection of editorials, explanations, and pro/con discussions online at www.gahelp.net. May God bless us as we work out His will for our denomination and our churches.

Pre-school registration is underway

Registration for the 2011-2012 school year for our Weekday Pre-school has begun. Call Dot Bartlett at 704-545-3439, ext. 122 (work) or 704-545-4383 (home).



Calling all pilgrims!

Have you ever attended a pilgrimage weekend such as North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Via de Cristo, Walk to Emmaus, or Cursillo? If you have, would you please get in touch with Shirley Simmons at 704-545-8620 or e-mail sts0603@aol.com so that a new list can be compiled? The current list has out-of-date information and/or is incomplete.

There will be some opportunities coming up in months ahead in which you may be interested, and your contact information may need to be updated.

The next North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage that is scheduled in the western conference will be September 22-25 of this year. Judy Jones will be the rector of that weekend.

Bright Blessings offers opportunities to serve

Bright Blessings (formerly Birthday Blessings) was founded in 2005 by Amy and John Cervantes - members here at PPC. Their family service project was born from a desire to help needy children while instilling a love and commitment for community service in their own young children. What began as a monthly birthday party at one homeless shelter has now grown into a thriving non-profit that operates numerous programs and supporting projects for thousands of homeless children and families across the greater Charlotte region.

The goal of Bright Blessings is to bring joy, recognition and support to children and families during difficult and sad times in their lives. The two core programs, **Bless-A-Birthday** and **Bless-A-Baby**, raise spirits and boost confidence for homeless children ages tots to teens, and offer help and hope for babies beginning life amidst the struggles of homelessness. Each program incorporates education, enrichment and critical-care needs for the children they serve-- their commitment to supporting the whole child.

Every year Bright Blessings makes a positive impact in the lives of thousands of needy youth and families across our greater Charlotte community. As a volunteer-led organization, the dedicated group of volunteers are truly the heart in all that they do.

Get involved!

For volunteer information, wish lists and more, please visit them online at www.brightblessingsusa.org or contact them by phone at 704-846-Bday (2329).

Come join the Spirituality Book Club

Next meeting, May 30, we will be discussing *Once a Runner* by John L. Parker, Jr. Come join us at Dilworth Coffee House (corner of Idlewild and Matthews-Mint Hill Road) at 7:00 p.m. Come a little early to get your cup of coffee!

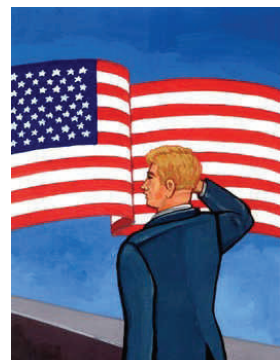
Acolyte Training

All rising 4th through 9th graders who wish to be an acolyte, please plan to be at training on May 15 at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. One parent must attend training with each acolyte as well.

If you have any questions, please call Jane Long (704-573-1207) or Angie Edwards (704-545-5142).



Mark Your Calendars for VBS 2011 SHAKE IT UP CAFE! June 26 - 30, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Come explore the Bible as an exciting cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's word. We'll be celebrating biblical festivals to: * Be ready for God * Give happily to God * Believe fully in Jesus * Remember Jesus often * Celebrate God forever. Bring a friend and join us for all the Daily Specials! Enjoy crafts, music, recreation, dinner, and a visit to the Mission Marketplace. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to Shake It Up at this year's VBS!



Remember those who have served

From the Evangelism/Outreach Ministry....

Crisis Assistance Ministry - Over 30 years ago, a number of Charlotte area congregations birthed the idea of creating one central community resource to serve people experiencing financial emergencies. Out of this vision, Crisis Assistance Ministry was born, meeting the urgent needs of people faced with financial crisis.

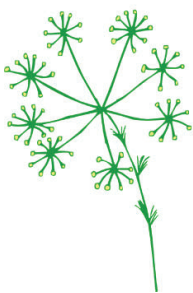
Since its founding, the agency has grown from a small outfit in a church basement to an operation supported by individuals, businesses, foundations and the United Way, as well as being contracted by Mecklenburg County to distribute government funds. But our strongest supporters remain the faith community and the vision of its faith leaders. We are blessed by the generosity of over 200 congregations. Philadelphia is one of those supporting churches.

We are an extension of the faith community's own ministries to our neighbors in need. By bringing together our financial resources, volunteers, creativity and vision, we can work to alleviate poverty in our community. Volunteer opportunities are available at www.crisisassistance.org.

Youth look forward to Montreat experience

The high school youth participate in a themed conference at Montreat College every year. This is not just a week-long vacation for the group. The group bonds in an unfathomable way through small group discussions, back home groups, meals, and just hanging out during down time. By the end of the week, they are all best friends, and they know each other personally. This experience is not just a chance to grow considerably closer to God, it is a chance to grow as a youth group and share God's love to each other. If interested in contributing to the youth's experience, whether it be time, money, or support, contact Katie Todd, Youth Director.

Presbyterian Women will hold Spring Meeting



Ladies, you are invited to the spring meeting on May 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Kerr Building. Lunch will be served, and Lynette Pritchard will be our special speaker. She is with the Mint Hill Herb Guild and will present ways to use and cook with herbs. Come join us for faith, fun, food, and fellowship.

Our mission emphasis this month is Bright Blessings and Second Harvest Food Bank.

Loaves and Fishes food drive

Help Stamp Out Hunger by participating in the National Association of Letter Carrier's Food Drive on Saturday, May 14, 2011. Place a bag of canned goods or non-perishable food items at your mailbox that morning. Your letter carrier, or a volunteer working with your carrier, will pick up the food you have donated. Food collected in Charlotte will be donated to Loaves & Fishes and Second Harvest Food Bank.

As always, Loaves & Fishes depends on the support of the faith community to accomplish our mission of feeding the hungry. Volunteers are needed to assist on the day of the drive. There are volunteer opportunities for individuals, families and groups. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Loaves & Fishes at 704-523-4333 and speak with our Volunteer Coordinator, Valerie Crockett.



Come for pancakes on May 21



On May 21, our Presbyterian Men will have a pancake breakfast as a fundraiser for Jakob Clark, son of Thomas and Donna Clark and grandson of Don and Merle Price. You may recall that Jakob, age 6, was severely injured in December and has undergone a number of surgeries. He faces more surgeries as he grows up.

This pancake breakfast will be open to the community. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for ages 6-12, and ages 5 and under are free. Take-outs are available for \$7 each. Tickets are available through the church office and the Presbyterian Men. Breakfast will be served from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Presbyterian Men will be held at 7:30 a.m. on May 14. We will be finalizing our plans for this fundraiser. If you haven't been coming, we are waiting for you! If you haven't been a regular, please let the church office know you are coming so we can have plenty of eggs, bacon, sausage, grits, and coffee. Set your clocks or let Ed Simmons know you want a wake-up call (704-545-8620)!

Men, contact Ed for tickets. How many can you sell?

Ten Cents a Meal offering received on second Sundays

The offering continues to be received on the second Sunday of each month to support hunger-fighting programs within the Presbytery of Charlotte bounds, and to feed the mind, body and spirit of people in our communities to include hunger related and "at-risk" youth programming.



Choir Sunday, May 1

9:45 a.m.—Church School
 10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m.—Philafeast—Kerr Building
 2:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Old Scout Hut
 5:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, May 2

6:30 p.m.—Scouts—Bigham Hall/Chapel
 6:30 p.m.—Christian Education Ministry Mtg.—Session Rm.
 7:00 p.m.—Deacons Meeting—Heritage Room

Tuesday, May 3

10:30a.m.—PW Circle #1—Heritage Room
 3:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Bigham Hall
 6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Bigham Hall
 7:00 p.m.—Stewardship Committee Mtg.—Session Room

Wednesday, May 4

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, May 5

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.
 6:15 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel/Bigham Hall
 7:00 p.m.—Planning & Review Committee Meeting—Heritage Rm.
 7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—Old Scout Hut

Friday, May 6

6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Bigham Hall
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, May 7

8:30 a.m.—PW Circle #7—Heritage Room
 5:00 p.m.—Family Game Night—Kerr Building

Sunday, May 8

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel
 9:45 a.m.—Church School
 10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
 2:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Old Scout Hut
 5:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, May 9

6:30 p.m.—Scouts—Bigham Hall/Chapel
 6:30 p.m.—Administration Ministry Mtg.—Session Rm.
 7:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Meeting—Heritage Room

Tuesday, May 10

3:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Bigham Hall
 7:00 p.m.—PW Circle #6—Session Rm.

Wednesday, May 11

7:00 p.m.—Finance Ministry Meeting—Session Room
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, May 12

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room
 6:15 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel/Bigham Hall
 7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—Old Scout Hut

Friday, May 13

6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel
 7:30 p.m.—Weekday Preschool Program—Kerr Building
 8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, May 14

10:00 a.m.—PW Spring Meeting—Kerr Building

Sunday, May 15

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel
 9:00 a.m.—Acolyte Training—Sanctuary
 9:45 a.m.—Church School
 10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Baptism—Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, May 16

6:15 p.m.—Building & Grounds Comm. Meeting—Steve Ross Class

6:30 p.m.—Scouts—Bigham Hall/Chapel
 7:00 p.m.—Session Meeting—Session Room

Tuesday, May 17

10:30 a.m.—Jolly Good Timers—Kerr Building
 3:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Bigham Hall
 6:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Bigham Hall

Wednesday, May 18

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, May 19

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room
 7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—Old Scout Hut

Friday, May 20

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, May 21

7:00 a.m.—Men's Fundraiser Breakfast—Kerr Building

Sunday, May 22

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel
 9:45 a.m.—Church School
 10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m.—Middle School Youth Meeting—Youth Room
 6:00 p.m.—Youth Snack Supper—Kerr Building
 6:30 p.m.—High School Youth Meeting—Youth Room
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, May 23

6:30 p.m.—Scouts—Bigham Hall/Chapel
 7:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Meeting—Session Room

Tuesday, May 24

3:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Bigham Hall
 7:00 p.m.—Youth Committee Meeting—Session Room

Wednesday, May 25

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, May 26

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Room
 6:15 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Chapel/Bigham Hall
 7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—Old Scout Hut

Friday, May 27

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, May 28

No Meetings

Sunday, May 29

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel
 9:45 a.m.—Church School
 10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day)

Office Closed

No Meetings

Tuesday, May 31

3:30 p.m.—Girl Scouts—Bigham Hall

May Birthdays

1	Ted Biggers	11	Marian Vosburgh	21	Linda Jamison
1	Jackson Mitchell	12	Kathryn Hutton	22	David Fee
1	Kristen Shearin	13	Aiden Lomas	23	Michael Lohrer
2	Cassie Fauser	13	Bryce Lomas	24	William Dennis
2	Margaret Henry	13	Barry Long	24	Reilly Donoghue
2	Jack McGahey	13	Doris Miller	24	Lois Moss
3	Bill Weatherly	13	Kimberly Rushing	24	Heather Williams
4	Barry Ferguson	13	Donna Simmons	24	Barbara Wolfe
4	Amber Garagiola	13	Liesl West	25	Randy Alexander
4	Mason Jeffers	14	Joan Anderson	25	Jamie Blanchard
4	Frank Lindsay	14	Lee Koontz	25	Madison Lewis
4	Nathan Sharrett	14	Jill Linscheid	26	Mike Habenicht
5	Jane Foreman	15	Dale Mayberry	26	Linda Horton
5	Jack McIntosh	15	Franklin McSwain	26	Helen Smetts
5	Pamela Reed	15	Tom Watson	26	Sarah Snyder
5	Chuck Williamson	16	Rick Davis	26	Ava Yandle
6	Buz Hamilton	17	Mitchell Anderson	27	Diane Czachor-Orr
7	Steven Hall	17	Ted Biggers, III	27	Rusty King
8	Alex Cervantes	18	Robyn Allen	27	Brad Orr
8	Vera Tweed	18	Matthew Barrett	27	Miah Williams
9	Mickey Ellington	18	Jim Carmichael	28	Maxine Younce
9	Ernest Jamison	18	Frances Leete	29	Brandon Ritch
10	Alexander Ritch	18	Augusta Newton	30	Davy Fee
		18	Ronald Snell	30	Willie Mae Ford
		19	Frances Middleton	31	Brooke Barnes
		19	Katy Porter	31	Mary Snyder
		20	Justin Woody		



Celebrating an anniversary in May . . .

1	Tim & Paula Donoghue
2	John & Carroll Black
3	Boyd & Amy Stanley
4	Mike & Katie Garbark
5	Gary & Tricia Bursey
7	Joe & Brenda McManus
7	Randall & Cathy Snelson
10	Ron & Melissa Cochrane
11	Christopher & Kristina Simmons
11	Toby & Marian Vosburgh
14	Brandon & Meredith Ritch
18	Roland & Margaret Henry
18	Ted & Margaret Morris
20	Catherine & Christopher Goetchius
20	Brett & Erin Owens
22	Tom & Tina Duke
22	Yates & Grace Phillips
23	Mickey & Hannah Wilson
26	Brooks & Ron Gullede
26	Geof & Pam Martin
26	Tom & Noreen Petry
28	Jim & Helen Swiger
29	Kim & Matt Rushing
30	Tim & Lisa Kendrick
30	Bruce & Mary Muehl
31	Mike & Beth Barnes

If your name was omitted from the birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office.

Concerns of the Church

Baptism—April 17

Lila Grace Corrigan - born December 27, 2010, daughter of Matt and Jessica Corrigan, granddaughter of Bill and Melinda Johnston

Death

March 7 - [James Barrett] grandfather of Matthew Barrett

Graduate Recognition Sunday is June 5

We will recognize all high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 5, 2011, at the 10:00 a.m. service. Also on that date, the Christian Education Committee will be sponsoring a breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in Bigham Hall for all the graduates and their families. Please contact the church office if you have a graduate in your family and also to make reservations for the breakfast (before May 22, 2011).



Remember to wear your nametags!

If you can't find your nametag, you can get a replacement by going to www.philadelphiachurch.org and click on the "Church Resources" tab at the top of the page. Then scroll down to Name Tag Request. You may also drop a message into box #7 at the church. Fill in the names you need, and in a couple of weeks you will be able to find the name tag in our Name Tag Baskets located in the narthex.

Thank You Note

To Our Special Church Family:

I want to thank you so very much for your many prayers, delicious food, beautiful cards, visits, and telephone calls during the past weeks while I was recovering from my broken wrist.

God bless you for your many acts of love and kindness.

Sue Tilley



Captain Grant Cloaninger
100 Hampton Lane Apt. D33
Enterprise, AL 36330

Sr Airman Rachel Brinegar
11059 Lamey Bridge Rd.,
Apt. 921
Diberville, MS 39540-2759

Davis, Matthew B.
3299 Stratford Ct., Unit 3B
Lake Bluff, IL 60044-2921

Cpl. David Johnson
M Troop 4/2 SCR
FOB Spin Baldak
APO AE 09355

Memorials

Bill Boyd—Virginia Boyd (Music Fund)

PPC Birthday Endowment Fund

Celebrate your big day by sharing your blessings. Or remember anyone you love by giving a gift to the PPC Birthday Endowment Fund. Each donor and honoree will be acknowledged in the *Philagram*. By growing this fund, our church will be able to use the interest for much needed improvements and repairs to the buildings and grounds of our campus. Donation envelopes are available in the narthex of the sanctuary and chapel and outside the church office.

The following donations have been made to the Birthday Endowment Fund:

In Honor of:

John Allocco—from Karen Allocco
Mickey Ellington—from Anne Ellington
Jan Hall—Mickey & Anne Ellington
Grant Hall—Papa & Nana Ellington
Gary Brown—Ann, Ashley & Meredith
Clint Bartlett—Kathy Bartlett
Morris Hood—from Sadie Hood
Sadie Hood—from Morris Hood



If you made a donation to the Birthday Endowment and it is not listed, please contact the church office.

Dr. Chuck Williamson, Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Lee Koontz, Associate Pastor
Sonia Lee, Director of Christian Education
Judy Clinton, Office Manager
Cynthia Stokes, Secretary
Linda Cummins, Webmaster/Administrative Assistant



www.philadelphiachurch.org

Katie Todd, Youth Director
Gary Forbis, Director of Music
Marnie Gallagher, Youth Choir Director
Melinda Johnston, Children's Choir Director
Leslie Anderson, Organist
Shirley Simmons, *Philagram* Editor

The Philagram

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
11501 Bain School Road
Charlotte, NC 28227-7538

Address Service Requested



May
2011

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charlotte, NC
Permit No. 1486