

PCTR Summer Update

July - August 2011

A Note from David

Selling a home can be a traumatic process. There is the shock of discovering all the deficiencies and imperfections that need to be fixed. There is the strain of keeping every room, every closet, and every single nook and cranny absolutely show-worthy, ready for strangers to inspect. There is the harsh reality of a real estate market buffeted by recession, bank struggles and foreclosures. But Julia and I were not expecting the view from our back deck to be the major stumbling block.

Our home borders the graveyard of Synagogue B'nai Israel. We have quiet neighbors. Our real estate agent, Bill Kozlik, had hundreds of people, both agents and buyers, view our home. Couples would enter from the front and many would become instantly excited. They'd progress through to the back, see the cemetery in the distance and turn ghostly pale. A fast exit would ensue. We began to worry that superstition might quash our plans to relocate within Toms River. Anxiety began to build.

But as I write this newsletter, the house has

been sold. The buyer, Steven Walvick, is the cantor of Congregation B'nai Israel! His wife, Debbie, is a rabbi. For this beautiful couple, the view from the deck is sacred ground.

As so often in our lives, God had a plan that was unseen and unknown and better than I could have imagined. Faith is the capacity to trust God amid the frustrations and set backs of our lives, believing that traumas and complications will head eventually to simplicity and peace. There is a supernatural Providential Ordering to our lives.

This summer our sermon series examines the lives of Jacob and his family and traces the providential ordering of God and our struggles to understand and trust it. May you discover this July and August his ordering in your life in the midst of your own trials.

*Blessings,
David*



Summer Worship

July 2nd & 3rd
Nature and Nurture
Genesis 25

July 9th & 10th
Shortcuts
Genesis 27

July 16th & 17th
Stairway to Heaven
Genesis 28:10-19

July 23rd & 24th
Delayed Gratification
Genesis 29:15-28

July 30th & 31st
Catfight
Genesis 30

August 6th & 7th
Bribery Gets You Nowhere
Genesis 32:1-21

August 13th & 14th
Fighting for What's Free
Genesis 32:22-31

August 20th & 21st
Burying the Hatchet
Genesis 33

August 27th & 28th
The Name You Bear
Genesis 35



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Looking for people who want to serve Christ!

**Life Happens.
Happiness & Healing are yours for the choosing.**

Celebrate Recovery® is a Christ-centered Recovery program based on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10) from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

The purpose of Celebrate Recovery is to encourage fellowship and celebrate God's healing power in our lives as we work our way along the road to recovery. Celebrate Recovery is not only for people addicted to drugs or alcohol, it is for anyone whose life is tangled up with **Hurts** that haunt their hearts, **Hang-ups** that cause them pain, or **Habits** that mess-up their lives!

Healing is accomplished through applying the principles of a bible-based recovery process to our lives. The Presbyterian Church of Toms River will be launching a Celebrate Recovery Ministry (Fall 2011) and is recruiting women and men to serve Christ through this vitally important ministry. If you are interested in learning more or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Rev. Scott Thayer (732-349-1331 ext. 225; sthayer@pctr.org).

We have needs in the following areas that need your experience & passion:

- Hospitality & Fellowship
- Education & Training
- Music & Worship
- Encouragement & Coaching
- Marketing & Promotion

Members who have experience in 12-step groups (AA, NA, GA, Co-Dependency, Al-Anon, Nar-Anon, Gam-Anon, etc.), or others who feel called to grow and serve Christ are perfect candidates!

Save the Date!
Northeast Men's Retreat
Lake Champion, NY
Guest Speaker: Dr. Tony Campolo
September 30th - October 2nd

PCTR PLAYERS PRESENT
THEIR 2011 SUMMER MUSICAL



GODSPELL

Told almost entirely in song, Godspell presents the gospel of St. Matthew updated to New York City of the late '60s/early '70s, opening with John the Baptist calling a disparate group of young New Yorkers from their workaday lives to follow and learn from Jesus. They form a roving acting troupe that enacts the parables through song and dance, comedy, and mime. Jesus' ministry ends with a last supper, his Crucifixion in a junkyard, and, the following morning, his body being carried aloft by his apostles back into the world of the living on the streets of New York.

Don't miss this jubilant celebration of life and God's love.

THURSDAY, JULY 28TH & FRIDAY, JULY 29TH
AT 7:00 PM

**MISSION FUND
FLEA MARKET**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6th
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
(Rain date August 13th)**

**Buy a outdoor space
for \$20
Add a table for an
additional \$10**

Please come and shop!

**Proceeds benefit the mission trips
and projects for PCTR's
Junior AND Senior High youth.**

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

**The Youth Mission Flea Market is
coming up and we are looking for
bakers in our congregation who
are willing to donate their favorite
homemade baked goodies to the bake
sale on Saturday, August 6th.**

**To donate please call
Raquel at 732-864-0620.**

Lakewood Blueclaws
Baseball Game
Friday, August 5th
Fireworks After the Game!!
First Energy Park
\$9.00 per person



Summer Church School Surfin' God's Word

Join us every week starting on June 11th & 12th for a great time

of learning and fun as surf through God's Word. Following our "Children's Moment" in worship, children 4 years and older leave with our Church School staff, (no registration is required.) Following worship they are picked up in the Creation Room. Children 3 years old and younger meet in Room 14.

No Registration is required.

Here's the Youth Scoop for Summer . . . Pool Parties!

CAST - 6:30-8:30
Locations TBA

July 13th
July 27th
August 10th
August 24th

FISH - 7:00 - 9:00
Locations TBA

July 6th
July 20th
August 3rd
August 17th

Check your e-mails and website for locations

College Bible Study Monday Evenings 6:30 p.m.

College Bible Study is a group that meets during the summer to allow any young adult between the ages of 18 to around 25 to have a time of fellowship, study and prayer.

Each summer we focus on a particular book to guide us through our meetings and this summer we will be working with Bruce Main's book "If Jesus Were a Sophomore." Bruce explores how Jesus would want us to live out our young adult years. He explores answers through a number of relevant themes including dating, relationships with parents, learning tolerance, the role of wisdom and cultivating an attitude of gratitude.

We are looking forward to talking about these topics and getting to know each other during this summer. We are going to be meeting on Monday evenings at 6:30pm. We meet at various homes and so the location will change weekly. We will let you know of the location if you are a part of our email list or the location will be available in the bulletin and on flyers in the church each week.

If you are interested in participating in the College Bible Study or would like to be put on our e-mail list please email Bailey Pruner at bailey.pruner@gmail.com or call her at 732-691-1337.

Summer Book Discussions



The Glass Castle

by Jeanette Walls

author of "Half-Broke Horses"

tentatively scheduled for

Thursday, July 21st at 2:00 pm

Rex and Rose Mary Walls and their four children lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict."

Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town -- and the family -- Rex Walls had done everything he could to escape. He drank. He stole the grocery money and disappeared for days. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.

Jeannette Walls' story is one of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.

For two decades, Jeannette Walls hid her roots. Now she tells her own story.

A Vintage Affair

by Isabel Wolff

Wednesday, August 24th at 7:00 pm

Every dress has a history. And so does every woman.

Phoebe Swift's friends are stunned when she abruptly leaves a plum job to open her own vintage clothing shop in London—but to Phoebe, it's the fulfillment of a dream, and her passion. Digging for finds in attics and wardrobes, Phoebe knows that when you buy a piece of vintage clothing, you're not just buying fabric and thread—you're buying a piece of someone's past. But one particular article of clothing will soon unexpectedly change her life.

Thérèse Bell, an elderly Frenchwoman, has an impressive clothing collection. But among the array of elegant suits and couture gowns, Phoebe finds a child's sky-blue coat—an item with which Mrs. Bell is stubbornly reluctant to part. As the two women become friends, Phoebe will learn the poignant tale of that little blue coat. And she will discover an astonishing connection between herself and Thérèse Bell—one that will help her heal the pain of her own past and allow her to love again.

For October 2011 we are considering . . .

THE FAITH CLUB

A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew - Three Women Search for Understanding

More Fight Club than book club, the co-authors pull no punches; their outstanding honesty makes for a page-turning read, rare for a religion nonfiction book. From Idliby's graphic defense of the Palestinian cause, Oliver's vacillations between faith and doubt, and Warner's struggles to acknowledge God's existence, almost every taboo topic is explored on this engaging spiritual ride. - Publishers Weekly

Music Ministry

Don't miss

The River of Life Concert

Friday, August 19th at 7:00 pm

Let Michael Barozzie and the Sounds of Truth band lift your spirits at the third River of Life Concert - AND have an opportunity to be part of something new and exciting for Michael & PCTR!

The evening will be a mix of old favorites and new originals. Best of all, Michael is hoping to shoot his first music video at the concert and you can be a part of it!

Honest to God:

Expressing our emotions through the Psalms

As a part of his doctoral thesis, Josh Melson will present five classes examining the wide range of emotions in the Psalms. The study will show how we can use the Psalms to present our true selves before God in worship and prayer. The classes will look at the great history our Reformed tradition has of using Psalms in worship, showing how it has changed over time and how we can effectively use Psalms today. Sessions will include times of teaching, discussion, and music. Please plan to attend one or all classes to learn about this fascinating topic and to help Josh complete his thesis project.

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 am
July 10th - August 7th
Large Rehearsal Room

Welcome Peter James Melson!
Born on June 13th - 8 lbs. 6 oz.



Summer Choir

An opportunity for anyone and everyone to sing!

One Rehearsal:

Wednesday, July 21st -
7:30-9:30 pm

Three Sundays:

(or however many you can attend)

July 25th, July 31st
& August 7th at -9:00a.m.

August 1st - 11:00 a.m.

August 8th - 9:00a.m.

If you would like to be a part of our Summer Choir please fill out the registration form outside the narthex and return it to Josh.

Priceless Gifts

Gifts come in many shapes and sizes but there are some that you can't put a value on. One such gift came in a slender woman with a smile so wide with joy it just about swallowed her up. This member gave of herself through the years as an elder, ambassador, church school teacher and "whenever" volunteer. She gave encouragement to friends and neighbors and was known to many as the one who welcomed them to PCTR with her great smile and warm hug. Where did her warmth and joy come from? From the Lord she came to

know through her years of Bible Study at PCTR and her PW circle.

All through her life she sought to grow her faith in study. She found countless ways to serve her Lord at PCTR and everywhere she went. She never missed an opportunity to worship the Lord who had blessed her richly. At the age of 92 she continued to serve as one of our Ambassadors, visiting members in need of support and prayer. "What beautiful prayers she prayed," said a fellow Ambassador.

How do we at PCTR put a price on the great saints here

in our midst? How can we honor them for their faithfulness and service? How can we experience the joy they have and share that joy with the world? There is but one answer. We must follow in their giant, faithful footsteps.

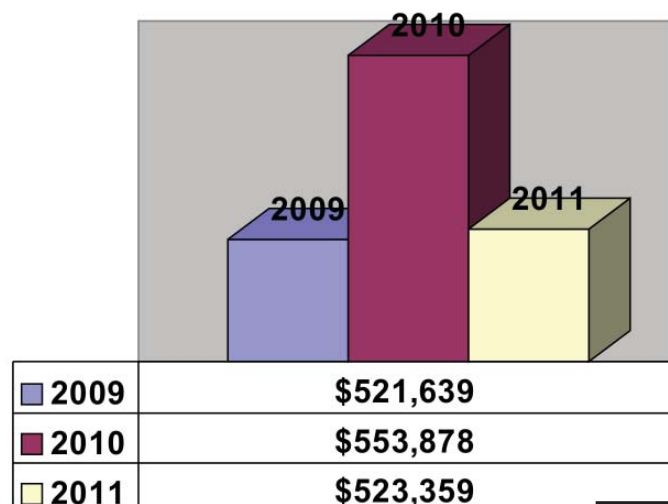
Rising to be a disciple of our Lord, living our life out to the glory of God just as our friend Alberta Little will do in her new home in North Carolina. Praise God for Alberta and all the priceless gifts here at PCTR.

Finance Update

Through May 31, 2011, our total offerings for 2011 are \$30,000 lower than this same time last year. They are close to the total offerings in 2009. Thus far in 2011 our Operating Fund is running a deficit of \$59,218.

We need everyone to remember their commitments to the Church even as we vacation and welcome our family and friends to the Shore.

Total Offerings YTD



**Vacation
Bible
School
July 11th-15th
9:00 - 12:00**

Renew VBS invites kids to learn about Jesus, help build our community and grow as they become stewards of God's creation. At ReNew kids will learn about God's creation and what we can do to care for it, make new friends and have a great time!



Time Sensitive Material, Please Expedite

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