

# PERRY PRES

A Publication of Perry Hall Presbyterian Church

## Annual Report 2013 Pastor's Message

Dear Friends:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we give thanks for the previous year, 2013, and look forward to this New Year 2014, we pray that our Lord's grace and peace continue to abide with us. I know that as your interim pastor, I give thanks for our ministry together these past years and continue to be ever thankful for your continued commitment to our Lord through Perry Hall Presbyterian Church.

I want to take this opportunity to review this past year in our journey of faith together. I believe last year saw us make good progress in taking care of the church grounds and property. With help from John Daniloski, the church grass and shrubbery were cut and trimmed on a regular basis. A new roof was installed on the sanctuary and renovations were made throughout the church to make it more handicapped accessible. Through pledges and borrowing from the Presbyterian Church at large and support from Presbytery and Synod, we have begun paying off this debt. We also were able to incorporate the mortgage loan on the 8846 property to pay it off and secure a lower mortgage payment.

Also, in 2013, for the first time we partnered with the

local YMCA for their ten week summer camp and through this contact we now are in serious discussion about having a 2-5 year old daycare facility in the undercroft of the church. These events will increase our contact with the community and provide added financial resources for the church. This new year will determine if this daycare facility comes to pass. I pray that it will.

The year 2013 also saw the church oversee the management and daily operations of the mini golf course. It took much time and was a financial hardship on the church due to lost revenues to the church but throughout the summer things improved so the mini-golf course finished in the black with the expected hope that it will be able to contribute substantially to the 2014 budget. I think through this past years' experience, it demonstrated how our Lord can turn a hardship into a blessing. It will be an exciting year at the golf course. Many people put in long hours. I do believe this coming year will see the golf course serve as an increasing contact with the community and a place for the community to come and have fun. It also provided us the opportunity of getting to know some of the youth of the community and the church as they helped in working at the golf course.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we were blessed with the arrival of seminary intern Vicar David Petr. He has

added a lot of energy and vitality throughout the entire church as he has been involved in all aspects of the church's life and mission. He has been especially important in worship, music, the golf course, education, social networking and mission.

This year saw the departure of Isaac Howell, the church piano player and director of music. His contributions over these past four years in providing music leadership were very important especially because of the massive changes taking place in the life of the church. He was there to provide stability and direction for the church. He resigned in May to move on to other challenges and was replaced by Tyler Horton who remained with us for a short time to be replaced by Nancy Barnes. Nancy has already provided quality leadership by helping us in transition to one blended worship service, reorganizing the children's and church choirs and now wanting to rekindle the interest in hand bells. She already has made an important impact in the life of the church and we look forward to her being with us this year as an important leader in the music program.

We also saw the congregation vote to sell the 8846 Belair Road property for the purpose of investing in a community outreach program focusing on a daycare, preschool program. This may

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**Church Office – 410-256-5780**  
**Music Director - Tyler**

**Vicar – David Petr – 443-643-8240**  
**Secretary – Kim Kalinowski**

bear fruit in our continuing conversations with the YMCA. This is risky but it is a demonstration that the church has regained vision and hope for the future. The numbers may be down but this years' Stewardship campaign went very well which is another sign of health.

I do think that perhaps what is most important is that the Committee of Ministry of the Presbytery of Baltimore has now given our church permission to begin its mission study which is a beginning step toward organizing a new Pastor Nominating Committee perhaps as early as the late spring of 2014. The congregation has been through a great deal but now seems ready to move forward in the call process.

Thus, 2014 looks like an exciting and interesting year. We will move forward in the pastor call process; continue the energetic work with Vicar David Petr ; recover and move forward with renovations now to the Fellowship Hall following its being vandalized early in the new year; follow along in the working relationship with the YMCA and a possible pre-school here by early fall; develop a more interactive website and use social networking more to connect the church and its community; continue to emphasize local mission; develop a stronger and larger Christian Education program. Thanks be to God for all of these blessings. I know our Lord will continue to guide and direct us.

## **Hymn Tunes: The Stories Behind the Melodies By Bob Barnes**

**#482:** Praise ye the Lord,  
the Almighty.

The hymn, composed by Joachim Neander, was published in Bremen, Germany in 1680.

Neander, born 1650, died 1680, composed some 66 hymns. After a somewhat unruly youth, he was mentored by his pastor, Theodore Under-Eyck of St. Martin's Church in Bremen. In 1674 Neander became headmaster of the Düsseldorf grammar school, and five years later he became an un-ordained assistant to Pastor Under-Eyck. He died of tuberculosis.

The valley of the Düssel, near Mettmann, where he used to take long walks was renamed Neanderthal in his honor, and it was here that the skeleton of Neanderthal man was discovered in 1856.

Sixty-six of his hymns were published by G. C. Strattner in 1691.

The text of this hymn in the *Presbyterian Hymnal* (1990) is an altered translation by Catherine Winkworth, included in her collection, *The Chorale Book for England* (1863).

Winkworth was born in London, lived in Manchester, and then moved to Clifton, Bristol in 1862. She promoted women's higher education through the Clifton Association, and helped to found Clifton College. She is listed in our hymnal as the translator of 19 hymns.

Lindajo H. McKim. *The Presbyterian Hymnal Companion*. © 1993 by LindaJo H. McKim.

## **Voice Mail**

Most of us have now learned to live with "voice mail" as a necessary as part of our daily lives. But have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing the following:  
Thank you for calling Heaven.  
For English, press 1.  
For Spanish, press 2.  
For all other languages, press 0.  
Please select one of the following options:  
Press 1 for Requests.  
Press 2 for Thanksgiving.  
Press 3 for Complaints.  
Press 4 for all other inquiries.  
I am sorry; all of our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us, and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.  
If you would like to speak to: God, press 1.  
Jesus, press 2.  
Holy Spirit, press 3.  
If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, press 4.  
To find a loved one that has been assigned to Heaven, press 5, then enter his or her social security number, followed by the "pound" sign. If you receive a negative response, please hang up and try area code 666).  
For reservations at Heaven, please enter J-O-H-N, followed by the numbers 3-1-6.  
For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, life on other planets, and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive.  
Our computers show that you have already prayed today.  
Please hang up and try

again tomorrow.

The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday.

Please pray again on Monday after 9:30 am. If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local pastor.

### **IDIOTS IN SERVICE:**

This week, all our office phones went dead and I had to contact the telephone repair people. They promised to be out between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. When I asked if they could give me a smaller time window, the pleasant gentleman asked, "Would you like us to call you before we come?" I replied that I didn't see how he would be able to do that, since our phones weren't working.

He also requested that we report future outages by e-mail (OUR e-mail works via the telephone line!!).

### **IDIOTS IN FOOD SERVICE:**

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for "minimal lettuce." He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.

### **IDIOTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:**

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: too many deer were being hit by cars, and he didn't want them to cross there anymore.

### **Layman's Ten Commandments**

Someone has written these beautiful words.  
Try to understand the deep

meaning of it.

They are like the Ten Commandments to follow in life all of the time!

- 1) Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.
- 2) So why is a Car's WINDSHIELD so large and the Rear View Mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.
- 3) Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes a few minutes to burn, but it takes years to write.
- 4) All things in life are temporary. If going well - enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong - don't worry, they can't last long either.
- 5) Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!
- 6) Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
- 7) When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD

doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.

- 8) A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
- 9) When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- 10) WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES; it takes away today's PEACE.

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God. God loves you; He always has & always will.



### **February Birthday Wishes**

Christine Ward  
Kyla Michele Dunphy  
Caroline Dushel  
Gloria Garst

Lauren Moore  
Christine Lutz  
Nancy Lee Ellis  
Michael Keppeler  
Ronnie Miller  
Connot Gwin  
Tina Dushel  
Larry DeBaugh

**February Anniversary  
Wishes**

Laurie and Jay Johnson  
Evelyn and Whitey Shimko  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Parker



**March Birthday Wishes**

Alice Winslow  
Ruth Wynegar  
Julia Ireland  
Bob Hureau  
Tyler Ahlfeldt  
Matthew Olson  
Glenn Johnson  
Jennifer Yeager  
Jenna Waldon  
Betsy Keith  
Jennifer Dawson  
Bob Barnes  
Rachel Peterson  
Tanya Stemple  
James Lutz  
Nancy Bolton  
Rob Dushel

**March Anniversary  
Wishes**

Sonja and Larry DeBaugh



St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D. At that time the Roman Emperor was imprisoning Christians for not worshipping the Roman gods. During this persecution Valentine was arrested. Some write that he was arrested because he was performing Christian marriages, but others say it was for helping Christians escape prison.

During the trial they asked Valentine what he thought of the Roman gods Jupiter and Mercury. Valentine said they were false gods and that the God that Jesus called Father was the only true God. So the Romans threw him in prison for insulting the gods.

While in prison Valentine continued to minister. He witnessed to the guards. One of the guards was a good man who had adopted a blind girl. He asked Valentine if his God could help his daughter. Valentine prayed and the girl was given her sight. The guard and his whole family, 46 people, believed in Jesus and were baptized. Because these

people had come to know Jesus, Valentine praised God right there in his prison cell. When the emperor heard about this he was furious that Valentine was still making converts even in prison, so he had Valentine beheaded.

Valentine knew that he might get caught in his Christian activities. He knew that if he told the court the truth about the Roman gods that he would be thrown in prison. And he knew that if he continued to witness to Christ in the prison he would make his captors angry. But he continued, because he loved the Lord and his fellow humans. He was willing to risk his life to free the prisoners and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who needed to hear it.

The Bible Says: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13) God showed us this love by coming in Christ to die for our sins. And St. Valentine demonstrated this love when he died for his friends. This is the kind of love that Valentine's Day is really about.

## A SEAL OF SYMBOLS

It appears on bulletins and hymnals, magazines and posters. However, the seal of the Presbyterian Church (USA) only came into use with the merger of the United Presbyterian Church of the United States of America and the Presbyterian Church in the United States. That's why the seal in our narthex window is different; it's the seal of the old United Presbyterian Church.

While at first glance, the PC(USA) seal looks like a cross, or a cross within a cross, a closer examination will reveal that our current seal incorporates many Christian symbols.



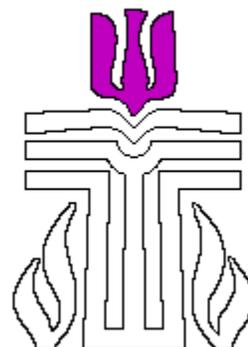
The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. Its power depends on both, its simplicity and complexity, as well as its traditional and enduring qualities.

The basic symbols in the seal are the cross, Scripture, the dove, and flames. The dominant structural and theological element in the design is the cross — the universal and most ecumenical symbol of the Christian church. The cross represents the incarnate love of

God in Jesus Christ and his passion and resurrection. Because of its association with Presbyterian history, the Celtic cross was chosen as a model for this contemporary rendering of the ancient symbol.

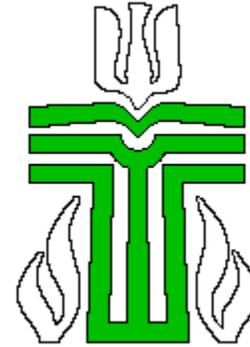


In experimenting with the basic lines and shapes of the cross, the contour of a book began to emerge in the horizontal section, and the two center lines of the cross became the representation of an open book. This integration of the horizontal dimensions of the cross with the book motif highlights the emphasis which the Reformed tradition has placed on the role of Scripture as a means of knowing God's word.



The slightly-flared shape of the Celtic cross also makes possible the transforming of the uppermost section into the shape of a descending dove. As a symbol of the Holy Spirit, the dove is intimately tied to the representation of the Bible,

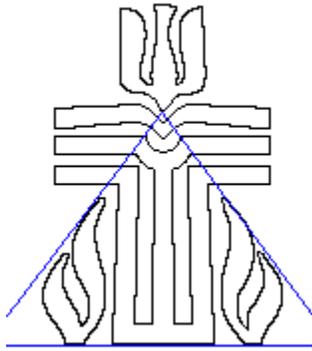
affirming the role of the Spirit in both inspiring and interpreting Scripture in the life of the church. The dove also symbolizes Christ's baptism by John and the peace and wholeness which his death and resurrection bring to a broken world.



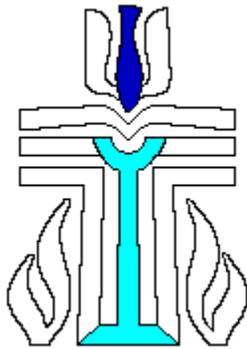
Beneath the image of the book is the suggestion of a lectern or pulpit, which captures the important role of preaching in the history of Presbyterian worship.



Integrated into the lower part of the design are flames which form an implied triangle, a traditional symbol of the Trinity. The flames themselves convey a double meaning: a symbol of revelation in the Old Testament when God spoke to Moses from the burning bush and a suggestion of the beginning of the Christian church when Christ manifested himself to his apostles at Pentecost and charged them to be messengers of the good news of God's love.



The triangle also suggests the nature of Presbyterian government, with its concern for balance and order, dividing authority between ministers of the Word and laypersons and between different governing bodies. This understanding of the church was based in part on an important idea in Reformed theology, the covenant, which God establishes with people to affirm God's enduring love and to call us to faith and obedience to Jesus Christ.



Looking more closely at some of the visual components of the design, viewers may discover elements that seem to fuse with some of the more obvious theological symbols. In the shape of the descending dove, for example, one might also discern in the body of the bird, the form of a fish, an early-Christian sign for Christ, recalling his ministry to those who hunger. For some, the overall design evokes the calligraphy of Hebrew and

Greek manuscripts. Others have seen a baptismal font or a communion chalice (cup).

In 1 Corinthians, Paul described the church as a body with many members, illustrating the pluralism of the church and the many gifts which God gives to its members. So also the seal's individual parts, when taken together, form an encompassing visual and symbolic unity, while not exhausting the richness of possible interpretations.

Please note: The information provided here has been reprinted, in the main, from the Office of the General Assembly, PC(USA), website, <http://www.pcusa.org/oga/seal.htm>.

#### THE BIBLE IN 50 WORDS

God made  
 Adam bit  
 Noah arked  
 Abraham split  
 Jacob fooled  
 Joseph ruled  
 Bush talked  
 Moses balked  
 Pharaoh plagued  
 People walked  
 Sea divided  
 Tablets guided  
 Promise landed  
 Saul freaked  
 David peeked  
 Prophets warned  
 Jesus born  
 God walked  
 Love talked  
 Anger crucified  
 Hope died  
 Love rose  
 Spirit flamed  
 Word spread  
 God remained.

#### Baseball

Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one. Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked, because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws. The bases were now loaded. The Lord then turned to Freddy and told him He was now going to bring in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Freddy said, "He sure doesn't look like much!" Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen. But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by. He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; then it continued over the fence for a home run! The Lord's team won! The Lord then asked Freddy if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. Freddy answered that he did not know why. The Lord explained, "If your love, faith, and wisdom had won the game you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, Faith and Wisdom will get you on base but only My Grace can get you Home."

**January/February 2014 -  
Perry Pres Article – Vicar  
Dave**

By now many, if not all, of you have heard about the break-in of our fellowship hall on December 29<sup>th</sup> by two vandals that, for all intents and purposes, has made the use of this facility impossible until repairs are completed. As you may expect this vandalism has affected the many groups that use the hall and impacted their activities greatly. For the past several weeks, since this vandalism occurred, there has been a feeling of unease and sadness, as we have become the victims of a criminal act. This is to be expected because no one wants to be victimized but sometimes even churches become victims of the evil forces that exist in the world in which we live. The feelings of unease and fear of what tomorrow might bring are not uniquely ours alone and have been felt by those that have gone before us.

One group that was in a similar situation to what we are currently experiencing were the Israelites that had just escaped slavery in Egypt. Some of what we have been feeling here at PHPC had me thinking of the Israelites and what they endured during their forty years of wandering in the desert after their escape from Egypt's Pharaoh. The one particular part of their epic journey had me rereading Exodus 15 and 16 where I was interested in the Israelites' experiences after crossing the Red Sea. Here they were in the desert with no food and water and they started questioning God, and Moses as God's representative, as to why they were in the desert apparently to die of hunger and thirst. They were filled with

fear and uncertainty about what lay ahead for them as a people. Here they were, just escaped from Pharaoh's tyranny, and now they were all alone in the desert without food and water. You may remember what happened to them next, God tells Moses to throw a tree into the bitter water at Marah, which makes this water safe for them to drink. In addition, God sends the Israelites manna from heaven in the morning and quail in the evening to sustain their human need for sustenance and nourishment. Throughout these forty years of wandering God was always by their side. When things looked hopeless God provided them hope, in the form of food and water.

God is doing the same thing here for us at Perry Hall Presbyterian. When this vandalism first occurred and Pastor Joe and I surveyed the scene things quite frankly looked hopeless. However, as we started contacting professionals to help with cleanup and the process of restoration interesting things began to happen. People in the community started rallying to help. There is almost not a day that goes by that the phone does not ring with an offer of labor, materials, or money that people are willing to give us. Much like the Israelites who had God provide for their every need while in the desert, God is providing for our needs in amazing and unexpected ways. God never left the Israelites and God will not leave us either. All we have to do is trust in God's providence.

Until next time remember:  
"And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7  
Peace, Vicar David J. Petr

**COMING SOON!**

Just in time for Easter

**SPRING TREASURE  
HUNT**

Bazaar, Craft Show  
and Flea Market

March 22, 2014

Mark your calendars  
for a day of fun, food and  
fellowship.

Please consider how  
you can help. We will  
need baked goods, flea  
marketers, dining room  
help and set-up help.  
Please contact the church  
office if you can help in  
any way.

